

the Journalist

a departmental newsletter for journalism majors & mi-

Nov/DEC 2009 EDITION

DENnews.com wins Pacemaker— 'Pulitzer' of college journalism

The Daily Eastern News' online site, DENnews.com, won a Pacemaker award from the Associated Collegiate Press at the National College Media Convention in Austin, Texas, last month.

Referred to often online as the college equivalent of a Pulitzer, the award recognized five online college dailies for outstanding work in their online editions.

Nicole Weskerna was the online editor and Kristina Peters was DEN editor in chief. Professors Lola Burnham and Bryan Murley were the advisers. The entries in online were up with 223 total entries this year. DENnews.com competed against other online dailies.

Contest judge Ellyn Angelotti, interactivity editor for the Poynter Institute, is quoted in the ACP news release as say-

ing: "top sites displayed excellence in the following areas: Integration of multimedia and user-generated content; Navigability; Breadth of coverage, including in-depth reporting; Custom, clean design; Sound news judgment on the home page."

Students who attended included Kelly Ann Twaits, Christine Godbey, Brittney Ferris, Emily Steele, Danny Damiani, Emily Zulz, Tyler Angelo, Chris Lee, Sarah Ruholl, Sarah Jean Bresnahan and Collin Whitchurch.

Faculty who attended included Professors James Tidwell, John Ryan, Sally Renaud, Joe Gisondi, Bryan Murley and Lola Burnham.

Prof. Renaud was sworn in as president of College Media Advisers at the convention. (See related story page 6 and



Sam Sottosanto and Tyler Angelo stand in front of the Pacemaker Award. Angelo is Editor In Chief of the DEN; Sottosanto is editor of DENnews.com.

Photo by Amir Prellberg

Warbler staffers story, page 3.)

The conference is a joint meeting of ACP and CMA.

The DENnews.com also won a Pacemaker in 2008 when Chris Essig and Scott Richey

were online editors.

The meeting offered almost 400 professional development sessions and a number of nationally known keynote speakers.

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says learn it all

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Grabiec says to be multimedia literate

Society for Collegiate Journalists sponsors a photojournalist's visit

By Crystal R. Alston

Jay Grabiec told listeners that in order to succeed in the business of journalism, it is necessary to become multimedia literate.

"If you don't learn it, you won't last," he said.

The Society for Collegiate Journalists sponsored guest speaker Grabiec to speak with students and staff Oct. 29, in Buzzard Hall.

Grabiec is an EIU alumnus and the online editor for the *Mattoon Journal-Gazette* and the *Charleston Times-Courier*.

Grabiec graduated from Eastern in 2007 with a degree in journalism. He focused primarily on design, Web and photography.

Grabiec shared his experiences in the field and what students can do to better their chances in advancing in the profession.

"Always be working on something," Grabiec said. "You always have to be doing something to make yourself think."

He talked about building, improving and expanding individual skill sets which help people that are looking to become photojournalists to stay sharp.

Grabiec presented samples of his own work to display how he utilizes many different forms of content.

The examples showed how he has incorporated audio, photography, animation, and interactivity to add to his work in an attempt to stand out among others.

Grabiec spoke about adding sound when reporting. He also noted that it is important to get



Photojournalist and alumnus Jay Grabiec gives suggestion on how to be a successful photojournalist.

Photo by Crystal R. Alston

the viewer involved by playing sounds with still photos to bring them to life.

"Always be paying attention because it will add an element to your piece," he said.

Music is another feature that Grabiec encouraged students to incorporate in their work. He said that the right music can add detail and flavor.

He also advised that students have fun with their work. Grabiec showed a piece he put together of a trip to Florida and showed how he combined photography, music and animation to make the video more enjoyable.

"You have to have fun with your work," he said. "It doesn't have to be serious."

Eastern is equipped with media resources such as cam-

eras and camcorders that are available for students to borrow. Grabiec encouraged students to take advantage of these resources and begin to build their portfolios.

"Use what you've got," Grabiec said. "Do good work and get it out there."

Grabiec told students to diversify their skills and promote themselves. He said students should take time to self teach and apply what they have learned. He noted that print journalism is going more toward online and that in order to advance in the field students must learn as much as possible.

"It is such a huge expanse of knowledge. Branch out and grow," he said. "If you don't get involved in the Web, I don't think that you will have a job."

Grabiec talked of his love of photography that is the reason he got involved in journalism and reporting.

"I'm not good with words so I tell the story through photography," he said. "It is where my passion lies."

Grabiec dreams of someday working for *National Geographic* or the *Herald Review*. He says that he hopes to progress and learn as much as he can.

Grabiec concluded the session by encouraging students to develop their skills in order to reach their goals. He said that students should stay disciplined so that they can someday become a valuable commodity to future employers.

