

the Journalist

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Alumna uses skills from EIU to find design position

By Cory Dimitrakopoulos

As a journalism student at Eastern, Lauren Moore quickly learned that when it comes to journalism, a passion for the profession must be present to survive

“If you don’t love it, you’re not going to be happy with a job in journalism,” Moore said.

Moore graduated from Eastern with honors in 2006 with a bachelor of arts in journalism.

During her time here, Moore took advantage of the variety of outlets available to journalism students looking to get valuable hands-on experience in the field. As a freshman, Moore wrote for the Daily Eastern News and by the end of her sophomore year she was also actively involved with Circle K — a volunteer leadership development program — and Pounce Online.

“I really enjoyed my time working on [Pounce Online] because it was a way to use creative thinking and provide a different kind of news to the students,” Moore said. She became an editor of Pounce early in her junior year.

Moore continued helping out at the DEN and became the student government editor her senior year, proving that she could handle the challenge of being an editor.

“It was the first time she had a regular beat at the paper, but she persevered and was the best staff editor from that semester,” current DEN editor Nora Maberry said.

“I know her co-workers respected her, and I think the advisers did, too,” Maberry said.

Moore and Maberry became close friends while working together at the Daily Eastern News. When asked, Maberry said that one significant thing

that Moore taught her was to be patient. “She is ridiculously patient.”

After graduating in 2006, Moore did what many in her position do: she went through the résumé and interview process. Moore said that her main goal after graduating college was “to find a job that would challenge me but use the skills that I had learned.”

People who worked with Moore on publications like the DEN and Pounce Online knew that her skills shone, while holding various positions at these publications ensured that she would be successful after college.

“[Lauren] has passions outside of journalism,” Sally Turner, journalism professor, said. “That is one of her strengths; it makes her sensitive to people’s stories. Turner has been Moore’s writing adviser for Pounce Online.

Moore now works for The Times in Ottawa, Ill., as a page designer, where she is able to put all of her talent and skill to use. Moore’s daily work at The Times consists of designing news and life section pages as well as health and fitness stories, when she has time.

“I am really happy where I’m at now,” Moore said. “It’s a smaller town and I’m probably getting a lot more experience working at a smaller paper than I would at a larger one.”



2006 Alum Lauren Moore works at her job as a page designer for The (Ottawa, Ill.) Times. She was involved with a variety of campus activities while at Eastern.

In the next year, Moore plans to put her creativity to work through designing. “Now that I’ve worked [at The Times] for a few months, I feel like I know enough that now I can be more creative, especially with the life section pages,” Moore said.

Moore credits Eastern’s journalism faculty for her ability to succeed in her career.

“I appreciate how hard the professors work in the journalism department to give the students such a great education and experience,” Moore said.

“I thank them very much for everything they have done for me during my time at Eastern; it won’t be forgotten.”

As for five years from now, “Who knows?” Moore said. “My main goal is to be using what I know but always learning something new. There are so many different aspects to [journalism] and there’s always something new going on, so there’s never a boring day!”

SPiN offers magazine writing experience

By Danielle Neal

With such big student media available around campus, such as The Daily Eastern News and WEIU-TV, sometimes people forgot about the small ones like SPiN, the Student Panther information Network.

SPiN is an online magazine, whose link can be found on the EIU Web site, that allows students to comment and read stories about things that are going on around campus. Lindsey Borrelli, a senior communication studies major and the public relations and marketing manager for SPiN, says students should know SPiN is at their disposal.

"SPiN is a student run Web site," Borrelli said. "You can comment on any story or vote for a survey by using your EIU e-mail and password. The more the students use it, the better and more interesting it becomes. It is also a place where students can publish their own creative work."

SPiN is a multifaceted student-run organization (RSO) because not only is it an on-line magazine that allows students to publish their own work and comment on others, but it is also a place where students can find things such as movie times, the weather, maps and directions and it also plans events. This semester Borrelli, who is in charge of event planning, is trying to plan a bags tournament, pig roast, spring break gas giveaway, and a lawn party.

