

the Journalist

a departmental newsletter for journalism majors & minors

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Online: 'A chance in hell'

By Marcus Smith
Editor

The Journalism Department's latest visiting professional spoke to several classes and met with staffs of the *Warbler* and *The Daily Eastern News* during his time on campus Sept. 20-22.

The visit by David Putney, senior web producer for PilotOnline, the website for *The Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk, Va., was funded through the Fox-Thornburgh Visiting Professionals Program established in 2007 by 1971 EIU graduate Richard Fox, a retired hospital public relations and marketing director, to honor Dr. Daniel Thornburgh, the founding chairman of the department who died in 2011. Putney is the 12th journalist/public relations practitioner to visit campus since the program started in 2007.

During his visit to a combined session of Advanced Editing and Online Journalism, Putney, a



Photo by Marcus Smith

David Putney talks with Professor Bryan Murley Sept. 22 before class. Putney set out to be a reporter and ended up as a copy editor and moved on to be a designer.

1995 EIU journalism graduate and Peoria native, discussed his role in the newspaper's print and online series on a combat hospital

in Afghanistan called "A chance in hell."

The online version of this series
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Reaccreditation team coming

By Marcus Smith
Editor

The Journalism Department will host four representatives from the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC) Oct. 9-12 as it seeks national reaccreditation.

In preparation for the visit, journalism faculty members prepared a comprehensive self-study that has been sent to each member of the evaluation team, according to James Tidwell, chair of the department. He said the process takes place every six years. The EIU program was first accredited in 1982 and reaccredited in 1988, 1994, 2000 and 2006. ACEJMC currently accredits 111 programs in journalism and mass communications.

While on campus, the site team members will inspect facilities and equipment, visit classes, meet with faculty members, students, administrators and representatives from other university departments. They will present their report and recommendations to EIU President William Perry on the last day of their visit. The site team report will then be considered by the



Photo by Marcus Smith

Dana Jackson, a senior journalism major, works on labeling files in preparation for the accreditation team coming Oct. 9-11. Jackson is working on a concentration in writing and reporting, and she is also the associate editor of Fresh.

ACEJMC Accrediting Committee at its meeting in Chicago in March. The entire council will make the final decision when it meets in Washington, D.C., in April.

Team members will observe classes and ask students what they think about the department, what they think about advisement, how the department is preparing students for the profession

and other questions about the department.

"It's good to look at your program by standards that have been created by a body and see how you fit in with those standards," Tidwell said. "It's good to do a self reflection and see what you are doing, otherwise you would never take this much time to do that."

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Reaccreditation

Tidwell said the self study is structured so that the department knows what information ACEJMC is looking for.

Professor Lola Burnham said ACEJMC is looking at things like curriculum, number of classes the faculty teach, research the faculty have done and what students do in the class room. She said she has no idea the number of hours that went into the self study.

"It's time consuming, but that doesn't matter because we think that it's worth it," Burnham said.

Tidwell had high praise for Burnham's work on the self-study.

"She edited it all and I couldn't have possibly got it all done without her. She's just been fantastic," Tidwell said, referring to Burnham. "I think it is a pretty good self study, and I think we will be in good shape," Tidwell said.

Ann Brill, dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas, is the chair of the EIU site

Self-study by section

Mission Governance & Administration: James Tidwell

Curriculum & Instruction: Sally Renaud & Joe Gisondi

Diversity & Inclusiveness, Bryan Murley & Terri Johnson

Full-time & Part-time Faculty: Janice Collins & Brian Poulter

Scholarship: Research, Creativity & Professional Activity: Eunseong Kim & Janice Collins

Student Services: Joe Gisondi & Sally Renaud

Resources, Facilities & Equipment: Brian Poulter & Eunseong Kim

Professional & Public Service: Terri Johnson & John Ryan

Assessment of Learning Outcomes: Lola Burnham

team. Other members are Phillip Jeter, chair of the Department of Mass Communications at Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina, Charlyne Berens, associate dean of the

College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Merrill Rose, an independent communications consultant in New York City.

Guertin feels heat from Fire

By Merritt Whitley

Kyle Guertin, a senior communications studies major, completed his first internship this summer in Bridgeview, Ill. Guertin worked with Chicago Fire, a professional soccer team, from June through August of this year.

