

the Journalist

NEWSLETTER FOR JOURNALISM MAJORS & MINORS

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Cartoonist wins Pacemaker Award

By Derrick Johnson II

David Pennell of the The Daily Eastern News has been named the winner of a 2006 Pacemaker Award for his editorial cartoon shown here.

Pennell won the award Editorial Cartoon of the Year. The winners were announced at the 85th annual ACP/CMA National College Media Convention. The convention took place in St. Louis, from Wed., Oct. 25, to Sun., Oct. 29.

Simply being nominated for Pacemaker Awards is an honor in itself. For Pennell to win the award shows his skill as an artist. The DEN staff's reaction to Pennell's cartoons is given proof of his talent.

"It is absolutely deserved," senior Kyle Mayhugh, DEN editor in chief, said. "He is amazing. People gather around the mail boxes when he drops off his cartoon."

Along with Pennell, the DEN was nominated for best student publication and the online edition of the DEN was nominated as well. This was the third year that the online edition of the DEN was nominated, said John Ryan, director of student publications.

The National College Media Convention is an annual event hosted by the Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Advisers. The four-day convention allowed student publications from across the country to communicate with each other, present their publications and give student journalists a chance to network with professionals.

"This is the largest national meeting for college media with the two biggest organizations for college," Ryan said.

Mayhugh agrees that the National College Media Convention is one of the largest student publication events.

"It is very big," Mayhugh said. "There



The Editorial Cartoon of the year was created by David Pennell of The Daily Eastern News. The award was announced at the 85th annual ACP/CMA National College Media Convention.

are around 80 daily student newspapers in the country, so to be even nominated means we're in the top of the highest student newspaper category there is."

The DEN's nominations are proof of the effort that was displayed the previous year.

"We generally have very solid news coverage that we're quite proud

of," Mayhugh said. "And I'd say the combination of advisers and The Daily Eastern News environment produces a lot of skilled people."

Pennell, who is studying political science, is considering a journalism minor, after his experience as an editorial cartoonist.

Eastern alumnus chases journalism dreams

By Cory Dimitrakopoulos

Even in his first days attending Eastern Illinois University, Tim Martin stood out from his peers.

"On the first day of school, he was in the newsroom getting any and all assignments he could. He had more passion for journalism than any freshman I've seen," explains John Ryan, student publications coordinator at Eastern.

Ryan had a lot of experience with Martin as Ryan was his adviser.

During his years at Eastern, Martin was involved with The Daily Eastern News, DEN Online, Minority Today, Student Publications Board, and the Asian American Association.

Martin's experiences at Eastern and the knowledge he gained from participating in these programs were important; however, the most significant lesson Martin said he learned in college was "how to be unashamed of my intelligence."

His eagerness to learn and his curious personality were greatly encouraged by his professors and mentors at Eastern.

"Without them...I may have lacked the assurance and gratification that my hard work was worth all of the effort," Martin said.

Martin took over an editor position for The Daily Eastern News the first semester of his freshman year. Even though he was new to the scene, he was recognized as being great at what he did.

"Tim was a very energetic reporter and editor...he recruited a very large staff while he was editor and worked well with them. He was a prolific writer [and] editor and did an excellent job," said Ryan.

Martin's final two years at Eastern consisted of mainly freelance work at various professional newspapers. All of Martin's hard work, dedication and passion paid off in a great way. After graduation, Martin was offered a job writing for The Wall Street Journal, one of the most acclaimed and prestigious newspapers in the country.

The most rewarding part of writing for the Wall Street Journal, Martin explains, "is existing in a newsroom where everyone is on top of their games. As an avid reader of the Journal, I had

recognized bylines of my now-colleagues and realized that I viewed them as if they were mini-celebrities. Their work blew me away," Martin said.

Working at such a large-scale newspaper opened Martin's eyes as to how far his dedication and passion for journalism actually took him.

While his colleagues at The Wall Street Journal inspired Martin, he was also inspired to do something he had wanted to do for years.

"I am a Korean adoptee. I became interested in my heritage in college...and realized that I needed to [go to Korea to] gain fluency," explains Martin.

After studying his heritage for awhile, Martin decided that it was time to visit Korea.

Martin is currently in Seoul, Korea, where he plans to stay for "as short as a year and as long as forever."

