

The Journalist

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Journalism Department Newsletter for Majors

Spotlight on Sally Turner: Journalism's newest faculty member

By Katie Flodin

Eastern Illinois University's journalism department gained another enthusiastic professor this semester, Dr. Sally Turner. Turner presently teaches news writing and feature writing.

News writing is interesting to her because there are first-time writers in this class. "Seeing the students get their first outside stories published in the Daily Eastern News is exciting to me," Turner said.

Turner was born in Massachusetts and moved to Missouri when she was 17. She is an only child and is very close with her parents. Her mom was a reporter and Turner wanted to be just like her. At age 10, Turner wrote to the editor of the youth page of the Boston Globe about how to make an ice-skating rink in a backyard.

**"Nothing is ever boring.
Only boring people are
bored; everyone has
a story to tell."**

– Sally Turner

She received her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri. After she graduated, she was sports editor for a paper in the central Missouri area. Turner then received her master's in English from Central Missouri State University.

Later, Turner earned her Ph.D. in journalism from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. While in school, Turner said, "The best advice I got was to just get in there and do it [reporting or journalism]. Don't worry – just go do it." She later worked in Colorado Springs doing a little bit of advertising and held a managing editor

position for a small paper.

Turner had her first and only child when she was 24 and this changed her whole life because she had to accommodate both herself and daughter. Turner thinks that many current journalism professors never planned on becoming teachers. "When I was 18, my grandma asked me, 'Do you want to be a teacher?' I laughed and said, 'NO!'" Turner said, "Now teaching is a part of who I am."

For nine years, Turner taught journalism classes at Emporia State University in Kansas. Turner made an impression on several students there.

"I would like to think I contribute to students' journalism progress," Turner said. In her eyes, the hardest part about being a professor is that people come and go so fast in college. "Students become your friends over the years."

Chad Rummel, a former student had much to say about his former professor. "Sally taught me that there is a story around every corner," said Rummel. "Every person has a story, every subject has a story. She taught me to be inquisitive and to learn to look for the stories that are in front of us each day."

Two years ago, Turner got back into the newsroom as a reporter for the Philadelphia Daily News. "I was nervous after going back," Turner said. "I wanted to do the best I could." Turner could not stress enough about the endless number of stories that are out there. "You just have to find them."



Sally Turner spends time between classes grading papers. Turner presently teaches news writing and feature writing. Photo by Sara Wagoner

Turner said she chose Eastern because it has a legitimate journalism department, "They do journalism here," she said. "I wanted to be at a place where journalism was outside the classroom." Turner believes that all the professors here love journalism and that is the type of place where she wanted to be.

Turner has two goals she wishes to achieve here at Eastern. The first is to become an active member of the journalism department and the second is to mentor students. "I do not just want to mentor students through school, but their first jobs and lives," Turner said.

Rummel said, "Sally cares about our physical and emotional health and our happiness. This is evident, as she and I are still great friends more than a year after I graduated college."

Turner enjoys Eastern because there are always people on campus, whether they are just walking around or studying at the library. If there was something she would like to leave students with it is, "Nothing is ever boring. Only boring people are bored; everyone has a story to tell," Turner said.

What it's like to be Matt Meinheit

By Jennifer Hansen

Relieved to be signing the wall at the end of his term as editor-in-chief of the Daily Eastern News, Matt Meinheit has no regrets. The Wall of Editors hangs outside of the DEN's newsroom and signing it is the last act of a departing editor.

"My signature will probably be as small as possible," Meinheit said.

Meinheit, a senior journalism major, was in charge of the newspaper this semester. Editors are only hired for one semester so that more people are allowed an opportunity to be in a management position.

Meinheit's sister, Nikki, who was the paper's editor during the 2000 school year, introduced Meinheit to the newspaper. After getting settled in his freshmen year, Meinheit went to the newsroom where Nikki introduced him to some of the staff and editors.

Four years later, Meinheit is the editor-in-chief of the 9,100-circulation paper.

