

the Journalist

a departmental newsletter for journalism majors & minors

MARCH 2009 EDITION

Leon repeats his title win in 2009 Mr. EIU

By Robby Warren

Although he was sick for nearly a week during his training, Mike Leon successfully defended his title as the best body builder in the bantam weight class. Leon was competing in the Mr. EIU/Miss Fitness competition held March 7, in the Grand Ball Room.

Last year, Leon started training 12 weeks before the Mr. EIU competition. This year, he realized he did not have to be as serious. He started training and dieting six weeks before the competition. He cut out all cheeses, sugars, and fried foods and ate a lot of whole grains and lean meats.

Three weeks before the competition, he was stuck in bed eating only oatmeal and drinking egg whites. He couldn't stick to his regular schedule of working out five days a week and eating seven meals a day. However,



Mike Leon, junior journalism major, poses during the Mr. EIU/Miss Fitness Competition that was held on March 7. Leon won his weight class and took second place, overall.

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Photo by Robby Warren

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Memorial service celebrates Howard Price

Students and faculty, from past and present, remember his career, personality

By Michelle Simek

Laughter, not tears, filled the Buzzard auditorium Thursday, March 5, as students, faculty, staff, friends and family of Howard Price, retired journalism professor, celebrated his life.

Price died in his Charleston home on Feb. 27, at the age of 65. He had been diagnosed with heart problems and died from natural causes. Price, although retired because of his health, was still

teaching at the university part-time. After 20 years of teaching he left quite a legacy at Eastern, measured by the immense response of students and faculty, past and present, that Price's life touched.

The memorial service featured many of Price's colleagues and friends sharing stories, laughs, memories and antics of Price's

life. His passions involved copy editing, sports, his students and more sports. Dr. James Tidwell, journalism department chair and professor, spoke of Price's time at Eastern. He mentioned

Price's teaching style, classroom antics and humor that made him unforgettable.

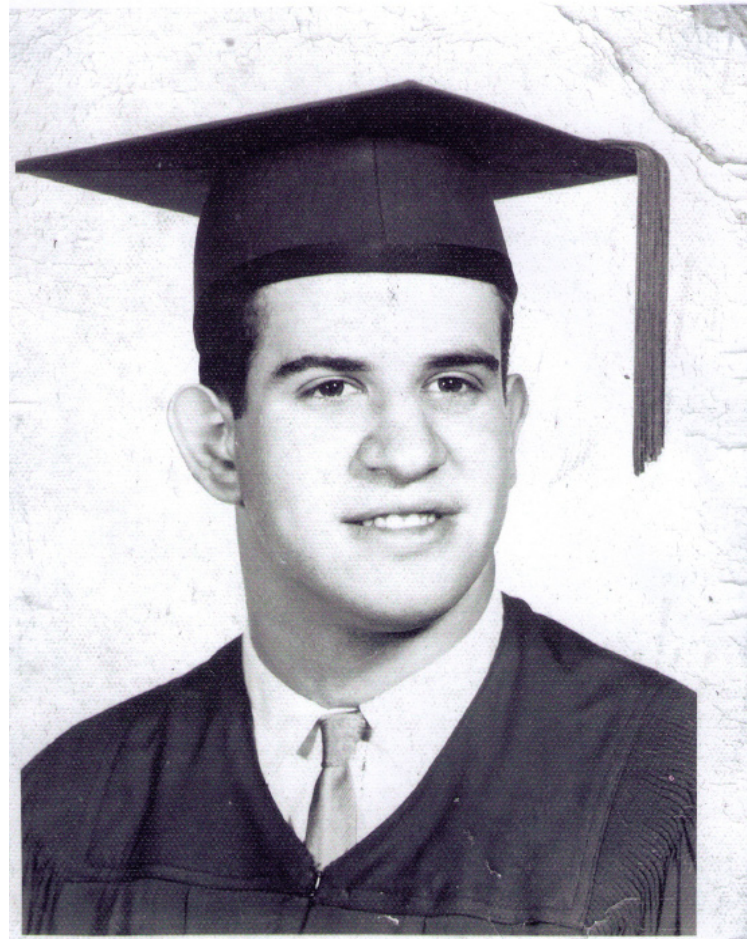
The response of his past students was overwhelming following the news of Price's death. Many alumni and other students wrote e-mails to jour-

nalism professors, sharing their memories, stories and experiences of Price as their professor and their mentor, their daily laughter and the unforgettable class experiences with him.

