

The Journalist

NEWSLETTER FOR JOURNALISM MAJORS & MINORS

Former DEN editor in chief named Journalist of the Year

By Alex Harris

Each year, journalism professors at Eastern come together to nominate alumni who they believe fulfill the title of Journalist of the Year. This year, Madeleine Doubek, the managing editor for the Daily Herald, was picked to receive this honor.

“I was floored when I heard I was chosen. It really tickles me,” Doubek said.

Doubek attended Eastern from 1981 until 1985. She majored in journalism with a minor in political science.

Doubek says that she is one of the lucky ones who knew that she wanted to be a journalist since early on in her high school career. She said that coming to Eastern and working at The Daily Eastern News cemented that desire for her.

“As a freshman, I worked as a campus reporter and an administration reporter,” she said. By her senior year, Doubek had worked her way



Madeleine Doubek graduated from Eastern in 1985 and is currently managing editor at for the Daily Herald in Decatur, Ill.

up to editor in chief of the newspaper, taking over the position a year after Lola

McElwee graduated.

“We were students together at Eastern and student

journalists together at The News,” McElwee said.

“I learned more about
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journalism and life working with all the great people at The DEN than I did in many of my classes,” Doubek said. Although she gained much experience working at The DEN, Doubek still commented on how wonderful all of her professors throughout college were.

She said that one professor in particular, Dr. Dave Reed, who retired from Eastern in 2004 after a 30-year teaching career, quickly became and continues to be her mentor. Reed was not only Doubek’s professor for several classes, but her adviser as well.

“He finds ways to teach, to challenge you to think for yourself, to make you want to get better all the time,” Doubek said.

Doubek always strived to consistently gain the approval of her mentor. “A ‘kudos’ or a ‘far out!’ from him meant everything. We all lived for those,” Doubek said.

According to Reed, over her four years at Eastern, Doubek was not only a great student but also worked tirelessly for The DEN. “Working 60 hours a week would not be an exaggeration on how much she was in the newsroom,” Reed said.

Reed also said he believes that Doubek is one of the best students that Eastern has produced. “She is a brilliant young woman.”

Doubek is honored to be receiving this award, but wishes that she could share it with all of the student editors who she worked with at The DEN during her time at Eastern.

Pounce Online making some changes

By Jake Bough

Pounce Online, Eastern’s online magazine, has a new editor and will be undergoing some big changes beginning this semester. Pounce editor, Britni Garcia would like to see more focused coverage in the magazine’s stories.

“I want to focus on a specific topic each issue,” Garcia said. “This issue we’re going to focus on sex, health and fitness.”

Along with the changes in format that Pounce is experiencing, the frequency of publication is also different than previous semesters. Instead of being a weekly magazine as it was in the past, Pounce will now come out only once a month. Garcia believes that this will allow more time for stories to be developed, which will translate to a higher quality publication.

The next issue of Pounce is expected to be out March 28, but earlier in the semester there was question as to whether Pounce would continue to exist at all. After much speculation about the future and leadership of Pounce, Garcia took on the position as Pounce editor.



Britni Garcia has taken on the challenge of editing Pounce Online this semester.

Photo by Cory Dimitrakopoulos

Although she does not have a large staff, Garcia is optimistic about the online magazine and its potential this semester.

“I have big plans for Pounce in the next few months,” Garcia said. “I wish I had more of a staff, but the people that we do have are really dedicated so it works out.”

Cate Spalo, Pounce copy editor, is looking forward to providing students with information on relevant topics that will entertain as well as inform.

“Pounce is more student-friendly,” Spalo said.

“We’re covering topics that students actually want to read about.”

Online magazines like Pounce differ from traditional media in a number of ways. This online format allows more creative freedom to the writers and artists who produce material for the magazine. It also encourages reader interaction through online polls and comments.

Pounce is currently looking for photographers and creative writers to add to its staff. Anyone is interested in joining the Pounce team, may contact Garcia at 708.253.9758.