"If I can do it, then just about anybody can," he said.

Staffers attend conference in Austin

Representatives from Student Media participate in hands-on learning activities

By Melissa Sturtevant

Editors from campus student publications attended an editors' conference in Austin, Texas, earlier this month.

The conference featured hundreds of sessions on writing and reporting, design, editing, law and ethics. More than 2000 student journalists and advisers attended.

Sally Renaud, the adviser of the EIU yearbook, the *Warbler*, said she thought the conference was a good opportunity for everyone who attended.

"There are three reasons why I think it was a good thing for students and staff to attend," Renaud said.

"It allowed the staff to bond while traveling and attend sessions that allowed them to be on the same page, it allowed the students to learn from professionals who talk about their passions within their careers, and it also allowed students to network with their peers and meet others who are doing the same things they are and talk about their ideas and problems."

Christine Godbey, the editor in-chief of the yearbook, attended the conference and said that there were many different activities available for students.

"We attended conference sessions during the day," Godbey said. "Newspaper, ad and yearbook members split to attend sessions that apply to their publications."

Godbey noted that the sessions helped many students understand how the structure of the different types of publications work and she hopes that the lessons learned will carry over into years to come.

Six advisers went along on the



Christine Godbey, Emily Steele, Danny Damiani, Sally Renaud, adviser, and Brittney Ferris, members of the *Warbler* staff pose for a picture while in Austin for the National College Media convention.

Photo by Brittney Ferris

trip and got to meet their different colleagues from around the country.

Renaud explained that the staff members were able to attend different sessions and socialize with other people with similar roles at their own schools who attended.

"The advisers were able to give educational training and make contacts," Renaud said.

Godbey explained that members from all the different publications can benefit from attending such a conference.

"It is important for a variety of staff members to go so you can split up the sessions and bring back information to the entire group," Godbey said. "There is always room to grow and better your staff, and this conference provided many ideas and ways

to benefit our staff."

Godbey noted that she took back many ideas from members of other publications and that anyone else who attends such a

conference in the future will be able to do the same.

Other *Warbler* attendees included Emily Steele, Danny Damiani and Brittney Ferris.



Sarah Bresnahan, Kelly Twaits, Christine Godbey and Brittney Ferris pose for a picture after partaking in some of the day's activities.

Honors Program benefits students

Professor Kim encourages journalism students to challenge themselves.

By Beth Steele

Students, trying to build their résumés, take part in activities and academic clubs. However, students may overlook being a part of departmental honors.

Departmental honors is different than university honors on a few levels. The University Honors Program, according to its Web site, "offers enriched and rigorous alternatives of General Education courses and a limited number of other courses

"Students must take a minimum of 25 hours in Honors primarily during their freshman and sophomore years."

Departmental honors takes much less course work. The Web site explains: "The Departmental Honors Program encourages students to pursue areas of personal interest by delving deeply and independently into a topic. Students take advantage of departmental resources to research, explore, investigate, and analyze information on a subject appropriate to the discipline. Course work advances progressively

culminating in a senior thesis. Departmental Honors prepares students for the competitive environment after graduation by promoting focus and independent exploration within a field. A senior thesis written under the supervision of Honors faculty is required."

Departmental honors requirements: students must have a g.p.a. of 3.50 or higher and need 12 hours in journalism honors courses.

'Employers are looking for someone who can analyze the media environment and project what's needed for the audiences and for the industry.'

The courses include Journalism and Democracy, Honors independent study, Honors Research, Honors Thesis and Honors Seminar. Students do need to maintain a 3.50 through time of graduation to be recognized.

Students do not have to be a part of university honors to be apart of departmental honors. Eunseong Kim, the honors coordinator for the department, said the number of participants

in the honors program leaves much to be desired.

"As of right now we have zero students in the department honors program," Kim said.

Departmental honors has not only academic benefits but also helps in the job hunt.

According to Kim, many journalists and communication professionals have the technology skills needed but many do not have evaluating and prioritizing skills.

"The departmental honors program trains you to conduct original, systematic and scientific research," Kim said. "Employers are looking for someone who can analyze the media environment and project what's needed for the audiences and for the industry."

Departmental honors trains the students to be capable of comprehensive, independent and critical thinking.

Kim explained students should ask about the honors program as soon as they can.

"I have an advisee who is a freshman and has decided that he will pursue departmental honors," Kim said. "He and I have met several times to discuss potential topics for research."



Professor Eunseong Kim coordinates the journalism department honors program and encourages students to become a part of departmental honors.

Courtesy of the department Web site

Kim also said students should stay confident, if they are interested in the program.

"One might not know how to conduct academic research, but the honors thesis adviser will teach you how to do it," she said. Students need every edge and departmental honors can provide one.

