

# the Journalist

a departmental newsletter for journalism majors & minors

Special Edition:

*Honoring Daniel E. Thornburgh*

*The 50th Annual Journalism/Student Media Awards Banquet, April 25, 2009, honors the banquet's founder, Daniel E. Thornburgh, more often known as "D.T."*

*But Dr. Thornburgh did more than start the 50-year tradition of honoring excellence in student media, Dr. Thornburgh brought journalism out of a one or two course offering in the English Department at Eastern to a nationally recognized and accredited major in its own Department.*

Dr. Dan Thornburgh was honored at the banquet with House Resolution No. 222, sponsored by Representatives Robert F. Flider and Chapin Rose. The Resolution highlights much of his career, reading as follows:

"Thornburgh earned his bachelor's degree in language arts from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Ind., in 1952; he earned his master's degree in journalism from the University of Iowa in 1957 and his doctoral degree in higher education and journalism from Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., in 1980.

"Serving from 1955 to 1957,



*Thornburgh is enjoying a read in his original Buzzard Hall office, which used to be the principal's office, before the remodeling of Buzzard Hall.*

Thornburgh began his long and distinguished career in education as Director of Public Relations for Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. From 1957 to 1959, he served as Director of Information Services for Marshall University in Huntington, W. Va., and in 1965, he took on the role of Director of Journalism Studies at Eastern.

"Thornburgh served as Chairman of Eastern's journalism department from 1979 to 1984 and as a journalism pro-

fessor from 1984 to 1993. He also became Director of University Relations at Eastern in 1984, after which he served as Special Assistant to the president of University Relations for five years.

"Thornburgh has also worked extensively as a professional journalist; he was a part-time reporter and news writer for WTHI Radio in Terre Haute from 1950 to 1952. He also worked as a reporter at the *Herald-Dispatch* in Hunting-

ton, W. Va., and as part-time night editor of the *Times-Courier* in Charleston. He went on to serve as a journalism consultant for *Neoga News*, Illinois Opinion Writers, Coles County *Times-Courier*, *Effingham Daily News*, *Fairbury Blade*, West Publishing Co., and The Macmillan Co. Thornburgh also held the position of public relations consultant for the American Dental Association,

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# Dean of Arts & Humanities James Johnson named DEN Person of the Year for 2009

*As published in The Daily Eastern News, Friday, April 24, 2009.*

*By David Thill*

Before long, there will not be many students left that remember an Eastern campus without the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Few will remember the bare steel skeleton propping up a single, concrete wall or walking around a gaping hole in the ground, flanked on all sides by a flimsy, chain-link fence.

Fewer still will recall attending an art class in what was once an Osco drug store or viewing orchestral concerts in McAfee Gymnasium. It stands to good reason, however, that many will remember the name of James Johnson, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities and this year's The Daily Eastern News' Person of the Year. And, most likely, they will remember him for much more than a handful of years.

A 1963 graduate of Emporia State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Art, Dean Johnson went on to receive his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Kansas in 1970.

He spent nearly a decade teaching at the University of Kansas and Arkansas State University before making his way to Eastern.

Along the way, he has spearheaded the effort to bring the Doudna Fine Arts Center from a plan on a desk to fruition, brought together several various departments to form the College of Arts and Humanities and strived to make the college a continued success.

Though, as several people attest, including Jeffrey Lynch, associate dean of the College of



*Photo by Eric Hiltner*

***Sculptor, artist, dean, teacher, leader, DEN Person of the year for 2009, Dean James Johnson worked to get Doudna finished so art, music and theater students at Eastern have a good home.***

Arts and Humanities, Johnson is much more than an administrator.

Johnson has a sense of humility that can be disarming and one that is rarely found in academia, Lynch said.

"You simply cannot meet a nicer man," he said. "People respond to how genuinely kind he is and how humble he can be about his talent - and he is extremely talented."

Having formed the College of Arts and Humanities alongside Johnson 13 years ago, Lynch has seen first-hand the type of leadership abilities that bring nothing but praise from the likes of President Emeritus Lou Hencken and Blair Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"This job means keeping eight juggling balls in the air at all times, and then people come

along and throw you three, four, five more balls," Lynch said.

Hencken said Johnson's enthusiasm and the fact he believes in the College of Arts and Humanities so strongly "shines through."

"Jim Johnson is an example of one of the great people and leaders this university has," Hencken said.

Lynch said one of the keys to Johnson's success, and by association that of the college itself, is that "he has never lost sight of the fact that the college is much more than the sum total of its faculty, students and staff."

Dan Crews, director promotions and publicity for the College of Arts and Humanities, said it was his first interaction with Johnson that left a lasting impression.

In 1989, when Crews came

to Eastern, Johnson was working as the chair of the art department.

