

## This Month's Broadcast

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Students produce new PBS series, featuring local state parks.

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New scoreboard offers students an electronic look into the sports broadcasting world.

Watch for more on the TRIP to the EMMYS in the next issue!

# News Watch wins first Emmy

By Jessica Leggin

WEIU-TV's News Watch won an Emmy Saturday, Oct. 3, as Kelly Runyon, news director at WEIU-TV, Dennis Roche, general manager of WEIU-TV, and 14 students attended the 2009 Emmy Gala at the Renaissance Grand Hotel in St. Louis, Mo.

Getting there began much earlier. Aug. 20, 2009, Runyon made sure to stay close to her computer screen to view the nominees for an Emmy in the Student Production/News category.

She knew the nominees would be announced around 6 p.m. via the Emmy Web site, so she said she kept refreshing her computer screen to find out the results.

"I clicked the link and I kept scrolling down," she said. "I saw our name (WEIU-TV) and I literally did a triple take. I picked up the phone and called everyone."

WEIU-TV News Watch was listed as the only nominee in the category for Student/Production/News for the Mid-America Emmys.

The Mid-America Chapter for the Emmys, chartered in 1962, honors students and professionals in the television community with local Emmy awards every year.

Runyon entered WEIU-TV in the competition by sending in a tape of one of the newscasts last September.

Runyon said it is an honor just to be nominated.

"To be perfectly honest, I am thrilled for the students, for their time and energy they put here in the station," she said.

nominated," he said. "Other schools ask us if we are going to enter certain competitions. If we do enter they say, 'We are not going to enter because we know you all are going to win anyway.'"

Kurwicki said even though he does not get paid for working at WEIU-TV, he still considers



**Student volunteers at WEIU-TV News Watch prepare for the 5:30 newscast. The broadcast is aired Monday through Friday on PBS (Photo courtesy of WEIU).**

Holden Kurwicki, senior communication studies major, has worked for WEIU-TV for two years generally as an on-air sports anchor.

Kurwicki said he was not surprised about the nomination WEIU-TV received.

"Honestly, of course we got

it a job.

"Some of us get scholarships but at the same time it's the experience," he said. "Money is not important now but in the long run it will pay off."

Kurwicki said he has been offered jobs in broadcast news just because he goes to  
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# Students produce PBS state parks series

By Beth Steele

Many people see state parks everyday and don't realize what they're missing. Katie Rufener and Kristan Kelleher are bringing local state parks into homes with their documentaries, airing on PBS this October.

Four documentaries, each around five minutes long, will

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*'We found someone who helped build Fox Ridge State Park.'*

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feature a local state park.

"We are showing Walnut Point in Oakland, Lincoln Trail in Marshall, Wolf and Eagle Creek in Windsor and Fox Ridge in Charleston," said Kelleher, a senior communication studies major.

The documentaries were inspired by the project on National Parks that PBS filmmaker Ken Burns has put together.

Both Rufener and Kelleher were executive news directors this summer and were asked to film the documentaries by Lori Casey of Heartland Highways.

"It was an honor that they asked us to do it because it is a big responsibility," Kelleher said.

Kelleher and Rufener began filming at the end of July and continued filming for three weeks.

"We didn't film everyday

but we would take a couple days a week to go to each park and spend time there," Kelleher said.

The pair split the documentaries so that one would film two documentaries and the other one would report.

"We had to find people to interview and ask questions and work together to find shots and the images we wanted," Rufener, a senior communication studies major said.

During filming, they saw different aspects of nature and the environment, all while meeting people who spent time in the parks.

"The people were outdoorsy and spent lots of time in the parks and really cared about them," Kelleher said. "I want to get the message of how much they love them to our audience."

Some of the people they interviewed had interesting stories to share.

"This doctor has been bringing his family to Fox Ridge State Park and he bought his house so they could be near the park, and now his daughter brings people to the park," Rufener said. "We also found someone who helped build Fox Ridge State Park with the Civilian Conservation Core during the Great Depression."

One thing Rufener and Kelleher liked was being creative during filming. Kelleher said that being creative meant taking shots of trees and lakes and making them look beautiful, showing the parks for more than they are.

