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# Dr. Collins' move to UIUC



**In the photo Dr. Collins was speaking with Samantha McDaniel on August 29, 2012.**

By Tim Deters

After four years at Eastern, assistant professor of journalism Janice Collins has accepted a position at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Collins will begin at the College of Media at UIUC, as assistant professor of journalism beginning in January.

"It was a job offer that came out of nowhere," she said, but Collins is very excited about her transition to a new university.

The biggest advantage of her transition will be her

ability to conduct more research on topics she is passionate about, mainly women's and African-American studies.

"I'm just stepping it up, like I tell my students," Collins said.

James Tidwell, journalism department chair, joked that the news of Collins' move to the University of Illinois was something he accepted begrudgingly.

"When she told me, I was hoping she would change her mind, but she didn't," he said with a grin. "I (will) hate to see her go."

Collins has advised the

*Photo by Miranda Ploss*

broadcasting students since she came to Eastern and has taught various journalism and broadcasting courses.

"She has really raised the level of our broadcasting program a great deal," Tidwell said. "I just hope we can find a replacement that will be close to as good as she has been."

A large part of her teaching style has been incorporating the voices and knowledge of her students, she said.

Vicky Kane, a junior communications major, had Col-

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# WEIU takes home another Emmy



The Emmys that WEIU-TV have won, now for the fifth time, are displayed in the WEIU office.

*Photo by Emily McInerney*

By Isaly Ferguson

The Emmy is known for being the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences highest award. Since, the Emmys were first established on April 23, 1959, the program has given awards to television networks such as HBO, ABC, AMC and Showtime.

Television shows on well-known networks are always known to be given nominations for their top-rated shows. Emmy nominations are given to the best of the best.

Eastern Illinois University's very own WEIU-TV network was nominated once again in the last three years for the 2012 Regional Emmy Award and won its fourth Emmy for the Best College TV Newscast in the Midwest.

The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences has many different categories for which it distributes awards to television networks.

WEIU-TV was nominated in the Mid-America Emmy division which is consisted of 19 regional chapters in Missouri, Arkansas, and Illinois with

several surrounding cities.

The Mid-America chapter was established in 1976, to provide educational resources the opportunity to show their excellence. The Mid-America chapter is associated with the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

WEIU-TV was first established on July 1, 1986, it was created so that East-Central Illinois viewers could see the local news and public programs in their homes.

It did not have its' first airing until September 1, 1986, which included about 50 students that produced two live newscasts airing daily at 5 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. On January 30, 1992.

WEIU-TV joined the PBS network, airing 10 hours of PBS children's programming weekly and is now a network of many different PBS programs.

WEIU-TV was up against the University of Arkansas, University of Illinois and Webster University.

"The best part about being a director at WEIU-TV is working with the students and watching them grow

from journalism majors with little experience to mature journalism students. They're my family," Kelly Runyon, Director of WEIU-TV said.

Kelly Runyon has been working with WEIU-TV since 2001, and has enjoyed every minute of working hands-on with Eastern's Students.

Before coming to WEIU-TV, Runyon worked at a commercial station in Indiana as a news anchor and producer and decided to come to WEIU-TV because of how much she enjoyed the environment.

Runyon said that each year when she works with a different group of students at the station it's as if she is working at a normal news station there is no difference because of how bright the students are.

"The feeling never gets old; each time is special and wonderful." Runyon said, after winning a fourth Emmy, "WEIU-TV is thankful for the support of the campus, staff and viewers they are what help our network succeed."

The WEIU-TV team this year consisted of 20 students working on an investigation of a senior home being closed down.

Runyon believed that students should embrace all the mediums that the university has to offer. Show their talents, get involved while having a lot of heart and passion for everything that they do.

WEIU-TV wasn't only nominated for an Emmy but was a finalist for the 2012 Pinnacle Award. The Pinnacle Award will be handed out in November in Chicago by the College Media Association.

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**Watch WEIU-TV Weeknights @ 5:30 p.m.**

# Pledges exceed expectations

By Jordan Thiede

Fans of both the WEIU radio and television stations were able to show their support by way of pledges throughout the month of September.

The radio station's pledge program, Adopt-a-Watt, exceeded its goal by selling 63 watts, which amounted in \$3,150.

The TV station's pledge program, Fall into Membership, also exceeded its goal by raising \$20,500.

Ke'an Armstrong, WEIU's publicity, promotions, outreach and grants manager, said that since WEIU is a public broadcasting station, it relies on viewers and listeners for support.

Armstrong said the pledges have increasingly become more successful each time the fundraisers have taken place.

"We have had a growing numbers of viewers each time," Armstrong

said. "We appreciate their (the listeners and viewers) support and that they feel passionate, not only to watch and listen, but to support the stations financially."

Armstrong said people were able to donate in several ways. They could call into the TV station during live pledge nights, contact the radio station or go online.

Jack Neal, the general manager for WEIU, said it is important for WEIU viewers and listeners to help out the station.

