

# The Journalist

NEWSLETTER FOR JOURNALISM MAJORS & MINORS

Feb. 2008 • Issue 4 Vol. 5

## Eastern alum, AP national editor Chris Sundheim's visit part of "Breaking News"

*Third professional visits classes as part of Fox-Thornburgh Professional-in-Residence*

By Leah Vaughn

Eastern alumnus and Associated Press national editor Chris Sundheim visited Eastern Feb. 11-14. In classes, he discussed how he got started in the journalism field, dating back to his grade school days, high school and the Daily Eastern News.

He walked students through the daily operation of the national desk at the AP headquarters in New York. He told students prioritizing news stories is most important at the AP. If a major news story comes in, writers and editors must drop what they are working on to cover things of greater impact.

His visit is also part of a "Breaking News" exhibit and program at Booth Library. The traveling exhibit highlights significant episodes from a book by 13 AP reporters documenting AP accomplishments. The ex-

hibit also documents newsworthy events in Eastern's history.

Sundheim's visit is part of the Journalism Professional in Residence Program, started by EIU alumnus Richard Fox, honoring former department chair, Dr. Dan Thornburgh.

Sundheim was the third professional to participate in the program. He helps oversee the AP's U.S. news from its world headquarters.

He surveys top stories in the U.S. and works with reporters across the country. He has coordinated coverage of historic events—Hurricane Katrina, the 2006 midterm elections, the space shuttle's return after



*Chris Sundheim spoke to several journalism classes Feb. 11-14 and took part in programs with Booth Library called "Breaking News," to explore the way the Associated Press covers the news. For more pictures turn to page 2.*

the Columbia disaster.

Sundheim, from Charleston, graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism and history and a master's in history. He worked for four years at the DEN. He was a reporter for The News-Gazette in Champaign. He joined the AP in 2000 as a Indianapolis bureau reporter. In 2002, he became a desk supervisor and in 2004 transferred to the national desk in New York City.

Sundheim was also a panelist in Booth Library's Breaking News program, entitled "Always on Deadline: How the Associated Press Covers the World."

He took part in a panel, Feb. 12, with Marth alrvine, a Chicago-based national writer for the AP, and Goerge Garies, Illinois AP Bureau chief. The panel was moderated by Professor John Ryan, journalism.

## What's Inside:

Minority Today searching for new editor in chief.....	2
AMP Magazine useful outlet for students.....	3
DEN hires new opinions editor.....	4

# Minority Today seeking experienced editor in chief for Fall 2008

By Kelsey Karstrand

Minority Today has a vision of going back to its roots by promoting the newspaper. Editor-in-Chief and senior journalism major Heather Smith is graduating this semester, leaving the position open for someone to do just that.

"We want to try to find someone within the staff," Smith said. "They have to make the decision that the job is something they want to commit to."

The members are specifically looking for someone with in-depth experience, dedication and familiarity with design.

Senior staff member Eugenia Jefferson, also a jour-

nalism major, said she wants someone with good ideas who is willing to teach and help out with writing.

"Heather brought a lot to Minority Today. I hope the next editor can keep in touch with minorities and be a good editor," Jefferson said.

Current staff member and junior journalism major Sheree Patterson says she is considering stepping up to the position. If she does not receive the position, she hopes for an editor that includes the staff in the decision-making processes of Minority Today.

"I want someone who understands the concepts with minorities, not just race," Patterson said.



Photo By Kelley Flodin

*Editor in chief Heather Smith and Sheree Patterson discuss the layout of their next Minority Today issue*

Anyone interested in the Editor in Chief position can contact Smith via e-mail at [hsmith@eiu.edu](mailto:hsmith@eiu.edu). Meetings are Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the J-Dept. Library Lounge.

## Sundheim, AP colleagues present panel in Booth



*(From left) Illinois AP Bureau chief George Garties, Chris Sundheim (NY) and Martha Irvine (Chicago), both from the AP, discussed last Tuesday how the AP covers the news of the world and how they handle the fast-paced world of journalism in today's world of 24-hour news coverage.*



*Eastern Alumnus Chris Sundheim spoke about the demands of editing for the AP in New York.*



# AMP Magazine available as creative outlet for students

*Students can turn to AMP Magazine to showcase their writing, interviewing and graphic design skills*

**By Danielle Scott**

Students interested in finding out about University Board sponsored events have a couple of places to look.

