

a publication for broadcast students

This Month's Broadcast

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WEIU Internships help students gain experience in broadcasting field.

## Nugent, Jeanes to be honored for excellent WEIU-TV work

By Cory Dimitrakopoulos

Zach Nugent and Kevin Jeanes were recently announced as winners of top honors at the Broadcast Education Association Festival of the Media Arts. Zach Nugent and Jeanes will be recognized for their exceptional work at WEIU News Channel 51, which is broadcast to a 16-county region.

Nugent, a senior journalism major with a broadcast concentration, will be awarded first place in the TV Feature Reporting division and the Best of Festival award for his work on "Horses for High Gas Prices," and second place in the TV Hard

News reporting division for "Ft. Bragg Training."

Jeanes, a senior geography and communication studies major, will be awarded the third place award in the TV

Weathercaster division for his work as WEIU's weather anchor.

With a record number of 300 entries in the news division, Nugent and Jeanes

broadcast professionals from around the nation.

"We don't focus on the awards when we work. We try to produce award-winning material every night," Kelly



**Zach Nugent, senior journalism major, and Kevin Jeanes, senior mass communications major, will be honored for their work at WEIU-TV at the Broadcast Education Association Festival of the Media Arts. The ceremony will be in April in Las Vegas, Nevada.**

were up against a good deal of competition. The students of WEIU submit their work into various categories, which must then go through two rounds of judging by more than 40

Runyon, WEIU-TV news director, said. "Almost all of the students have worked here for two, three or four years, and

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# Alumna wins Student Emmy for documentary, broadcasts for Voice of America overseas

By Katie Rufener

She lives and works in Washington, D.C., but if you want to see Sarah Zaman in the evening, you would have to be on the other side of the world!

Zaman is a 2005 graduate of Eastern who is now working for Voice of America, which broadcasts television programs all around the world. If you did live in Pakistan, you could flip on your television and see Zaman anchoring a news magazine show that airs in prime time.

She also works as a producer and reporter for the show. Zaman has been with Voice of America since 2007 as a reporter and producer and started anchoring in Fall 2008.

She is originally from Lahore, Pakistan. She said it was her ability to speak Urdu, the official language of Pakistan, and her knowledge and television experience that helped her get hired at Voice of America.

Zaman said her job is “an amazing experience” and she “loves meeting people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.”

Zaman, while a student at the University of Florida’s Documentary Institute, received national recognition for her work in the 2007 documentary “Bismillah” which won Best Student Documentary of 2008. Zaman received the Student Emmy for co-producing the project with Jolene Pinder, which they did on a shoestring budget. The documentary was also a finalist for the International Documentary Association’s David Wolper Award.

“Bismillah” followed a Muslim-American woman from

Minneapolis who was running for political office. “She was a member of the green party, wore a head scarf ... was very different from what is considered an average politician” Zaman said. “We followed this

laid the foundation for her post-college career.

“Much of my daily work is like what I did at WEIU ... going over scripts, editing stories, reporting ... Kelly [Runyon] was an amazing manager and

inspiration given to her by the professors at Eastern that has helped her to become the broadcast journalist she is today. Communication studies Prof. Olaf Hoerschelmann remembers Zaman as being a



***Sarah Zaman is shown on the Voice of America set. She won a Student Emmy for her work on the documentary, “Bismillah.” “Bismillah” is the story of a Muslim-American woman who was running for political office.***

woman for months and really got to know her. ... It was an amazing experience. It shaped my outlook, ... transformed me.” Zaman has received a grant to continue work on her “Bismillah” documentary.

All of this, Zaman said, may not have been possible without the support she received from her professors and supervisors at EIU. While in school, Zaman worked for WEIU-TV, the on-campus news station, and said the knowledge and experience she gained while working there

mentor,” she said.

Kelly Runyon is the news director of WEIU-TV and describes Zaman as “... a breath of fresh air.... She brought a new dimension to the television station and was always willing to try anything.”

Zaman said she loved working for WEIU and advises that “anyone who wishes to go into television broadcasting should consider working at WEIU News Watch.”

It was not only her work at WEIU, but also the

very driven student who always pushed herself to be better. “She would get upset if she scored 98 out of 100 on one of my exams, because it meant she missed a question,” Hoerschelmann said.

