

the Journalist

NEWSLETTER FOR JOURNALISM MAJORS & MINORS

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Successful alumni to visit Eastern

By Terrah Graves

Three panelists, all alumni of Eastern and all successful in the film industry, will be representing different views on how Hollywood is affecting America in "The War for American Values."

Andrew Rodgers, Luke Ryan and Dann Gire were all students at Eastern and have gone on to fulfill successful careers. Thursday, October 19, at 7 p.m., in Lumpkin Hall, they are taking the time to speak to Eastern students about what's going on in the film industry today.

The title of the presentation, "Hollywood Jihad: The War for American Values," represents what some people are calling a lack of American values in Hollywood. This panel is set up to discuss different view points, negative and positive, of the critics of the film industry.

Gire who works as director of the Chicago Film Critics Association, has won the Peter Lisagor Award for Exemplary Journalism six times in his roughly 30-year career. He spent most of his 30 years at the Daily Herald—the third-largest newspaper in Illinois. Along with his impressive credentials, he said he is proud of his graduation from Eastern with a bachelor's in speech communications.

Gire will be discussing new issues with film critiquing—problems such as the declining need for professional critics due to sites like rottentomato.com and film companies not allowing critics to watch movies before their release.

Professor Brian Poulter, who will be moderating the panel and has been working for about three months putting it together, said: "The problem with places like rottentomato.com is that the writers are not trained to be critical and get rid of their bias."



Ryan, currently works as an executive at MTV Films, a division of Paramount Pictures, and supervises the acquisition, development and production of feature films. He says his most note-worthy accomplishment was being inducted into Eastern's Alumni Hall of Fame.

Movies often depict an unpleasant scene of American lifestyles and some people are trying to say that showing this is un-American. The question Ryan wants to address is whether or not it is un-American to be able to express yourself freely through film or other media. This, and other information about today's film industry, will make up Ryan's segment.

Rodgers is currently working as the director of the River Run International Film Festival in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He has also worked as a publicist for the Sundance Film Festival from 2002-2004 and has written for the Chicago Tribune and Zap2it.com.

Topics that Rodgers will be addressing include dealing with the Independent Film Industry and what makes it so important to American values.

"These aren't \$20,000 movies. These

are movies that cost \$6,000 ... (and) films that we don't even hear about," said Poulter.

The unique thing about the independent film industry is the appeal to the eccentric and the uncommon instead of the masses.

"The masses already know what they want," said Poulter.

This panel promises to be inspiring to all Eastern students because they will be able to see three successful men who were once just students at Eastern like they are now.

James Tidwell, professor and chair of the journalism department, said: "I had the privilege of having Andrew and Luke in class. One of the real enjoyments of being a professor is seeing your former students succeed."

Each panelist will make a short presentation followed by a segment of questions and answers.

Poulter said another reason Eastern students should attend is to help them realize that you just never know who will be the "movers and shakers of tomorrow." With hard work and dedication like these men put forth, he says, it could be you.

New anchors report to central Illinois

By Angie Taylor

A new year brings new opportunities to students working at WEIU-TV News Watch. Eastern students Leanne Noland and Catherine Thoma are now WEIU's new Live Show anchors.

Noland is a senior communication studies major with an emphasis in broadcast news, and she has worked at the television station for two years. Thoma is a junior with the same major, but she has worked a year longer at WEIU.

Both say a significant number of hours go into working towards a desired position—whether it's an anchor, sports videographer, a director, a producer, or any other position.

"For me, every second I've spent at the news station is training toward becoming an anchor. But you can't anchor a live show without knowing every single position. You can't just walk in and say, 'Hey I'm here, I'm dressed, and my hair is pretty, so put me on TV!' It doesn't work that way," Thoma said.

Noland and Thoma took over for previous anchors Andrea Stankevych and Whitney Self when they were graduated in the spring. Both graduates have moved on to

bigger markets. Stankevych is now a videojournalist at WYOW-TV in Wausau, Wis., and Self landed a position at Country Music Television (CMT) in Nashville, Tenn. Both graduates believe their successes came from WEIU.