"He would be flabbergasted at the response from his

**"He touched many people."
— Dr. John Ryan**

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Prof. Howard Price's Graduation Portrait

Submitted Photo

Living the double-life: Ashley Corbett

By Beth Steele

For some students, one major may be too much to handle, but not for senior Ashley Corbett. She is a journalism and theater major.

Ashley is an active student in both departments. She has worked for the *Daily Eastern News* and hopes to be involved with the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). On the theatre side, Ashley performs in programs put

on by the theater department and works behind the scenes on the light systems.

Ashley spent the summer of 2007 doing something many students only dream of doing. She packed her bags and headed to London to work as an intern for a public relations firm. She spent the summer working for Neil Redding PR.

"They mostly do PR for theaters, comedians, restaurants, casinos and actors," explained Corbett. During her intern-

ship, she went to the "Diehard" movie premier in London. Neil Redding handled the public relations campaign for the movie, giving her access to the event.

She was able to find this internship through research and the Study Abroad program here at Eastern. However, this internship was with Jacksonville University.

"I had to interview in England before I knew what firm I was working for," said Ashley.

Ashley was in London from

May to July 2007. While there, she worked on photo shoots, booked locations for clients and worked on the company Web site. Ashley said she also learned how to make press books and press mailings.

Ashley was also lucky enough to be able to participate in other programs outside of work. The internship program set up different activities for the students to sign up and attend.

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EIU alum, Tim Broderick, visits campus

By Robby Warren

An EIU journalism graduate and newspaper cartoonist, who helped explain the Brown's Chicken murders of 1993, came to speak to current students on Monday, Feb. 16.

Tim Broderick, as a journalist at the Daily Herald in Arlington Heights, came up with the idea to walk people through a nine-year-old crime scene via a three-dimensional rendering.

On Jan. 8, 1993, Palatine, Ill., residents woke up to a grisly news report. Seven people had

been murdered at Brown's Chicken and Pasta restaurant. The case remained unsolved for years, even after being featured on the true-crime television series "America's Most Wanted." In April 2002, police finally caught a break when a suspect's DNA was matched to saliva from a piece of partially-eaten chicken found at the crime scene. The suspect was Juan Luna.

Nine weeks before the trial of Juan Luna, and 14 years after the murders, Broderick helped walk people through the crime

scene with his three-dimensional map.

By doing this, he could explain to an audience exactly what police reports were declaring, but in a visual way. This made it easier to report on the case because people could actually see what police said happened, instead of trying to mentally picture it themselves.

Broderick set up the first meeting on March 5, 2007, with editors, reporters, photographers and an artist. In order for his idea to work, they all had to work together. They decided

which elements they wanted to include and got to work.

"Very early on, we decided we weren't going to show the victim's bodies," he said. Instead, the rendering showed the location of the bodies.

Over the next nine weeks, everyone involved put lots of time, effort, and money – out of their own pockets – into the project. It ended up a great success and they named the project "44 Minutes in January." The name was derived from the

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Mr. EIU competition

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that did not stop him.

Going into the competition, Leon said he was confident he could win his class, even though he trained for less than half the time as last year. "I've gained some weight and improved my back [muscles] and posing," he said.

Leon beat out the three other competitors in his weight class to claim the trophy for the second year in a row. After, winning his class, he competed for the overall title of Mr. EIU. After what seemed like the entire crowd was screaming his name and cheering him on, he took second place in the overall competition.

John Conway, a sophomore business major, said he thought Leon had the whole competi-

tion won. "The way the crowd sounded, I thought he was going to win for sure," he said.

Judge and former Mr. EIU competitor Tom Leong was impressed with Leon. "He had very good proportionality and no weak areas," Leong said. The participants were judged on four categories including proportionality, symmetry, size, and conditioning.

