

# the Journalist

NEWSLETTER FOR JOURNALISM MAJORS & MINORS

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ISSUE 1

## WEIU brings home more awards!

WEIU-TV News Watch and participating students were awarded first place for Outstanding Newscast, Television Videography (Eric Schumacher) and Radio Sports Play by Play (John Twork) at the Illinois News Broadcaster's Association last week.

WEIU-TV was also awarded second place for Outstanding Television Reporting (Catherine Thoma).

Students from WEIU-TV and FM were in attendance at the spring convention of the Illinois News Broadcaster's Association in Galesburg, Ill. Saturday night featured an awards ceremony honoring student work throughout the state.

News Watch was also honored at this year's Broadcast Education Association Festival of the Arts competition in Las Vegas. News Watch was awarded 2nd Place in the nation for Outstanding Collegiate Newscast and 3rd Place for Outstanding Television Anchoring (Angela Taylor).



*Pictured from left are Eric Schumacher, John Twork, and Michelle Murphy (News Watch student) showing the awards WEIU won at the Illinois News Broadcaster's Association spring convention.*

## Journalism students earn honors with hard work, research

Exploring whether a woman publisher has a different effect on the newspaper than a man was a question explored by Sarah Whitney. Exploring bias in Arab newspapers compared to U.S. newspapers was the topic of research by Nicole Nicolas.

These aren't typical journalism assignments, but ones explored for two semesters by Whitney and Nicolas as journalism honors students. As honors students, they took honors research in the fall to explore their topics and honors thesis in the spring to assess their research and write their findings.

The two presented their findings to the



*Nicole Nicolas*

by women for 14 percent.

Whitney did in-depth interviews with a woman publisher from a large newspaper,

journalism faculty during the last week of classes.

Whitney found statistics on the number of women publishers and found that in 1900, with 1,684 newspapers, Illinois had 34 published or edited by women, for 2 percent. In 2006, she found that of Illinois' 606 newspapers, 84 are published



*Sarah Whitney*

She was interested in discovering why these women thought there were so few

a medium-sized newspaper and a small paper. Her interviews gave her insight into how the women nurture their newspapers and how they feel about their employees.

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# Fall 2007 editor-in-chief brings new plans to DEN

**By Elizabeth Norris**

Marco Santana, a junior journalism major from Carpentersville, Ill., is stepping up as the new editor-in-chief of the Daily Eastern News.

Santana started his college career at Elgin Community College before he chose to come to Eastern. After meeting a fellow Eastern journalism major at a conference, Santana decided to leave the comforts of home to pursue his passion for writing.

"I knew Eastern was a smaller school," Santana said. "I wanted a school that would be more personal."

Santana did not begin writing until he started at Elgin Community College. He started out writing for Web sites and started

to take classes to help himself improve. Santana has received two awards for his writing since he has been at Eastern. He took first place for a design of his from SCJ and he also took second place with SCJ for a feature story he completed.

Santana has dealt with designing layouts, copy editing, as well as reporting for Eastern and is now looking forward to being the Fall 2007 editor-in-chief. Santana is also president of the American Copy Editors Society, which he is planning to make a RSO on campus.

With all of these qualifications Santana believes he will be better able to handle crisis situations.

"I have been an intern and realize that

unpredictable situations arise," Santana said. "I feel that I am better prepared for these situations because of my experience."

Content changes are what Santana plans to focus on when he begins his term as editor-in-chief in the fall. Weekly feature stories are an idea he is bringing to the table.

"I want something that the students look forward to each week," Santana said.

With feature stories Santana believes he can accomplish this. Until he begins his new position at the Daily Eastern News Santana is looking forward to his summer internship with The Daily Herald as a news reporter.

Congratulations again, Marco Santana!

***Marco Santana, center, steps up as the new DEN editor-in-chief for Fall 2007. Santana is seen here with friends, from left, Liza Bishton, Brandon Campbell, Stacy Smith and Ashley Rueff. This summer Santana will be interning with The Daily Herald as a news reporter.***



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## Journalism honors students continued from page 1.

women publishers and why they were usually older.

She determined that women in these leadership positions had achieved these leadership roles because of a mentor and that helped them to excel.

The publishers' experiences made them able to fill leadership roles. Research would indicate that younger women are not yet experienced enough to gain these positions.

Whitney chose this topic because she believes the newspaper's role as an agenda setter is influenced by its publishers. She wondered if the sex of the publisher influenced that role.

Nicolas' research involved reading 245 articles about the 30 Day War in four different newspapers, two American and two

Arab. These articles were representative of 677 articles she found written about the war, to give her high reliability in her research.