"English teaching in Korea is a multibillion dollar business. I was able to find a teaching position [in Korea] that was loaded with perks and a great salary," Martin explains.

While in Korea, Martin is still writing for The Wall Street Journal.

"The WSJ has left open the door for me to freelance, both for the [American] and Asian Wall Street Journal," explains Martin.

Martin says he used the excellent education he was offered and has become a successful journalist, doing and following his dreams. "I'd like to [eventually] be a foreign correspondent



Tim Martin, shown here clowning for the camera, is currently teaching English in Korea while writing stories for the Wall Street Journal. Martin says his journalism experiences at Eastern have helped him obtain his personal goals.

"I never thought of leaving Illinois, let alone the Midwest or the United States," said Martin.

He realized that as his journalism career furthered, his chances of being able to drop everything and travel across Asia were becoming a distant hope. So he took advantage of his situation and headed east.

based in Seoul. Alas, I'll look to use my journalism skills to travel and story-tell all over the globe," said Martin.

Martin was an honors student and member of Kappa Tau Alpha, the journalism honorary society, among his many accomplishments as an undergraduate.

Good advice: Preparation, Persistence, Passion

By Lindsey Fletcher

Cynthia Todd knows that any job can feel like a roller coaster. She's been there. This accomplished writer, TV broadcaster and now talent recruiter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch knows what it's like to be an aspiring journalist.

This Peoria-native has some major bragging rights. She began her career in the fifth grade when she was 10 years old working for the school newspaper. Years later, she went on to intern with the Peoria Journal Star, where she earned a four-year scholarship. She went to college and gradually moved from print to TV broadcast news with WNB-TV in Peoria.

Wanting to feed her hunger for the horizon, Todd set out to St. Louis where she was offered a position on KSDK-TV. After two years, she was let go and moved on to pursue a public relations focus. She went back to school, hoping to attain a Masters degree, just before she got a job with what is now Harris-Stowe State University. She launched the public relations program there and after four years, decided she wanted to get back to her roots.

Her love for print, as well as for St. Louis, drove her to apply for a job at the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, casually known as The Globe. Though she was not hired, she was soon offered a job with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. She has remained there for 23 years.

"Believe it or not, I'm not 70 years old! You might think it would take someone that long to do all of those different things," Todd said to Eastern journalism students during her Oct. 4 visit. Rather, it was her passion for educating people and speaking out for others that kept Todd in the game.

Journalists of her time period, she said, "... wanted to be crusaders to a degree. We wanted to give people a voice who didn't have a voice." Her persistence played a large part in her undeniable success. "Just because someone says 'no' doesn't mean you can't

accomplish your dream," she said.

The student chapter of the National Association for Black Journalists sponsored Todd's visit as well as a student dinner with her. A total of eight students attended; among them was journalism major, Sheree Patterson, who said, "It wasn't a question and answer format at all; it was intended to be a relaxing, fun dinner."

Todd took this time to get to know the students a little better and connect on a more personal level. "I got the age-old question, since I'm from Urbana, 'Why didn't you go to the U of I?'" Patterson shared. Once she explained that living in the same town as the University of Illinois made a difference in where she decided to go, Todd related immediately, having once felt the need to leave her comfort zone and spread her wings.

During her speech earlier in the day, Todd shared a few morsels of advice for aspiring journalists: how to dress the part, how to develop story-seeking abilities, what to avoid when beginning to write for

a newspaper or magazine, when to begin looking for internships and how to decide specifically what to do with a journalism degree.

Among her advice was the importance of technology. Keeping up with new developments is as important as keeping up with the news itself. Staying on top of new technologies gives students a little bit of a head start in this industry. As convergence of media types continues and the Internet becomes a more prominent and accurate news source, organizations are finding more need for Web designers, graphic artists and people who are better oriented with new computer technology, according to Todd.

Todd is just one of many examples of a successful career within the field of journalism. Todd offered one last piece of advice to students in general, "Always try to do the best that you can at whatever you do."

Her visit to the campus was inspiring and motivating, according to students in the class. "I thought her three P's were very important – persistence, passion and preparation," Patterson added.

For any student with any major, persistence, passion and preparation were three things Todd stressed in order to accomplish goals.

Take it from Todd: anything is possible!



