

The Journalist

NEWSLETTER FOR JOURNALISM MAJORS & MINORS

Visiting professional Patty Culhane shared her real-world experience



Patty Culhane speaks to journalism students about her experiences as a professional journalist.

By Noah Gent

Patricia Culhane graduated from Eastern in 1994 and is now a White House correspondent for NBC, reporting on the

president and other White House personnel. "There is no better job in the world," she said.

Since graduating Culhane has worked with local stations in Illinois before starting her

Photo by Rob Wroblewski

current position. Her career has taken her overseas to cover the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East as well as to Australia with President Bush.

Culhane came back to

Eastern earlier this month to share her experiences with journalism students and show what someone can achieve with a journalism degree from Eastern if they truly appreciate and are passionate about what they are doing. Instructors can prepare students for the real world but having a professional speak to the students greatly helps them learn about challenges they can expect to face in their careers. Students who got a chance to speak with Culhane while she was here were impressed with her achievements and were inspired by her.

"To have graduated from Eastern and to go out in the world and really make your mark is really encouraging. It shows me that even if you come from a small town, it doesn't mean that you have to make it define who you are," journalism major Teresita Williams said.

Culhane emphasized
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Sending off our seniors

By Carla Poch

Approximately 40 senior journalism majors will be graduating in May. Read on to find out what's next for a few of them.

Mike McGlothlin

Mike McGlothlin transferred to Eastern in Fall 2006 from Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill. McGlothlin has been working for the Daily Eastern News as a designer and copy editor since Spring 2007. He designs the sports section two nights per week. In the future, McGlothlin wants to get his feet wet in the newspaper industry. McGlothlin also said he wants to design for a magazine some day.

Jessica Perillo

Jessica Perillo is a journalism major with a concentration in broadcast news. In her four years at EIU,

Perillo has served as a staff writer for the DEN, has been a cheerleader, a volunteer at the WEIU-TV news station and Web master of her sorority, Delta Zeta. Perillo plans to apply for jobs in broadcasting in Chicago or close to her hometown of Geneva, Ill.

Michelle Brueggeman

Michelle Brueggeman is a journalism major with a concentration in broadcast news and a minor in sociology. Brueggeman has dedicated her time to WEIU-TV, WEIU-FM, Epsilon Sigma Alpha and the Journalism Student Advisory Committee. After graduation, Brueggeman plans on working as a news producer at WAND-TV in Decatur. She is hoping to work her way up to networks like E! Entertainment. In addition, Brueggeman said she eventually wants



Senior Jordan Crook

to go to graduate school in journalism so she can teach.

Jordan Crook

Jordan Crook is a journalism major with a concentration in writing and reporting. Crook has held writing positions at the DEN such as RHA reporter and Senior City Reporter. Although Crook plans to continue working with local newspapers, he said he has aspirations of becoming an editor or publishing some of his fictional writing.

John Bailey

John Bailey is a journalism major with a concentration in photography and design. Bailey has served as staff photographer and photo editor at the DEN. He is also a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. After graduation, Bailey hopes to land an internship or freelance work before he takes the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).

He plans on going to graduate school at the University of Illinois at Chicago or St. Xavier Chicago.

Cathy Bayer

Cathy Bayer is a journalism major and English minor with a concentration in writing and reporting. Bayer has worked at the DEN since her freshman year and has held positions with the newspaper such as reporter, copy editor, campus editor, news editor and designer. Currently, Bayer is stringing for the features desk at the Journal Gazette. She is a member of the American Copy Editors Society (ACES) and the Society for Collegiate Journalists. When it comes to finding a job after graduation, Bayer said she plans on "applying my heart out and hope it will work out."

Frank Simoncelli

Frank Simoncelli is a



Senior Michelle Brueggeman poses on set of WEIU-TV.

Photo by Zack Nugent

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Awards Banquet



By Katrina Zaret

The students of the Eastern journalism department will be rewarded for displaying their journalistic prowess this past year at the 49 Annual Journalism and Student Media Awards Banquet.

For the second year in a row, Michelle Brueggeman and John Twork will be emceeing the event. And once again, Carnac the Magnificent, soothsayer and Johnny Carson gimmick, will be making an appearance.

The banquet will be 6 p.m., Fri., April 25, at Wesley United Methodist Church of Charleston.