However, it was not all about trees and lakes.

"The hardest part was listening to all the interviews and combining them with all the

information while still telling a story," Kelleher said.

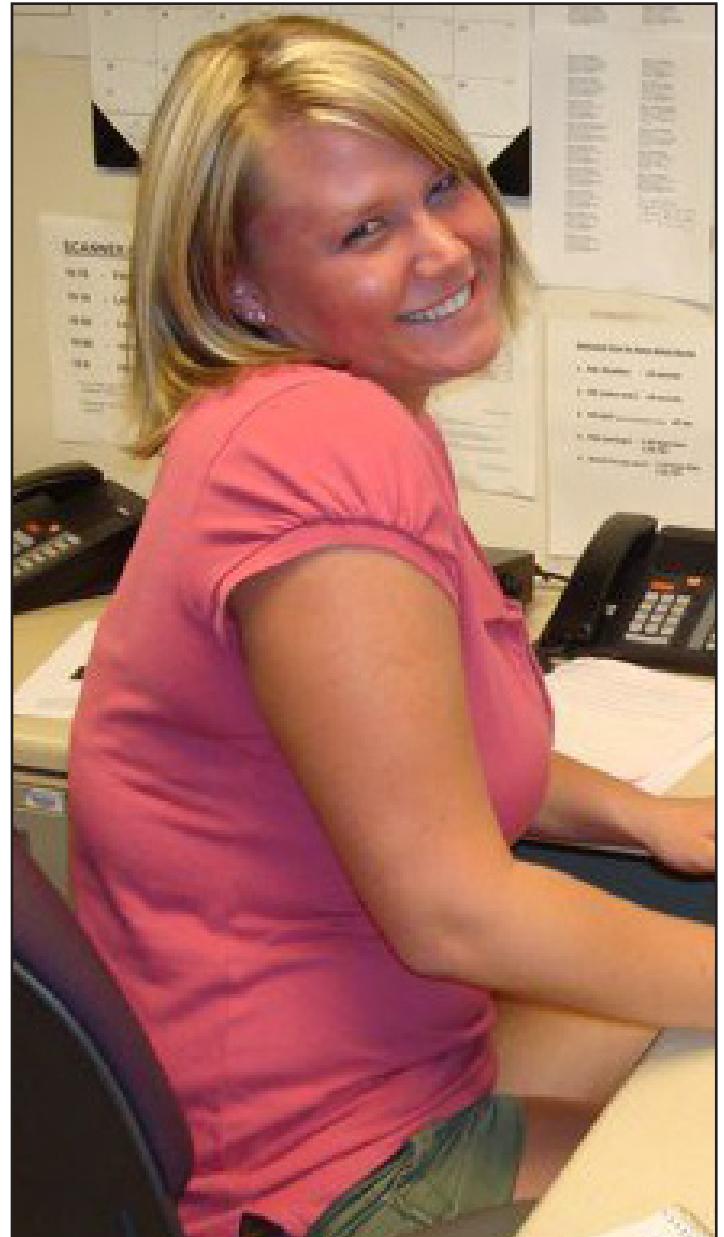
Another challenge was the environment.

"As a reporter you have to dress up and we wear high heels while walking on trails and gravel," Rufener said. "We also had to find people to interview because sometimes we would

film on weekdays and not that many people would be in the park."

Also, Rufener said that for the first day of filming they forgot bug spray and had to deal with the bugs.

With all the hard work the duo said they had a lot of fun producing the documentaries.



Senior communication studies major Kristan Kelleher spent part of her summer working on a series of short documentaries featuring Illinois state parks. Kelleher worked on the documentaries with senior communication studies major Katie Rufener (Photo courtesy of Barbara Harrington).

# Panther Football Radio Network expands

By Victoria Paisley

Now, Panther fans as far away as Taylorville and Clinton can tune in to catch the big game.

It used to be if fans couldn't make it out to the field or couldn't listen to Hit Mix 88.9 WEIU, they missed out on Saturday night games, and could only hear the results later. But this football season, Panther Football Radio Network will also be airing on WMKR 93.4 FM out of Taylorville and WHOW 1520 AM out of Clinton.

