

- 30 -

A NEWSLETTER FOR JOURNALISM AND STUDENT MEDIA ALUMNI
OF EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Vol. 37, No. 1

Fall 2010



Two journalists of the year were honored at the Journalism/Student Media Banquet in the spring of 2010: Kevin McDermott (second from right) of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch; and the late Ron Ingram who worked for the Herald & Review in Decatur for 40 years. His widow, Sue Ingram, accepted the award. Dave Dawson (far left), managing editor of the Herald & Review, was on hand to honor Ingram. John Ryan (far right) is chair of the Outreach and Service Committee of the journalism department.

Photo by Terri Johnson

Journalists of Year honored in spring: Page 3

Inside this issue:

Student journalists win awards • Page 2
Homecoming to heat up with Chili Bash • Page 3
Faculty news roundup • Page 4
Gisondi publishes sports writing textbook • Page 5
Renaud heads College Media Advisers • Page 5
Department remembers former professor • Page 7
Hall of Famers: Wright Medina, Carr Burke • Page 8

Join the Alumni Listserv!

Send an e-mail to:

laburnham@eiu.edu

Journalism Department
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920
(217) 581-6003
journal@eiu.edu

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 24
CHARLESTON, IL 61920

WEIU newscast wins second straight Emmy

Journalism student named top college sportscaster

The daily 30-minute live newscast produced by students at WEIU-TV won a Regional Emmy for best college newscast for the second straight year Oct. 9.

“The second year in a row is great for the facility, but even better for the university,” said Kelly Runyon, news director, whose personal goal is to strive for an Emmy-quality production every night. Runyon is a 1992 EIU journalism graduate.

A dozen students accompanied Runyon to the ceremonies of the Mid-America Regional Emmy Awards for the states of Missouri, Arkansas and Illinois. The University of Missouri was the other finalist in the best college newscast category.

In national competition, John Twork, a 2010 journalism graduate from Bloomington Ill., was presented the second annual Jim Nantz Award as the top collegiate sports broadcaster in the United States. The award, sports broadcasting’s equivalent of the Heisman Trophy, is presented by Sports-casters Talent Agency of America.

Other finalists for the Jim Nantz Award came from Syracuse, East Tennessee State, Rutgers and Ohio University.

“As talented as the inaugural field was last year, this year’s field was deeper which made the selection process even more challenging,” says STAA CEO Jon Chelesnik. “What John Twork does especially well is put his listeners inside the stadium or arena by not only describing the action, but also the sights, sounds and emotions of the players, coaches and fans. His play-by-play is a story.”

He is now a graduate student at Illinois State University and works in the ISU sports information department..

WEIU-TV/FM, Twork and a number of other broadcasting students won a number of awards in the 2010 Student Silver Dome Awards presented by the Illinois Broadcasters Association Oct. 8 at Illinois State University.

The awards are for content aired during the 2009-10 school year.

WEIU News Watch won three first-place awards for best television newscast, best television weathercast and best longform television programming.

WEIU-FM won first place for best radio promotion.

Twork won four individual awards: first place for best radio public ser-



2010 journalism graduate John Twork displays the awards he won recently from the Illinois Broadcasters Association. Twork also was named the top collegiate sports broadcaster in the country.

vice announcer; first place for best radio advertising spot, second place for best radio sports story, and third place for best radio live game report.

Zach Nugent, a December 2009 journalism graduate, won second place for best television sports package.

Alumni gifts provide ‘cushion’ against budget cuts

**JOURNALISM
CHAIRMAN**

JAMES TIDWELL



Many of you have read about the state’s budget problems. These problems have certainly had an impact on

the university and the department of journalism. Since the university is getting much less money from the state, the department’s spending has been affected. The outlook is bleak for the next couple of years.

As a result, the department is looking at a 25 percent cut in its operational budget and a virtual freeze on equipment purchasing. Obviously, journalism education relies heavily on technology so a lack of equipment money could have an adverse effect on our operations.

Fortunately, the journalism department has a “cushion” to fall back on thanks to the generous giving to our gift account by alumni and friends. We have used the gift account to supplement equipment purchases in the past. With tough budget times now upon us, we will no doubt have to dip into the gift account again, especially since we have some multimedia equipment that’s nearing the end of its useful life.

Our gift account is one example of the fruits of good alumni relations. I’m not exaggerating when I say that our alumni relations are the envy of most academic departments at the university. This reputation exists because the personal and professional relationships created among faculty members and students continue long after the students leave campus and become alumni.

It’s a two-way relationship. Alumni give back to their alma mater in many ways, and EIU journalism faculty members in return assist alumni with many personal and professional projects.

Some of the things alumni do for us:

- They generously give money.
- They enrich our program by returning to campus to speak to classes and student organizations.
- They almost always say “yes” when we ask them to speak at workshops and conferences or when we ask them to judge journalism competitions.

For example, every year a number of workshop sessions at the Illinois Community College Journalism Association and the Illinois College Press Association conferences are directed by EIU journalism grads.

Six EIU alums conducted sessions at the 2010 ICPA convention in Chicago Feb. 20-21.

When we’re looking for judges for competitions such as the Illinois High School Association state journalism finals, we can count on our alumni to say “yes” when we ask. Fourteen EIU alums acted as judges at the 2008 IHSA state finals at EIU. Eleven alums judged at the 2009 event. Another 10 judged at the 2010 event in May.

In the past year, at least 16 alums have been on campus to speak to classes and student groups.

From the department side of the relationship, we keep alumni abreast of job openings we hear about, and we recommend talented students and graduates to alumni who hire employees and interns. Recently, faculty members judged a national media contest administered by an alumnus.

When recruiting new students, we constantly brag on our alumni. The would-be students and their parents are always impressed.

I’d like to highlight two alumni “testimonials.”