"We had weekly meetings in the dean's office," Crews said. "(Johnson) was one of the first people who came up and greeted me and wished me well. I have always remembered that gesture of genuine hospitality and welcome."

Crews said Johnson has always displayed concern and care for both the faculty and students of the college.

"He was never too busy to help someone in need," Crews said. "Once you get to know someone like Jim Johnson, you can't help but admire him."

Johnson, who will be retiring in June, said once someone gets to this point in his career he cannot help but look back at

***Continued on page 5***

**April 25, 2009**

# Journalism Alumnus of the Year shares real-world experience with journalism students

*Richard Fox, Eastern journalism alumnus, founded the Fox-Thornburgh Visiting Professionals Fund to bring professionals to campus to share their experience and expertise.*

**By Amanda Smith**

Richard Fox, a Eastern Illinois University graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Business degree, has been selected as the 2008 Journalism Alumnus of the Year.

To qualify for the Alumnus of the Year award, an individual must be a graduate of Eastern Illinois University with a journalism major or minor, or have considerable media experience at Eastern. In addition, he or she must have professional experience and a well-known reputation in journalism or a related field. The individual must continue to aid the journalism department or student media programs once they have graduated.

Fox began the first marketing and public relations department for southern New Jersey's largest county-sponsored healthcare facility. He also managed a \$1 million marketing budget and connected marketing, advertising, sales and public functions. He supervised a staff of seven people for a proprietary private psychiatric facility serving four states.

When asked, Fox could not narrow down his favorite job to just one. He believes there is a similarity between what gives him the greatest professional and personal satisfaction. Fox has set up three healthcare facilities and enjoys seeing the facilities improve.

"I think if I were to look at the evolution of my career, it has seen the growth from journalism to marketing and

to marketing communications. It wasn't so much a matter of just communicating what an organization was doing but looking at target audiences and the needs of the various public," Fox said.

New Jersey Hospital Association have recognized him. One in particular was awarded for bringing healthcare on site for hospitals. Other awards include communication awards, usually for printed pieces such as bro-



***Richard Fox makes a point to members of the Agency during a visit to Eastern's campus. He has visited twice to share his own expertise as a healthcare public relations executive.***

Besides his professional achievements, Fox has received more than 25 awards. The Public Relations Society of America - Philadelphia Chapter, American Society for Healthcare Marketing and Public Relations, Hospital Association of Pennsylvania, and

chures and newsletters.

Fox has contributed to Eastern in many ways. He founded and continues to fund the Fox-Thornburgh Visiting Professionals Fund. Fox contributes to the fund financially and professionally. He has served as a guest speaker for

journalism classes for the past two years. When he visits campus, he addresses journalism and PR classes and advises students individually to meet their needs.

"I find it beneficial to share some of the real world experiences with students," Fox said.

Cory Dimitrakopoulos of The Agency said, "He has come to a few of The Agency's meetings. The last time he came he talked about the workplace. Fox talked a lot about the PR industry as a whole, current PR trends and what we as journalism students should expect. Everything he says is so credible because he's been out there in the workforce."

James Tidwell, journalism department chair said, "He really shows an appreciation of what Eastern Illinois University has given him. I cannot believe the drive and energy that he has. He would talk to students individually, some for up to 30 minutes, giving advice on résumés and other work. We worked him almost to death, but he seemed to just really enjoy all of it."

Fox currently serves on the editorial boards for some of the largest newspapers in southern New Jersey. He is also a member of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

Fox is very active with church activities and enjoys taking half a dozen vacations throughout the year.

***This article originally appeared in the April-May 2009 Relay.***



# Long, McKinney named Journalists of the Year

## News release copy

Ray Long of the *Chicago Tribune* and Dave McKinney of the *Chicago Sun-Times* have been named Journalists of the Year by the Eastern Journalism Department.

Long and McKinney Springfield bureau chiefs of their respective newspaper were honored Saturday, April 25, at the 50th annual Journalism/Student Media Banquet in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

"Long and McKinney have had impressive careers covering state government and are deserving of the honor," said James Tidwell, chairman of the Journalism Department. The journalism faculty selected the two veteran reporters for induction into the Journalism Department's Hall of Fame for making an outstanding contribution to the field of journalism in the Eastern service region.

"Both men are exceptional reporters and their coverage of the rise and fall of Gov. Rod Blagojevich was exemplary," said John Ryan, chair of the department's Outreach and Service Committee, which makes the selection. "Long and his colleagues were leaders in breaking the arrest and indictment of Gov. Blagojevich and McKinney has led the state on coverage of Roland Burris' appointment to fill the U.S. Senate seat formerly held by President Obama."



**Ray Long of the *Chicago Tribune* has covered state government and legislation under five Illinois governors.**

In addition, Ryan said, the two reporters have done an outstanding job of covering the state capital.

