

the Journalist

a departmental newsletter for journalism majors & minors

MARCH/APRIL 2010 EDITION

Two named 'Journalists of the Year'

Kevin McDermott and the late Ron Ingram to receive 2010 award

By: Crystal Alston

Kevin McDermott of the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* and the late Ron Ingram of the *Decatur Herald & Review* have been named Journalists of the Year for 2010 by the Eastern Illinois University Journalism Department.

McDermott and Ingram will be honored Friday, April 30, during the 51st annual Journalism/Student Media Banquet in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

The journalism department faculty selected the two reporters for induction into the Journalism Department's Hall of Fame for making exceptional contributions to the field of journalism in the Eastern area.

"Both journalists have done a tremendous job as reporters," said John Ryan, chair of the Journalism Department's Outreach and Service Committee, which makes the selection.

"They are both more than worthy of this award."

McDermott is the Springfield bureau chief for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. McDermott graduated from Eastern in 1987. He has been back to visit and speak with classes on numerous occasions.

Ingram was born in Hastings, Mich., in 1946. He graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's in business but discovered he preferred the field of journalism and made it his life's work.

Ingram spent 40 years with the *Decatur Herald & Review*, covering Decatur and Macon County politics, crime, education system and the worlds of business and politics. He covered all those beats in his four decades as a reporter.

Sadly, on Dec. 6, 2009, Ingram's life was cut short due to complications of carbon monoxide inhalation. He was 63. Ingram's wife, Sue Ingram, is

scheduled to accept the honor at the banquet next month.

McDermott and Ingram are the 10th and 11th individuals to be named Journalists of the Year and be inducted into the EIU Journalism Hall of Fame.

Other Hall of Fame members include:

- 2009: Ray Long, Springfield bureau chief, *Chicago Tribune*;

- 2009: Dave McKinney, Springfield bureau chief, *Chicago Sun-Times*;

- 2008: Madeleine Doubek, managing editor, *The Daily Herald*, Arlington Heights;

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

- 2006: Cam Simpson, former *Chicago Tribune* and *Wall Street Journal* reporter, now European correspondent for Bloomberg News;

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

- 2003: Les Brownlee, long-

time Chicago newspaper and broadcast journalist;

- 2002: David Shaul, former news director, WCIA (Channel 3) in Champaign; and

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



The late Ron Ingram.
Photo courtesy of the
Herald-Review Web site.

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Warbler editor, summer DEN editor named

Student Publications meeting discusses changes for upcoming summer/year

By Amanda Smith

Kristin Jording, a sophomore journalism major, advertising minor, from Bloomington, was selected as the new *Warbler* editor, and Samantha "Sam" Sottosanto, junior journalism major, was selected as *The Daily Eastern News* 2010 summer editor.

Selections were made at the Student Publications Board meeting last month.

In reporting on this year's book, editor Christine Godbey said *The Warbler* staff had met all of its deadlines in wrapping up this year's yearbook. The book was to be finished in late March and delivered April 24.

Seniors who will be picking up their caps and gowns at the end of the semester will be able to pick up a yearbook, too.

Jording has already started her new position. "I'm excited about where to take the

Warbler," Jording said.

Discussing her appointment, Sottosanto said, "I'll be a good summer editor-in-chief."

Other discussion included the spring sports guides out last month with 12 pages of information about the spring sports at Eastern.

Also discussed was the increase in ad sales in the DEN, bringing more money into student publications in this difficult economy.

Spenser Nobles, editor, for *Minority Today*, another student publication, said, "The publication has had some inconsistencies and the staff and I are working to become consistent in every aspect."

The Vehicle, headed by Lisa Myers, had approximately 200 submissions including short stories, poetry, and other literary works. Myers is currently working on coordinating the



Kristin Jording reviews a copy of the Warbler. Jording was named editor of the 2010-2011 book.

Photo by Kelsey Karstrand



Sam Sottosanto reviews a copy of The Daily Eastern News. Sottosanto was named summer editor.

Photo by Kelsey Karstrand

readings of some of the stories during Celebration on Eastern's campus, April 23 — 25.

Betsy Jewell, business manager for student publications, has worked extensively with the next school year's budget, she said,

"The goal is to end in black ink; we are not going to spend money like crazy." Last year subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals were cut from the budget for the DEN to save money. Jewell also mentioned that all bills have not yet been paid. Student Publications still needs to pay for the yearbooks and that staffers are checking out, "prospecting new clients for next semester."

Two expenses coming up included photo equipment and computers.

"Photo equipment is going to have to be replaced soon," said John Ryan, director of

student publications.

Currently, two computers are purchased a year. With the budget so tight, that may need re-thinking. Another expense with the budget was increased travel for quite a few more advisers as well as students, as people attended workshops and were honored for their work.

Added Ryan, "We do not estimate any great jumps (in costs or spending)." Ryan also mentioned that they had done some "crazy cutting, and ended up with \$1,000 in the black, not in the red."

Board members commented that student publications had done very well, spending conservatively in the 2009-2010 school year. Student fees were to remain the same.

The budget will be acted on at the next board meeting.

Journalism's future: strong! according to panel

"The future of journalism is strong. The problem is how we are going to pay for it," said Journalism Professor Bryan Murley.

Murley's remarks were part of a panel on the Future of Journalism, hosted by the Department of Journalism and the College of Arts and Humanities, March 24, in the Doudna Fine Arts Center lecture hall.