Noland also praises the TV station for the skills it gave to the previous anchors. "WEIU gave them confidence.

girls contacts and a great résumé builder to help them land the incredible jobs they have now," Noland said.

Noland and Thoma decided to attend Eastern after visiting the facilities WEIU-TV has to offer.

Thoma said, "I wasn't impressed with other schools I visited. But at Eastern there was WEIU, and I fell in love with

everything there! After that, I didn't visit any other schools. I knew WEIU would take me where I needed to be."

And the TV station did just that for Noland this summer. She interned at St. Louis' top news station, KSDK, after learning media production at WEIU.

"I was light years ahead of the rest of the interns there! I knew everything the professionals were doing, and I even taught the veterans a thing or two!" Noland said.

But for now, the new anchors are focused on the semester ahead.

"I don't want every show to be

the same," Thoma said. "No matter what position I am working, I want the newscast to be special each day. Then I'll know I've done right."



Catherine Thoma, left, and Leanne Noland are the new anchors for WEIU-TV News Watch program daily at 5:30 p.m. As students, this on-the-air experience will give them a much better chance to obtain better internships and future jobs.

Photo by Angie Taylor

Anchoring a live show five days a week for weeks on end can really help people perfect their speaking and television personality abilities. WEIU also gave the



Eat at Pizza Hut and
Help The Mary Kelly-Durkin Agency Scholarship
Monday, Oct. 23, All Day!

Get fundraiser tickets in the Journalism Department office
20% of your bill will be donated to the scholarship

Internship help offered Monday

By Ashley Mefford

Having a decent grade point average is important to get a job; however, another key element is an internship to be a well-rounded future employee.

Internships allow students to gain professional experience that they are unable to get in a classroom setting.

On Monday, Oct. 23, the Society for Collegiate Journalists will sponsor an internship panel. Five student will speak: Liza Bishton, Holly Henschen, Katie Hull, Laura Fennema and Marco Santana. Also speaking at the panel is the PRSSA Chapter President, Katie Hull.

Fennema interned at Big Shoulders Digital Video Production, a video production company. This company is hired by other companies to film and edit. She is a communication studies major with a minor in electronic media production, so this internship went well with her major. Being an intern, students are able to experience firsthand how having a full-time job will be.

"I learned what life is like for a production company," Fennema said.

"There are long, hard days," Fennema said. However, she said that the company made the process of making a show really fun.

Hull, a senior communication studies major, interned at Premier Tourism Marketing this past summer. She came out of the internship with a better understanding of the job place and what is expected of her.

"Having the internship taught me the

business basics for any organization and allowed me to become comfortable in an office setting, rather than a school atmosphere," Hull said.

Having an internship allows students to network for future internships. Internships also open doors for future jobs after graduation. One of the key points of an internship is to get your name out in the field you wish to work in and to start networking with professionals.

"I have a letter of recommendation from a business professional who has seen me apply my school knowledge and professionalism," Hull said.

Local newspapers are often popular internship choices for journalism majors. The many different jobs that an intern will observe allows them to experience how a local paper is run. If interns get to do more than one job, that will make them more marketable later on.

Bishton, a senior journalism major, interned at a local newspaper, The Robinson Daily News. Being an intern often involves doing more than one job, so students are able to get an overview of many different jobs.

"At The Robinson Daily News, everyone had many jobs. Most employees in the newsroom wrote stories, took pictures, laid out pages and copy edited. I liked having many things to do, but this internship definitely isn't for people who only want to focus on one thing," Bishton said.

She gave an important piece of information for students looking to

enter the newspaper field. "If you are working in a different town, ask your interviewer questions about their town. You can't work for a newspaper without being involved in the community, so you should seem somewhat interested in it. Especially if you are going to work for a small-town newspaper," Bishton said.

Henschen, a political science graduate student, is going to speak on two internships she has had. During the summer of 2005 she interned for The Herald in Decatur and during the summer of 2006 she interned for Dow Jones in Chicago. Being in professional environments for the past two summers, Henschen said she was exposed to very dedicated people who trained her well for the job. Internships often make students realize what they enjoy doing or reinforce it for those who already know what they want to do.

"I realized how much I love news," Henschen said, after completing her internships.

Internship are important to have not only for résumés, but for the professional experience, also.