Next Fox-Thornburgh Visiting Professional: Patty Culhane

Eastern alumna Patty Culhane from NBC News in Washington DC, who covers the White House, Pentagon and General Assignment stories for MSNBC, will be visiting journalism classes March 31 - April 6.

New Warbler editor in chief chosen

Cuadrado has been a member of the Warbler team since fall 2007 and takes on the position with plans for better representation

By Sheree Patterson

Someone who works well with new students and is able to make a connection with them while at the same time having the ability to handle several activities at a time are qualities necessary to be editor in chief of Eastern's yearbook, the Warbler, said Hollie Smith, who formerly held the position.

Smith, a senior journalism major, said the appropriate selection was made and believes junior Sara Cuadrado has what it takes to do the job well.

Cuadrado is also a journalism major who has worked at the Warbler as Greek life editor since fall 2007.

After seeing a flier around campus congratulating Smith on the new editor in chief position last year, Cuadrado decided to attend her first Warbler meeting. Cuadrado said she was comfortable joining because of previous experience working on the Addison Trail At-



Junior journalism major, Sara Cuadrado, has been chosen as editor in chief of The Warbler, Eastern's yearbook, for 2008-2009.

tribute, her high school yearbook.

Having more people involved on the Warbler staff and representing more people in the yearbook are some goals I have for us this year, Cuadrado said.

Better representation of more students and activities in the yearbook is also a goal for Emily Steele, freshman journalism major and new managing editor, and the Warbler team.

"Yearbooks are an important part to a school and their identity," Steele said.

Cuadrado added that yearbooks are like history books specific to a campus that portray and document events and activities of that year.

"Every editor brings a new vision and different perspective to things (the Warbler team) is involved in," said Smith. "Sara and Emily have wonderful qualities that they're going to bring to the yearbook and they're going to do an amazing job."

Need a story? Come join us!

When: Every Wednesday
5:30 p.m.

Where: Room 2434 Buzzard Hall





Panelists McElwee and Bayer discuss the AP presentations with Dr. Allen Lanham, dean of Library Services.

Photo by Sally Turner

Stories that were set to be run on page one that day are no longer relevant and a new team must be assembled to handle the story. Reporters are urgently sent to scenes, background information is researched and an editor is often at the office getting updated details.

Breaking news is becoming increasingly harder for newspapers to cover. Television has strained newspapers in the past, but with the 24-hour coverage the Internet offers, breaking news can be reported as it is occurring. Unlike newspapers, Internet reporters have less time to develop a story.

McElwee said because the Internet can get breaking news out faster, a new approach has to be taken by papers by showing the story in a new light or from a different angle. "Typically," McElwee said, "the newspaper will cover the event in more detail."

No matter what story is chosen for page one, McElwee stresses the importance of careful editing because, "correction is the ultimate humiliation."

How It Gets On Page One

By Jenni Gritti

Those new to journalism, those who have been in journalism for years and those who will never become journalists filled the conference room of Booth Library Feb. 20 to hear a panel discussion, hosted by the SCJ, discussing how a story makes it to page one.

A panel consisting of Cathy Bayer, formerly of The Daily Eastern News, journalism professor Lola McElwee and Marco Santana, also with The DEN, spoke to a room of approximately 30 people to explain

the process of news placement more clearly.

A number of factors determine what makes it to page one and why. Reasons often vary from day to day, but usually consist of timeliness, interest of readers, proximity, impact and conflict,

"There is no magic checklist," McElwee said, about deciding each day what goes on page one.

If there were a magic checklist however, breaking news would be on top. "When breaking news happens, all planning goes out the window," Bayer said.

Job Fair

Who: Inland Press Association - contact Kathy Koerlin: 847.795.0380

What: Print and Online Media Job Fair

When: Saturday, March 29 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Where: University Club of Chicago - 76 E. Monroe St. Chicago, Ill.

Recruiters will be interviewing for prospective jobs and internships in areas of news, editorial, photography, graphic design, advertising, circulation, information systems, and online production.

Advanced registration is required with a fee of \$10; includes placement of your resume in the Media Employers Directory. Register now!

www.inlandpress.org

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