DEN, Minority Today announce editors in chief for next year

By Alex Harris

The end of the school year is around the corner, and with everyone preparing to head home for summer break one student is preparing for something less relaxing than most.

Rick Kambic is taking over the editor in chief position at the Daily Eastern News for the summer months.

“Just because it’s summer doesn’t mean that it’s entirely dead around here,” Kambic said. “Many universities decide to wait until the summer to make big decisions because its calmer and easier to adjust.”

While attending the College of DuPage, Kambic won third-place as the Associated Collegiate Press’ Reporter of the Year in 2006, writing for the Courier, its Pacemaker-winning paper.

Kambic hopes that by working hard and maintaining contact with sources over the summer he will help things run more smoothly for the DEN next year when Kristina Peters will be taking over as the editor in chief.

Peters, a Mattoon local, has loved to write since her

childhood.

“When I was a little kid I wrote short fiction stories and I didn’t think fiction writing was too promising as

“My dad and I were huge [Los Angeles] Laker fans,” Patterson said. “I would stay up late to watch the games and sometimes



Next year, Sheree Patterson, left, will edit Minority Today and Kristina Peters will be the DEN’s editor.

Photo by Rob Wroblewski

a career, so I picked journalism,” Peters said.

Peters realized her love for journalism while attending the Illinois Press Foundation Workshop at Eastern the summer before her freshman year.

Minority Today is also getting a new editor in chief for the next school year. Sheree Patterson shares the same childhood love of writing and reporting as Peters; however, they discovered this love in different ways.

my Dad would have to go to work and would call to see what was going on with the game. I’d give him a detailed play-by-play analysis. You would’ve thought I was on their payroll.”

Patterson hopes to start a Web site for Minority Today and turn it from a twice monthly publication into a weekly. She also wants to take special time to remember each Heritage Month and do a special publication for each.

Need a story? Come join us!

When: Every Wednesday
5:30 p.m.

Where: Room 2434 Buzzard Hall



Job Well Done!

The Society for Collegiate Journalists announced last week that the DEN earned 21 awards in several areas including sports news, news reporting, feature-writing and photography, among others, at this year's national competition.

Winners Include:

- Matt Daniels
- Stephen DiBenedetto
- Sarah Whitney
- Jay Grabiec
- Eric Hiltner
- Karla Browning
- Karolina Strack
- Katie Anderson
- David Pennell

Keep up the great work, DEN members!

Zoologist speaks about bridging gap between science, journalism



Zoologist Nancy Baron spoke to Eastern students last week about the relationships between science and journalism.
Photo by Rob Wroblewski

By Michelle Simek

A small crowd of journalism, English, and science students and faculty joined zoologist Nancy Baron for the presentation "Scientists are from Mars, Journalists are from Venus," Thursday afternoon, April 3, at Tarble Arts Center.

Baron spoke first about her reasons for coming to

Eastern and about her presentation. She explained her desire and passion for both the science world and the communication world.

"I zigzagged between science and communications for a long time," she said.

Baron learned to incorporate both into her professional life. She shared her dilemma.

"The world of science is

in one tower and the world of journalism is in another' there is tension between them," she said.

Finding innovative ways to combine science and communication has allowed Nancy to share her tips while simultaneously bridging the gaps between these two professions. She said both gain from the partnership: "I am trying to get scientists to come down out of their tower and break the tension."

Her first word of advice for both scientists and journalists was to know their audiences. Baron also showed video clips of scientists talking about their experiences with media during one of her workshops. Many scientists explained their fear, distaste or complete avoidance of talking to the press. Some scientists said: "I teach myself what not to say," and "I have a media phobia," or "I was disappointed about how I was represented."

Nancy says a scientist's ability to communicate

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SENIORS Continued

journalism major and business minor with a concentration in public relations. His first two years at Eastern, Simoncelli pitched for the EIU baseball team. Currently, Simoncelli is a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity and works for EIU's student-run public relations firm, the Agency. In the fall, Simoncelli will return to EIU for graduate school with



Senior Matt Kelly

a concentration in school counseling. Simoncelli said he hopes to be a high school guidance counselor in addition to coaching high school baseball and football.