"It is important that we continue to have them support what we believe they believe in," Neal said. "It will be of increasing importance as we head into the future."

Rob Calhoun, the morning show cohost for Hit-Mix 88.9, said he was pleased with the results for the pledge drive.

"I am grateful for the overwhelming response



The number of people who adopted-a-watt is shown on the wall of Hit Mix 88.9.

*Photo by Emily McInerney*

that we had to our membership campaign," Calhoun said. "It is great to know that we have listeners who believe in what we do every day and are willing to support us."

Calhoun added that all the students at WEIU worked especially hard during the week to get the word out.

"It was good to see

them step up their game," Calhoun said.

Jana Johnson, membership manager for WEIU, agreed with her colleagues about the importance of both of the pledges.

"The biggest thing for me is that the viewers and listeners show that they care," Johnson said.

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## Dr. Collins' move to U of I con't....

**Story jumped from pg. 1** lins for a broadcast writing course last year and said she greatly appreciated the time Collins takes to speak with and understand her students.

"A lot of teachers don't want to have that personal connection with their students," Kane said. "But Collins was always willing to take the time to connect with (them)."

Also, Kane was very impressed by Collins' energy

and passion.

"She has a lot of energy," she said. "She is very passionate about what she does, which makes you excited about it and you want to dive right into it."

Tidwell also said Collins' passion has been very beneficial to the journalism department.

"She's a real go-getter and has a lot of energy, so she has added a lot to the department," he said.

Collins said she is going to miss Eastern and the talents of her students.

"I love to see the excitement in students' eyes," she said. "I think that I have had some of the best students in the world."

Kane recalled on the last day of her class with Collins, how both she and Collins teared up.

"Someone that great tearing up because she is so proud of you and your

accomplishments and the type of person that she has seen you grow to be, no words can describe how good it feels," Kane said.

And though Collins is excited for her transition, she believes she will always have a connection with Eastern.

"I look at it as a bridge, not a disconnect," she said.

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# WEIU starts the year off strong

By Geoffrey ZuHone & Stacey Catterson

WEIU News Watch offers multiple opportunities for students to get involved with broadcast on campus.

“Volunteering will get you a great amount of experience,” said Kelly Runyon, WEIU News Director. “We are always looking for new volunteers.”

WEIU currently has 50 student volunteers, and more than half of them are new this semester, Runyon said.

This is the one of largest volunteer class Runyon has had during her time here. This is a good year for News Watch, she said.

“The number of volunteers usually fluctuates from year-to-year,” Runyon said. “This year is also fairly split between men and women working at the station.”

News Watch is celebrating its fourth regional Emmy, as well.

Giving students the opportunity to work with an Emmy-winning station is our goal, Runyon said.

Volunteer positions range from the creating content to the technical side.

The best thing about working at WEIU is learning about the various work through other volunteers, said Kacie Berry, a first-year graduate student in the School of Technology.

Berry started in the spring of 2011, training by shadowing the various positions throughout the studio. Now, Berry takes on the tasks of writer,

producer, video editor, as well as anchor.

“My favorite position would have to be technical director,” Berry said. “There’s a huge board in front of you that you’re in charge of. You have to know everything, and it’s a lot of [pressure].”

Sean Copeland, junior journalism major, is currently working his second semester at News Watch. He works as a writer, camera operator and prompter. Copeland is training for recording, as well.

“I originally started in print, but now I’m working in broadcast,” Copeland said. “I am (a) journalist, which means I should be able to do everything.”

Both Berry and Copeland would love to work on national news but know that is not an easy reality.

“I would love to work for Jon Stewart and ‘The Daily Show’” Copeland said. “But seriously, I want to be a foreign correspondent covering news in England.”

Both students encourages anyone interested in broadcast to get an early start.

“The earlier you start, the more experience you can use in the field once you graduate,” Berry said. “That will get you a job in the real world.”

You can reach Geoffrey ZuHone at gwzuhone@eiu.edu and Stacey Catterson at secatterson@eiu.edu.

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## Valerie Badillo: The 100th WEIU-FM student to graduate

By Jasmine Randle

Ninety-nine graduates came before her and now it’s her turn, Valerie Badillo, a senior communications major will graduate as the 100<sup>th</sup> student of WEIU FM this school year.

This past summer Badillo interned at Univision radio, a Spanish-speaking radio company.

“I was fortunate enough to

receive this honor from the Illinois Broadcasters Association,” Badillo said.

Badillo said that interning at Univision radio was one of the best experiences of her life.

She gives a special thanks to Rob Calhoun and Jeff Owens for teaching her what it takes to work in broadcasting, as well as giving her advice on what to expect in the

real world.

“I wouldn’t be here today if it wasn’t for those 99 alumni who came before me,” Badillo said.

Badillo said she is sad to leave everyone at Hit-Mix 88.9 WEIU, but is excited to see what lies ahead for her as she starts her career in radio.

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