David Thill, a senior journalism major, is the news editor for SPiN. Thill says SPiN hosts events to help bring a sense of

unity to the EIU campus.

"[Having events] is part of wanting to foster more of a community feeling on Eastern's campus," Thill said.

Even with its RSO status, SPiN is still a news organization, which means any staff members who help in planning an event will not help to cover that event for the on-line magazine.

According to Thill, SPiN is a great place to work because it has a calmer environment than other types of media because Web sites that do not cover a lot of hard news have less strict deadlines.

"It's a more relaxed atmosphere than a newspaper... being a Web site we can publish anything at anytime," Thill said. "We have an infinite amount of space, which means we can put anything up there at any time. On top of that, it's more of a magazine atmosphere, so we do not tackle hard news much."

The magazine does not cover hard news very often, but will cover the student government and other news that involves campus. SPiN focuses more on articles that will entertain students but are still informational, like stories about health and lifestyle.

Being an on-line magazine, SPiN could face competition from Amp, the University Board magazine, and Pounce on-line, a Web site that can be



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

SPiN

found through the Daily Eastern News's homepage. Thill thinks that all three publications are unique enough that SPiN is not in competition with either of them.

"We are just trying to put out a good quality publication for ourselves and for the students to read, so they have something they can enjoy," Thill said. "We are just trying to bring students together and foster an on-line Eastern community."

SPiN is run through the department of Internet Technology Services, but students do not necessarily need computer experience to be involved in SPiN, because it is a RSO that offers several opportunities. Even though SPiN is on-line, it still needs students to write articles, take photos, work on the Web design if they already have the skill, and help with event planning.

SPiN is currently looking for more staff writers, but anybody interested in working for SPiN can e-mail the SPiN staff SPiN@eiu.edu or visit the office in the basement of the Student Services building.

NABJ sponsors Valentine Day Fundraiser

Eastern's chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists sponsored a Valentine's Day fundraiser to provide sweethearts with flowers.

From left, Eugenia Jefferson, Meagan Morgan, Sheree Patterson, Tearria Ruffin and Sean Hopkins smile for the camera in the midst of their preparations for the event. The group made money in spite of the snow, ice and class closures. The next NABJ meeting is Thursday, March 8, in the Journalism Department student lounge. Students who want to join the group can contact any member.

Photo by Sally Turner



Kappa Tau Alpha honors top journalism students

By Sheree Patterson

Soon journalism students performing at the top 10 percent of their senior class will be invited to join the journalism national honor society, at its induction dinner.

Kappa Tau Alpha is an academic achievement organization that is exclusive to 91 schools across the United States. According to the official Web site of KTA it is “a college honors society that recognizes academic excellence and promotes scholarship in journalism and mass communication.”

Kappa Tau Alpha was founded at the very first school of journalism, University

of Missouri, in 1910. The Eastern Illinois University chapter was founded in 1983.

Terri Johnson, faculty adviser and KTA 1984 initiate, talks about the importance of the organizations induction: “KTA is for top scholars in journalism, the top 10 percent journalism majors only are invited to join.” She added, “This achievement demonstrates students are serious about learning. KTA membership means a lot on a student’s résumé.

National eligibility for induction includes the following: the student must be a junior or senior journalism or mass communications major, ranked in the upper 10 percent of their class, have a minimum 3.0 GPA in upper level journalism or mass communication courses and have completed at least nine semester hours of credit in professional courses in journalism and mass communication.

2006 members and inductees GPA was 3.5 or higher. The

level changes each year as only the top 10 percent can be chosen.

KTA’s demand for excellent academic achievement is a reason Dr. James Tidwell, department chair, views it as the “most distinguished academic group.” “They are all high academic achievers,” Tidwell said. “To qualify for membership a student’s GPA must rank in the top 10 percent of all journalism majors; it’s quite an honor to join.”

Liza Bishton, senior journalism major, was inducted in spring 2006. At first she didn’t understand what it was, and that being in the top 10 percent of her class made her feel good, because she was working hard and it paid off.

Tidwell and Johnson both agreed hard work is a key to be successful in academics.