Surprisingly, Nicolas found the majority of the articles were neutral. She discovered that all the newspapers maintained a level of objectivity and even coverage in their choices of sources and in the number of sources that condemned or endorsed Israel or Hezbollah.

Both The New York Times and the Washington Times did offer voice to Israel or Israeli supporters more than Hezbollah.

Nicolas said, "Al Jazeera, an Arab newspaper, Ya Libnan, a Lebanese newspaper, The New York Times, a liberal U.S. newspaper, and the Washington Times, a conser-

vative newspaper, did not use sources that endorse or condemn Israel or Hezbollah the majority of the time. But, the newspapers' sources still had a bias toward Israel or Hezbollah."

To earn departmental honors, students must maintain their g.p.a. at 3.5 or above and take the honors classes and write the honors thesis.

Besides setting a goal and reaching it, the accomplishment helps prepare the students for graduate school by preparing them for academic success in a research environment and positioning them to be accepted into grad school.

Whitney's thesis adviser was Dr. Sally Turner. Nicolas' thesis adviser was Dr. Eunseong Kim.

# Junior appointed summer DEN editor-in-chief

*By Josh Van Dyke*

You can't talk about Adam Tedder, the Daily Eastern News' newest summer editor-in-chief, for very long without talking about Spider-Man or comic books in general. Not only does he love that particular medium, he even looks like the guy behind his favorite hero's mask. But his similarity to the evil-punishing web-slinger goes beyond just his physical appearance—lanky and brown haired—and into his personality.

Like Spider-Man's alter ego, Peter Parker, Adam Tedder is described as quiet and serious about his work. While not totally silent he doesn't chat as much as others do in the DEN's newsroom, instead focusing on getting done what needs to be done on time. That's definitely a good thing for the junior journalism major since there is a lot on his table in the near future.

Currently Tedder is the editor for the DEN's online news site and is known to come in most nights of the week to make sure things are running smoothly. However, he's also been known to help out with other sections like the Verge's "Trailer Talk," where he discusses movie trailers.

Before becoming the online editor he wrote articles in the sports section that usually focused on the swim team, which

is somewhat odd considering he really isn't into sports; he was responsible for a feature on the senior swimmers last year and he also interviewed athletes for "All-Access" pod-casts.

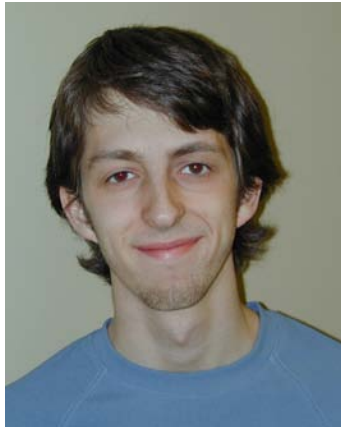
There is one area where he is totally different from Parker: While the crime-fighting super-nerd never got any respect from his boss James Jameson, the staff of the DEN has very good things to say about Tedder.

"He's a very hard worker, he wants to learn new things," Nora Maberry, current editor-in-chief of the DEN said. "He just got shoved into online and he seemed to do that really well."

Tedder himself isn't the type of person to brag, but he will say his father was a major positive influence in his life. He says that not only is his father probably responsible for his interest in comic books but also that his dad always treated him

like he was a bit older than he was. Tedder remembers that when they went to see Star Wars, they talked about serious topics on the way like politics.

Tedder also speaks highly of his mother, who he says is the source of many of his best personality traits including compassion and the ability to get along with others.



*Adam Tedder*

When asked about an important moment in his journalism career, he thinks back to his high school in Rockford, Ill. Tedder believes his hometown had the best parts of city life as well as small-town life, as if it was split into a fast half and a slow half.

Both halves of the town were shaken by a suicide at the high school. After Tedder wrote an article that was indirectly related to the suicide, he said many people talked to him about the story with both good and bad things to say. These comments touched Tedder in an emotional way.

"It's better to be hated or loved than just ignored," Tedder said, when talking about the experience.

Perhaps that memory drove Tedder to become the DEN's new summer editor-in-chief. Tedder plans to accomplish several different goals this summer.

One of his goals is to make the DEN's inner workings more organized, which he says will help improve the overall quality of the paper. He also wants to reinforce the trust of the readers by making sure the reporting is top-notch.

All of that is in addition to the graphic novel he has been working on for the past seven months, a project that he hopes to complete over the summer. Tedder says it will combine science fiction, fantasy and action with a romance story at the heart of it.

"I guess I'm pretty ambitious in these areas, because I'd like to try it all," Tedder said.