Ted Gregory, a 1981 grad who shared a 2008 Pulitzer Prize with several colleagues

at the Chicago Tribune, was awarded a 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award by EIU. Here’s an excerpt from his acceptance speech: “Eastern gave me many things for my entire time there. I guess I’d describe it all in one word: generosity. It gave a kid like me, a kid who woke up a little late, who stumbled around but found his way, an opportunity. It was, and I hope still is, a generous place, in people like Daniel Thornburgh and the extraordinary David Reed, who I still lean on for wisdom; in so many town folks who showed me genuine warmth, even when I was a goofball. And, in the people at *The Daily Eastern News*. For all our peculiar scruffiness and our differences, we pulled together every day and put out a near remarkable newspaper.”

Cam Simpson, 1991 alum and now a foreign correspondent for Bloomberg News, wrote the following e-mail to a university administrator with whom he had dinner in D.C.:

“I remembered what it was that I most valued about Eastern, and what I think really shaped me. You asked me about skills I developed at Eastern – skills that helped me succeed. I think of it a little differently. I think the most valuable thing for me was the personal attention I received from professors who were, first and foremost, teachers. Small class sizes made it possible to get to know my professors, and for them to get to know me. Many of them took a personal interest in me and in my success. They were instrumental in my development as a journalist, a writer, a thinker and a person. That would have been difficult at a bigger school, or a school where professors focus on research. The personal interaction at Eastern made it possible for me to flourish.”

We plan to use these and other “testimonials” in future student recruitment efforts. We appreciate our alumni. Your success is our success.

McDermott and Ingram named Journalists of the Year

By John Ryan
Journalism Professor

The Springfield bureau chief for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and a Decatur Herald & Review reporter were named Journalists of the Year by the EIU journalism department.

Kevin McDermott, 44, who has been the *Post-Dispatch*'s bureau chief for the past 15 years, and Ronald Ingram Jr., 63, who reported for the *Herald & Review* for 40 years until his death in December, were honored April 30 at the 51st annual Journalism/Student Media Banquet.

"McDermott and Ingram have had exemplary careers and are deserving of recognition for their many years of service to the citizenry of Illinois," said James Tidwell, chairman of the journalism department.

The journalism faculty selected the two veteran reporters for induction into the Journalism Department's Hall of Fame for making an outstanding contribution to the field of journalism in the Eastern Illinois University service region.

"The two newsmen were chosen because they have practiced journalism at such a high level of expertise for many years for their newspapers and their readers," said John Ryan, chairman of the journalism department's Outreach and Service Committee, which makes the selection.

McDermott, a 1987 EIU journalism graduate, worked for newspapers in Evanston, Ind., Charleston, Freeport, Decatur and Springfield before joining the *Post-Dispatch*.

While working for the *State Journal-Register*

Past Journalists of the Year

- **2009: Ray Long, Springfield bureau chief of the Chicago Tribune, and Dave McKinney, Springfield bureau chief, Chicago Sun-Times.**
- **2008: Madeleine Doubek, managing editor, The Daily Herald, Arlington Heights**
- **2007: Jeff Nelson, retired managing editor, Lincoln (Ill.) Courier**
- **2006: Cam Simpson, formerly with the Chicago Tribune and Wall Street Journal, now a reporter with Bloomberg News Service.**
- **2004: John Foreman, editor and publisher, News-Gazette, Champaign-Urbana**
- **2003: Les Brownlee, long-time Chicago newspaper and broadcast journalist**
- **2002: David Shaul, former news director, WCIA (Channel 3) in Champaign**
- **2001: William Hamel, retired publisher, Times-Courier and Journal Gazette, Charleston and Mattoon.**

in Springfield, he was part of a team of four reporters who won a national George Polk Award for political reporting (1993), for a series detailing the effects of campaign contributions on the state's political system.

He has been Springfield bureau chief for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* since 1995.

He won first place for beat reporting in the Illinois Press Association's 2009 "Excellence in News" awards, and shared the top award in the investigative reporting category that year with a *Post-Dispatch* colleague for a story exposing abuses in the state's capital punishment defense fund.

McDermott lives in Springfield with his wife, (and fellow EIU alum) Stacy Pratt McDermott, who is assistant director of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, a state documentary editing project; and his younger daughter, Mackenzie, 16, who is on Springfield High School's varsity basketball, softball and golf teams. His older daughter, Savannah, 22, is a senior at Indiana University at Bloomington, studying Spanish.

Ingram was a reporter at the *Herald & Review* for more than 40 years, covering a variety of beats including crime, courts, government, schools and business. Ingram specialized in hard news stories, but could also turn out entertaining features.

As important as he was as a reporter, he was also a mentor to generations of young reporters who came to Decatur. Ingram was also active in the community and was particularly well known for his work with the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. He was a Scoutmaster of Troop 5 for 16 years and graduated nearly 40 Eagle Scouts.

Ingram was a graduate of Michigan State University. He and his wife, Sue, had four children and 11 grandchildren. He died Dec. 6, 2009.

Homecoming events help strengthen alumni relationships

By Barbara Harrington
-30- Reporter

James Tidwell's seen his fair share of students since coming to Eastern in 1987.

Between teaching various courses before becoming department chairman and continuing to teach communication law, Tidwell said he figures he's taught more than 2,000 students.

But unlike many other department chairs, his contact with those students often extends beyond graduation, lasting decades after students leave campus.

"I think if you ask other departments or ask the alumni office, they'll tell you that journalism is the poster child for good alumni relations," Tidwell said. "And partly it's because students when they were here probably had closer connections because of the student media operations. They didn't just go to class, they were involved."

Tidwell said many former students keep in touch, updating professors about current jobs and recent story assignments. And, come October, several alumni come back to Eastern's campus to visit their old professors and pass on advice to current students.