“I know students don’t want to hear this, but it helps to go to class everyday; you have to study less because you learn it the first time,” Bishton said.

Tidwell also pointed out the members of KTA aren’t just working in the classroom but are involved in student media as well.

The Kappa Tau Alpha induction ceremony will take place March 6 in the University Union 1895 Room from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



Save the date!

- **Tuesday, March 6: Kappa Tau Alpha, Journalism Honorary Initiation Ceremony, 1895 Room, University Union**
- **Friday, April 27: Journalism-Student Media Banquet, 6 p.m., Grand Ballroom**
- **Saturday, April 28: IHSA State Journalism Competition, EIU, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.**
- **Saturday, May 5: Breakfast for journalism graduates and their families, 9 a.m.**
- **Saturday, May 5: Spring Commencement**

Well-liked professor returns from brief retirement

By: Cory Dimitrakopoulos

“Teaching was one of the things I’ve always wanted to do in life,” Dr. Peter M. Voelz said, who after retiring last summer has returned to Eastern’s journalism department as an emeritus faculty member.

Voelz explains that he knew when the time was right in his life for him to retire and take the time off.

“I was at that age, and my wife retired last year so that helped make my decision,” Voelz said.

Before retiring, Voelz, who began teaching at Eastern in 1978, taught journalism ethics, senior seminar, journalism and democracy, and history of American journalism classes. He said that ethics and history of American journalism were the classes he enjoyed teaching the most.

The students Voelz taught before retiring took notice of his ability to liven up the classroom environment and make it an enjoyable atmosphere.

“He is a really fun teacher. He likes to relate pop culture to the classroom setting which makes it fun,” said Danielle Neal, a senior journalism major who took Voelz’s history of journalism class as a junior.

“He was funny and smart, which made the class very interesting and easy to understand,” Israel Carrillo said, a sophomore journalism major who took Voelz’s journalism and democracy class.

Voelz not only instilled the basics of journalism in his students, but also an understanding of journalism on a broader spectrum.

“[He taught me] how important it is to understand how the world works pertaining to current events, news and the overall message of what is going on in general,” Carrillo said.

Voelz fellow faculty members also appreciated his ability to bring energy and perspective to any situation.

“Every time you talk to Peter, you come away with a little bit of knowledge

that you didn’t have when you started the conversation,” Terri Johnson, journalism faculty, said.

When Voelz announced he was retiring last summer, it was disappointing to those around him.

“I felt really bad for the students who wouldn’t have the chance to take his class [because he was leaving],” Johnson said.

His family, however, had different



thoughts on his retirement. “My family was all for it,” Voelz said of his retirement.

“My daughter liked for us to baby-sit and we got to take trips up to Chicago to see our son.”

During his time away, Voelz had time to enjoy some of the things his work kept him from doing in the past.

“My wife and I had more time to go visit the grandkids. We also took a vacation down to the Gulf of Mexico, which we hadn’t been able to do before,” Voelz said.

Voelz also used his time to, “start writing my next book.” (His first book, *Slave and Soldier*, 1993, is about the history of slavery.)

It is apparent that many students are glad to have Voelz back. When asked if he would take another of Voelz’s classes if given the opportunity Carrillo replied, he would take his journalism ethics class because his teaching approach is enjoyable and fun. Carrillo continued to say schoolwork doesn’t always have to be

boring and hard to understand, and Voelz makes sure it’s not.

“I was happy when I heard he was coming back. I was glad that I could take his Ethics class,” Neal said.

Voelz said he always knew he wanted to come back and had “made plans for it last spring.” One reason for returning: “We have a really good faculty department and I think a lot of it is due to the value of the faculty and good leadership through the years,” Voelz said.

Voelz has learned much from his experiences throughout his years of teaching.

“[Teaching] has definitely made me a kinder person as I’ve seen my students struggle to get their education.”

Voelz is currently only teaching journalism ethics, and when asked, says that he plans to teach for “several more years.”

The camera catches a smiling Dr. Peter Voelz, happy to be retired and happy to be back in the classroom.



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