

Cam Simpson expresses passion for journalism

By Barbara Harrington

Cam Simpson said he doesn't always enjoy writing.

Being a journalist, most people would think his statement was pretty odd. But according to Simpson, a passion for current issues and making a difference are the most important qualities a journalist can possess.

"You don't have to love writing to be a journalist," he said. "You have to love journalism to be a journalist."

Simpson, an Eastern alumnus and award-winning journalist, visited campus Oct. 3-4.

Simpson came to Eastern as part of the Fox-Thornburgh Visiting Professionals program.

He has been working at the Wall Street Journal for one year and is currently living in Jerusalem.

On Oct. 4, Simpson spoke at the Illinois Community College Journalism Association dinner. He spoke to about 100 community college journalists and advisers from all over Illinois, as well as Eastern students and faculty.

At the dinner, Simpson said he always knew he wanted

to be a journalist. He was the editor of his high school paper in St. Charles, Ill., and came to Eastern after high school to pursue a degree in journalism.

Simpson previously worked for the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Indianapolis Star and the Evansville Courier.

James Tidwell, chair of the journalism department, said during Simpson's time at the University, Simpson was a star reporter.

"He broke several exclusive stories about all the various controversies that were going on at the time," Tidwell said.

John Ryan, professor of journalism and director of student publications, had Simpson as a student at Eastern.

He said Simpson always worked hard and did more than what was expected of him. Ryan said Simpson has an abundance of knowledge to share with students.



Cam Simpson (right) talks with Dr. John Faust, retired political science professor and good friend of Simpson.

Photo by Amir Prellberg

"If [students] can figure out how to be as passionate about their chosen field as Cam is, they'll be miles ahead," Ryan said. "Because it's that type of passion that makes you want to learn and be better."

After giving a brief history of his career at the ICCJA dinner, Simpson took questions from audience members.

Throughout the Q & A session, Simpson asked community college students to consider

Eastern when deciding which four-year college to transfer to.

"The program [here] is geared towards helping you get a job in the real world," Simpson said.

He urged students to take on extra courses outside of their major, and to minor in another field of study if possible.

"Every experience you have, everything that you study is hopefully something you'll learn from," he said.

The Journalist

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The Journalist

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Hyder named faculty member of the year

By Derrick Johnson

University Board named Dr. Les Hyder of the journalism department faculty member of the year last spring.

He was surprised when the award was given to him during a meeting of the university board when he thought he was coming to see student government induction ceremony. It came as a big shock when his name was called and he was presented with the award in front of nearly all his students.

"I was totally surprised," Hyder said. "I thought I was just there to see some of my student inducted into the student government positions that they had been elected to. I think they had to call me twice because I wasn't paying that much attention."

University board presents the award annually, each spring. The members of the university board are not the only ones who see Hyder as being worthy of the honor. Hyder's students hold their professor in high regard as well.

He has a lot of experience in the field of journalism and passes that knowledge on to his students by giving us advice and guidance," said Barbara Harrington, a freshman journalism major.

Harrington, who is in Hyder's honors journalism and democracy class, believes that importance Hyder places on his students sets him apart from the rest of the faculty, she said.

"Because faculty member of the year is an award given by students, it made receiving it all the better, Hyder said.

"I can't think of too many awards that I've received that have pleased me more than that," Hyder said.

"It's nice to get awards from your colleagues, but it's a lot nicer to get awards from your students. That's the primary reason we're and if we're doing something that they find commendable then that makes everything worth while."

In the end, Hyder can't imagine having a higher honor. He only intends to repeat the same great performance.



Journalism professor Les Hyder helps journalism senior Trina Cattani with her class schedule. Hyder was honored by University Board when he was named Faculty Member of the year.

"I assume this is a onetime only award but I'd like to be worthy of it every year whether I can receive it or not," Hyder said. "If I can stay at that level then I'm happy with that."

Professor discusses James Jones' popular novels

By Chris Robison

James Jones novels that were turned into films were the recent focus of the Embarras Valley Film Festival. Fans also have an opportunity to discuss

his work at meetings of the James Jones Literary Society.

One long-time fan is journalism professor Doug Lawhead. Lawhead was a presenter at the Embarras Valley Film Festival, discussing Jones' use

of local sites to create a background for his novel. Lawhead also serves as the Society's newsletter editor.

Lawhead was 17 when he went to check out James Jones' novel *Some Came Running*.

Trouble was, the Robinson Public Library wouldn't let him have it.

"They told me I needed a note from my mother," said Lawhead. "They said it was because

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John Ryan sets students for the future

By Jennifer Gritti

Students in the journalism department who want to build a portfolio for graduation look to John Ryan, professor of journalism, for help.

Ryan helps coordinate internships for students throughout the state. Dow Jones Newswires, Journal Gazette-Times Courier, and The Star are just a few newspapers Ryan works with to obtain scholarships for students.

Each summer, about 20 students take advantage of Ryan's help.

Ashley Rueff, a senior journalism major, was one student who approached Ryan about an internship opportunity. Working with Ryan throughout the school year helped her acquire an internship at the Dow Jones Newswires.