Zaman said that she just wants everyone to know how thankful she is for the friendships and ties she has formed at EIU. “I want everyone at WEIU, the communication studies department, and Eastern Illinois University to know that I am so grateful for all they have done for me,” she said.

# Mattson named WRUL/WROY news director

By Alesha Bailey

Jonathan Mattson was recently named news director for WRUL/WROY in Carmi, Illinois.

After working for WEIU-FM, Mattson, a communication studies major with a concentration in electronic media production, searched for a job through EIU's Web site and found an opening at WRUL/WROY.

Mattson's name is familiar to all WEIU-FM listeners. Mattson said he was hired because of his radio experience at Eastern and his internship at a station in Salem, Ill.

Mattson does 20-25 minute news reports for the WROY-AM station and does recorded reports for the WRUL-FM station. Stories that he has reported on range from a person stealing storm windows off a house, a possibly stolen truck found in a field, and a checking scam and FBI investigation.

Another part of his job is to host a live talk program for open discussion or promotions. Mattson not only does general news, but he also covers sports and updates the WRUL/WROY Web site.

The ability to do different tasks that he performs at his job originate from his multitasking for WEIU radio and TV

stations.

"It really puts in your mind that you're not going to be doing one thing. You need to be ready and excited to do anything" Mattson said.

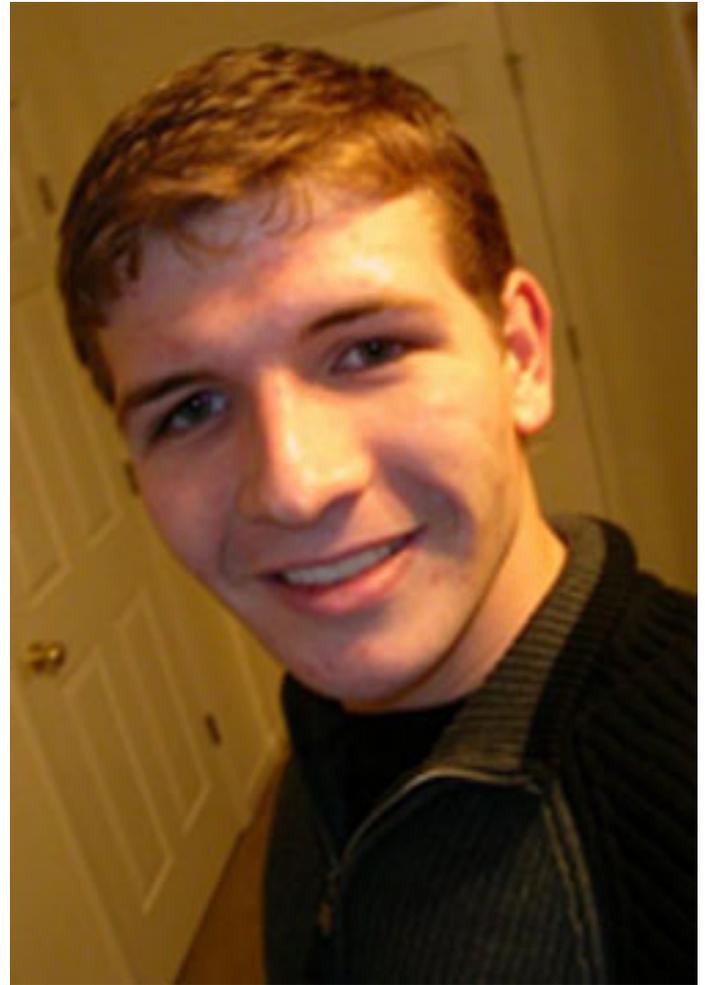
Jeff Owens, WEIU radio and television program director, said that Mattson's maturity showed while working the tasks that he had to do.

"He gathered and recorded, or did live newscasts five to six times a day. He was also one of our management team members, which helps maintain policy. He filled in whenever he could to be a regular announcer as well," Owens said.

Whenever Mattson did not understand situations regarding the station and his responsibilities, he would always ask questions about what to do. Mattson admits that even though he is working a professional job, he still is going to ask about problems that he will face.

"It's so much easier to suck up your pride and ask the dumb question and get a straight answer out of it, than try and work around it without asking the question, because it's going to take twice as long and you may not get it right," he said.

