Department reaccreditation

ACEJMC evaluating journalism department again this year

By Geoffrey ZuHone

Eastern Illinois University journalism faculty members are in the process of completing a detailed self-study of the program as they prepare for a visit this fall from representatives of the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC).

The program must go through the process every six years, according to James Tidwell, chair of the Journalism Department. He said the program was first accredited in 1982 and was reaccredited in 1988, 1994, 2000 and 2006.

Tidwell said ACEJMC currently accredits 113 programs, including four others in Illinois: University of Illinois, Southern Illinois Edwardsville, and North-Western University. Southern Illinois University Carbondale, western University.

The self-study centers around nine standards, according to Tidwell.

Department chair James Tidwell reviews the last self-study binders created by faculty for reaccreditation. The journalism program at EIU is up for reaccreditation this year.

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Annual department banquet days away

By Tara Rosenbaum

The Journalism Department will host the 52nd annual Journalism and Student Media Awards Banquet in the Grand Ballroom of the MLK Jr. Union, Friday, April 29.

The banquet celebrates the year and highlights the accomplishments of student publication staffs, all journalism students, donors and student publications board members and faculty. Twelve awards will be given out to students. Fifteen different scholarships will be given out to students. Students and donors will be recognized with a scholarship.

May 6, more than 300 students from 80 different high schools across the state will meet at Eastern for the IHSA state finals. Students will face off in 16 events including writing, design, and photography. Sally Renaud, journalism professor, is a coordinator for the IHSA Journalism State Finals.

The top six participants in each event will be awarded with medals. Professionals in the journalism industry judge the winners for each event. "Local and national journalism people critique and help each student get better," she said. "The judges are fantastic. It's really good for the professional media and each group has to be responsible to help one another to help further the industry." Another coordinator and co-founder for the IHSA Journalism State Finals is James Tidwell, journalism department chair, who helped start the event in April 2006. During the first year of the competition, they ran into difficulties while facilitating the program.

For the future, Tidwell would like to add more categories and get more schools to participate. "Adding more categories makes it more complicated and it's hard to get a school to host sectionals, because it's a lot of work," he said. "So we appreciate all the helping hands. If it weren't for all the helpers it wouldn't be possible. Everybody pitches in and helps. President Perry gives a welcome, local caterers help with food; we rely on so many people for help and we appreciate them all," she said.

For more information about the IHSA Journalism competition, visit ihsa.org.

Get your ticket for the 52nd Annual Journalism and Student Media Awards Banquet from Beth Kastl in the Journalism Dept. Office!

Looking toward the future

By Anton Jefferson

This year broadcast- ing is a new category at the Illinois High School Association’s Journalism State Finals, where students will showcase their talents in live broadcast.

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More than 300 high school kids are excited, nervous, working really hard. By the end of the day I am tired and if it weren't for all the helpers it wouldn't be possible." Students showcase their creativity in each event. "Editorial cartooning blows me away. I know nothing about editorial cartooning, but I am impressed!" Renaud said.

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Broadcast category added to IHSA competition

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A Tribute to Daniel E. Thornburgh

Remembering the man who dedicated his life to journalism and public relations

By Ellie Sternaman and Geoffrey ZuHone

After a lifetime of devotion to the journalism and public relations professions, Daniel E. Thornburgh died on Thursday, Jan. 13, but this is not to say that his legacy will be forgotten. He was 80 years old.

Thornburgh graduated in 1952 from Indiana State University with a language arts degree. His passion for journalism was evident in his undergraduate career. He was an editor of the student newspaper, a writer for the Terre Haute Star newspaper and a part-time reporter and news writer for WTHI Radio.

After serving in the Army for two years, Thornburgh started work on his master's degree in journalism at the University of Indiana in 1959 as director of information in what would be a 34-year-long career and a lifelong commitment to the community.

From 1965 to 1979, Thornburgh served as director of journalism studies housed in the English Department. During this time he began building the journalism studies program, first creating a journalism major in 1974, then establishing a journalism department in 1978.