## Ruffin named editor-in-chief of Minority Today

Tearria Ruffin, a sophomore journalism major, was officially appointed editor-in-chief of Minority Today at the Publications Board meeting this month.

Ruffin has worked on both the DEN and Minority Today. She has already met with several students she has recruited to be on her staff, in anticipation of the appointment.

Her philosophy: "Minority Today is a celebration of diversity and it should not be focused on one ethnicity, age, creed, sex, or minority."

She wants to reach out to be more inclusive in both staff and coverage. In addition, she wants her Minority Today

staff to be more involved with the DEN. Since Minority Today comes out monthly, she thinks the staff has more time to develop more in-depth stories.

In addition, Ruffin wants to revive the online version of Minority Today.

To reach her goals, Ruffin is recruiting from not only the journalism department, but from across campus. Applications are available in the DEN office. Ruffin can be reached by e-mail at [tmruffin@eiu.edu](mailto:tmruffin@eiu.edu).

Ruffin is a transfer student from St. Louis Community College-Forest Park. She participated in the NABJ St. Louis journalism workshop in 2006 where she won a scholarship to study journalism.



*Tearria Ruffin*

# New, enthusiastic Warbler editor chosen

By Kristan Kelleher

Hollie Smith has been named the new editor for the Warbler yearbook. Smith, 22, is a journalism major with a reporting and editing concentration.

She was chosen for the position for several reasons, according to Dr. Sally Turner, Warbler adviser. "Smith has a vision that includes truly making [the Warbler] a historical document," Turner said.

With the new book, Smith said one thing she changed was the Greek section to include all Greek organizations, social, service or honorary.

She is currently figuring out staff



**Smith**

first journalism experiences.

According to Kristan Cunningham, journalism major and Warbler managing editor, Smith has helped her out a lot.

members and has even started recruiting incoming freshman who have expressed interest in the yearbook.

The staff for the Warbler is generally freshman and sophomores and Smith said that is her favorite part. She enjoys working and helping them with their

"She's bubbly, really happy, fun to be around," Cunningham said.

According to Turner, some books have had two different editors, because someone graduated before the book was done, but Smith will be editor both semesters.

Cunningham said she is looking forward to what Smith is doing with the book.

After graduating, Smith plans on finding a job at a newspaper. She said she would prefer editing or writing, but would "pretty much do anything."

Smith also copy edits and designs for the DEN two days a week and is a member of the Society of Collegiate Journalists and the Kappa Delta sorority.

## Journalist editor prepares for graduation and says goodbye

By Katrina Zaret

Senior journalism major, Deirdre Sheahan, is excited to graduate and get out into the real world.

Sheahan will walk the stage in May and will look back with some fondness on her time at Eastern Illinois University.

"EIU has helped me with many things," Sheahan said. "Eastern has been great with providing hands-on experience to better prepare me for the job I hope to obtain upon graduation."

Sheahan got her hands-on experience from working with several publications within the journalism department, most notably this past year working on The Journalist as the editor.

As editor of The Journalist, Sheahan has been a hard worker and took to learning how to design the newsletter with finesse that belies her strong work ethic.

"I have obviously learned so much in the past four years here at Eastern and I owe a lot of my thanks to the professors that actually made my time here worthwhile," Sheahan said.

The myriad of publications the journalism department has to offer has given Sheahan what she says will bolster her résumé.

"The journalism department has several different publications along with opportunities to help further your experience," Sheahan said. "I feel these publications and opportunities may even be the reason why so many grads receive jobs after graduating. Like all the professors say, 'It's a great way to build your résumé.'"

When she leaves Eastern, Sheahan will look for the sort of job any aspiring public relations professional wants — an "awesome job" that she will "absolutely love" and "that pays well." While she does not have a position yet, she is sending her résumé to "several different companies and friends" in hopes that someone will see she is an asset to a PR team.

"I wouldn't mind starting off somewhere doing an internship for public relations, anything to get my foot in the door," she said.

Sheahan's experiences with organizations like The Agency and Public Relations Student Society of America have helped her learn valuable lessons for her chosen professional field and have prepared her for future opportunities.

"Not only do you learn how to create public relations campaigns you see how important it is to work as a team and how to communicate properly with others," Sheahan said of her experiences in both The Agency and PRSSA.

She highly recommends both organizations to journalism and communication studies majors wanting to go into the public relations field.

"I plan on continuing my PRSA membership after graduation!" she said.

"Working with Sheahan has been a pleasure. Her work ethic and dedication has been incredible and I truly appreciate everything she has done. Thanks Deirdre!" Katrina Zaret, The Agency director said.



**Sheahan**



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