Matt Kelly

Matt Kelly is a journalism major and a creative

writing minor with a concentration in public relations. He was president of PRSSA and president and co-founder of Respect for Youth University Mother Against Drunk

Driving (MADD). Kelly is the founder of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. He is also a member of the Society for Collegiate Journalists, Illinois Philological Association and National Society for Collegiate Scholars. Kelly is also associate director of The Agency as well as co-editor of The Relay. After graduation, Kelly plans on going to Ball State University to pursue a master's degree in public relations with a concentration in business.

ZOOLOGIST Continued

with media is a valuable resource.

"A scientist's biggest problem is the more they learn, the harder it is to convey that message to the general public," Baron said.

Scientific jargon can sometimes be difficult for journalists and the public to understand.

Journalists and scientists may still have more in common than they think. "They both have to be passionate, driven personalities," Baron said. "They have to be the leader of the pack, they

thrive on competition and they like to discover new and interesting things."

Baron's biggest accomplishment is working with scientists using the 'message box,' a teaching device used as a tool when talking to the press.

Sifting through complex information and giving journalists tangible information is the goal of the box, which Baron has seen demonstrated in magazine articles where scientists conveyed their message to a reporter effectively.

Baron also offered suggestions to help journalists

and scientists bond.

"I once followed a scientist into the forest with night goggles on to study bears," she said, laughing.

Baron said if scientists can learn to communicate, journalists can better convey their message to the public and policy makers

"It's not about filling people up with information; it's about telling people what they are interested in and need to hear," Baron said. "Shocking enough, one third of people do not understand science, which makes them not care about it – they are linked."

After the presentation, Amanda Akay, sophomore journalism major, said she found the information interesting and came to the presentation because it relates to her future career.

Stephani Pescitelli, sophomore environmental biology major, also enjoyed the presentation. "I have an interest in journalism," she said.

Baron said the merging of science and journalism is something everyone could benefit from. Scientists are eager to discover and journalists are eager to tell their stories.

NEWS FLASH!

NABJ is selling flash drives available NOW in the journalism department 2521 Buzzard Hall



Only \$12

Eastern journalism alum wins Pulitzer for investigative reporting

By Clay Monroe

Good journalism is done objectively and without bias and a good reporter should work hard to get the facts and always put the public's interest first.

Ted Gregory, who graduated from Eastern in 1981 with a degree in journal-

ism, won the Pulitzer Prize this year by doing just that. Gregory was part of a team of Chicago Tribune reporters to share the award for their series "Hidden Hazards."

The series exposed problems with high lead content in children's toys, car seats and cribs. The series eventually gave way to the biggest full-

size crib recall of all time. Gregory and his team also showed how bogged-down the Consumer Product Safety Commission had become. These findings led lawmakers in Congress to vote on having a stronger commission and more stringent tests for toys.

"My editors had the idea to scan toys for lead content using a lead scanning gun," Ted Gregory said. "It was a terrific chance to work on a great project."

For days after the story was run, Gregory received tons of phone calls and e-mails commending his reporting. "It makes the stress

and hard work worthwhile," he said.

Print news is losing a lot of revenue because of the Internet's ability to be constantly updated.

In a real good sense, I think the fact that we produced a project that has such a direct and important impact on people's lives was significant; hopefully it will help show just

how important newspapers are in a Democracy, Gregory said.

This is the second time the Tribune has won a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting. The series also won a George Polk Award for Consumer Reporting.

"Hopefully [our series] will help show just how important newspapers are in a Democracy"



Ted Gregory, center, graduated from Eastern in 1981 with a degree in journalism.

Photo from Chicago Tribune

CULHANE Continued

many times while speaking that where someone went to school is not important in this business, but that it does take a certain type of person to be a journalist; you must have drive and be both physically and emotionally tough.

During her visit, Culhane spent many hours speaking to classes about her experiences as an anchor and was very involved with Eastern's journalism

department. Culhane spent three evenings during her visit observing WEIU-TV's nightly newscast and participating in the critique afterwards, providing valuable insight. Culhane evaluated students' resumes and gave advice on possible improvements that students could make.

Having Culhane come to Eastern to speak and observe was very beneficial to these future journalists, Professor John Johnson said.

We'll See You Next Year

We look forward to another great year of *The Journalist*.

Have a safe summer!