"I always love talking to people, talking to students who are coming back," Tidwell said. "It's nice to see how they've developed and matured because you think about who they were in school and they're often not the same person."

Every fall, Tidwell said the journalism department hosts several events during Homecoming Week for current students and alumni. This year, the department's Homecoming Week events will begin Friday, Oct. 22 when Amy Carr, executive editor of *Time Out Chicago* magazine Chicago, and Jean Wright Medina, director of external relations at United Airlines in Chicago, are inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame.

Eastern journalism professor John Ryan said to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, candidates

have to be Eastern alumni who were involved with student media during college, they have to have professional experience and a positive reputation and they have to show continued support of the department. Tidwell said the department tries to induct at least one alumni into the Hall of Fame each fall.

Carr and Medina will be inducted at 1 p.m. in the Effingham room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Ryan said invitations to the luncheon ceremony will be sent out to faculty and student leaders.

In addition to recognizing outstanding alumni, the department also hosts a student publications open house the Saturday of Homecoming. Ryan said usually about a dozen people stop by before or after the Homecoming Parade to see the newsroom.

"They want to see the place where they've spent a lot of time at or they want to see what's new if they were here before this building was even renovated," said Ryan.

While many alumni enjoy visiting the place they spent hours writing, designing and editing, Ryan and Tidwell said the most popular and successful homecoming event is the chili bash.

This year's chili bash is from 5 to 8 p.m. at Roc's in Charleston. Ryan said alumni typically make donations during the event, allowing current students to drink and eat for free.

Ryan said the tradition was started by former department chairman David Reed, when there were only a handful of journalism majors. He said it's a way for current students to meet alumni and a way for professors to catch up with former students.

"I love seeing former students," Ryan said. "You know, there are certain people you stay close to because they stay close to you. But it's fun to see someone you haven't talked to in a while, too, and see what they're doing."

Joe Astrouski, a senior journalism major, said he enjoys catching up with friends and coworkers

Student Pub Awards

The Society for Collegiate Journalists presented *The Daily Eastern News* with 11 awards in the spring. The paper also won three first-place honors in the newspaper competition sponsored by the Illinois College Press Association.

The *DEN* also received a third-place award for general excellence for dailies from ICPA.

Eastern's *Warbler* yearbook also won six awards in the national SCJ contest, including second place for overall excellence for schools with an enrollment of more than 6,000 students. It also took third place in Best of Collegiate Design for Divider Pages from the College Media Advisers.

ICPA:

First Place, General News Photo

Alycia Rockey, senior journalism major

First Place, Feature Page Design

Chris Lee ('09)

Second Place, Front Page Layout

Janet Ruppert ('09)

Second Place, News Story

Emily Zulz ('09)

Second Place, Opinion Page

Dylan Polk ('09)

Third Place, Sports Feature Story

Kevin Murphy ('10)

Third Place, Feature Photo

Alycia Rockey

at the chili bash. He said he also likes seeing his professors outside of the classroom.

"I've learned a lot from the people in the department who are now in the field.," he said. "I've learned from hearing about the challenges they face."

Astrouski said he appreciates the extra effort the department makes to reach out to current students and alumni.

"If you don't have that connection to your field, you'll have the knowledge you got from class but you'll never be able to apply it."



From left, journalism faculty Eunseong Kim, Bryan Murley, Brian Poulter, and John Ryan enjoy a laugh at one of a faculty celebrations. Faculty honored Joe Gisondi, who published a book about sports reporting and writing. A cake was created that mirrored the cover of Gisondi's book.

Faculty news roundup

Renaud heads national College Media Advisers

Sally Renaud, associate professor of journalism, was sworn in as president of College Media Advisers during the organization's national convention in Austin, Texas, last fall.

Renaud will lead the group from 2009-2011. The 2010 National College Media Convention is scheduled for Oct. 27-31 in Louisville, Ky.

College Media Advisers, Inc. has been working since 1954 to help student media professionals improve their media operations. It has approximately 800 members from across the country.

Renaud, who previously taught at Emporia State University in Kansas, has been on the EIU faculty since 2004. She teaches writing courses, journalism history, and is faculty adviser to the *Warbler* yearbook.

Faculty busy with research, writing and creative projects

John Ryan

John Ryan is now executive director of the Mid-America Press Institute, which provides low-cost, mid-career training for working journalists. He took over for John David Reed who retired from his post-retirement duties. As executive director, Ryan runs the organization and assists in all the planning, marketing and publicizing for the group, which is made up of newspapers from throughout the Midwest. You can find MPI online at MPInews.wordpress.com, and on Facebook and on Twitter.

Lola Burnham

Assistant professor Lola Burnham presented a paper titled "The Anonymous Poster: Today's

Hybrid of the Anonymous Pamphleteer and Anonymous Source?" at the national conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in August in Denver.

The paper examined newspapers' attempts to use reporter's privilege, or shield, laws to protect the identities of anonymous commenters on their websites. Burnham co-wrote the paper with William Freivogel, director of the School of Journalism at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Burnham also had an article published in the scholastic research section of the spring 2010 issue of *Adviser Update*, a publication of the Dow Jones News Fund. The article, titled "Cases Test Limits of School's Reach," examined two completely opposite U.S. appellate court decisions from the 3rd Circuit in Pennsylvania regarding students who had made fake MySpace pages about their schools' principals.

Burnham is also continuing her doctoral studies at Southern Illinois University--Carbondale. She also serves as first vice president of the Illinois College Press Association.

Terri Lynn Johnson

Associate professor Terri Lynn Johnson, ABC, APR, had two papers accepted at the International Public Relations Research Conference in Miami in March.

