

the

Journalist

a departmental newsletter for journalism majors & minors

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By Amanda Smith

Barbara Harrington, junior, journalism major, former director of The Agency, WEIU-TV news anchor and DEN reporter, is about to finish her internship in Washington, D.C., at CNN.

“Basically, I’m kind of a nerd and stalked the CNN Web site and got on it everyday just for the heck of it,” said Harrington, explaining how she found her internship. After applying for numerous internships in cities around the country, someone from CNN sent her an e-mail informing her that they wanted to interview her in D.C.

Harrington’s internship includes many responsibilities. Duties include brainstorming ideas, phone interviews for background information, and interviewing sources.

Harrington is also involved in a process called stake outs on Sundays. Stake outs are when journalists stand outside of the competitors’ offices while competitors are interviewing someone. After the person walks out, Harrington walks up to them and does an interview with them on

the spot.

She has interviewed many important politicians, such as John McCain, Robert Gibbs and Colin Powell.

“(McCain) was all business. It’s so different, you see these people on TV all of the time and it seems kind of normal to interview them. But then it hits you, like, oh, my goodness, this person could have been the next president of the United States,” she said.

Harrington’s accommodations was a stroke of luck when rented a room from a single mother she found through a friend.

“It’s like having family in D.C. All the neighbors feel like part of the family. There is such a sense of community,” she said. “I couldn’t have asked for a better living situation. You never know what you’re going to get, and I was lucky enough to get the best I could ask for.”

Harrington will be coming back to Eastern in May. She will be taking two classes: political science and English.

After the four week session, Harrington is doing another in-



Barbara Harrington poses in the nation’s capital while in D.C. for her internship at CNN.

Photo courtesy of Barbara Harrington

ternship, this time in Seattle, Wash. For this paid internship, she will be doing audio/visual editing for State Farm Insurance. She will be living with a friend of a friend, who has three little boys and also works for State Farm Insurance.

After her internship, Harrington is coming back to EIU to graduate next May.

Harrington loved D.C. so much that she plans to go back.

“I know that many things may change, and I may fall in love with Seattle. But before this, I had never been away from home, except for school,” she said.

“Being here in D.C. makes me feel like I can take on the world. I love this city; there’s always news going on. I’m very proud of my country’s history.”

More photos from her internship are on page 4.

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Graduating seniors proud of time at Eastern

25 senior journalism majors will be graduated in May



Spenser Nobles is the editor-in-chief of *Minority Today* and a member of NABJ.

Photo by Crystal R. Alston

By Crystal R. Alston

Many hardworking journalism majors will soon bid farewell as the 2010 spring semester comes to a close.

Twenty-five seniors will be graduated May 8, many with plans to pursue a career in the field; some, preparing to attend graduate school.

Most of the journalism students have spent a lot of their time here at Eastern in Buzard Hall gaining hands-on experience at media outlets such as *The Agency*, *The Daily Eastern News* (DEN), *Minority Today*, *The Warbler*, and Emmy Award winning radio and television station, WEIU.

Spenser Nobles is from Joliet, Ill., and has been at Eastern since his freshman year. He says that he enjoys writing and reporting. Nobles is editor in chief of *Minority Today*, a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and has volunteered at WEIU-FM. After graduation, Nobles will be attending graduate school in the business and administration program

here at Eastern.

Tyler Angelo, a member of the Society for Collegiate Journalists, is editor in chief for the DEN and says that his fondest memory is working



Tyler Angelo became the editor-in-chief of the DEN his last year at Eastern.

Photo by Crystal R. Alston

with all kinds of characters on campus.

"There are a lot of interesting people," he said.

Professors Dan Hagan and Lola Burnham have been an inspiration for Angelo in his time here at EIU. Angelo said that he plans to find a good job in the country or find a way to travel to Europe. In the future, he sees himself married and traveling the world.

Sarah Ruholl is the administration editor for the DEN and a member of American Copy Editors Society. She has spent four years here at EIU and finds it rewarding to be on the newspaper team. Because of her position at the DEN she has been able to explore and see things that she will always remember such being able to tour the steam plant and tunnel system.

Professors Dan Hagan and Dr. Sally Renaud have been a positive motivation in her



Sarah Ruholl is interning at the Moline Dispatch after graduating in May.