Get involved with student media!

**Warbler, Sundays,
5 p.m.
Journalism
Conference Room
Buzzard Hall
Rm 2522**

**DEN/DEN online,
Tuesdays, 7 p.m.,
Newsroom
Buzzard Hall
Rm 1802**

**WEIU-TV &
WEIU-FM
Visit the newsroom
and ask
Buzzard Hall
Room 1620**

Hyder to be awarded Mendez Service Award

Journalism professor Dr. Hyder helps his students to excel in and out of class.

By: Jacqui Reinhart

Journalism Prof. Leslie Hyder will receive the Luiz Clay Mendez service award at the December graduation.

The award is given each year to the faculty member who exemplifies the late Prof. Mendez's dedication to service.

Prof. Joy Russell, who coordinated this year's search and selection, said, "Your years of dedication to the students, to your department, to the university, to education, and to Illinois are to be commended.... "(C)ongratulations on this prestigious award."

The award, created in 2003, honors Mendez, who died unexpectedly. A Spanish professor, Mendez excelled in service to the university, the profession, and the community.

While Hyder has had much professional experience in his life allowing him to do many things, he said that he finds his greatest satisfaction in teaching and the service it allows him to

offer the students.

He came to EIU in 1994 as chair of the journalism department and now teaches both Journalism and Democracy and Freedom of Expression classes.

He has his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of Tennessee, and a master's acquired at Henderson State University, as well. But it doesn't stop there. He also has professional experience as a reporter, writer, and editor.

"I wanted to have a broad range of academic experiences by studying economics, psychology, student development, leadership and administration," said Hyder.

By understanding all of these different areas, he explained that he feels able to prepare well-rounded, educated

lessons to teach his students. In his classes, he thinks it is important to try to place the information provided in a context that will help his students relate to what they are learning in their other courses and will help them to succeed in their future careers.



Dr. Les Hyder

*Courtesy of Eastern
Journalism Department
Web site*

In order to succeed in his class, students need to not only come prepared and have a commitment to learning, but they also need to go above and beyond. By doing more than is necessary or required in class, the student has a greater chance to succeed.

Hyder is very laid back in that he encourages them to

share information that reinforces or relates to what they are learning in the class or instances when they have applied the material they are learning

Hyder said that he wants his students to feel comfortable in his classroom and hopes that they get something out of his way of teaching.

"I hope they appreciate that I organize and present the material in a way that helps them understand what is most important and present it in contexts that helps them appreciate its importance relative to course objectives as well as in a broader context," Hyder said.

In addition to helping students succeed in the class, Hyder is also very willing and committed to helping his students to excel outside of his class.

He said he is more than willing to give advice about career options, recommendations for scholarships and positions, and to help them take advantage of any other opportunities.

New names, but no new faces: two faculty return to maiden names

Dr. Sally Turner and Professor Lola McElwee are now Dr. Sally Renaud and Prof. Lola Burnham. Both journalism professors decided to return to using their maiden names.

Students may find this con-

fusing when they first see the names in the course listings or hear them for the first time, but it won't take long to see that the professors are the same.

Unless students take French, they might not know how to

pronounce Renaud immediately. It is pronounced "ray-no."

**Dr. Sally Renaud, left, &
Prof. Lola Burnham**

**Photo by Kelsay
Karstrand**



Come

Join the Agency!

Meetings Every

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Buzzard Hall, Rm 2434





Dr. Sally Renaud heads College Media Advisers

Journalism professor Sally Renaud was sworn in as the head of the College Media Advisers during the National College Media Convention in Austin, Texas.

Renaud will lead the group for 2009–2011. More than 2,200 college journalism students and advisers attended this year's convention. CMA meets in the spring in New York City. The 2010 National College Media Convention is scheduled for Oct. 27–31 in Louisville, Ky.

College Media Advisers, Inc. has been working since 1954 to help student media professionals improve their media operations. The national orga-

nization is headquartered in Memphis. More than 1000 college media advisers belong.

Renaud was a reporter and editor before going back to school for her master's and doctorate. She worked at *Philadelphia Daily News*, *El Paso County News*, *Colorado Springs Sun*, *Eldon Advertiser* and *Miller County Autogram-Sentinel*. She has taught at Eastern since 2004. She also taught at Emporia State University.

Her bachelor's is from the Missouri School of Journalism, her master's from Central Missouri State University and her Ph.D. is from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

**Upcoming
Events**

**Fall
Commencement**
Dec. 19
Lantz Arena
10 a.m.

Finals
Dec. 14–18

Semester Break:
Dec. 20 — Jan. 11

Feb. 19 — 20
Illinois College
Press Association
Chicago

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