

Students Win Impressive Array of Awards

Communication Studies major **Kevin Jeanes**, a senior from Naperville, was awarded third place for Best Weathercaster in the Broadcast Education Association's 2010 Media Festival of the Arts. It's the third year in a row Jeanes has received the award as the third-best student weathercaster in the nation. Jeanes is a broadcast meteorology minor at EIU and does regular weathercasts on WEIU-TV "News Watch". It's the sixth year in a row an Eastern student has received a national award in the BEA competition.

Several Communication Studies majors were honored during the Spring of 2010 for their television and radio production work in statewide contests:

Phil Norton (senior from Charleston) received second place in the Buckle Buddy Radio Public Service Announcement contest.

Claire Dennis (senior from Champaign) received third place in the Buckle Buddy Radio Public Service Announcement contest.

Katherine Rufener (senior from Mattoon) received first place for Outstanding TV News Reporting from the Illinois News Broadcasters Association.

Emily Mieure (senior from Lawrenceville) received third place for Outstanding TV Sports Reporting from the Illinois News Broadcasters Association.

Kevin Ratermann (Senior from Mulberry Grove) received third place for Outstanding Videography from the Illinois News Broadcasters Association.

Avery Drake (Senior from Charleston) received first place for Outstanding Sports Program from the Illinois News Broadcasters Association.

WEIU-TV "News Watch" received first place for Outstanding Newscast from the Illinois News Broadcasters Association.

WEIU-TV's student-produced local newscast has won another major award. The Society of Professional Journalists awarded WEIU-TV "News Watch" its Mark of Excellence Award for best all around TV newscast in Region 5, which covers colleges and universities in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. First place regional winners are entered in the organization's national contest. National winners will be announced later this year. WEIU-TV "News Watch" is staffed by numerous broadcasting students from the Department of Communication Studies.

Communication Studies graduate student **Kendra (Baker) McClure** was honored for outstanding debut student paper at the 2010 Central States Communication Association convention in Cincinnati. Her paper was titled "Miracle or Myth? A qualitative study of the communication strategies used to promote and oppose clean coal technology" and focused on the proposed FutureGen project in Mattoon.

EIU Communication Studies alumnus **Chris Goble** (B.A. '95, M.A. '96) was selected to attend the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Foundation Faculty Seminar in November 2009. Goble has been an instructor in the Communications Department at Monmouth College in Monmouth, Ill., since 2004. The seminar gave college faculty members a behind-the-scenes look at how the television industry operates.

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Eastern Illinois University's Communication Studies Alumni Newsletter

Summer 2010



WEIU to Mark 25 Years with Homecoming Events

WEIU-TV and Radio will celebrate its 25th anniversary this fall, with special events planned for alumni during Homecoming weekend.

Activities will begin on Friday, Oct. 22, with campus tours from 3 to 4 p.m., followed by an open house at the Radio-TV Center in Buzzard Hall from 4 to 5:30 p.m. A banquet will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the MLK Jr. Union Friday evening, Oct. 22. There will be a social hour from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by dinner at 7.

On Saturday, Oct. 23, alumni are invited to gather at Seventh and Lincoln in Charleston beginning at 8 a.m. for breakfast and to watch EIU's Homecoming Parade, which steps off at 9:30. After the parade, alumni can participate in the Homecoming Tailgate in the Alumni Services tent outside O'Brien Stadium from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Radio-TV Center alumni can also receive free tickets for a special block of seating at the Homecoming football game, which kicks-off at 1:30 p.m.

WEIU-FM went on the air on July 1, 1985, with WEIU-TV starting operations on July 1, 1986. More information about this fall's WEIU Reunion is available by contacting the Alumni Services office at Eastern. Their e-mail address is eialum@eiu.edu and their telephone number is 1-800-ALUM-EIU.

WEIU goes HD

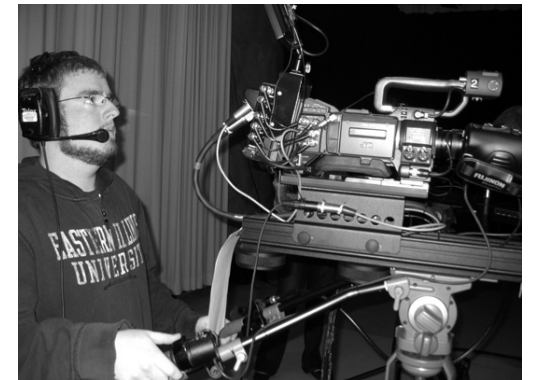
WEIU-TV has become the first station in its market to broadcast its local newscast in high definition.

WEIU began broadcasting its 5:30 p.m. newscast in high definition on March 22. The change means sharper images and more vivid colors for viewers, and enhanced learning opportunities for EIU students.

In order to move to high definition, WEIU had to upgrade much of its studio and production control equipment, as well as acquiring new field cameras and improved editing systems. The upgrade was funded by a \$685,000 grant from the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program. PTFP awarded the station \$514,000, and WEIU committed \$171,000 in matching funds. There was also a major effort to train staff and students on how to operate the new equipment.

The HD upgrade gives students at WEIU the opportunity to enhance their skills by working with the latest television production technology. It also provides a great opportunity to other Communication Studies students, who use the HD cameras for television production class.

More information about WEIU's HD upgrade is available at the station's website: www.weiu.net.



Two Faculty Members Retiring

The Communication Studies department says farewell to two faculty members, **Joe Heumann** and **Gail Mason**, who will retire at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

Heumann started his career with EIU in 1976. He spent more than 34 years working and teaching in the areas of film and media studies. He also served as the general manager for WEIU radio station for many years prior to becoming a professor in the Communication Studies department.