Photo by Crystal R. Alston

life and she plans to take all she has learned and apply it toward her career in journalism. After graduation, Ruholl will be interning at the *Moline Dispatch* with the hopes of becoming a full-time reporter. Her goal is to cover state government for a major newspaper.

Sarah Jean Bresnahan has been a student at Eastern for the last three years and while here, she has become a mem-

ber of SCJ, an editor and reporter for the DEN, including editor in chief one summer, and a member of the EIU Musicians Coalition. She has enjoyed her time at EIU and says that being a journalism student made it even better.

"I love feeling like a member of the family because the department is so tight-knit," she said.

Among the journalism professors, Bresnahan admires Dan Hagan the most.

"He taught me everything I know about being a good reporter," she said.

After graduation Bresnahan plans to move in with her boyfriend and buy a dog. She hopes to find a job working for a central Illinois newspaper.

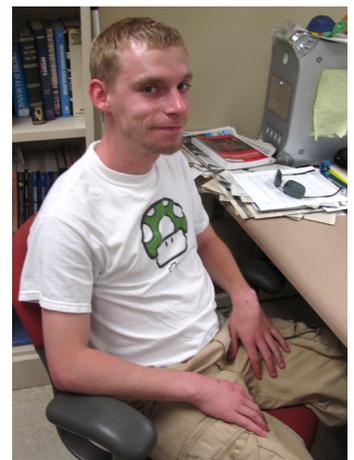
David Thill has been a student at Eastern since fall 2003. He works for the DEN and is a member of SCJ. Thill has made many friends and has many memories as a student.

One time that he will not soon forget is being named



Sarah Jean Bresnahan said she has gotten a lot out of her time at Eastern.

Photo by Crystal R. Alston



David Thill, opinions editor for the DEN, takes a rest.

Photo by Crystal R. Alston

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51st Annual Awards Banquet Friday, April 30

By Nick Persin

The journalism awards banquet recognizes journalism students for their hard work.

April 30 the journalism department will have its 51st annual journalism and student media awards banquet in the Grand Ball Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. Union at 6:30 p.m.

The meal includes choice of cheese lasagna, spaghetti and meatballs, fettuccine alfredo, green beans, breadsticks, fruit salad, caesar salad and assorted fruit pies.

This year, 14 scholarships will be awarded to students. Along with the scholarships, the Society of Collegiate Journalists will present an award.

The top scholar in the department will also be honored.

Each year Eastern Illinois University Journalism Department recognizes the Journalists of the Year. This year, Kevin

McDermot, the Springfield bureau chief for the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* will be honored. Along with McDermot, will be the late Ron Ingram, who was a reporter at the *Decatur Herald and Review* for more than 40 years. His widow, Sue Ingram, will accept the award.

According to Dr. James Tidwell, Dave Dawson, the managing editor at the *Decatur Herald and Review*, will talk about Ingram.

Dr. John Ryan will speak about the student run media during the evening. Students will also report on various student groups.

The evening is also a chance for the department to take a look at the year in review and a chance to have a relaxed, fun time.

"It's always a whole lot of fun and a lot of joking goes on," Tidwell said, "It is a time to celebrate the year."

To be eligible for scholarships, students must meet certain qualifications to have a chance to be nominated. Then, faculty members find the stu-

dents who qualify, nominate the students they feel will win, and vote. The finalists for each scholarship will not be known the banquet.



Dr. Daniel Thornburgh, left, first chair of the department, was honored at last year's banquet. He is shown here chatting with Jessica Youngs, 2005 alumna, who wrote her senior thesis on Dr. Thornburgh and the history of the department.

Photo by Terri Johnson

Senior Profiles continued from p. 2

editor in chief of the *DEN* in 2005 and also the moment that he met his girlfriend. After graduation, Thill plans to move in with his girlfriend and look for work in the field of journalism. He hopes to be married in the next five years, with children.



Collin Whitchurch poses in the newsroom during his last semester.

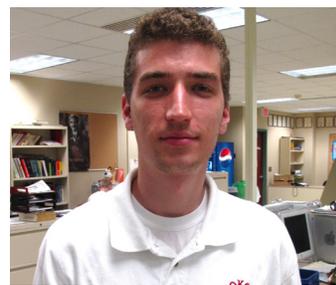
Photo by Crystal R. Alston

Collin Whitchurch is a member of ACES, SCJ and a staff reporter for the *DEN*. He also became managing editor for his last semester.