Besides The Verge, a weekly DEN insert, students can look to AMP Magazine. The magazine, produced by UB, covers upcoming UB events, talent and entertainment coming to Eastern.

UB started the magazine in an attempt to increase student attendance at its events and to give students access to events they otherwise would not have been aware of.

"AMP gives students a creative outlet that showcases their skills in writing, interviewing and graphic design," said Jillian Staley, an AMP graduate assistant.

From UB events to movies reviews, AMP has been Eastern's entertainment magazine since 2005.

Megan Frejlich, senior journalism major, worked as editor in chief of AMP spring and fall 2007 semesters.

"AMP is dedicated to promoting University Board events, while still featuring students, athletes and professors," Frejlich said.

AMP writers can also choose from book or music reviews, profiles on professors, athletes or student leaders, or major campus events.

In the past AMP has featured community events like Greek Week, an annual event-driven celebration for the Greek community which raises money for charity.

AMP often features articles describing easy recipes for college students, health tips and activities students can participate in during the holidays.

Unlike other Eastern publications, AMP promotes events instead of covering them. The magazine's stories precede Eastern events, including comedians, concerts and other performers. Instead of reporting hard or breaking news, AMP works as a public relations vehicle for the UB and contains more feature-based stories.

Publications on campus typically get published daily, weekly, semimonthly or monthly; AMP Magazine gets published only five times a year and like most

magazines, the deadlines come early.

Hallie Sinkovitz, a sophomore English major and creative writing minor, has been the new editor in chief since January 2008. She has visited news writing classes to recruit writers.

Before her promotion, Sinkovitz held the managing editor position for one year.

Her promotion brought on more responsibility. As the managing editor, Sinkovitz helped the editor. She now edits articles, distributes the magazines and assists in the design of AMP.

Anyone interested writing or editing for AMP should contact Hallie Sinkovitz at [ampmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:ampmagazine@gmail.com). Some positions are paid.

**Don't  
Miss It!**

-4 p.m. Feb. 27 Rm. 4440 Booth - *The Civil Rights Movement*

- 7 p.m. Feb. 28 Rm. 4440 Booth - *The Paper*, documentary

- *Appointment with your adviser! Sign up soon!*

**Need a story? Come join us!**

**When:** Every Wednesday  
5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Room 2434 Buzzard Hall



# New DEN opinions editor quickly becoming comfortable in role

By Josh Van Dyke

She sits and types, occasionally engaging in job-related conversation. Known for keeping to herself, junior journalism major Nicole Weskerna is in charge of providing a forum for people to speak their minds - approximately 12,000 people.

Her short career is already full of surprises — many of them delighting DEN Editor in Chief Matt Daniels.

Daniels had hoped Weskerna would apply for an editorial position this semester, but he was surprised when she circled “opinions editor” on her application. At the time Weskerna had no prior experience with a managing editor role.

When asked why she wanted the opinions editor job, Weskerna hesitantly replied that she always read the editorial page before anything else. Daniels said the passion in her response convinced him to offer her



*Photo By Josh Van Dyke*  
**Nicole Weskerna, a first-time opinions editor, is responsible for about 75 percent of the DEN's editorials.**

the position. Though she's only been at the job for a few weeks, Daniels already thinks taking the risk was worth it.

“She just sits at her desk and you don't really notice

her but at the end of the day she delivers,” Daniels said, adding that she doesn't let herself be distracted.

Quickly getting comfortable with the role, Weskerna rarely misses her deadline

despite her large workload.

Daniels estimates that she is responsible for about 75 percent of the DEN's editorials and also notes that she frequently brings up new ideas at meetings. Weskerna is also partially responsible for the inclusion of more guest columnists from outside the DEN's staff.

Weskerna freely admits that she makes mistakes. She says an editorial on a letter from Eastern's President William Perry to the student body failed to deliver the exact message she had intended.

Even when she is happy with the final product she still receives complaints from agitated readers.

While she is off to a good start, Weskerna still has months of editing to go, DEN faculty adviser Joe Gissondi said.

But for now, her boss is happy with the situation.

“I don't really have to worry about anything with her,” Daniels said.

---

## The Journalist

### Contact us:

- **Editor:** Cory Dimitrakopoulos
- **Agency Director:** Katrina Zaret
- **Agency Faculty Adviser:** Terri Johnson
- **E-mail story ideas to:** [cdimitrakopoulo@eiu.edu](mailto:cdimitrakopoulo@eiu.edu)

