

the Journalist

a departmental newsletter for journalism majors & minors

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Competition for journalism jobs tough

Susan Duncan shares insights in a "Conversations With..." presentation

By Kyle Piurek

The Society of Collegiate Journalists invited Susan Duncan as the guest speaker for the latest "Conversations With..." presentation, Thursday, Jan. 14.

The "Conversations With..." started last fall and focuses on bringing professionals from around the area to tell students more about the industry and get an outside-the-classroom perspective.

Duncan is the assistant editor of news and photography at the *Terre Haute Tribune-Star*. She talked about the types of struggles her publication has faced, what the journalism industry is facing and what students can do to get ahead.

Newspapers are starting to make cutbacks on the number of reporters, which makes in-

ternships even more important.

"You're not just competing against recent graduates, but with veteran journalists," Duncan said. She also talked about how reporters need to be multi-faceted at what they can do.

Duncan also addressed the positives about a career in journalism.

"It's about the people you get to meet and get to know," said Duncan. Duncan spoke of a woman who was active in the community, who would just talk to her about what was going on, either within the community or around the world.

Another story Duncan shared was about covering a police raid where she wanted to get a closer picture of what was going on.

Since she knew the sheriff well, she got to hide behind him and his riot shield as the police burst into the house they were raiding, and she was able to ob-

tain her photos.

Duncan started as a regional reporter and then taught before returning to the newsroom and becoming an editor.

"You want to get those stories and get out there and I missed that. I wish I could have covered the 2000 election," said Duncan.

One concern she expressed is as an editor she does not get to write as much as she would like to. However, her field experience made the transition to editor a smooth one.

Besides internships Duncan talked about other qualities that young journalists need to stick out among the crowd.

She explained that journalists as a whole have unique personalities and really have to enjoy what they do.

"I like young reporters for their eagerness and new perspectives," said Duncan.

More "Conversations With..."

speakers are coming later on in the semester. Watch for fliers and announcements of future presentations.



Susan Duncan smiles during her conversation hosted by the Society of Collegiate Journalists.

Photo by Kyle Piurek

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DEN does well at Chicago ICPA conference

A tie with Northern Star in the general excellence category ranks DEN third

By Collin Whitchurch

The Daily Eastern News took home 10 awards at the Illinois Collegiate Press Association's annual conference, including a third place award in general excellence.

Fifteen members of *The DEN* attended the conference, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 19-20 in Chicago.

"*The Daily Eastern News* staff did well," John Ryan, publisher and publications adviser said. "They tied for third in the prestigious general excellence category. That shows that the judges think the newspaper does a good job of covering its campus."

The two-day conference was highlighted by Eric Zorn, an editorial page columnist with the *Chicago Tribune*, giving a keynote address. In all Chicago-area journalists gave presentations on a variety of topics in 16 sessions.

Among the sessions was a student roundtable led by Tyler

Angelo, *The DEN*'s editor in chief. Angelo came up with an idea to institute a content-sharing policy among state universities and the roundtable session was a result.

The initial partners in the content-sharing were the *Northern Star* of Northern Illinois University and the *Daily Vidette* of Illinois State University. Nine other schools signed up as being interested in joining in during the roundtable, which included *DEN* managing editor Collin Whitchurch and news editor Emily Steele.

Ryan said 28 schools out of the 39 ICPA members attended the conference, and more than 290 students participated in all.

"We usually have more than 300 students attend, but the economy played a part in keeping our numbers (low)," Ryan said.

The DEN competed in the "daily newspaper" section of the awards competition and the schools it competed against

were the *Daily Northwestern* of Northwestern University, the *Daily Illini* of University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana, the *Daily Egyptian* of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, the *Western Courier* of Western Illinois University, as well as the *Northern Star* and *Daily Vidette*.

The DEN tied with the *Northern Star* in the general excellence category. The *Daily Illini* took first place.

ICPA was the same weekend as the journalism department's Homecoming North. Students, alums and faculty were able to come together to catch up with more than 60 attending.



Ted Gregory, EIU alumni and Pulitzer winner, chats with Prof. John Ryan during the ICPA conference. Gregory was one of the speakers at the conference.

Photo by James Tidwell

WEIU earned recognition at IBA-U conference

By Crystal R. Alston

Last semester WEIU radio and television students won many awards at the 2009 IBA-U, an annual conference hosted by the Illinois Broadcasters Association.

The awards were not covered last semester. In recognition: WEIU won first for Best Newscast. Also, WEIU-TV's Zach Nugent and Kevin Rattermann took second place for Best TV News Package.

WEIU-FM students John Twork won first place for Best

Radio Long Form Programming for a 45 minute show Twork put together last spring which profiled last season's EIU women's basketball senior class. It was called "Building a Dream."

"I am extremely proud to be recognized for that show. I am also proud of everyone else who won awards," he said. "We strive to be the best at WEIU, and it is great to be recognized by the IBA-U for our work."

Jack Benton took second place for Best Radio Air check, Orion Buckingham and Twork

took third place for Best Radio Live Game Performance and Twork also won third place for Best Radio Sports Story.

