

# the Journalist

a departmental newsletter for journalism majors & minors

## Warbler is a pacemaker finalist

By Beth Steele

Finalists have elegant and sophisticated design, balanced coverage, strong and detailed writing, outstanding photography and comprehensive themes. This is what the American College Press looks for in Pacemaker finalists.

“Capture” the 2010-2011 edition of the Warbler Yearbook was recently announced as a finalist for the 2011 ACP Pacemaker award. “A Pacemaker is the Pulitzer of college media,” Kristin Jording, editor of the yearbook, said.

According to Brittney Ferris, the 2010-2011 design editor, this has been a goal for her and yearbook since she came to Eastern. “It was my senior year and I really wanted to achieve this goal,” Ferris said.

“Capture” was submitted last year and was one of 53 entries. According to ACP judges evaluated the entries and selected 16 finalists for two categories, 300 pages or fewer, or more than 30 pages.

“Capture” is in the less than 300 pages category and is competing against four other yearbooks.



The Warbler Yearbook editorial staff who contribute pictures, stories and design to the yearbook, from left, Colleen Harrigan, Danny Damiani, Kristin Jording, Olivia Angeloff, Jasmine Randle, and Megan Johnson.

Photo by Liz Viall

Ferris said that this book didn't have one weak area. She added that they had a senior staff with experience working together and they did not have to sacrifice their image when making the book.

“Brittney and I talk about going with a classy look and looked

at what Western Kentucky and the Arbutus does,” Jording said. “Christine (the 2009-2010 yearbook editor) started a revolution.”

Yearbook advisor Sally Renaud said that a staff retreat in 2009 with Laura Widmer, an adviser of

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# Homecoming North 2012



Eastern alums enjoy each others company at Homecoming North: from left, Geneva White, class of 2000; Heather Cygan, class of 2001; and Dan Fields, class of 1997.

Photo by Bryan Murley

## By Lauren Lombardo

Eastern Illinois University journalism alumni and current professors reunited at Homecoming North 2012 Feb. 18.

James Tidwell, journalism department chair and professor of journalism, said Homecoming North is an event held every year

in February for alumni, former student media workers and professors to get together and hang out.

Homecoming North provides a convenient get together for Chicago-land alumni. This year, the event was held at Kincade's Bar and Grill, 950 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Tidwell summed up the event in three words: "Food, drink and fellowship."

About 60 people attended the event, including significant others of alumni, he said.

"We had a good group there usually tends to be a majority of younger alums," Tidwell said. "But this year it was cross section of people."

He said former department chair Dave Reed started Homecoming North more than 20 years ago but the last 3-4 years have had particularly good turn outs.

Marco Santana, fall 2008 journalism graduate, said he has attended every year since he has graduated.

"It really is an inspiring weekend and I always return to my newsroom re-energized," Santana said.

He said he owes his professors so much and considers each of them a mentor.

"Because of them, I have had a great start to my career and to this day they offer advice whenever I seek it from them," he said. "So anytime I can see them and thank

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# New yearbook editor for 2012

By Jordan Thiede

Getting ahead in school will help students get ahead in the tough job market.

Junior journalism major Danny Damiani knew this and decided he had to do what was best for his future.

The position of editor of the *Warbler* seemed to be something Damiani was destined to become as soon as he began his college career at EIU.

Damiani, a South Holland, Ill. native, attended high school at Seton Academy before coming to Eastern.

“I was on my yearbook in high school for four years,” Damiani

said. “I got more serious my junior year and came to Eastern knowing what I wanted to do.”

After beginning work on the yearbook, Damiani became photo editor and eventually moved to managing editor.

This is when he started to learn how to do everything regarding work on the yearbook and became a “jack of all trades.”

Damiani said the chance to be in charge appealed to him. He is looking forward to being able to lead a staff rather than follow an editor.

Damiani admits that he had some hesitations when it came to taking on his new role. He said when taking on a new challenge such as this he will always worry more about things relying on him and wonder if he will do well. Damiani added however, “You get over that pretty quickly.”

He was able to pull through his initial qualms with support from those he works with. “Everybody

encourages everybody to do their best,” Damiani said.

Damiani is also well aware of how time-consuming his role as editor will

be. He already spends long hours working on the yearbook as it is, but knows that the experience he will gain will be well worth it in the end when it comes to his future.

“Any type of position like this will help you to get a job,” Damiani said. He hopes the knowledge he gains will give him an advantage over others seeking the same position.

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‘Any type of position like this will help you to get a job.’ —Damiani

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Danny Damiani a junior journalism major and new editor of the *Warbler*.

Photo courtesy of Danny Damiani’s facebook page.

When it comes to others who may be hesitant about taking on a position that demands more of them, Damiani encourages them to take the chance and not worry about what might happen. “Even if you fail you might as well fail trying,” he said.

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## Warbler

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the Northwest Missouri State University yearbook, helped the staff achieve this goal.

“She didn’t say what it takes to win a Pacemaker but she worked with the staff on what a college yearbook is,” Renaud said.

“It was my freshman year and

the first year of color and that was a turning point,” Danny Damiani, 2010-2011 photo editor said. “We have seen it progress and becoming a finalist is important.”

The Pacemaker winner will be announced at the ACP/CMA National College Media Convention in Chicago, Oct. 31 through Nov. 2 2012. “It is going to be a long wait but an exciting time until then,” Ferris said.

Damiani is excited because

when they announce the winner he will be one of the only students on campus that actually worked on the book.