Leon is a junior journalism major with a concentration in public relations. He is actively involved in the journalism department, as a member of The Agency. He wants to write for a magazine but said he doesn't want to write about sports.

He thanked his family, friends, and brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon for giving all of their support while he was training and for cheering for him.

At right: Leon trained for six weeks to get this body. He worked out five days a week, and despite being sick for a week, he won the bantam weight class during the 2009 Mr. EIU competition.

Photo by Robby Warren



Celebrating memories of Howard Price's life

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students," said Dr. John Ryan, professor of journalism. "He touched many people."

Dr. Peter Voelz, professor emeritus and long-time friend of Price's, also spoke. "Bad stories about Howard could fit on the back of a postage stamp," Voelz said laughing. Voelz also spoke of Price's kind side and the impact he had on his students. "On the last day of class, Howard had Little Caesar's deliver about half a dozen pizzas during his teacher evaluations," Voelz said. "Howard was always proud of his evaluations."

Former journalism department chairman and friend, J. David Reed also shared some of his stories of

Price. Reed said he had many great times with Price, as he pulled a list out of his pocket and opened it. The list practically dangled to the floor. It was empty but Reed, echoing a Price antic, wanted to symbolize how many wonderful stories and memories Price left with him. "Howard was born to do what he did," Reed said. "He was a great journalist and teacher. I'm a much better person because Howard was my friend."

The crowd continued to laugh as James K. Johnson, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, remembered Price for his impact at Eastern. "From the time he arrived until his passing, his presence was felt at

Eastern," Johnson said. "Howard was known for his zest for life, his unwavering dedication to EIU and its students."

"You'll be sorry when you get your grade" was one of Price's most famous quotes to his students. "We'll miss those words," Johnson said.

Howard was also recognized for his generosity, kindness and the advice that he gave to all his students. At the end of the memorial, all present were asked to add additional stories and memories in honor of Price.

David Kidwell, retired assistant director of athletics for sports information and marketing, spoke of Price's love of sports and his dedication to Eastern athletics. "He was their

biggest fan," he said.

Price had many loyalties to different sports teams since his childhood and a memorabilia table adorned the Buzzard atrium displaying his favorite teams.

"Howard might have not had a strong heart, but he had a big heart," Kidwell said.

Price will be dearly missed by his EIU family. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family during this difficult time.

Dr. Daniel Thornburgh, professor emeritus, had dinner with Price's sister and brother Monday evening, and said this of Price: "He was priceless. We have all lost a friend and colleague."

**"Howard was born to do what he did."
— Reed**



This recent photo of Prof. Howard Price was used at his memorial service and illustrates his smile and sense of humor.

Submitted Photo

Broderick, alum and graphic novelist, visits

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time frame in which police reported the murders occurred. In May 2007, Juan Luna was found guilty of the crime. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Broderick is a 1984 graduate with a degree in journalism. He has worked as a news artist for the *Daily Herald* since 1990.

He came to make a presentation to Professor Wanda Brandon's news writing classes.

He explained the importance of the project, "44 Minutes in January," and all the work involved in making it a success.

He also offered the classes advice for finding future careers while joking around. "I'm

a geek, but I got mad skills," Broderick said.

Broderick is married with twin daughters. He developed a series for the Web which debuted in 2000, and he has completed three graphic novels to date.

Although all of his past artwork was destroyed in a flood, his Web site features samples of his more recent works.

He is currently working on his fourth novel, *Children of the Revolution*.

For more information about Tim Broderick's work, visit his Web site at: <http://www.tim-broderick.net/>.

Many samples of his writing are available online for viewing and purchasing.

Homecoming North draws old, new faces



Tony Dardano, '80, and Ted Gregory, '81, share a smile at the department's Homecoming North, Saturday, Feb. 21, at Seven Ten Lanes, in Elmhurst.



Kevin Keneally, '08, talks to Prof. Joe Gisondi.



Dann Gire, '75, and, Tim Martin, '06, listen to Prof. John Ryan.