“He worked so hard getting that done. He would teach way more than he was required to teach just so the students would have the classes available. He was a guy who really had a vision to create an outstanding major and department,” said John David Reed, quoted in the Times-Courier. Reed was hired by Thornburgh in 1972 as a journalism instructor.

From 1979 to 1983 he served as chairman of the department, obtaining national accreditation of the program in 1982. During this time, Thornburgh also received his doctoral degree in higher education from Indiana University.

“Professor Reed’s loyalty to the university and the journalism program is a lasting testament to what he accomplished at the university,” James Tidwell, current director of the journalism department, said in an article from the Times-Courier that Thornburgh’s last contributions to the department can be seen in the journalism scholarship and visiting professionals funds that bear his name, and the plaque that recognizes his financial support for the renovation of Buzzard Hall.

Thornburgh, in his later years, speaks at an event for the Harold Dispatch. Photo courtesy of the journalism department

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Students learn how to cover crises

By Geoffrey ZuHone


Rice shared his experiences about the crisis with Dr. Sally Renaud’s copy editing class through a conference call.

“The Arizona Daily Star had to think of its audience,” sophomore journalism major Elizabeth Edwards reported. “They would not show a large mugshot of the shooter so as to not disturb the audience.”

Mike did not want to disturb his audience, but he wanted to inform them of the situation, sophomore journalism major Jasmine Randall said.

“Rice did it with the mugshot. He also did it with the blood and wounds,” Randall said.

Rice did not show the splattered pavement with human remains scattered around the crime scene. Instead he showed the minor wounds of some victims and anyone helping at the scene, the copy-editing class explained.

Rice also told the class what it was like to report on a crisis in one’s own coverage area.

“He [Rice] said it was hard to stay detached and not show any emotion in the writing,” junior journalism major Marcus Smith said.

“Mike talked about how everyone was affected, and it was hard to draw back because of the community relations,” Edwards said.

The Star also did not focus on one aspect of the shooting during the following days of the shooting. It focused instead on all of the stories, from the young girl to the federal judge who were killed.

“They [the Star staffers] did not want to focus only on Giffords,” said Randle. “They wanted to make sure that the other victims’ stories were told too.”

In addition to telling all of the stories, the Star also took a lot of its information it reported from social media, sophomore journalism major Ashley Holstrom said.

“The paper did not have the resources like many national ones do, so it used the information it could get and focused on delivering that message to its readers,” she said.

Renaud also said that Rice and his team took a lot of time and effort to report on the Arizona shooting to its audience. “This was a community story, and they reported for their community,” she said.

Get involved with student media!

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<th>Warbler, Sundays, 5 p.m.</th>
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The Agency

Come Join the Agency!
Meetings Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Buzzard Hall, Room 2434
Thornburnh

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In his time at Eastern, Thornburgh founded multiple organizations including Society of Collegiate Journalists, The Agency and Public Relations Student Society of America, which bears his name. Thornburgh also led the expansion of the student-operated Eastern News into a daily newspaper.

Before retiring in 1993, he served as director of university relations and a special assistant to the president.

Thornburgh’s efforts didn’t stop here.

Thornburgh was the publisher of the Casey Banner-Times, a part-time night editor of the Times-Courier and a journalism consultant for Neoga News, Illinois Opinion Writers and the Effingham Daily News. He also held the position of public relations consultant for the American Dental Association, the Illinois Dental Association and the Illinois Press Association.

“Personally, I learned a few important lessons from D.T.; perhaps none as important as his example of being an engaged member of the community,” said Reed. “He helped me to understand that a journalist didn’t have to disconnect from the people and organizations around him; in fact, those connections could make a better, more rounded journalist—and a better human being.”

D.T. used his understanding of local history, politics and people to bring context to stories and issues.


Thornburgh was the recipient of several awards for his educational and community service. In 1971, he was named Man of the Year by the Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce and received the Outstanding Adviser award by the Council of College Publications Advisers.

In 2003, Thornburgh also received the Merit Award from the Association for the Preservation of Historic Coles County Illinois and in 2004 was named to the Rotary District Hall of Fame.

Thornburgh’s legacy will live on through his many contributions to EIU and the Charleston community.

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