Todd offers motivating advice to journalism students and speaks to them about their future careers in a news writing class earlier this semester. Todd also was on campus to recruit students to work for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Photo by Katrina Zaret

Internship shows student glimpse of the real world

By Angela Pham

Senior journalism major Willie Griggs went beyond the Daily Eastern News last year when he interned for the Maywood Herald, a newspaper in Oak Park, a suburb of Chicago.

Griggs was an intern from December 2005 through May 2006. He obtained the paid internship through the African-American studies and journalism departments after receiving approval from journalism department chair, James Tidwell.

Griggs, who has contributed to the DEN, Minority Today and the Vehicle, said he enjoyed being able to cover different beats for the Maywood Herald, including school boards, county boards and breaking news. He also covered a murder that occurred near his house.

In regards to covering stories on sensitive subjects like murder, Griggs said that he is cautious. "I'm not as open," he said. "I have to protect the identities of people, when their life might be at stake."

Griggs' favorite assignment involved writing for a section called "Charity Focus," in which he covered the history of black aviators. Griggs said the topic was inspired by a slave's baby carriage from the 1800s that he saw in Maywood's cultural museum.

Minorities are a strong subject of

interest for Griggs. During his internship, he noted the lack of minorities in the field of journalism.

"When I was there, there was only one other black writer," Griggs said. "There is a huge disparity in journalism writing, as far as minorities go."

Griggs has had an interest in journalism since high school and said he was inspired to pursue it as his major due to his command of language. In the future he plans to try to write for magazines and write grants for corporations.

He credits his internship for helping him arrive where he is today.

"It really helped my networking skills," he said. "In this field, it's ten-percent skill and ninety-percent networking, that's how I feel. It pays off to be a people person."

"I learned that the 'real world' moves so much faster; I learned that I'm really going to have to be prepared to be in the working world, and that the only way you're going to succeed is if you use your common sense to get the things that you want," he said.

Journalism professor John Ryan, who helped Griggs obtain his internship through phone calls and paperwork, agrees.

"Internships help students apply the skills they are learning in college in a

professional setting," Ryan said. "They give students great experience and a chance to see if they can function in a professional setting."

Griggs encourages other students to pursue internships in their field of study as well.

"I encourage everybody, but especially minority students. It's tough but I got what it takes. I got that internship," he said.



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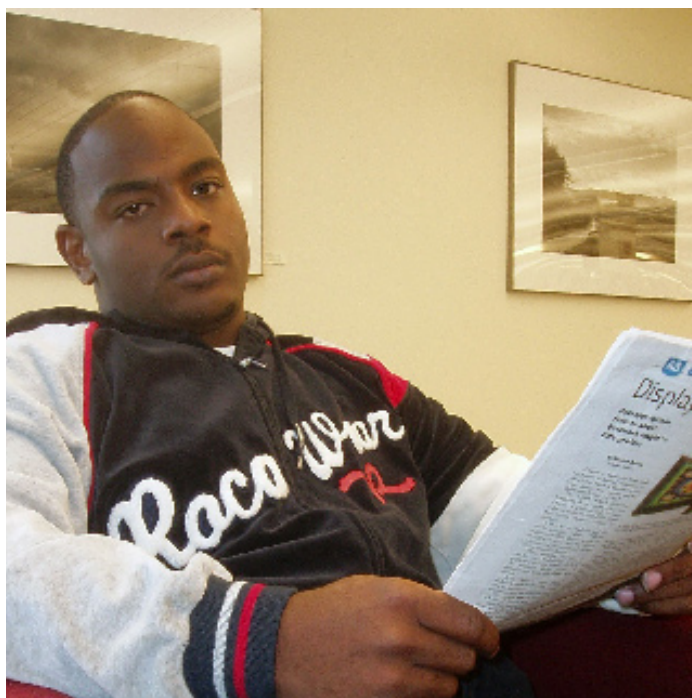
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Willie Griggs reads The Daily Eastern News and compares his experiences working for the Maywood Herald where he interned last spring semester. Griggs returned to EIU this fall to graduate.

*Photo by
Angela Pham*



Pub Board makes appointments

The student publications board met Wed., Nov. 28, to make spring semester appointments to student publications. Nora Maberry has been named editor of the Daily Eastern News. Jenn Ether has been appointed editor of Minority Today. Publications board officers include chairman, Cathy Bayer, vice chairman, Kayla Crow, and secretary, Jaclyn Gorski.