Mattson said his work at WEIU made him a better writer and speaker for the radio, and taught him how to present short,



*Jonathan Mattson, who graduated in fall of '08, used his experience at WEIU to land a job as news director for WRUL/WROY in Carmi, Illinois.*

concise facts.

"You don't want to sound like you're reading off a piece of paper, you don't want to

sound like you feel sick, and it's a real skill to be able to write conversationally," Mattson said.

## Production prep: from WEIU-TV to the City of Angels

By Zach Nugent

From EIU, all the way to Los Angeles. Spring 2008 graduate John Parente has taken his skills learned at Eastern and WEIU-TV out West to the City of Angels.

Currently, Parente works as a production assistant for Entertainment Tonight.

"I'm kind of like the go-to person," Parente said, "I work directly with producers, directors, whoever needs me."

As a production assistant, Parente often helps crews with some basic editing and at times helps producers and directors of the show *Insider*. Parente said the most interesting experience was being able to go to the Em-

mys. "I got to meet all sorts of celebrities and walk on the red carpet," Parente said.

Even though no red carpet is in the Midwest, Parente says he misses Illinois. "I miss my friends and family and the other Midwest values.... People are just different out here.... Part of it because no one around here is actually from here.... It's just a

trendy place to be," he said.

Parente said his Midwest values and experiences at Eastern are what truly readied him for his job.

"I got great preparation.... If it wasn't for WEIU, I wouldn't have this job," he said.

Parente worked at WEIU-TV s and took part in the 2007 summer internship.

# WEIU internship proves valuable

By Kaitlyn Peters

Each year 50 to 100 people apply for the WEIU summer internship to obtain hands-on experience. This 12 week program allows students to make their own decisions in all areas of news, weather, and sports.

During the program, interns typically work 30-40 hours per week. Every two to three weeks the participants rotate their jobs, so they experience all sides of the newsroom.

Kevin Raterman, a junior electronic media production major, participated in the internship in the summer of 2007. The program raises experience levels, especially for underclassmen. Raterman said "I wanted to learn as much as I could as fast as I could."

Even though Raterman only wanted to work behind the camera, he was also obligated to perform other tasks, such as reporting.

He enjoyed working at WEIU because it provided him the opportunity to work with people not only from Eastern Illinois University, but also people from Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina. It was also a challenge to work with these people because some people may be weak in an area where others may excel.

Michelle Murphy was another participant in the internship. She attended in the summer of 2006 and she is now a senior communications major with a double concentration in broadcast and electronic media production.

Working at the station is time consuming. Murphy said she started work at 8 or 9 a.m., depending on her job that week, and didn't leave until 7 p.m. or later. "I did a little bit of everything, so I did videography, reporting, anchoring, news writing,

producing, and all production work as well," Murphy said.

For her, the most challenging factor was to navigate in unfamiliar areas when reporting. WEIU's station covers 16 counties and more than one million households.

After her internship with WEIU, Murphy did two more internships. In the summer of 2008 she did an internship at Entertainment True Hollywood Story and she currently has an internship with the Meth Awareness Coalition in Coles County.

News director Kelly Runyon and former general manager, Rick Sailor, co-founded summer internship in 2003. Runyon said, "Students in the program go on to do great things and work in newsrooms all over the country. The work they are doing here helps them bolster their tapes and résumés to help them find jobs."

## AWARDS from page 1

they set out to make our product exceptional every night."

When asked what helped his work stand out to the judges, Nugent explained, "It's the people in the story that really make the story great."

Nugent also credited junior mass communications major Kevin Raterman, his videographer.

The extensive hands-on opportunity the students are provided at WEIU also seems to be an aspect of their ability to

produce award-winning work.

"The hands-on experience we have here is the best you can find," Jeanes said. "I know other schools that don't allow students to touch equipment until their senior year. I feel privileged and blessed to be at WEIU."

Jeanes also credited his background in science — he has a minor in geography — and lessons learned from Eastern science professor Cameron Craig to helping him excel in

weather casting. "I was science first and broadcast second, and I think viewers can tell that I know what I'm talking about."

As for plans after graduation, both award-winners are eager to enter the world of professional broadcasting.

"I really enjoy the sense of knowing that I am the first to inform people," Nugent said. "It's a true medium that connects people with their community, their state and their world."

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