One paper was written with assistant professor Eunseong Kim and the other, on the role of public relations in our democracy, with professors outside the journalism department. The paper on the role of PR in a democracy was named "Best of Miami" and is scheduled to be presented in Washington, D.C., at the international Public Relations Society of America conference this month.

Johnson serves as secretary to the Midwestern District of PRSA and past president of the Central Illinois chapter of PRSA.

She continues to serve as adviser to the Daniel E. Thornburgh Chapter of PRSSA, and the student-run PR firm, The Agency, as well as Respect for Youth a University Mothers Against Drunk Driving Chapter.

Eunseong Kim

Assistant professor Eunseong Kim co-authored a research paper with associate professor Terri Johnson titled "Technology: All the Talk, But is it All the Use?" The paper was presented at the 13th International Public Relations Research Conference in Miami.

Kim currently teaches the introductory journalism course; Women and the Media; Minorities and the Media; and is the department's honors coordinator. She served as a mentor to two students presentations at the 2010 Showcase EIU.

Joe Gisondi

As the president for the Illinois College Press Association, Gisondi helps develop and organize sessions for the two-day conference, as well as maintaining the website for this state journalism organization.

Gisondi earned his master of fine arts degree in creative nonfiction from Spalding University after completing the fourth semester, a fifth residency and a thesis spanning 120 pages of a book-length manuscript. He said he plans to complete the final eight chapters, approximately 180 pages, next year in order to submit to publishers.

Elizabeth Viall

Journalism instructor Elizabeth Viall was awarded a doctorate in mass communication from Indiana University in spring 2010.

Viall teaches design, writing and photography classes.

Photojournalism instructor's work displayed

One of Eastern's own presented his photographs turned into art in a solo photography show in Palestine, Ill., in the spring.

Douglas Lawhead, technical support specialist who also teaches photojournalism classes at Eastern, had his work displayed for a month last spring. Eighteen of his images were on display for viewers.

The title of the show, "Back to my roots...With a Twist," explains part of his childhood. Lawhead grew up in Trimble, which is about six miles northwest of Palestine.

"The twist is the images in the show are not straight photographs," Lawhead said. "All began as normal photographs...but they have been digitally altered to the point that they resemble oil paintings, watercolors, drawings or abstract art."

He said the point of the images is to make people see things differently.

The show is the first time in 20 years that Lawhead has participated in something like this. His other shows were among other artists and pho-



"Six Mile Curve" is the title Doug Lawhead gave this digitally enhanced photograph that became art and was displayed in his solo show.

tojournalism classes at Eastern, had his work displayed for a month last spring. Eighteen of his images were on display for viewers.

"This is a solo show, and the digital art medium is a relatively new medium for me," Lawhead explained. "It will be interesting to see how it is

received by people who have known me all my life, but who have never seen this type of work from me."

A year ago the Palestine Art Guild contacted him wanting to use his work for a show. At that point, however, he wasn't able to get things ready in time. In December, he contacted the guild and asked if they were interested in his doing a digital art show, and the guild accepted the proposal.

Several of his framed photo art pieces sold at the show and he was told his show sold more than the Guild usually sells in a year.

Before coming to EIU, Lawhead was the head photographer for Mid-Illinois Newspapers, publishers of the *Charleston Times-Courier* and the *Mattoon Journal Gazette*. He was previously a reporter and photographer at the *Robinson Daily News*.

Lawhead holds a master's degree in technology and a bachelor's degree in general studies from Eastern. He is active in the James Jones Literary Society and is also a licensed pilot and scuba diver.

Brandon settles into retirement, resumes artistic efforts

By Kelly Wittenmeier

-30- Reporter

After five years spent teaching journalism at Eastern, Wanda Brandon is settling into retirement near her family in Southern Illinois. Brandon taught a variety of classes during her teaching career on campus, such as advanced reporting, news writing, copy editing and visual communication.

She described her teaching experience as most rewarding while teaching photojournalism and advising two campus newspapers, including five years at *The Daily Egyptian* at Southern Illinois University--Carbondale and eight years at *The Standard* at Missouri State University.

Brandon plans to resume her involvement with artistic photography, experiencing the changing of the seasons around her small farm in Southern Illinois where she engages in nature photography. She has had photographs accepted into juried exhibits. Two of her favorite original pieces are called "View From a Window" and "Park Bench."

Her plans for the coming year during the spring semester revolve teaching an online class on beginning photography and possibly writing a book based on her experiences over the years.

Brandon said she will always treasure the hands-on experience that she had with students, hoping her classes were beneficial for them toward acquiring real-world experiences. One of Brandon's fondest memories pertains to one particular photo story project she assigned her students in the effort to capture the one-room schoolhouse on campus at Eastern.

"Nothing compares to the satisfaction a teacher receives while watching students turn into professional journalists," Brandon said.

Observing her students get out there and advance their writing has been gratifying for Brandon. She said she hopes they remember the importance of accuracy in their stories.

She wants to remind each aspiring journalist to remember that fairness, completeness and balance is vital for a well-informed community and that in order to be an effective journalist, students must become skilled reporters and strong writers.

"I hope (students) uncover all the important facts and then spend time developing a strong lede and organization that carries the reader to the end," Brandon said.