Meinheit's day typically begins at 9 a.m., when phone calls take up a good majority of his time. Readers often call to express problems with editorials and columns, as well as offer suggested corrections to the previous day's paper. When Meinheit is not on the phone, he is helping out the staff writers.

"A lot of the job is looking over people's shoulders," Meinheit said.

During the first part of the semester, he watches carefully over new writers, but, as they gain experience, he is able to relax a little more and concentrate on the paper's effect as a whole.

Meinheit's favorite job is to work on the paper layout. He is the night chief two days a week, which means that he makes sure the paper gets to the press. He also designs the front page.

"I like it when things come together," Meinheit said.

On days that he is the night chief, Meinheit puts in a 14-hour day, starting at 9 a.m. with an 11 p.m. deadline.

Mike Schroeder, the city editor, said

that Meinheit has done a great job redesigning the paper. "The paper this semester features colored pages and is generally more appealing to readers," Schroeder said.

Schroeder adds, "Meinheit has a calm approach to the work and brings many good ideas to the design department."

The hardest part of being the editor is correcting the errors that inexperienced writers make over and over again. However, Meinheit said he has also had similar problems with some experienced staff writers and editors.

"Meinheit has a calm approach to the work and brings many good ideas to the design department."

— Mike Schroeder

Matt Williams, this semester's associate managing editor, said that Meinheit has had to deal with a constant turnover of editors but has handled the problems well.

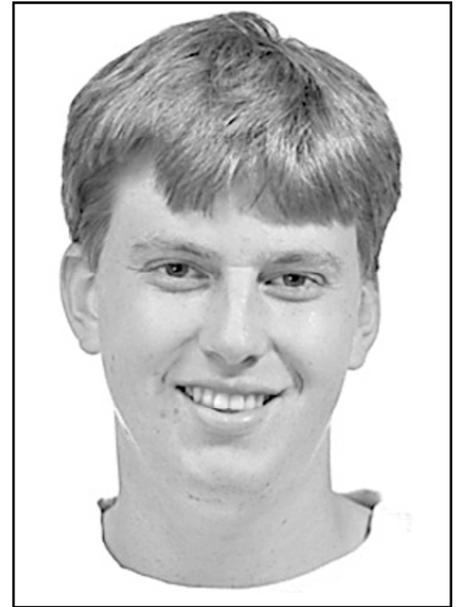
Stress management and an appreciation of what past editors have gone through are two things that the editor-in-chief position teaches. When he took over as the editor, Meinheit's sister merely said good luck.

"But as the semester went along she was always very supportive and sympathetic when I would talk to her about whatever crisis we were going through at the paper," Meinheit said.

Meinheit will be able to take the responsibility, motivation and experience that he has learned with him wherever he goes.

Williams, who will be the editor-in-chief next semester, says he has learned a lot from Meinheit. William's strong point is writing, while Meinheit's is page design.

"We fit well together," Williams said.



Matt Meinheit has completed his term as editor-in-chief for The Daily Eastern News. Meinheit was admired by the members of his staff. Submitted by The Daily Eastern News

When asked what advice Meinheit has for aspiring journalists, he said they have to be dedicated. The long erratic hours and the low pay discourage many writers from becoming reporters.

"If you don't have a passion for it, don't even bother," Meinheit said.

Meinheit is taking the spring semester off from school to intern at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, where he will work at the sports design desk.

"I'm pretty excited about that [interning] because I will get to work with Eastern alumna, Reagan Branham, and spend some time with my family in the St. Louis area," Meinheit said.

Meinheit plans to job search this summer and finish his degree in the fall.

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DEN'S pressman announces retirement

By Leanne Noland

At Eastern, every day and every student is different, but there is one thing that binds the campus together: the news. Whether it's after they get out of their resident halls' elevators or while they're rushing through the library, it seems even the busiest of Eastern students find time to pick up a copy of *The Daily Eastern News*. Sixty-two-year-old, Ashmore native Johnny Bough has been the pressman for the DEN for more than 20 years and has announced his plans to retire December 31.

