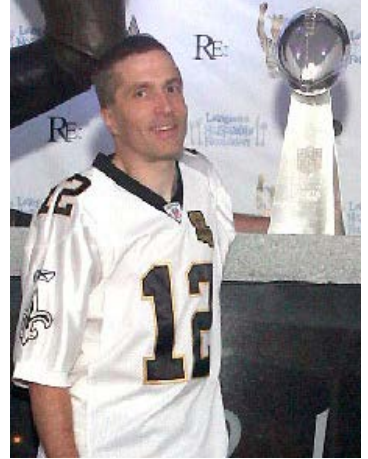


June 28, 2013

## Researchers Having Coffee

*Jack Styczynski is leaving the Research Department after more than 10 years to work at the Tulane University Center for Public Service, in New Orleans. His supervisor, Jack Begg, joined him recently for a cup of coffee.*



**Jack B:** You're an upstate New York kid, and you've worked in the City for more than a decade. What's Louisiana got that New York doesn't?

**Jack S:** My first full-time job was in Louisiana. I just fell in love with the state. I love hot weather, I love Cajun food, and the people are friendly! I felt so at home there.

**Jack B:** You must have gone out of your mind when Katrina hit.

**Jack S:** I was pacing my apartment all night. I thought, I have to go down to help those people. So I did. I used most of my vacation time to help them tear down damaged houses, and put up new ones. Eventually, the short term trips weren't enough for me. I was always looking for a reason to go back. The rebuilding job is still not done.

**Jack B:** You've never taken a sick day in 10 years. What makes you so healthy?

**Jack S:** Good luck, I guess. I mean, part of it is probably exercise and diet. I still weigh the same at 47 as I did at 21. I just don't overeat and I walk and bike everywhere, and play basketball a lot.

**Jack B:** Basketball? I thought you were a football fan. Word is, you're obsessed with the New Orleans Saints.

**Jack S:** I am obsessed with the Saints, but overall, I'm definitely more of a hoop guy. Never played football like I play basketball, and I *\*LOVE\** college hoops.

**Jack B:** What are some of the big stories you've worked on?

**Jack S:** Profiles of mass shooters Adam Lanza, James Holmes and Jared Loughner. My name is linked to these psychotics forever.

**Jack B:** Who was your favorite reporter to work with?

**Jack S:** Pete Thamel. He's with Sports Illustrated now. I loved that guy.

**Jack B:** Didn't he blow the research on the Manti Te'o girlfriend hoax?

**Jack S:** I wanted to cry when that happened.

**Jack B:** Looking back, what's your most memorable moment on the job?

**Jack S:** Somehow keeping it from Rashbaum and company when the Spitzer scandal broke that my brother was a state trooper on the governor's detail. I was freaked, thinking the connection would be made and my brother would get bounced, suspected of being a leaker, even if he wasn't. I was praying I wouldn't get a research credit on the story. I never did, thank God, and my brother kept his job. So I may be the only guy who ever successfully ducked Rashbaum.

**Jack B:** How'd you feel when reporters confused me for you, or vice versa?

**Jack S:** No biggie, but I could always tell when I answered the phone and someone I don't do a lot of research for acted like we had just spoken, knowing they probably thought they were speaking to you.

**Jack B:** You know, I've been meaning to get something off my chest. A couple of years ago, a reporter gave me an over-the-top Kudo Kall for research that you actually did. I never let on.

**Jack S:** Ha ha... that's funny. Given that I never cared about credits or recognition, I'm glad you took it!

**Jack B:** Any parting words?

**Jack S:** Never own more stuff than you can fit in your car.

**Jack B:** But you don't own a car.

**Jack S:** Okay, then — never own more stuff than you can fit in your brother's car.

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Posted by Grace at June 28, 2013 11:42 AM

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