His job consisted of editing and filming different action shots of the team. Guertin also produced a fan video that was shown on the jumbotron at games to get the audience pumped up.

Guertin was a tremendous help said Matt Chandler, the digital media specialist of the Chicago Fire soccer team.

"Kyle always had a great attitude. It was good having

him during the crunch time of the season," Chandler said. "We were lucky to have him, and we appreciate the quality of the work he did."

Guertin played a major role in the editing process of footage for the team. Most of his work dealt with digital content and social media. He also edited some commercials for Comcast and filmed player interviews.

"I learned what it was like to see the operations of a professional sports team," Guertin said. "I also learned a bunch of new editing techniques and did a lot of online work."

Guertin said he is not sure if he would do another internship, but he definitely recommends the

opportunity other students.

"Internships are great for résumés and gives you a huge boost," he said. "I made a lot of connections this summer. It was good to gain experience in a real working environment instead of the classroom."

Chandler said he also agrees that internships are absolutely necessary and important for college students to complete.

"In today's competitive workplace, internships help give you that extra experience that other kids may not receive," Chandler said. "These opportunities help to differentiate yourself from other kids as well as helping you to progress your career at the same time."



Photo by Danny Damiani

Kristin Jording, a senior journalism major, looks through the gift bags and yearbooks laid out on the table of the Jostens plant in Clarksville, Tenn., Sept. 9. Jording is the editor of the Warbler, Eastern's yearbook.

Warbler staff tours yearbook plant

By Lauren Lombardo

Sept. 8, the *Warbler* editors visited Tennessee to check out the Jostens yearbook plant.

Jostens is a large company based in Clarksville where the *Warbler* will be published. The company creates a range of products from yearbooks to class rings.

The *Warbler* staff members who went on the trip included Editor Kristin Jording, Design Editor Colleen Harrigan, Managing Editor Danny Damiani, and *Warbler* Adviser Dr. Elizabeth Viall.

The main purpose of visiting the yearbook plant was for the

editors to get a chance to meet with the graphic artist to design a front cover for this year's edition.

"We went in knowing what we wanted and seeing how it could be done," Jording said. "We wanted an opinion and ideas on how to do it. It's not set in stone yet, but we'll make some tweaks."

Besides meeting with the graphic artist, the staff also toured the plant. During the tour they saw the actual press Jostens uses to print the book.

"It was a little hectic in there but they're expanding from two huge presses to four," Harrigan said.

Jostens is currently in the middle of changing locations to support its expansion.

"We sat down and talked with our plant representative contact Tim Ross," Jording said. "He also showed us around and we got a chance to look at other college yearbooks they've published."

The editors said that everyone at Jostens was extremely friendly and welcoming.

"They even gave us some goodies to take home, like a personalized portfolio," Jording said.

Warbler, continued on next page

Accreditation Team's Tentative Schedule

Monday Oct. 10

7 a.m.- breakfast with faculty
Buzzard 2504
9-11 a.m.- attend classes and meet
individually with faculty
11 a.m.- meet with students
Buzzard 1180
Noon-1p.m.- lunch
1p.m.- meet with Dean Bonnie Irwin
DFAC 2211
2:30 p.m.- meet with students
in individual concentrations
 Writing and Reporting: Buzzard 1121
 Editing and Design: Buzzard 1819
 Photojournalism and
 Public Relations: Buzzard 1441
 Broadcast News and New Media:
 Buzzard 2442
4 p.m.- meet with individual faculty
5 p.m.- meet in their workroom

Tuesday Oct. 11

9-11 a.m.- attend classes and meet
individually with faculty
11 a.m.- meet with Provost Blair Lord
Old Main 105
12:15-1:30 p.m. - lunch with
representatives of
other departments
MLK Union, The Loft
1:30 p.m.- attend classes
work in workroom

Wednesday Oct. 12

7:30 a.m.- meet with James Tidwell
for breakfast and review
the report
9 a.m.- meet with
President William Perry and
review the report
10 a.m.- leave campus

Warbler

The majority of the two day, one night trip was paid for by Jostens including the hotel stay and lunch.

The editors came back with not only a cover design for this year's *Warbler* but many interesting facts about Jostens and printing on a professional level.