Jording said this was the cherry on top for the next book coming out in May and although she won’t be here for the conference, since she is graduating in May, she said that it will be exciting for the new staff and that makes it more exciting for everyone.

# Students hear of PAR master's

By Andrew Rosati and Crystal Shipp

As many Eastern Illinois students near graduation, the next phase of their life is constantly on their minds. Finding a career may be on the top of many students' list but for those who are still uncertain they could look into graduate school.

Charles Wheeler, the director of public affairs master's program at the University of Illinois Springfield, presented his program to EIU students, explaining many advantages that come with attending this university.

The focus of the U of I Springfield program is for those looking to become public affairs reporters. The first semester is spent in the classroom taking 18 hours of class, with the second semester being a full-time internship with a news medium in the State Capital.

"This program is for those students who are interested in news reports that will be covering community issues," said Wheeler. "This program is a 10 month long program."

Applicants must have a mini-

mum 2.5 GPA during their undergrad, a 3.0 to remain in the program, display the basic foundations of writing, and have the desire to become a reporter.

The cost of the graduate program is \$6,000 for in-state students, and \$12,000 for those coming from out of state. During the internship students will receive a \$525 monthly stipend that is transferred over to pay for their education.

Students who apply for scholarships through the University receive between \$500-1500 100 percent of the time, with the larger amounts going to out-of-state students to help cover the higher tuition costs.

A number of Eastern alums have successfully navigated this master's program and found it to be very good for their long term goals.

Although many students do not have graduate school anywhere on



Charles Wheeler, director of public affairs master's program at U of I Springfield.

Photo courtesy of Wheeler's facebook page.

their radar, students need to remember that obtaining a job is difficult right out of school and they need to keep all options open.

Wheeler said the University of Illinois Springfield's public affairs reporter program has a nearly 100 percent placement rate.

"Another 10 months of schooling may not be an attractive alternative for students, but

the investment is worthwhile when it comes to the next 40 years of their work life," Terri Johnson, associate journalism professor, said.

This program has helped many students to a career and journalism majors or minors should really consider this program if they are thinking of a master's now, she added.

More information is available at <http://www.uis.edu/publicaffairsreporting/about/index.html>.

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Sally Renaud, adviser for the Warbler, said she believes Damiani is the right choice for this position as he, "displays the qualities important for an editor."

She added that he has the talent necessary for the position along with the ability to nurture a staff

and get those that are new up to speed.

Renaud added that Damiani has an excellent understanding of all aspects of the EIU campus and believes this is vital because, "that's what a yearbook has to do, reflect all of campus."

She noted that Damiani is assuming a position that has a long tradition, so he and the rest of the staff have a responsibility to show respect to history and also to move

the program forward for those that will come after them.

Kristin Jording, a senior journalism major, has been editor of the Warbler for two years and thinks Damiani will do a good job when he takes over her position.

"Danny knows how to talk to people. He knows about the yearbook and has its best interests at heart," Jording said. "He'll continue what we have started."

# North

from page 2

them in person, I make sure to do it.”

Tidwell said one of the main reasons the journalism department hosts Homecoming North every year is to keep connections strong.

“It’s really good for us to keep those connections with alumni; it’s well worth it,” he said.

Tidwell said he believes the journalism department has a special advantage over other departments because of relationships built during student media work.

“We have closer connections with the students,” Tidwell said. “We work with them pretty closely.”

Sally Renaud, associate professor of journalism, said Homecoming North is a nostalgic time for alumni and professors to reminisce and tell stories.

“They are very loyal to Eastern, they’re loyal to student media and they have fond memories of their time here,” she said. “They love their time being on staff that’s where their friendships were formed.”

Santana said the tighter, close-knit relationships with professors helps Homecoming North succeed.

“We want to revisit those friendships on top of reuniting with classmates,” he said.

Lola Burnham, assistant

professor of journalism, said Homecoming North is a great way to keep in touch with former students.

“You get so wrapped up in your students’ lives when they’re here for four years; it’s always nice to get to see them in person.”

Renaud said she believes that the close connection between faculty and students is the best part of the Journalism Department.

“It’s really personal because while they’re here and part of student media, we travel together, we work nights with them, and we see them for four years,” Renaud said. “That relationship is really different.”

Burnham said Homecoming



Professor Joe Gisondi, left, chats with Dan Gire, class of 1974.

Photo by Bryan Murley

North is a good way to keep in touch with students, and a tool for networking. “You can network to hear about jobs or pass along information to newer alums looking for work,” Burnham said.

Besides Tidwell, Renaud, and Burnham other current journalism professors in attendance were John Ryan, Bryan Murley and Joe Gisondi.



From left, Marco Santana, class of 2001; Tyler Angelo, class of 2010; Jason Duarte, class of 2008; and Emily Steele, class of 2011 catch up on what’s happening.

Photo by Bryan Murley



Alex McNamee awarded for sports feature.



Colleen Harrigan awarded for feature page design



Shelley Holmgren, 3rd place winner.

**Congratulations to the Illinois Collegiate Press Association winners:**

**1st place**  
Emily Steele  
Alex McNamee

**2nd place**  
Colleen Harrigan  
Kimberly Foster  
Dave Balson

**3rd place**  
Seth Schroeder and Colleen Harrigan  
*(entertainment supplement for Verge)*  
&  
Seth Schroeder and Shelley Holmgren  
*(graphic illustration)*



Emily Steele awarded for critical review



Seth Schroeder, 3rd place winner.



Dave Bolson awarded for column and editorial writing.



Kimberly Foster awarded for sports photo and news.