Runyon has seen the station win many awards and says that it never gets old.

"It was an exciting day. It is nice to continually be honored for the hard work that all these students put forth every day," she said. "We don't take them for granted but we always enjoy more." WEIU-TV was nominated for "News Watch," which is created by students majoring in journalism and communica-

tions studies.

The students volunteer their time and work to produce a nightly newscast. Several students involved in "News Watch" and students from WEIU-FM submitted material and were nominated, as well.

Kelly Runyon, WEIU news director, reported that many awards were presented to EIU students.

IBA-U, a one-day event for students interested in broadcasting careers, is geared to assist and mentor college students studying broadcast journalism.

Homecoming North well-attended



From left, Amy Carr Burke, '89, managing editor of Time Out Chicago, Dan Fields, '97, former Florida newspaper editor, now with Coca-Cola in Chicago, Prof. John Ryan, and Jean Wright Medina, '88, managing director of communications for United Airlines catch up at Homecoming North. Medina and Burke have both served as Fox-Thornburgh Visiting Professionals.



Deb & Deb were at it again, reliving their Deb & Deb column in the Daily Eastern News. Deb Carlson, '92, left, is with Dow Jones News Service in Chicago; Deb Bullwinkle, a journalism minor, lives near Chicago.



From left, Marco Santana, '08, and Justin Kamitch, '99, both reporters for the Daily Herald in Arlington Heights, the third largest newspaper in the state, and Bob Bajek, senior journalism major, sports editor for the DEN, discussed the fun at Homecoming North.



From left, Rick Kambic, '09, chats with Jim Allocco and Brandon Campbell, both '07. Kambic is currently freelancing for a number of publications. Allocco just returned from teaching English in South America. Campbell is planning on graduate school.

Students go abroad to get experience

Doug Graham studied in England, skied the Alps, visited Spain and more

By: *Amanda Smith*

Doug Graham, a sophomore journalism major, studied abroad at Harlaxton College in Grantham, England, for four months and said it was a wonderful experience. Graham was in England from Aug. 18 to Dec. 20, 2009.

"It was wonderful. Everyday I woke up and thought it was the best day of my life," said Graham, when asked what it was like living in a manor on the English countryside. He added, "I had always wanted to go out. I wanted to get out, and I did, and it was great."

Graham decided to study at Harlaxton College because his best friend from high school, Jack Sranek, attends University of Evansville in Indiana, which owns Harlaxton College as its British campus. When the two best friends realized that they both attended colleges that had ties to Harlaxton College, they decided to go to together.

Five other students from Eastern Illinois University went to Harlaxton, but because of Sranek, Graham had an instant friend group. 144 students took classes at Harlaxton College during the fall semester 2009, and 40 students Sranek knew because they went to University of Evansville. Graham said that he is still close with some of the friends that he made.

"The first weekend back at Eastern, I went down to Evansville to hang out with them," Graham said.

Graham took classes at Harlaxton College that transferred to Eastern. One class was called British Studies, which counted for six credit hours. Another class that he took concentrated on Shakespeare, which counted for three credits.

"It was ten plays in fourteen or fifteen weeks," Graham said. The last class he took was American National Government, which Graham described as a general education political science course. Graham took a choir course as well.

All of Graham's classes were taught by English professors at Harlaxton College. One professor, Professor Helen Snow, was "the typical British professor, exactly what you would picture," Graham said.

While taking classes at Harlaxton College, Graham also traveled through some of Europe. Some of the trips Graham went on were trips that the school planned and arranged transportation for, while some were trips that Doug organized with his friends. Every weekend at Harlaxton was a three day weekend.

"I went to Oktoberfest in Germany. That was pretty awesome. I also went on another trip to Barcelona, Spain," Graham said. Edinburgh, Scotland, was a trip that was arranged for Harlaxton students. While there, Graham got to know the city of Edinburgh very well. In Switzerland, Graham also skied in the Alps.

"We had to go really high up to go skiing," Graham said. "It was such an isolat-

ed city that they didn't have any cars, just snow mobiles."

Graham was also in Dublin, Ireland, on Halloween night.

At the end of the semester, another school trip was arranged, and Graham traveled to Italy. It was an eight day visit to three famous Italian cities: Rome, Florence and Venice. "Venice was my favorite," said Graham.

Farhan Aziz, a coordinator in the study abroad department, thinks that a lot of students would enjoy the Harlaxton College experience. Said Aziz, "There is also a summer session that goes to Harlaxton. It's a great program to get English, humanities and other general education credits done. And it has free weekends to go and travel."

The feedback from students that have attended Harlaxton College has been very encouraging and helpful, agrees Lisa Brown, another coordinator in the study abroad department.

"It has been overwhelmingly positive," said Brown. "Living in a castle is a once in a lifetime opportunity. You definitely get your money's worth with the Harlaxton program."

"Studying abroad is a once in a lifetime opportunity and a privilege that all students at Eastern Illinois should take advantage of if they have the option," Terri Johnson, journalism professor said. She asks for Study Abroad presentations in her classes to increase awareness of opportunities.

Get involved with student media!

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