Bough's career at Eastern began in 1981 when he was working as press supervisor for the Charleston *Times-Courier* and *Mattoon Journal Gazette* and was asked by Eastern's Dr. John Reed if Bough could spare one of his pressmen to work for *The Daily Eastern News*. "Then I said, 'How 'bout you hire me?'" said Bough. Since that day, Bough has spent every Sunday through Thursday night from 8 p.m. until 3 or 4 a.m. during the school

year printing copies of the DEN.

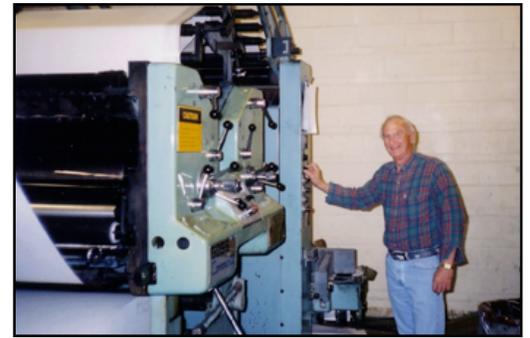
While the long hours may seem intimidating, Bough claimed they're not too hard to handle. "I work with two other guys and it leaves my days free to see [my grandchildren's] baseball games."

When asked how working as a pressman now compares to working as one in the early 1980s, Bough replied, "Back then I developed film, made pictures, stripped negatives - did a lot of stuff computers do now."

The Daily Eastern News Editor-In-Chief Matt Meinheit has enjoyed working with Bough and said, "You can't really say anything bad about Johnny. He's one of the most patient individuals I've ever met."

What does Bough plan to do after his retirement? Bough said, "After retirement, I'm gonna sleep nights, play golf and take care of my grandkids."

Taking over Bough's job starting in 2005 is EIU alumnist Tom Roberts. Roberts graduated from the Eastern journalism department in 1983 and has been working as a freelance



Johnny Bough stands next to the machine he has worked with for more than 20 years. Bough will retire at the end of this year. Photo by Leanne Noland

photographer for the past three years. The DEN pressman ensures that each day the Eastern campus gets to read what is happening around campus, in the world and in the minds of fellow students. With this in mind, *The Daily Eastern News* staff was very selective when it chose to appoint Roberts as the DEN's new pressman.

Bough has greatly enjoyed the time he has spent with the Eastern community and said, "My favorite part [of working at the DEN] has been the interactions with students. It helps keep you young."

Teamwork shows through election coverage

By Chris Sobut

Hard work and dedication are necessary in order to be successful as a team. The same could be said about the newspapers and television stations that covered this year's election. Kelly Runyon, WEIU news director said WEIU-TV had a wonderful experience with the election.

Forty students covered 12 different counties - seven, in which they had a live feed. "This was the largest production produced by WEIU-TV," said Runyon. Many community members gave WEIU-TV positive feedback on their impressive election coverage, Runyon said.

Months of campaigning and preparation all lead up to that big day on November 2nd. This is one of the busiest times of the year for newspapers and television stations, so it is important to be well prepared and focused on accomplishing the job. "Communication

is the most important asset when covering an election," said Alexandra Harrold, WCIA-Champaign. Harrold's task at WCIA that evening was to gather numbers from all state and local elections. It was a long night for her as she patiently waited for those final results until about 4 a.m.

"Communication is the most important asset when covering an election."

- Alexandra Harrold

For any member of the press, covering the election is a once in a lifetime experience. It is an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the political process and realize that every vote counts. Americans came to that

realization as an estimated 21 million people between the ages of 18-30 came out to vote.

Television and newspaper reporters face the challenges of delivering relevant news throughout Election Day. If the candidates want publicity to win their position, the media must be willing to assist them.

"We received no problems getting any information from any of the candidates. Everyone was very cooperative," said Runyon. Runyon also offered advice to students who wish to cover elections. She urges them to do their homework and be well prepared.