WEIU-FM Director Jeff Owens said the expansion started when EIU Athletics presented the idea to Randy Miller, owner of Miller Media.

"He accepted the proposal and offered us a one-year contract" Owens said.

Owens said Hit-Mix has broadcast every Eastern football game on the new networks since the first kickoff.

"And we haven't had any problems so far; knock on wood."

He also said it is a great way to give students more learning experiences.

"Now students are responsible for multiple network spots," Owens said.

WEIU is grateful to Randy Miller and Miller Media for providing this opportunity and Owens hopes WEIU can sign on again for another year.

Owens said he would like to see Panther Football Radio Network expand even further.

"To get contracts with stations in Chicago or St. Louis would be great" Owens said.

He said he thinks it would help the students get even more

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*"To get contracts with stations in Chicago or St. Louis would be great."*

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## Hear EIU Football Live

- WEIU 88.9 FM
- WMKR 93.4 FM
- WHOW 1250 AM
- WWW.WEIUHITMIX.NET

experience, which is the best teacher. Also, more students' parents and friends would be able to hear their athlete play football or their student broadcast the game.

Fans can tune in to catch any games on Hit Mix 88.9, online at <http://www.weiuhitmix.net/>, or on WMKR 93.4 FM and WHOW 1520 AM.



*The Panther Radio Network broadcasts all Eastern Illinois University football games live. The network is expanding its coverage to Taylorville and Clinton by broadcasting the games on WMKR 93.4 FM and WHOW 1520 AM (Photo courtesy of Tom Bickham).*

# New movement in the endzone

By Jessica Leggin

A new scoreboard at O'Brien Stadium brings animation to Eastern Illinois University's football games.

Panther football fans were introduced to a new 45-foot wide by 28-foot tall scoreboard during the season opener on Sept. 3 against Illinois State University.

The scoreboard came installed with video and audio. It was manufactured by Daktronics Company of South Dakota.

Kevin Ratermann, senior communication studies major, has the opportunity to operate the scoreboard during the home football games.

Ratermann said as soon as he saw the scoreboard he knew it was going to be great.

"I first saw the board when I was walking across the field before the first game," Ratermann said.

"I saw the Panther logo swirling on the screen, and it

looked sharp and really good."

Ratermann said operating the scoreboard the first game was quite difficult.

"The first game was our trial run," he said. "We had a good idea of what we wanted to see but we were learning as we along."

The communication studies major said as the season continues, he knows the scoreboard will be easier to manage.

"I'm confident," Ratermann said. "We're still changing things to make it more efficient."

He adds that some of the changes are having more than one person controls the scoreboard.

"We'll change it to a two person operations which would be two students," he said.

"One kid controls the full screen ads or Panther logo or defense cheer."

The other operator will run replays, camera shots and commercials with audio.

"What we found out is that the camera shot person did 99 percent of the work," he added. "Now we're delegating the tasks 50-50."

He said feedback from students have been quite positive so far.

"They say 'it looks pretty' and I've also heard people saying how sharp it looks on the field," he said.

Kevin said what is great about the scoreboard is that it makes fans feel as if they are a part of the game.



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## EMMYS from page 1

Eastern.

"They don't have to spend six months to a year training us," he said.

Runyon said WEIU-TV is one of the best multi-million dollar broadcasting facilities in the state, and the nomination reinforces that belief.

"This puts us heads and tails above other schools that students are looking at to enroll into," she said. "Students can bring what they learned in the classroom and enhance them here."

Kristan Kelleher, senior communication studies major, said working at WEIU is an

amazing experience.

"Whenever we graduate and start to go look for a job, most of us have the two years experience, if we wanted a job," she said. "Stations prefer to hire us because we have been on air and know how to work the equipment."

Kelleher said overall WEIU-TV has a top of the line program.

"We are all dedicated and we all care a lot about our product," she said.

Even though WEIU-TV was the only nominee in the category for student production/news, an Emmy is not guaranteed.

"It was a 50/50 chance," Runyon said earlier. "The way I feel right now won't change. I still will think it was an honor and I'll be able to still tell everyone that we were Emmy-nominated." This feeling went to ecstasy when she found her students had won the Emmy.



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