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Newsletter for Journalism Majors

Annette Samuels receives great honor

By: Angela Danca

Annette Samuels was honored for all of her accomplishments, receiving the Woman of Achievement Award, Tuesday, April 4.

The Award is part of Women's History month sponsored by the EIU Women Studies Program. Professor Samuels, who holds a master's in public administration degree from Harvard University, 1989, worked for many years as a journalist for such media as Community News Service and Tuesday, Essence, Family Circle and Mademoiselle magazines. In addition, she has served as press secretary in the New York governor's office, in the Carter White House, and for the mayor of Washington D.C. Samuels has been honored as the first black woman to serve as a spokesperson for a United States President, Jimmy Carter.

Growing up in the Bronx, she was the oldest of a large family and ended up raising her younger brothers and sisters after the death of their mother. Samuels faced the challenge of college as a young wife and mother.

Why did she put herself through the struggles of wife, mother, and expense of college, as well as the challenges she faced as a working woman? She did it to give her life meaning and her family security. Attending schools such as New

York University, American University, Harvard University, and serving as a fellow at Harvard University, she accomplished educational goals that some people only dream of. What really drove her to accom-

years has helped the progress of women's causes leading to success both professionally and in the community.

One would be hard pressed to locate anyone who would have negative things to say about any experiences they have had with Professor Samuels, according to the letters of recommendation received in the Award nomination. “EIU is very fortunate to have a faculty member such as Professor Samuels,” says former Journalism Department Chair Les Hyder, who adds, “Her service to the University and community can only be listed as outstanding.”

Professor Samuels will be retiring from Eastern within the next year, but many faculty say her contributions will always be remembered.

“I can tell you what an impact Annette has made on many students. Students say she has literally changed their lives in the way they see poli-

tics and media in the United States, especially the effects politics and media have on women. They say Annette has influenced them to follow current events, to vote, to speak out on issues and to contribute to society and change the world,” Mary Kelly-Durkin, former journalism department faculty member, said.



Annette Samuels (right) shows her Woman of Achievement award to long-time friend Mar Francis. Samuels was honored for outstanding work on Eastern's campus and in the community and for her ability to serve as a role model to all women.

Photo by Terri Johnson

plish such goals, one would ask? She believed in herself and never let unfortunate circumstances stand in the way of her dreams.

As a faculty member in the EIU journalism department, she has been able to share her knowledge and experiences. She has served on university committees, participated in university forums, and over the

Students learn of rights on campus

By: Jennifer Ketchmark

Freedom of speech, freedom of the press — these are two essential parts of the First Amendment to the Constitution that journalists rely heavily upon. But what are journalists to do when faced with something they can publish but that is questionable? They can turn to ethics.

At a censorship panel, March 29, organized by Dr. Les Hyder's senior seminar class, the audience asked the panelists their opinions about events that can be controversial in the newsroom or that might face censorship. The underlying consensus between panelists was to turn to ethical and social standards.

One topic that has rocked the journalism world has been the debate over publishing the Danish cartoons. These images are legal to print in newspapers and air on news programs, but relatively few organizations have chosen to do so.

The DEN Editor in Chief Aaron Seidlitz mentioned that staffers had considered running the anti-Muslim cartoons, but after consulting each other and considering their readers, they chose to take another approach.

"We decided to run a series of editorials from other papers as well

as from our own staff about the cartoons," said Seidlitz.

The DEN turned to another medium that also receives strong First Amendment protection, the Internet, to discuss this topic as well.



Members of the freedom of expression panel discuss First Amendment issues with the crowd. Members included, from left, Dr. Lynn Curry, History Dept., representing the Judicial Board, Chief Adam Due, University Police Department, Joe Gisondi, DEN adviser, Aaron Seidlitz, DEN Editor in Chief, Nora Maberry, DEN Web editor and two class moderators Thomas McElwee and Dane Gray.

Picture by Katrina Zaret

"We didn't post the images on our Web site but we did provide a link," said Web editor Nora Maberry. Maberry says that discussion was encouraged on the Web site in the blog about the cartoons. But in order for readers to understand the issue, a link had to be provided for readers to see them. The readers then had to decide to engage in going to the link.

College media responded in different ways. The University of Illinois published these cartoons, which ended in the firing of an editor.

The Daily Eastern News adviser, Joe Gisondi, agreed with the Daily Illini running the cartoons and was disappointed in how everything was handled. "I don't think it is right that they fired the editor," said Gisondi. He thought the problem mainly lay in communication between the staff and students.

But other schools have published the cartoons and have seen much success. This is mainly because they explained why the cartoons were published and opened the issue up to debate.

Overall, the message of the meeting was the importance of understanding your rights as a journalist and fighting for them. These rights only exist if journalists respond when they are challenged. If they don't respond, then censorship is likely to take place.

But journalists must have ethical guidelines that shape what to write or air. And they must also keep in mind the community standards.

The panel stressed the importance of publishing what your audience wants and needs to read. And if something questionable, like the Danish cartoons, are published, to offer reasoning that readers can understand and agree with.

Journalism students honored for hard work

By: Hayley D. Clark

Fifteen outstanding journalism scholars were inducted into Kappa Tau Alpha Honor Society Wednesday, April 19, in a formal ceremony and dinner.