"My internship has helped me to prepare for my future. It

is important to build your experience while still in school so that after graduation you are more marketable and have more opportunities to find a job," Rueff said.

Ryan helps student to find internships close to their home. "It's best for the students so they can live at home and save money."

He has no requirements to help find an internship for a student, but does prefer that they have experience.

"It wouldn't benefit the person or the paper if they have no previous experience," Ryan said.

Larger companies require more experience as opposed to smaller papers, which are more lenient.

Because Ryan is associated with and is contacted by many newspapers, he is able to help most students who approach him for help finding an



John Ryan helps coordinate internships for students throughout the state

internship. "He has great relationships with different newspapers and always seems to find somewhere for everyone to work over the summer if they are in-

terested," Rueff said.

In addition, Ryan arranges visits to campus by various news media in order to interview students for internships and jobs.

Lawhead on Jones' novels cont.

of the bad language. But I'm sure it was because Jones based some of the characters in the book on actual people who lived in Robinson. And a few of the characters are not exactly fine, upstanding, church-going-type people."

Lawhead, who is a member of the James Jones Literary Society, does not believe that Jones based any one fictional character on any one real person.

"He took things from multiple people and created the characters," said Lawhead. "There were people back when I was a kid in Robinson who said that this character in the book is like so and so, but they really weren't. They just reminded us

of people we knew."

Lawhead said Jones did the same thing in creating the fictional town of Israel, Ill. By taking components of Palestine, Hudsonville, Marshall and Robinson Ill., Jones created an entirely fictional place.

Other writers have done this. William Faulkner created Yoknapatawpha County, Mississippi, and Stephen King created Castle Rock, Maine.

Though Lawhead has read *Some Came Running* several times, he cannot say that it is his favorite Jones' novel.

"It is one of my favorites, but when it comes to Jones' books there are three of them that I have trouble with saying that's my favorite. From Here

to Eternity is on that list, *Some Came Running*, and I also enjoy *Go to the Widow Maker*.

For those who haven't read any of Jones' work and are interested, Lawhead recommends these books as a good place to start:

"There's *Ice Cream Headache and Other Delights*, which is a book of short stories. The other one I'd pick up would be *The Pistol*. It's a quick read. It's not the monster book that Jones is sometimes known for."

The literary society will meet Nov. 3. at Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Ill. Admission is free and it is open to the public. Information is available on the Web at <http://jamesjoneslitsociety.vinu.edu/>.

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2007 Journalist of the Year awarded

By Kathleen Kidwell

Jeff Nelson, an Eastern alumnus, was recently named Eastern's 2007 Journalist of the Year by the Eastern Journalism Department.

Nelson, who recently retired as the managing editor of the Lincoln Courier, was recognized for his "outstanding contribution to the field of journalism."

Nelson graduated from Eastern with a BA in English and a minor in journalism in 1971. He served as the editor-in-chief of the then-Eastern News. During his time, the Eastern News went from a

weekly publication to a three times a week publication.

Nelson then went to the State Journal-Register. There,

"I will tell anyone who will listen that I've got the best job in the world."

- Jeff Nelson

he served as assistant city editor, Saturday magazine editor, feature story writer, columnist and photographer.

After his run with the State Journal-Register, Nelson began

working at the Lincoln Courier. He has been with the Courier as the managing editor since 1993. The Courier has won the Illinois

Press Association sweepstakes trophy for the best daily under 10,000 circulation in 11 of the last 14 years, all under Nelson's leadership.

Nelson was honored at a

ceremony at the 48th Annual Journalism and Student Media Awards Banquet held on Eastern's campus in April. Approximately 150 people came to the ceremony to help honor Nelson.

"Jeff has had an outstanding career and is deserving of the honor," Journalism Department Chair James Tidwell said.

Nelson is the sixth journalist to be named a Journalist of the Year and be included in the Journalist of the Year Hall of Fame.

"I will tell anyone who will listen that I've got the best job in the world," Nelson said, at the awards dinner last spring.

Campus editor finds work useful

By Maggie Moseley

The DEN took on a number of new editors to complete the editing team this semester.

Katie Anderson, a senior journalism major with a news writing concentration, took on the role of campus editor.

Anderson has spent her years at Eastern writing stories for the DEN but finally decided that she could put her talents to better use by being more involved in the DEN on a day-to-day basis.

"In past years, just writing stories I would always come in to the newsroom full of story ideas. After taking advanced reporting and copy editing I finally felt confident enough to apply for the position," Anderson said.

Anderson sees the large number of new editors as a good

thing for the DEN.

"We are all coming not 'burned-out' and with some fresh ideas," she said.

Anderson is aware that having so many new people probably means for "kinks" in the first few issues but is confident that the new staff will bring some overall positive changes.

Anderson is using her position as campus editor to maintain the conventional stories to cover, including residents halls and student government.

She also hopes to venture into incorporating religion, technology and faculty interest stories into the budgets.

To Anderson, working as a DEN editor is a valuable tool that she will be able to benefit



from and use, not only on her resumé.

"The practical experience working with new writers, dealing with deadlines, and cooperating with photographers and designers are just a few of the practical things we learn and practice during the semester that will help us later in our careers," Anderson said.

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begun!
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