In his two years at EIU, he has covered a wide variety of "impactful" stories and he says that Professors Lola Burnham and Dan Hagan have been a positive influence in his time here. After graduation, Whitchurch hopes for a career as a sports reporter.

Bob Bajek is a writer for the *DEN* and *Minority Today*. While a student, his most enjoyable times were hanging with his girlfriend.

Professors Dan Hagen and Craig Eckert (Anthropology and Sociology) have had a positive impact on his life. He plans to get a job after gradua-



Bob Bajek plans on getting a job in journalism after graduation in May.

Photo by Crystal R. Alston

tion and his ultimate goal is to make lots of money.

Other graduates include Alison Burge, Michael Cortez, Steven DeBenedetto, Eric Hiltner, Heather Holm, Miranda King, Colleen Kitka*, Kristin Menas*, Jennifer Meyers, Brittany Mor-

gan, Krystal Moya, and Kyle Pruden. Also, Alisha Reed, James Neil Schneider, John Twork*, Cari Wafford, Nkonye Williams, Bradley York.

Those graduating at the end of the summer include Megan Cruz, Adam Larck, Kevin Murphy, Erik Pfeifer* and Eric Robinson.

A breakfast for seniors and their families will be Saturday, May 8, at 9:30 a.m. in the Seventh Street Underground, in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. The breakfast precedes graduation, which is at noon.

The editor regrets all 25 graduates could not be interviewed.

**Indicates a member of Kappa Tau Alpha, the journalism honorary.*

J—Students expected to pursue internships

By David Jackson

Dr. John Ryan, journalism professor and the director of student publications, is available to give information and advice on how students can receive an internship.

Students may apply for existing internships or apply to the local newspapers, television station or public relations agencies and create their own internships.

“Local businesses are usually very willing to hire a student from their city for the summer,” Ryan said. If funds aren’t available to hire students, students may be able to obtain an unpaid internship.

Ryan calls newspapers and

other places to tell them that one of his students is interested in working for them to try and help students get internships.

If an internship site pays for work within the state of Illinois, the College of Arts & Humanities can add to the student’s salary through a grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

“Sometimes I can call newspapers and other organizations and talk them into creating an internship for a student because of that grant,” Ryan said.

Professor Ryan also urges students to get an internship within their field of study while still in school. Internships give students valuable experience in

their fields.

“Internships help students build a résumé and become imminently more qualified for jobs after college than students who have not been working in their field of study,” Ryan said. “If someone does well on an internship, that can lead to full-time employment with the company when he or she graduates.”

Students sometimes get full-time jobs with the companies that they have interned with.

Internships build portfolios or string books for the students and give broadcast students samples of their work.

Ryan said, “When a student graduates from Eastern, he

or she is going to be competing with graduates from colleges from all over the country. Working in the field of study while in college and through internships gives a student an edge over the competition.”

Other faculty members, too, will help with internships when they can.

Dr. Janice Collins helps with broadcast internships because of her contacts and experience.

Professor Terri Johnson helps with public relations internships. While internships are not required, they are certainly expected of journalism students. Whether paid or unpaid, internships can be taken for credit or noncredit.



Harrington does a standup for CNN from the streets of Washington, D.C. Harrington interned with WEIU-TV last summer and will intern with State Farm this summer in Seattle, Wash.

Barbara Harrington (holding mic) interviews Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) as part of her CNN internship in Washington, D.C. Most broadcast journalism internships are unpaid.

Photos courtesy of Barbara Harrington

Publication editors appointed

Sam Sottosanto was named the *DEN* editor in chief for fall 2010. Sottosanto will also serve as the *DEN* EIC this summer. She has been the online editor, lead designer and *Verge* reporter, written for the *DEN*, worked for WEIU and served an internship for the *Sullivan News-Progress* last summer.

Emily Steele was named the *DEN* EIC for the spring 2011. Steele has been the news editor, student government reporter and staff reporter at the *DEN*.

She has also served as an editor and editor in chief of the *Warbler*, the yearbook. Steele will intern at the *Decatur Herald & Review* this summer. She is president of the Society of Collegiate Journalists.

Rashida Lyles-Cowan was named editor of *Minority Today* for the 2010-2011 year. She has written for the *DEN*, and will be the managing editor for the *DEN* during the summer. She was the news editor of *Minority Today* this year and was secretary of SCJ.



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