Election coverage makes everyone a part of history. Students should remember to take pride in their work and realize that, at the end of the day, it must be a job well done.

Hyder steps down as journalism chair

By Holly Frejlich

After 10 and a half years, Dr. Les Hyder will be stepping down from his position as chair of the journalism department.

He has felt much personal satisfaction in what has been accomplished during his 10 year tenure as chair.

"I had the privilege of coming to a program with a well-deserved national reputation, and believe that I have played a role in maintaining and enhancing what were then the program's strengths," Hyder said. "I'm proud to have been the department's chair during a time when the curriculum was revised and expanded to also include a strong commitment to broadcast news and public relations, the number of majors increased by more than 50 percent and the program earned reaccreditations."

Students hold a high regard for Hyder and were sad to hear of his resignation as chair.

Genevieve Cyrs, senior marketing communications major said, "Dr. Hyder is always in his office and available to see students. Whenever I meet with him, usually unscheduled, he is attentive and listens to what I have to say."

Sara Wagoner, junior journalism major had this to say about Hyder. "Dr. Hyder has always been willing to help. He was very accommodating as an adviser and always made the transitions between semesters easy."

Ken Bauer, senior journalism major said, "Dr. Hyder gave student concerns the same weight, if not more than, faculty concerns. When it was announced to our class that he was leaving, every single jaw dropped open and the room was silent for quite a while."

Cyrs said, "I feel like Eastern on the whole will be losing a great journalism department chair. I wish him the best for the future."

Dean Johnson announced Professor James Tidwell would serve as acting chair for the spring semester. It is anticipated that a national search for a new chair will take place during the 2005-2006 academic year, Hyder said.

"I have confidence that the dean's choice for acting chair will advance the agenda of members of the faculty," Hyder stated.

Hyder will be on administrative sabbatical during the spring semester. "During that time, I will be engaged in

academic course development," Hyder said. "I'll use my leave time to recharge physically and emotionally, and intellectually and develop a course that is technology-enhanced."

"I also plan to do a better job of prioritizing by finally devoting more attention to the true love of my life, my wife, Terry," he said.

As his tenure as chair comes to an end, Hyder realizes how much he will miss being able to serve and make a difference in the lives of students in ways that only a chair can do.

"It's been an experience that I will treasure always," Hyder said. "Come August, I'll try every day to be a better teacher - worthy of the privilege of standing in front of a class of students who deserve nothing but the best. When all is said and done, I will measure my success by their successes."

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The Agency is a student-run public relations organization. Anyone is welcome to join. Meetings are held every Wednesday from 4-6 p.m. in Buzzard Hall, room 2436

Getting to know Rachel Wikoff

By Chris Sobut

In the summer of 2003, WEIU had its first internship program. At the time, twenty-three-year-old Rachel Wikoff was attending Vanguard University in California. After her internship, Wikoff realized Eastern had more to offer her as a journalism major, so she decided to transfer here last fall.

Wikoff chose to attend EIU for the experience at WEIU. That experience wasn't hard to find as Wikoff began work as a writer and investigative reporter.

"I enjoy meeting new people each day, going out getting the news and reporting it," said Wikoff. "Working in the field brings that feeling of a police detective."

After working as a field reporter, Wikoff was given a chance to expand her

horizon. Wikoff now anchors the news five days a week alongside Whitney Self. She produces two newscasts and is also an assignment editor. "I do a little bit of everything around here," said Wikoff.

At WEIU, everyone plays a role in the production of the newscast. WEIU News Director Kelly Runyon said, "It's a team effort. All of the kids do a great job and are extremely dedicated."

When Wikoff is away from the newsroom, she enjoys reading books and hanging out with friends and family. This senior journalism major is set to graduate in December and is considering graduate school here at EIU. "Eastern has been a great experience for me" said Wikoff.

Wikoff can be seen on WEIU weeknights at 5:30 p.m. on channel 51.