Joining Murley were John Foreman, publisher, *News-Gazette*, Champaign-Urbana; Will Sullivan, interactive director, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*; and Nancy Foreman, executive producer, WCIA-TV 3, Champaign-Urbana. Acting Dean Jeffrey Lynch served as moderator.

A major issue the panel discussed was whether the evolving media would make enough money to stay afloat. Sullivan noted that a lot of money is being made on the Internet, and the newspapers' online presence is in the process of determining a way to be included.

Panelists also discussed the role of traditional newspapers in this evolving mix.

J. Foreman said that the industry is changing because of the economic pressures, but newspapers won't go away. "It simply won't happen," he said.

Sullivan also noted the me-

dia is in a downward spiral, but that people on the Internet are creating journalism and making money at it.

Nancy Foreman called the future of journalism "bright." She also insisted that in order to maintain a sound future in journalism, journalists must adapt to the digital age.

She noted that her station was not hiring, but it is not cutting jobs and it was replacing people who left or retired.

Panel members debated what was real journalism and the credibility of some online sites and blogs.

Murley noted how many blogs and sites are credible, coming from traditional journalism or following traditional journalism standards and approaches.

The advantage of the Internet is speed. People can find the information they need or want faster on the Internet and in the 24/7 cycle. The new technologies also make the access portable and ubiquitous.

Murley argued that anyone could capture news and share it and that is one of the advantages of the new technology. He argued it doesn't matter who captures it, as long as it is made available.

J. Foreman was adamant that

the traditional journalist should be the gatekeeper and should be considered the responsible deliverer of news.

Discussion also included "crowd sources" and "media literacy."

Normal citizens who gather information to support professional media organizations cover more stories are referred to as crowd sources. The information coming from these sources affect credibility and media trust.

Media literacy refers to the way the public is able to understand, interpret and analyze the information before them. This is how readers and viewers can decipher truth or bias. With the new media, sometimes this becomes a problem.

Panelists noted that a misled or misinformed public is the last thing anyone wants in a democracy. The consensus was that these problems have no tried and true solutions and will have to be worked out as the new media develops.

Either way, panelists agreed that journalism was not going away.

In fact, some of the discussion concerned the increasing or stable enrollments in journalism programs.

Murley thought the variety

of opportunities evolving in journalism was one of the reasons for this. Journalists learn to do so many more things. TV reporters have to write more for Web or online versions. Newspaper reporters have to create pod-casts and v-casts to supplement print coverage on the newspaper's Internet sites.

Another reason discussed for increased enrollment was the increasing opportunities for public relations and advertising professionals, which have traditionally come from journalism programs.

Panelists noted that some of the journalism economic woes are the result of the whole economy's problems right now.

And that journalism was coming off a very lucrative past, which made today's monetary problems seem worse.

J. Foreman noted that journalists have to love being journalists to do well and that means they put their whole hearts into the work.

"It's a calling, not a profession. You do it because you love it, not because of the pay," he said.

Contributing to this story were Crystal Alston, Samantha Billzrz, David Dial, Colleen Harrigan and Rachel Morris,

Get involved with Student Media!

**Agency,
Wednesdays,
6 p.m.
Buzzard Hall
Room 2434**

**DEN/DEN online,
Tuesdays, 7 p.m.,
Newsroom
Buzzard Hall
Room 1802**

**WEIU-TV &
WEIU-FM
Visit the newsroom
and ask!
Buzzard Hall
Room 1620**

Photojournalism instructor has work displayed

Douglas Lawhead to have a solo art photography show in Palestine, Ill.

One of Eastern's very own will be presenting his photographs in a solo photography show in Palestine, Ill.

Douglas Lawhead, technical support specialist who teaches photojournalism classes at Eastern, will have his work displayed for the entire month of April.

Up to 18 of his images will be on display for viewers.

The title of the show, "Back to my roots...With a Twist," explains part of his childhood. Lawhead grew up in Trimble which is about six miles northwest of Palestine.

"The twist is the images in the show are not straight photographs," Lawhead said. "All began as normal photographs... but they have been digitally altered to the point that they resemble oil paintings, watercolors, drawings or abstract art."

He said the point of the images is to make people see things differently.

All of the images that will be used in the show have been printed, and Lawhead has also been mounting and framing the photos in preparation for the show.

The show is the first time in 20 years that Lawhead has par-

ticipated in something like this. His other shows were among other artists and photographers and his images had not been digitally altered.

"This is a solo show and the digital art medium is a relatively new medium for me," Lawhead explained. "It will be interesting to see how it is received by people who have known me all my life, but who have never seen this type of work from me."

A year ago the Palestine Art Guild contacted him wanting to use his work for a show. At that point, however, he wasn't able to get things ready in time. In December, he contacted the guild and asked if they were interested in his doing a digital art show, and they accepted the proposal.

Palestine Art Guild is open for public viewing Monday



"Six-Mile Curve" by R. Douglas Lawhead.

Courtesy of Douglas Lawhead

through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is located about one hour southeast of Charleston and eight miles east of Robinson in Crawford County.

Lawhead said, "Palestine is developing into an artist's community."

Prior to EIU Lawhead was the head photographer for Mid-Illinois Newspapers, publishers of the *Charleston Times-Courier* and the *Mattoon Jour-*

nal-Gazette. He was previously a reporter and photographer at the *Robinson Daily News*.

During his career he has won numerous awards for his work as both a photographer and writer.

Lawhead holds an M.S. from the EIU School of Technology and a B.A. from EIU. He is active in the James Jones Literary Society and is also a licensed pilot and SCUBA diver.

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