Long, 51, has covered major legislation under five governors. He has been a reporter in the *Chicago Tribune's* Capitol bureau since February 1998. Before that he ran The Associated Press bureau in Springfield. He also covered Mayor Richard M. Daley, Chicago City Hall, Cook County Board, courts and state

government for the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

He is a graduate of the public affairs reporting program at Sangamon State University, now the University of Illinois at Springfield, where he is a member of that program's hall of fame. A Winchester native, he began his reporting career at the *Peoria Journal-Star*.

Long is married to Peggy Boyer, the former executive editor of *Illinois Issues* magazine and former bureau chief of WUIS-FM, the flagship of the Illinois public radio network. They reside in Springfield.

McKinney, 44, has been Springfield bureau chief for the *Chicago Sun-Times* since 1995.

Before that, he was a government and general assignment reporter at the *Daily Herald* of Arlington Heights, where he began his career after graduating from Eastern Illinois University with a journalism degree.

Born in Mattoon, McKinney and his wife, Maureen, are the parents of two children, Matthew, 18, and Laura, 16. Maureen McKinney, also an Eastern journalism graduate, is managing editor of *Illinois Issues* magazine. They also reside in Springfield.

Long and McKinney are the eighth and ninth to be named Journalist of the Year and be inducted into the Journalism Hall of Fame.



**Dave McKinney reports from the Capitol Building in Springfield for the *Chicago Sun-Times*.**

## Past winners of the Journalist of the Year Award

2001: William Hamel, retired publisher, *Times-Courier & Journal Gazette*, Charleston-Mattoon

2002: David Shaul, news director, WCIA (Channel 3) in Champaign

2003: Les Brownlee, long-time Chicago newspaper and broadcast journalist

2004: John Foreman, publisher, *News-Gazette*, Champaign-Urbana

2006: Cam Simpson, reporter, *Chicago Tribune*. Now Washington, D.C. correspondent, *Wall Street Journal*

2007: Jeff Nelson, retired managing editor, *Lincoln (Ill.) Courier*

2008: Madelein Doubek, managing editor, *Daily Herald*, Arlington Heights

# The DEN Person of the Year continued

his personal and professional experiences.

"I've been very blessed with the people and opportunities I've had," Johnson said. "To be able to work with the faculty and staff to develop a new college and to be able to help shape its future has been very rewarding.

"It's just been a fantastic experience. I cannot think of a better career to have than the one I've had."

And Johnson's feelings about the college reflect the sentiment felt by Crews all those years ago. When speaking of the success of the college, he is quick to say that the success lies in its departments and the faculty, staff and students that make them possible.

"The college is all about the students. The students and the faculty making themselves available to those students," he said. "I've always tried to be a reflection on those values."

In e-mail, Lord called Johnson an "exemplary administrator."

"Eastern and the College (of Arts and Humanities) have been blessed to have him serve so effectively as dean," Lord said. "As wonderful as he is as an administrator, however, he is an even more wonderful person."

Beyond the day-to-day administrative functions, though, lies perhaps Johnson's greatest achievement - one of the largest and most visible examples of his 'beyond the call' efforts - the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

"(Doudna) has been one of the most rewarding experiences for me, both personally and professionally," he said. "But really, it was a collaborative university effort. We all had a strong belief it would happen.

A great deal of credit must go to the faculty and students who rose to that occasion (of difficulty during construction)."

If Johnson seems humble and eager to spread any and all credit to others, it's because he is. Though, there is no shortage in those around him who would give all credit back to him.

On discussing the creation and existence of Doudna Fine Arts Center, Lynch said simply that Johnson was "absolutely central."

Hencken, who made several trips, traveling across the country with Johnson in order to acquire private money that was necessary to the completion of the building, said it was Johnson's dedication to the college and making sure faculty and staff knew that.

"I don't think anyone anticipated the amount of time we would be out of Doudna," Hencken said. "Jim kept the department running. I think the faculty realized that he was looking out for their best interests."

Hencken recalled back to a time when multiple classes had to be held off campus and the difficulty of juggling scheduling and logistics.

"I'm 99 percent sure enrollment in those areas (displaced off campus) actually went up over those years," he said. "To have classes in an old grocery store and to see enrollment actually go up really speaks to (Johnson's) quality of leadership.

"Caring. Real. Genuine. Jim Johnson is definitely going to be missed."

Lord said it is difficult to even imagine Doudna, as it exists today, without Johnson.

"Dean Johnson has been instrumental in making it all pos-

sible," Lord said. "Under his leadership, the fine arts and the fine arts center have brought Eastern to a new level of excellence in this area."

Crews called the fine arts center a "gem in the state of Illinois."

"From the first moment it was discussed...to the day Doudna Fine Arts Center opened, Jim Johnson poured his heart and soul in the planning," Crews said.

"He simply wouldn't let it die," Hencken asserted.