Megan Jurinek, '07, and Hillary Settle, '07, smile for the camera.

All photos courtesy of Department Faculty.

Corbett: double-major

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"We went to an ice bar where everything was made of ice and it was negative 10 degrees in there," said Corbett.

Since she was given the week-ends off, Ashley visited Stonehenge and the London Eye, the biggest Ferris wheel in Europe. Corbett also got to visit some of her friends who were at Harlaxton with the Eastern Study Abroad program.

"I got to see a Shakespeare play in the Globe with people from the Eastern Study Abroad program," Corbett said.

London was more than just a

job for Corbett; it was a learning experience.

"I learned a lot about the PR business and that I actually wanted to make a career out of it," Corbett said.

Thanks to Facebook, she is able to keep in contact with co-workers and flatmates.

"It was a different atmosphere with different people. You get a different aspect of working with people from all over the world," Corbett said.

She added that if she could go back to London, she would love the opportunity.

Department opens its doors for open house

By Amy Foster

People walked all around Eastern's campus on Monday, Feb. 5.

The visitors asked for information on departments and tours of the university.

The admissions office on campus hosted an open house for prospective students and their guardians on President's Day, since most public high schools were out of session.

One of the day's events was the informational fair. At the fair, the prospective students got to talk with current students and teachers in their preferred major.

The journalism department's table got off to a busy start. Around 25 possible undergrad-

uates visited the table within the first 30 minutes, said Prof. Brian Poulter.

Many prospective students who visited the journalism department table had questions regarding scholarships.

Also, the visitors wanted to know about the organizations for journalism students that Eastern offers and how new students could get involved, said Sarah Jean Bresnahan, *Verge* editor, and Kristina Peters, editor-in-chief of the *Daily Eastern News*.

The prospective journalism undergrads were split almost evenly among those interested in broadcast journalism and print journalism. A few interested in photojournalism and design visited, but mostly visi-

tors were interested in broadcast news and writing and reporting.

Those that stopped by the table also received handouts containing information about opportunities offered by the department.

Grace Kelly, a prospective journalism student from Hinsdale South High School, said she always knew she wanted to go into journalism. Kelly is interested in broadcast journalism. She wants to work on the television aspect of journalism if she attends Eastern.

Kelly and her father had many questions for the representatives at the journalism department. Everyone seemed to find the open house informational and interesting.

Around 500 people pre-registered for the open house and around 150 were walk-ins. This was approximately the same number of visitors at past open houses.

"There is a lot that goes on in preparing for the information fair," said Blair Holly, admissions counselor.

The open house takes weeks to prepare. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions has to organize the departments and make an itinerary for the entire day.

Prospective students and their guardians got to see what Eastern and the journalism department have to offer.

Overall, the open house had a very successful turn out, said Blair.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 1

"In Search of Authentic Gozo" - A free lecture by Bryce Peake. 9 a.m. Blair Hall, 1103

Thursday, April 2

Heroes Rock: Four bands will play to raise money for the American Red Cross in the 7th Street Underground, 7 - 10 p.m. (\$5)

Every Wednesday

Meeting of The Agency (student PR firm)- 6:30 p.m. in Buzzard 2434

Saturday, April 4

Spring Concert - Lupe Fiasco, featuring special guest Shwayze. 8 p.m. For ticket prices and information, phone 217-581-5122.

Sunday, April 5 - 19

Graduate Student Exhibit. Tarble Arts Center. Call 581-2787 for hours and additional information.

Thursday, April 16

Battle of the Bands - Free. Online voting will select the five bands moving on to the main event. Winner of this event will open for Pantherstock.

Co-sponsored by The Verge (DEN). 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. 7th Street Underground.

Tuesday, April 21

Meeting of Respect for Youth, University MADD. 8 p.m. Lantz Club Room.

Thursday, April 23

30 Meals Under \$3. This free event is a one-hour nutritional lecture will discuss 30 meals that can be made for under \$3. Begins at 7 p.m. in the Greenup Room of MLK Union.

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The Journalist is a student-run newsletter produced by The Agency and printed in the Journalism office located in Buzzard Hall.

March 2009