Mason started her career with EIU in 1989, where she spent more than 20 years teaching in the areas of public speaking and intercultural, interpersonal, organizational and small group communication. Mason also served as the basic course director (BCD) for more than 10 years. "It was the best possible gig," she said. "[The graduate teaching assistants] were a dream to work with." Post-retirement plans for Mason include taking an intensive German course in Germany this summer, along with revising a public-speaking textbook published by Kendall-Hunt. Alumni may contact Mason at gemason@eiu.edu.

Communication Day a Success

The Communication Studies department's annual Communication Day event was held on Wednesday, March 31, in the MLK Jr. Union. The theme of this year's event was "Communication Practices: Putting Your Education to Work."

Several EIU alumni joined the Communication Studies department for this event. Participating alumni included Jennifer Ketchmark, evening meteorologist for WCIA/WCFN-TV; Kurtis Allen, program director for 104.3 FM The Party; Anthony Del Preto, Midwest recruiter for Aerotek; Chelsea Frederick, assistant director of EIU Alumni Services; and Matt Shivers, business analyst for State Farm Insurance. Panelists spoke about their professions and how a degree in Communication Studies assisted in their current professions. Ketchmark and Allen also spoke on broadcasting careers with an emphasis on the process of getting started in a career in broadcasting.

Community leaders in the Mattoon/Charleston area also participated in Communication Day. Panelists included Tony Sparks, executive director of Mattoon YMCA; Kelly Allee, director of communications and creative services for Lake Land College; and Officer Kent Martin of the EIU Police Department.

Panelists discussed communication practices and challenges in their professions, with specific attention given to everyday communication skills and training necessary to be successful on the job. Several other panels spotlighted undergraduate and graduate research projects within the Communication Studies department. Students presented research in the areas of rhetoric, public relations, interpersonal and organizational communication.

Kevin Howley, associate professor of media studies at DePauw University, was the guest speaker for Communication Day. Howley examined teaching about and with alternative media across a media studies curriculum. Throughout his talk, he highlighted the role alternative media played in educating students about the political economy of media; the cultural politics of media representation; and the relationship between media, citizenship and social movements.

Next year's event is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30.



alumni updates

A documentary film produced by an Eastern Illinois University Communication Studies graduate was honored at a recent statewide film festival. **Mercedes (Sowder) Kane** (B.A. '01) was both producer and director of "Hearts of Hope" as part of her graduate thesis project while she was completing her Master of Fine Arts degree at Governors State University. The film was named Best Student Documentary at the 2009 Illinois International Film Festival.

"Hearts of Hope" focuses on Dr. Michel Ilbawi and the pediatric heart surgical team at Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn, Illinois. The film follows three infants who underwent heart surgery in 2007 and 2008, and the impact on their families. Kane became interested in the subject because she has relatives working in the pediatric heart surgical unit at Hope Children's Hospital.

Kane is now working as an associate producer at Kindle Communications in Chicago. She helps produce live events and video features for corporate clients, including McDonald's. Kane returned to EIU for Communication Studies Day on March 31 for a screening of the film and to talk to students about producing documentary films.



More information about "Hearts of Hope" is available by visiting the website for the film: www.heartsofhopethemovie.com.

Eastern Illinois University Communication Studies graduate **Sarah Marten** (B.A. '03) is using her communication skills to forge a career in professional baseball. Marten is the director of community relations for the Lehigh Valley IronPigs in Allentown, Pa. Lehigh Valley, the Class AAA franchise for the Philadelphia Phillies, is one of the most successful minor league baseball franchises in the country. Last year, the IronPigs had the second highest attendance in all of minor league baseball, as 640,000 fans went through the turnstiles.

Marten is in her third year at Lehigh Valley, where she coordinates all of the team's non-profit and community outreach efforts. In the last two years, she has helped raise \$224,000 that the IronPigs have donated to local non-profit organizations. She is also in charge of all of the team's advertising and media buys.

Before moving to Pennsylvania, Marten spent three seasons as director of community relations for the Fresno Grizzlies, which is the Class AAA franchise for the San Francisco Giants. She supervised the Grizzlies' non-profit foundation, including fund-raising and construction for a \$500,000 rubberized baseball field for kids with disabilities.

A native of Lincoln, Ill., Marten got her start in sports communication by working as an intern for ABC Sports at the Indianapolis 500 between her junior and senior years of college. That led to a nearly two-year stint as a production assistant for ABC on Monday Night Football and Indy Racing League events.



Marten is not the only Eastern Illinois Communication Studies graduate working for Lehigh Valley. Justin Price, who graduated in 2009, is currently working as a ticketing intern for the IronPigs.

Kathryn Himes, an EIU alumna, recently spoke on campus during the College of Arts and Humanities "Meaningful Work" series. She is the senior governmental affairs representative for Caterpillar's Governmental Affairs Operation based out of Washington, D.C. She is responsible for the human resources/workplace portfolio including labor, compensation and benefits, and legal matters.

Her talk, titled "The Meaningful Work of Communicating Inside the Beltway: Employee Relations, Corporate Communication, and Issues Management in our Nation's Capital," focused on communication's influence on one's work community and personal growth, and how she uses communication to directly influence workers' lives and employee relations.

Prior to her Washington assignment, Katie held a series of positions at Caterpillar headquarters. She joined the company in 1998 and worked in corporate public affairs as the corporate news editor. She has also served as the assistant producer for background news, and as employee and community relations manager at Track-Type Tractors Division. Himes also worked as communication manager in the North American Commercial Division, and was a manager of Caterpillar's Employee Political Action Committee (CAT PAC) and legislative communications.

Himes holds a B.A. and M.A. degree in Speech Communication from Eastern Illinois University, and recently completed her MBA at Georgetown University.