Through all the difficulties in acquiring funds and avoiding the inevitable red tape that accompanies such endeavors, though, Johnson would not let the project fail.

"He kept everybody believing and he kept pushing," Hencken said.

As he prepares for retirement, those around him cannot help but ponder at the difficulty of replacing Johnson.

"He's dedicated his life to the institution," Crews said. "He never did it for personal glory but for the over-all betterment of the university."

And as always, Lynch has seen and felt the strains of the job and realizes what Johnson's retirement will mean not only for the university but also for the man himself.

"If ever a man has earned retirement, it's Jim Johnson," Lynch said. "He can go back to his family that he loves deeply. This job requires sacrifice, it will eat you up.

"But he gets to go back to his art and I think he will thrive in retirement."

Johnson also acknowledges that he could not have done this job alone.

"I always felt I had the support of my colleagues and the

university," he said. "But especially my family, my wife Wanda, my three sons: Kirby, Brent and Tyler, and my daughter-in-law, Bridget.

"I'm very proud of this college," he said. "Again, I've been so blessed to have had the opportunities I've had."

It seems few, if any, around Johnson could find anything less than glowing remarks about his impact on campus, his impact on the faculty, staff and students that comprise the College of Arts and Humanities, and those that work with and around him.

Lord's feelings on Johnson?

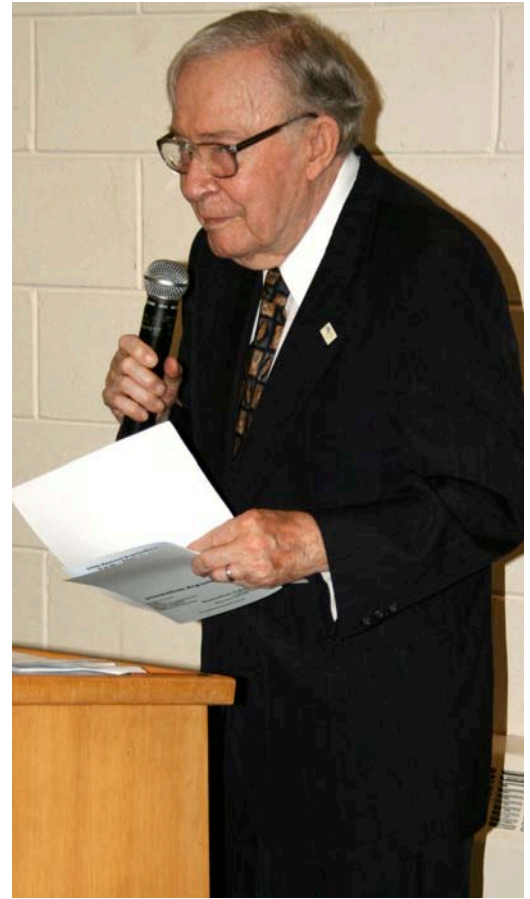
"I would simply say, be sure to thank Dean Johnson for all he has done," Lord said. "And tell him how great his legacy is and will be. He will be missed profoundly."

Perhaps Crews sums it up most succinctly: "He's an Eastern icon."

*Editor's Note: Each year, The Daily Eastern News picks a person or group of people as the Person of the Year. This award is given to the individual or individuals who have most impacted Eastern students in a positive way during the course of the year.*

*The Daily Eastern News' Spring 2009 editorial board, comprised of Kristina Peters, editor in chief; Dylan Polk, opinions page editor; Matt Hopf, news editor; Tyler Angelo, managing editor; Kevin Murphy, sports editor; Erin Matheny, photo editor; and Nicole Weskerna, online editor, named James Johnson, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, as this year's Person of the Year.*

# *Dr. Dan Thornburgh's many roles at Eastern captured on film over the years*



## ***More on Dr. Daniel E. Thornburgh, continued from page 1.***

the Illinois Dental Society and the Illinois Press Association.

"Named Citizen of the Year by the city of Charleston in 1971, Thornburgh served as a member of several civic and professional organizations, including the Council for Support and Advancement of Education, the Public Relations Society of America's Central Illinois Chapter, the Society of Profes-

sional Journalists' Central Illinois Chapter, the Association for Education in Journalism - Mass Communication, the Public Relations Student Society of America, the Illinois Recreation Council, the Charleston Rotary Club, the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, the Charleston City Council and the Charleston Recreation Board; in 1971, he was named

Citizen of the Year by the City of Charleston."

In addition to all this, Thornburgh also saw the need to support public relations and broadcasting education. He founded the Eastern chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America in 1983, and it is now named in his honor.

James Tidwell, department chairman, said, "Dr. Thorn-

burgh is a living asset for the department and his vision and foresight were instrumental in shaping the program into the nationally accredited program it is today."

Thornburgh continues to support the Journalism Department in scholarship funds, endowments and his time and expertise to the delight and benefit of students and faculty.

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