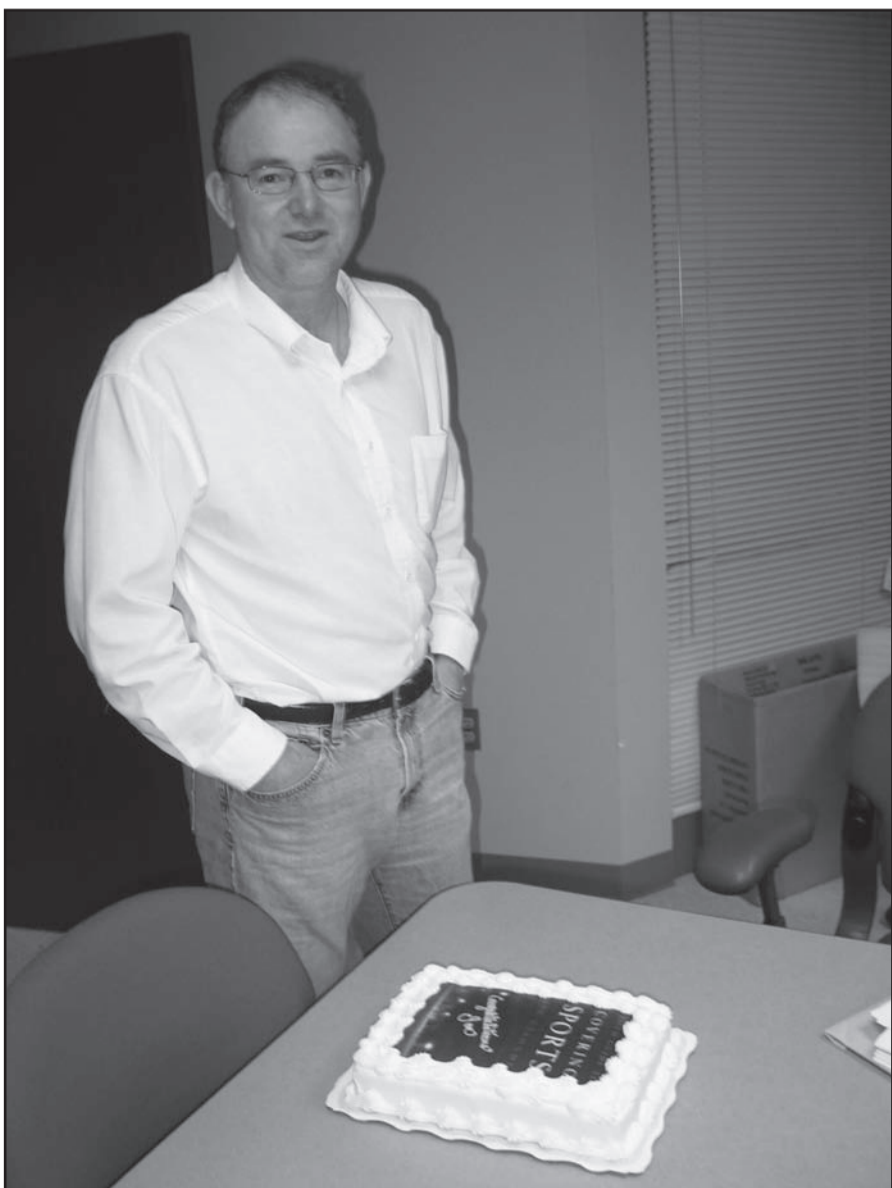
Since retiring after the spring semester, Brandon has been developing a healthy lifestyle

with plenty of good food, exercise and meditation by walking her two dogs, a Scottish terrier named Howard and a Yorkshire terrier named Huey, every morning and spending time finishing jobs around her 10-acre farm located in rural Marion, Ill.

She said she keeps the wonderful memories of her dedicated students and colleagues at Eastern in her thoughts and praised the journalism department for exceptional work.



Wanda Brandon



Prof. Joe Gisondi views a cake, iced to look like his new book cover.

Gisondi publishes textbook

By Tara Rosenbaum

-30- Reporter

In the six short months following the release of his sports writing textbook, Joe Gisondi, an Eastern journalism professor, has enjoyed recognition from 20 different universities that have already adopted it into their curriculums.

Gisondi's book, *The Field Guide to Covering Sports*, includes handouts he has regularly employed in his sports writing classes over the years and will be integrated into the course for the next three semesters.

The publisher of the book is Congressional Quarterly Press.

Gisondi said he had not originally intended to publish a book but stumbled into the process after transferring his class handouts to a personal blog, which expanded and attracted readership. Eventually, his publisher suggested he record his expertise in a textbook that aspiring sports reporters could refer to on the go.

"It is a guide you can put in your backpack and use," Gisondi said.

The textbook is broken down into three different parts, the first of which addresses getting started and also

offers tips and topics, such as writing stories, interviews, developing feature writing and blogging.

Part two provides details on 20 different sports, from the most popular like baseball, basketball and football, to sports that have a less mainstream audience, such as rowing, lacrosse and rugby.

The last part of the book focuses on what Gisondi refers to as "primers," which focus on sports information directors and how to work with them. It also explains how to avoid clichés, maintain ethics, broadcast games on the radio and cover fantasy sports.

"(The book) is a must-read for sports journalism students and beginning sports reporters," states Michelle Kaufman, sports writer for the Miami Herald and adjunct instructor at the University of Miami. "Newcomers to the trade will get valuable tips on covering a range of sports, interviewing, even blogging."

"And it doesn't read like a textbook. Instead, it is a collection of anecdotes, real-life examples, and 'Sports Insider' advice from well-known sports journalists. Readers of this book will feel like they got personal career guidance from some of the most respected names in the business."

Class Notes

Where you are now, what you are doing?

1982

Betsey Guzior, the features editor at *The State* in Columbia, S.C., was among 20 journalists to win a Knight Digital Media Center Multimedia Reporting and Convergence fellowship at the University of California at Berkeley in June 2010. The program is essentially a boot camp in multimedia training for mid-career journalists, covering multimedia news production.

Guzior also was named secretary-treasurer for the American Association of Sunday and Features Editors at the group's annual conference Oct. 9.

Peggy McMeen Stankoven has been with Edward Jones' Marketing division since November 2007 (previously working as a contractor). Earlier this year, she was promoted from copy editor to writer/editor. In her spare time, she volunteers, makes tuition payments, writes intermittently on a book idea, complains about rush hour and stalks her children on Facebook.