Of all the yearbooks Jostens prints, about 10 percent of them are college yearbooks. The rest of Jostens business goes to high school and middle school yearbooks which do not entail as much detail and are not as high

quality.

The experience of the trip helped the editors get a first-hand look at how long and detailed the publishing process really is.

"To see the process they go through after we send the work in makes our deadline even more important," Jording said. "After New Year's Day, the workers at Jostens don't get any days off until May."

The *Warbler* editors not only got to visit with Jostens yearbook plant on the trip.

"While we were down there we were able to visit Western Kentucky University where the

Talisman yearbook is published," Damaini said. "They're an award-winning yearbook. We visited and met up with the editor-in-chief. They had an amazing facility."

Previously The *Warbler* has been published by Walsworth yearbooks. This is the first year the *Warbler* will be printed by Jostens and will continue to be for the next three years.

As for a trip next year, it will be up to the new *Warbler* editor to decide if he or she would like to personally experience Jostens yearbook plant.

All the students are senior journalism majors.

Hyder recalls his time in England

By Katelyn Ifft

Eastern Illinois University students are given the opportunity to study abroad at a university in another part of the world. Through this they can gain a whole new perspective on what the life and culture is like in that country and come back more knowledgeable about the world.

Sometimes, even the professors are offered this same experience.

Last semester, Dr. Les Hyder, journalism professor, was given the unique opportunity to teach at Harlaxton College in England.

Hyder said this university is primarily a study abroad school that is linked with the University of Evansville in Indiana. Holding a maximum of 200 students, Harlaxton is a small university.

Students and faculty both live together in Harlaxton Manor, which provides for more interaction between the two groups, Hyder said.

Hyder said that many opportunities for field trips are offered, which allows for an integrated learning environment. Students not only learn about the country where they are staying;

they also get to experience it for themselves.

As for Hyder's personal experience at Harlaxton, he couldn't be more pleased. He said that because classes meet for longer periods of time and more frequently throughout the week, the terms at Harlaxton are a couple of weeks shorter than here at EIU. This also means that both students and faculty need to be on top of their game at all times.

He said at first not having a television was hard for him, but he became so busy with planning for classes and grading papers that there was no time for watching television. He got information on the latest news from online British, European, and international media.

England also provided new and exciting things to explore, such as the extremely old buildings. In the United States, Hyder said, there are few buildings over 100 years old; there, few buildings are less than 100 years old. The variety of potato dishes that were served also surprised him.

"I had no idea potatoes could be prepared in so many different ways that some variation of potato

dish could be served at every daily meal," Hyder said.

He also said that meals over there are also prepared with less salt and fat, making small portion sizes much more filling.

Hyder said the profession of journalism is a little different from how it is here in the United States, as well. While the concept is the same, there is no freedom of the press stated in the constitution, limiting what writers can include in their articles. The media is also more biased, and articles are often exaggerated to the point where they sacrifice accuracy.

Overall, Hyder said that teaching at Harlaxton was "a positive experience for me and the students."

Last semester, six students from EIU were at Harlaxton. The program coordinators are trying to get more Eastern students to take advantage of this opportunity.

It is a secure and easy transition in a comfortable environment, which is a great way to get a taste of the study abroad program, Hyder said.

"My four months there will be among the most memorable of my lifetime," Hyder said.

Putney

incorporated photographs, slide shows and videos about different people from the hospital.

He said that designing it was "a labor of love." "This is a recent project I worked on," Putney said. "It pretty much rolled together a lot of the things that I've done through out the years in one place."

Putney said close military installations mean the reporters often focus on the military.

"When I say Norfolk you probably

all think Navy," he said. "Because that's where our biggest thing in Norfolk is—the world's largest Navy base, East Coast Jet Master Base is there. It's just this big military town."

He said a photographer and writer came up with the idea. When they arrived in Afghanistan, they realized this was a better story than they had imagined. They chose which doctors, nurses and patients to follow and decided they would tell the story from a personal perspective.

Putney said this raised ethical

and editorial dilemmas.

"It raises questions of how far do you push the envelope in what you show?" Putney said. "What is your duty to these soldiers who have been serving their country. How do you show something that's so violent and so terrible that people don't want to look at it?"

He said that they had to balance these and not show visuals that shock or offend, but still tell the story. They had to have good reasons for running the photos and they had to tell the story.