"Keep your options open and apply to as many internships as possible," Hull said. "Do the research of companies you could possibly want to work with and find companies related to them and try to intern several places. Take the time to sit down and put together a strong résumé and cover letter for each position applied for. Be yourself. They can tell when you are comfortable. Be professional."

The Tampa Tribune—paid internships—summer 2007

The 10-week program is designed for college students who are interested in pursuing a career as a reporter, copy editor, photographer, designer, or graphic artist. Applications are accepted from all juniors, seniors and graduate students, as well as from individuals who will graduate in December 2006. Preference is given to applicants with previous internships or other related experience. The 10-week program runs from late May to mid-August. The weekly pay is \$500. At The Tampa Tribune, interns are treated as full-time journalists and challenged to stretch their skills in real-work experiences. They receive individual mentoring and work in a world-class, multimedia environment at The News Center with journalists from WFLA-TV and TBO.com. See Prof. John Ryan for more information.

Completed applications must be received by Dec. 1, 2006

Résumé Workshop
Monday, Oct. 30
7 p.m.
Buzzard 2436
Bring your résumé
and hear how to
make it better!

Mild-mannered reporter now full-time professor

By Claire Willms

Coming back to college as a professor, can be a totally different experience. It can mean starting a workday at 11 a.m. and being done for the day at 3:30 p.m. instead of the normal “nine to five.” It can mean eating in the food court with a variety of choices instead of bringing a sack lunch. It can mean weekends grading papers. And for professors such as Dan Hagen, it can mean a lifetime of accomplishments that lead back to his alma mater.

Dan Hagen is no stranger to journalism nor Eastern. While he is a new full-time professor in the journalism department, he has taught one class a semester for several semesters.

Hagen started his career in journalism working for the paper in his high school, and then attended college at Eastern.

At that time, Eastern had no major in journalism, so Hagen majored in philosophy and minored in journalism. While here, he started working for the local paper, the Times-Courier, and continued working there until 1992.

Hagen is well aware of technology’s impact. When he started his career, the only way to write a story was on a typewriter.

After leaving the Times-Courier, Hagen continued working in the newspaper

business. He just recently left the managing editor position at News-Progress in Sullivan, where he had been since 1994.

“As a small town paper, you don’t generate as much news, as a paper in the Chicago area,” Hagen said. So Hagen’s reporters focused on the government and legislation in the area. Dan also worked on editorial columns.

If teaching and working as an editor for newspapers wasn’t enough, Hagen also had the privilege of working for various magazines. One of the most memorable for Hagen was entitled “Flight of the Phoenix.” There he got the opportunity to working with Elleston Trevor, a British novelist that Hagen considered a mentor and friend. Although Trevor died in 1995, Hagen still finds him an inspiration to his own journalistic work.

Hagen worked with another well-known publication, Marvel Comics, where he mostly wrote text. During his time at



Professor Dan Hagen stands in front of his “wall of fame” with representations of Superman among his many journalism awards.

Marvel Comics, he got to work with Stan Lee, the creator of Spiderman, and had a great experience there. Because Hagen preferred Superman over Spiderman, when Hagen and Lee were around the office, Lee would pronounce Spiderman “Spidaman,” to make them both laugh.

Hagen resides in Charleston. He also says he loves his new job as a full-time professor, and he says that the students here have an appetite for life and vitality that is encouraging.

Chili bash offers chance to network

By Josh Vandyke

Eastern’s alumni may have graduated into the “real world,” but some will be taking a walk down Memory Lane during Homecoming, with a detour onto Van Buren Ave.

There they’ll find a party set up specifically for journalism alumni to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

The get-together is not just for returning graduates,

though; faculty and students are also welcome to drop by, eat some chili, and reminisce about days gone by and network

for the future. Networking is a great way to meet professionals as well as find job opportunities.

In fact, students will even be treated to the chili for free, while faculty and alumni will share the bill. Any other food or drink must be paid for individually. Those who

want to drop by for chili, a break, and a chance to network after the Homecoming football game and parade should mark their calendars for Saturday, from

5-8 p.m. at the front bar of Friends & Company, 509 Van Buren Ave., where they’ll find both.



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