1989

Colleen Boland Sall is a domestic engineer heading up a family of four for now. Colleen previously worked for 15 years in marketing communications/product management for multi-platform softwares. Pitney Bowes was her last employer.

Sandy Manisco is the vice president of marketing for Hawthorne Credit Union and has made her career in credit union marketing for the past 20 years. Sandy writes: "Many people ask me why I ended up with a journalism degree if my goal was marketing, and this is the story I tell. I was a communication major and wanted to get exempt out of Journalism 101 because I'd already taken it at another college. Dr. Reed convinced me that journalism would be very helpful in marketing because I'd need to identify the most important part of my message in few words...and he was right. I'm glad I switched. I got lots of experience in the journalism department, and it helped launch my career. Thanks, Dr. Reed!"

1990

David Brummer lives in the Jefferson Park neighborhood on Chicago's northwest side with his wife, Mary Fergus, and their daughter, Olivia, 8. He's a senior editor/investigative editor for *Consumers Digest* magazine. He did not vote for Scott Lee Cohen.

Deb Bullwinkel is entering her 11th year as a self-employed communications consultant. This includes writing and editing, convention planning,



The annual Seymour Golf outing in July was a chance for alums to get reacquainted and have a good time while raising money for a good cause—The Seymour Scholarship, named after Gene Seymour, '75.

public relations and voice-over work (radio ads, web site audio, PSAs, etc.) She writes, "Imagine that – I get paid to talk!"

In addition to her self-employment responsibilities, she is also an elected official for the Village of Villa Park. In May 2009, she was elected to her first four-year term as a politician. She writes, "Needless to say, it's very interesting being on the other side of the interview table!"

1992

Debbie Carlson and James Conley ('89, '90) continue to reside in the Logan Square neighborhood of Chicago. Debbie is a freelance writer and editor in the greater Chicago area. James is still teaching high school world history in Cicero, Ill. They can both be reached at: 2310 North Central Park, Chicago, IL 60647 or at jrcdmc@gmail.com.

2001

Chris Sievers and family have moved into a new home in Marion. Chris is director of marketing for the SIU Credit Union in Carbondale.

2002

Bill Ruthart has joined the Chicago Tribune as part of a new watchdog reporting team that already

includes another 2002 grad, Joe Ryan. Ruthart previously worked for the Indianapolis Star.

2006

Julia Bourque is now a conservation writer for The Nature Conservancy.

2007

Nicole Milstead Niwa married **Dan Niwa** ('07) in June. She works for the Illinois House of Representatives as a communications analyst. She writes for five representatives in Du Page County.

Sarah Whitney is a communications associate for the Simmons Law Firm in East Alton, where she is using "pretty much" everything she learned at Eastern. She writes press releases, articles for the firm's newsletter and copy for its website. In her spare time, she freelances for the St. Charles (Mo.) Journal, and this past August was featured in a Q&A about her freelancing work in WOW! Women on Writing's Premium-Green Newsletter. Before she was laid off from her earlier job with the Suburban Journals in St. Charles, Mo., she won two second-place awards in the Missouri Press Association's 2009 Better Newspapers Contest in the best news and best agricultural categories.

2008

Marco Santana is living in Lisle and is covering Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn and Carol Stream, as well as Glenbard High School District 87, for the *Arlington Heights Daily Herald*. He has also been training for his first 5K run, which he should have completed by Homecoming.

Amanda Dugan is assistant to the publisher of *Investment News* magazine in New York City.

2009

Angela Pham is back in Peoria after her sojourn in Florida. She is associate editor of the *Wildfowl*, *Gun Dog* and *Predator Nation* magazines at InterMedia Outdoors.

Emily Zulz is a reporter with *The Daily Journal* in Kankakee, mainly covering Bourbonnais.

2010

Katrina Zaret is interim manager of the Holiday Star Theater in Park Forest. She started out doing some minor public relations and event planning for the theater but ended up running the place.

Eric Hiltner plans on moving to the East Coast. In the meantime, he is selling his two-bedroom Charleston home for \$45,000. ejhiltner@gmail.com.

Kappa Tau Alpha chapter honors Howard Price

By Michelle Simek

-30- Reporter

The department's honor society has officially been renamed the Howard Z. Price Kappa Tau Alpha Chapter in honor of the retired journalism professor who died in February 2009 at the age of 65.

Price served as adviser to Kappa Tau Alpha for 18 years and received a KTA Distinguished Service Award upon his retirement. KTA honors journalism majors whose grade point averages rank in the top 10 percent of the senior class.

James K. Johnson, former dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, said Price's presence was felt at Eastern from the time he arrived until his passing.

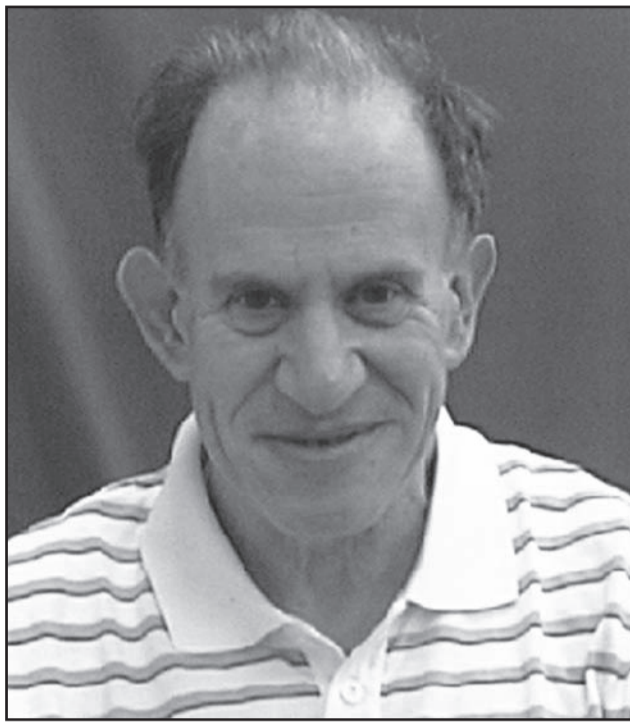
"Howard was known for his zest for life, his unwavering dedication to EIU and its students," Johnson said.