Department Chair James Tidwell noted that these students were not just scholars, but were also active across the department and campus.

Kappa Tau Alpha, National Honor Society in Journalism and Mass Communication, was founded in 1910 at the world's first school of journalism, the University of Missouri. According to the official Web site, "It is a college honor society that recognizes academic excellence and promotes scholarship in journalism and mass communication."

Eastern's chapter was founded in 1983. Terri Johnson, KTA 1980, is serving her first year as the faculty adviser, filling the spot of former adviser Howard Price, who retired.

"Only the top scholars, those in the top ten percent of all upper class journalism majors, are invited to join," Johnson said. "They must be second semester juniors or higher to be included."

To qualify, undergraduate students must rank in the upper ten percent of their journalism or mass communication class. This must be taken from all coursework complet-

ed, not only journalism and mass communication courses. Students must have at least a 3.00 GPA in junior/senior level journalism/mass communication classes, but the standard at Eastern is higher. At

having this membership is easier than having to tell your interviewer your grades," Julia Bourque said. Bourque is one of 15 members inducted in 2006.

A lifetime membership can be attained with these requirements and an initiation fee.

People are admitted into Kappa Tau Alpha by invitation only. The induction for this year's inductees was at Michael Domani's April 19. Assisting with the induction were two of last year's inductees, Whitney Self and Tim Martin.

The group also recognized Professor Howard Price for his 19 years of service to the organization with the presentation of a certificate.

Those inducted for the 2006 school year include: Elizabeth Bishton, Julia Bourque, Youngchí Chang, Angelita Faller, Lacey Everett, Kathryn Henderson, Kate Konieczny, Kristen Larsen, Holly Mohr, Meagan Morgan, Lauren

Moore, Hillary Settle, Nicole Sprehe, Sarah Whitney and Marcy Workman.

Lauren Moore and Tim Morgan have also earned Departmental Honors.



Kappa Tau Alpha 2006 inductees include: front row, from left, Holly Mohr, Lauren Moore, Liza Bishton, Hillary Settle, Lacey Everett, Julia Bourque; Back row, Marcy Workman, Kate Henderson, Whitney Self, Tim Martin, Youngchí Chang, Sarah Whitney, Meagan Morgan and Angie Faller. Members were inducted at a dinner and reception to honor their outstanding scholarship April 19.

Photo by Terri Johnson

least five semesters must be completed in degree work. A minimum of nine semester hours must be completed in professional skills courses.

"Being a member of Kappa Tau Alpha, I think, is one way to show your hard work through college to future employers. To become a member of this society, the student must be in the top 10 percent of their major and I think



47th Journalism Banquet to honor students

By: Lindsey Borrelli

The 47th Annual Journalism/Student Media Banquet will be Friday, April 28 at the Worthington Inn. The banquet is organized by the Journalism Student Advisory Committee.

The banquet is open to all journalism majors and minors, as well as any student who has worked for a student media organization during the 2005-06 year. Parents and guests of these students are also invited to attend.

The banquet is an opportunity to honor students who have done an outstanding job working with the student media organizations. The faculty adviser for each organization will have a chance to praise the members and give a year-in-review of the organization. They will also announce the recipients of awards within the organizations. The awards are annual recognitions that are given to students who have put in their time and energy to help with the organization.

The winners of the journalism department scholarships will also be announced at the banquet. The journalism department offers 21 scholarships and 18 recipients will be announced at the banquet. The donors of the scholarships are invited to attend to give a history of the scholarship and announce the winners.

All graduating seniors from the journalism department will also be honored at the banquet and the newest inductee into the EIU Journalism Hall of Fame will also be

announced.

This year Dr. Peter Voelz, Professor Annette Samuels and Mary Pierce will be honored for their years of dedication to the journalism department, as they will be leaving the department at the end of the year.

All students are encouraged to attend to socialize with other students and teachers in the journalism department and celebrate the year.

The Journalist

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Got a story you would like to see in the Journalist?

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Congratulations Seniors

As the semester comes to an end, the Journalism Department would like to congratulate those individuals preparing to graduate in May. The department wishes the best of luck to the following individuals: Evan Bernier, Julia Bourque, Meagan Brusnighan, Jennifer Chiariello, Adam Dremak, Tim Emmerling, Lacey Everett, Angelita Faller, Hollice Frejlich, Kathleen Gore, Laura Griffith, Kathryn Henderson, Stephanie Johnson, Cory Jones, Tiffany Kochanski, Daniel Ladeur, Matt Leibert, Matthew Lythberg, Timothy Martin, Gregory McElroy, Erin Miller, Lauren Moore, Megan O'Farrell, Daniel Renick, Katherine Roche, Aaron Saudargas, Aaron Cole Seidlitz, Whitney Self, Sara Wagoner, Gregory Walker, William White, and Daniel Williams. Summer grads: Meghan Bradley, Lindsey Dunton, Maureen Faydash, Lauren Franco, Evan Hill, Brandon Netiuk, Elizabeth Richards, Bianca Sisson, Ryan Terrell and Alaina Tosh and Daniel Valenziano.