Roger Boye is reminded of the impact Northwestern had on his life every time he looks out his office window—or Ben Baldwin’s window, as the Medill Associate Professor Emeritus in service still calls it. Even though Boye has occupied his mentor’s old work space since 1989, he has a hard time considering it his. He also humbly balks at the notion that he has filled the shoes of Baldwin, the revered former Medill professor who passed away in 2005. Still, by anyone’s standard, Boye has left quite a mark of his own on generations of aspiring journalists.

Boye has worked with high school students through Medill’s Cherub program since 1971, serving for the past quarter century as its director. After joining Medill’s full-time faculty in the mid-1980s, he served as assistant dean in charge of the undergraduate program for 17 years, and has held the position of faculty master of Northwestern’s Communications Residential College for 13 years.

Along the way, Boye developed his own mentoring approach, relishing the chance to make a difference in the lives of his students. He proudly notes that while he directed student participation in the Hearst Foundation Journalism Awards program, Northwestern garnered 16 consecutive first- or second-place finishes in writing. In 2007, Boye took his place alongside Baldwin in the Medill Hall of Achievement.

“I came to realize first hand when I was in college the importance of great mentors and role models in life,” says Boye, who augments his classes with guest lecturers and field trips, and gladly invites students into his home.

A native of Lincoln, Nebraska, Boye was influenced by Medill even as an undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska. While he cut his journalistic teeth as editor-in-chief of the Daily Nebraskan, and as a reporter for the Lincoln Journal and Omaha World-Herald, where he covered everything from dog shows to riots, he found a role model in Nebraska journalism dean Neale Copple (GJ48), himself an NAA Alumni Merit Award winner in 1979.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in political science and journalism from Nebraska in 1970, Boye enrolled in Medill’s master’s program on Copple’s recommendation. While at Northwestern, he became Ben Baldwin’s graduate assistant—an arrangement that proved educational as it allowed him to see how masterfully Baldwin connected with students. Boye, who graduated with highest distinction in 1971, considers the assistantship his launching pad into a career as a Northwestern professor.

In addition to teaching, Boye was a writer and editor for Quill magazine and his column on numismatics (coin and paper money) ran in the Chicago Tribune for 20 years. He still serves as a contributing editor of Numismatist magazine.