He began his career at Eastern in 1984 and retired in 2005 and continued to teach parttime until his death. Courses he taught included Journalism & Democracy, Copy Editing and Sports and the Media.

He left quite a legacy at Eastern, measured by the immense response of students and faculty, past and present.

His passions involved copy editing, sports, his students and more sports.

James Tidwell, journalism department chairman and professor, spoke of Price's time at



Professor Howard Price

Eastern during a Celebration of Life ceremony. He described Price's teaching style, classroom antics and humor as unforgettable.

Peter Voelz, professor emeritus and long-time friend of Price's, spoke of his kind side and the impact he had on his students.

"Bad stories about Howard could fit on the back of a postage stamp," Voelz said. "On the last day of class, Howard had Little Caesar's deliver about half a dozen pizzas during his teacher

evaluations. Howard was always proud of his evaluations."

Dave Reed, former journalism department chairman and friend, also harbors fond memories of Price.

"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."

Dave Kidwell '70, 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.

Since Price had many loyalties to different sports teams since his childhood, a memorabilia table adorned the Buzzard atrium displaying his favorite teams during the memorial on March 5.

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

As Daniel Thornburgh, professor emeritus, said of Price, "He was priceless. We have all lost a friend and colleague."

■ **Kappa Tau Alpha inductees 2010:**
John Twork • Kristen Menas
Colleen Kitka

■ **Kappa Tau Alpha inductees 2009:**
Joe Astrouski • Juliette Beaulieu
Christina Guadiana • Zachary Nugent
Emily Zulz

Department continues high school outreach: camps, contests

By Chetel Jordan

-30- Reporter

Every summer for 18 years, Eastern's journalism department has offered a summer workshop to high school students who are interested in journalism and multimedia studies.

The purpose of these two-week-long workshops is to introduce a diverse group of students to the practice of journalism and to encourage them to enter the profession.

Sally Renaud, associate professor of journalism, has directed the program for the past three years. The program was established by John David Reed, emeritus professor and former chairman of the department. Joe Gisondi also served as director.

"I love the kids! Because I'm used to working with college students, it introduces me into what motivates teenagers," Renaud said.

For some participants, attending the program means being away from home for the very first time.

Renaud said this experience is beneficial because students build relationships with peers within a positive learning environment that has changed to incorporate multimedia and new technology.

The workshop introduces students to the process of collecting information, reporting and writing news, editing content and designing the paper.

The first week of the workshop provides instruction, while the second week is an internship, when participants are responsible for producing three newspapers to showcase their knowledge under

the guidance of top professionals in the field who staff the program.

These professionals are often graduates of the department. For example, Lisa Green '86, has been the associate director of the program since its inception. She arrives on campus the first Sunday and stays through Thursday. Other alumni who helped this year are Ted Gregory, Sean Stangland, Herb Meeker, Rob Stroud, Dan Hagen, Lola Burnham, Nora Maberry, Stephen Haas, Jay Grabiec, Robbie Wroblewski, Matt Daniels, Stephen DiBenedetto and Jeff Britt.

During second week of the program, students are driven to local sites to intern at daily newspapers where they tackle real assignments at professional newspapers.

The workshop is also responsible for shaping young professionals and recruiting to the university.

"The summer workshop program showcases EIU and gets people excited about journalism," Renaud said.

The workshop is funded by grants from the Illinois Press Foundation, the Dow Jones News Fund and the McCormick Foundation. Participating students pay nothing to attend.

The journalism department also is instrumental in another outreach program to high schools: the state journalism contest sponsored by the Illinois High School Association.

High school journalists compete at seven sectional sites in 16 different categories such as copy editing, news writing, newspaper design, advertising, editorial writing, sports writing and yearbook layout.

The top three finishers in each



Lisa Green '86 and Ted Gregory '81 wait to order at the Burger King in Mattoon after a day of feature writing with the summer journalism workshop students. Lola Burnham '83 was also on the trip.

category at each sectional qualify for the state competition a week later.

Renaud and James Tidwell, department chairman, are co-directors of the state finals held each May at EIU.

Hosting that event is another way faculty can showcase the journalism program at Eastern.

Jean Wright Medina, Amy Carr Burke named 2010 Alumnae of the Year

Two former editors of *The Daily Eastern News* who have established careers in public relations and the magazine industry have been named Alumnae of the Year by the journalism department.

Jean Wright Medina, class of 1988, and Amy Carr Burke, class of 1989, will be honored at a luncheon Oct. 22 during Homecoming Weekend.

Recipients of the award must have attained a positive professional reputation and must have continued to support the department or student media following graduation.

Medina is the managing director of external communications at United Airlines. She oversees global media relations, public relations, crisis communications and the company's in-flight magazine *Hemisphere*.

Burke is the executive editor at *Time Out Chicago*, a magazine that covers leisure-time activities offered in the Windy City.

She has held her position since 2004, helping to oversee the entire edito-



Amy Carr Burke, '89



Jean Wright Medina, '88

rial operation, ensuring that the magazine gets out on time and on budget and serving as a liaison among editorial and other departments and the public.

Both Medina and Burke previously worked as reporters for the *Daily Herald* in Arlington Heights.

"Jean and Amy have distinguished themselves in their careers and we're certainly proud to call them graduates of our program," explained John Ryan, chairman of the department's Outreach and Service Committee. "They were obvious choices for this honor this year."

Both have returned to campus to speak to classes and share their professional expertise with students, Ryan said.

Previous award winners are 2001: Jim Hanks, '46 and Jim Roberts, '46; 2002: Chris Soprych, '95; 2003: Pat Coburn, '65; 2004: Mike Cowling, '75, and Lori Miller, '79; 2005: Lisa Green Newhouse, '86; 2006: Jeff Britt, '88; 2007: Ted Gregory, '81; and 2008: Richard Fox, '71.

Mark Hoffman, Fox-Thornburgh professional, visits EIU

Beth Steele

-30- Reporter

Fox-Thornburgh visiting professional Mark Hoffman met with students from Sept. 20-23, demonstrating and teaching photography skills.

Hoffman, a photographer for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, spoke to classes and met with the Warbler photo and design staff.

He also participated in the "Day in the Life of Charleston" photo project Sept. 22. Hoffman, alumni Stephen Hass and Jay Grabiec, '08, faculty and students took pictures of anything in Charleston for 24 hours.

Each photographer was allowed to submit five photos.

Approximately 200 photos were submitted. Of these, 75 were selected to be printed in a 4 in. by 4 in.

Polaroid-type format and exhibited in the Doudna Fine Arts Center from Oct. 11-Nov. 18.

The project was supported by The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Decatur Herald & Review, Canon U.S.A., The Daily Eastern News, the EIU College of Arts and Humanities, the Journalism Department and the EIU Center for Academic Technology (CATS).

The Fox-Thornburgh Visiting Professionals program is sponsored by an endowment from alumnus Richard Fox, '71, in honor of Daniel E. Thornburgh, former head of the department.

Professionals with expertise in all areas of journalism share the latest information and expertise with the students and keeping them up-to-date in a rapidly changing world.

Ferak, '95, honored by executive editor of World-Herald

Mike Reilly

The Omaha World-Herald

As executive editor, I take pride in seeing *World-Herald* news coverage that exposes problems and leads to improvements in our community, state and region.

The past couple of weeks have been particularly gratifying in two areas of public policy.

While the two areas are very different, it's notable that our coverage in both instances involved the same tenacious watchdog reporter in the lead role: John Ferak.

Ferak, 37, a native of Joliet, Ill., has covered metro government and crime news since joining our staff in October 2003. He is one of about 60 World-Herald reporters, many of whom consider watchdog reporting on public issues a big part of their day-to-day responsibilities.

One of Ferak's big stories lately led to a new law approved by the Nebraska Legislature last week. Legislative Bill 742 requires public disclosure of large legal settlements involving taxpayer funds.

Under the legislation, cities, counties and other government entities must maintain a record of legal settlements and disclose the existence of such settlements on a meeting agenda.

Settlements of \$50,000 or more, or those representing 1 percent of a public entity's annual budget whichever is smaller now must be disclosed.

Local governments and education groups lobbied against LB 742. It won legislative approval only after settlements smaller than \$50,000 were exempted from the disclosure requirement.

Around the newsroom, we called LB 742 "John's bill."

That's because it was Ferak who discovered and brought into full public view the inspiration

for the bill: the \$200,000 secret settlement reached by the City of Papillion in a sexual harassment claim against former Mayor James Blinn.

Ferak refused to accept the terse explanation for Blinn's resignation last summer. Ferak chased the story for three months as officials in Papillion tried to shield taxpayers from learning of the settlement, which resolved a harassment claim brought by Blinn's assistant and former girlfriend, Racheal Cascio.

In explaining his tenacity on the Blinn story, Ferak describes the essence of watchdog journalism: "It is the newspaper's role to get to the bottom of things, specifically how the public's money is used or misused.

It is a newspaper's role not to be intimidated, bullied or stymied or to give up and move on to other stories when government leaders, police officials, school administrators or others in high power refuse to explain and make themselves accountable for their decisions."

Another major reporting effort by Ferak culminated in the March 23 conviction of Douglas County CSI chief David Kofoed on charges of evidence tampering.

Don't misunderstand me. Kofoed probably would have faced trial with or without The World-Herald's stories.

But Ferak kept a spotlight on this case for years like no one else in the region.

Remember, this all began with the 2006 slayings of Wayne and Sharmon Stock in rural Cass County. Ferak first raised doubts about the case against the initial suspects, Matthew Livers and Nicholas Sampson, long before authorities released them from jail and belatedly declared their innocence.

Ferak was the first reporter to discover that an FBI investigation was under way of Kofoed even

after Douglas County Sheriff Tim Dunning had exonerated his CSI chief.

Ferak was the first reporter to explain in detail how the blood contamination might've occurred.

He was the first to talk with national CSI experts who questioned Kofoed's actions.

It was a sensitive story. The newspaper didn't know whether Kofoed would be charged.

Ferak was investigating the investigator. He was raising doubts about the CSI director whose agency serves 45 other law enforcement agencies throughout Nebraska and western Iowa, working on high-profile cases like the 2002 Norfolk bank slayings and the disappearance of 19-year-old Omahan Jessica O'Grady.

Ferak was determined, aggressive, persistent and careful in his reporting. He kept asking questions. He kept writing stories. Now Kofoed is convicted and off the public payroll. Now efforts are under way to restore the credibility of CSI in the region.

In his coverage of Kofoed and Blinn, Ferak had lots of assistance from his editors and other reporters at The World-Herald.

The government watchdog work of Ferak and his colleagues shined light into corrupt corners of our public life. As a result, the region is better off.

-30-

-30- is a publication of the department of journalism at Eastern Illinois University.

Members of The Agency, the student-run department public relations group, acted as reporters and editors for the publication.

Student Editor: Erica Whelan

Faculty Editors: James Tidwell, Terri Johnson, Lola Burnham, Sally Renaud