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WEIU goes to the Emmys

By Crystal R. Alston

On Oct. 3, the WEIU-TV News Watch staff was awarded a Mid-America Emmy for best student news production during the 2009 Mid-America Emmy Gala in St. Louis.

News Watch students who attended describe the trip as a once in a life-time experience.

Dennis Roche, WEIU general manager, and Kelly Runyon, news director, attended the award ceremony at the Grand Renaissance Hotel in St. Louis, MO., along with 14 students.

Two students were given the opportunity to attend the Emmys at the station's expense.

However, Roche said he was excited to hear that 12 additional students were attending at their own expense.

Zach Nugent, senior journalism major, said the group was thrilled to even be nominated.

"But the [chance] to actually attend the event, we viewed that as a once in a lifetime opportunity," Nugent added.

The students stayed at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown St. Louis where they roomed together for the weekend.

Being a black-tie event, the men dressed in tuxedos and the women wore dresses.

"It almost looked like we were headed to prom," Nugent



WEIU News Watch team members attended the Mid-America Emmy Gala in St. Louis. The news team won a Mid-America Emmy for the best student production.

Photo courtesy of WEIU

said.

Nearly 400 people attended the event, mostly all professionals in the industry.

Because most of the attendees were professionals, the stu-

dents were able to network and speak with them about what the field is like and about future job opportunities.

General manager of KSDK-TV in St. Louis, Lynn Beall,

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WEIU-TV programs soon to air in HD

By Victoria Paisley

WEIU-TV has received a \$515,000 grant from the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program to convert it to high definition.

Denis Roche, WEIU-TV general manager, said new studio cameras, pedestals, field cameras, Avid editing software upgrades, storage on computers and several other new pieces of equipment will be purchased with the grant money.

Roche said they should have the new equipment this winter and viewers will be able to watch the programs on WEIU in HD by early January 2010.

He added that WEIU employees will need to be trained

on the new equipment.

As far as the transition, Roche believes it will go smoothly.

"I am happy that we will be able to air those programs in HD, but what makes me the happiest is that news will be in HD," Roche said.

Converting to HD is a huge résumé builder for the students who work at WEIU News Watch, Roche explained.

He explained what an advantage students will have to experience HD since it is becoming so popular in the television industry.

News Director Kelly Runyon agreed with Roche.

"It really shows our commitment to broadcast and to pro-

'It really shows our commitment to broadcast & to provide the students with the best opportunity...'

—Runyon

vide the students with the best opportunity," Runyon said.

She said it will not only give students more experience to put on their résumés but it will improve New Watch's level of competition.

Runyon explained how having better quality picture and sound that comes with HD will give students a leg up in national broadcasting competitions.

After applying for the grant several times, Roche said all WEIU staffers were thrilled when they found out they were awarded the money.

"We were high-fiving each other in the hallway and jumping up and down, very business-like," Roche said.

One of the new cameras WEIU-TV staffers use for producing High Definition television for the station's newscasts is shown on the left. The new equipment produces much better quality picture and gives the students experience with the latest industry standard.

Photo courtesy of WEIU-TV



**Write, take photographs, work on PR campaigns
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Terri Johnson, tljohnson@eiu.edu, for more information!**

PBS series to feature EIU in each introduction

By Krista Henery

They can be seen rock climbing, visiting car museums or taking walks at beautiful gardens in Indiana.

Heartland Highways hosts, Lori Casey and Kate Pleasant, shoot stories about everything from interesting people to fascinating places around Illinois, Indiana and Missouri.

Heartland Highways is now in its eighth season on WEIU-TV and will also be celebrating its 100th episode this season. The new season will begin airing this February.

Heartland Highways airs locally every Friday and Sunday at 4 p.m., on WEIU-TV. A full list of national stations the program airs on can be found at www.weiu.net.

While viewers can expect to join the ladies in every mile of the journeys, Casey and Pleasant are looking forward to a new approach, introducing the programs from Eastern Illinois University for the new season.

"After producing our 'Heartland Highways at Home' show last year, we took a closer look at EIU and spent a lot of time filming the campus," Casey said.

It was then the ladies decided to make Eastern's cam-



Heartland Highway hosts Lori Casey, left, and Kate Pleasant produce new episode introductions for the up-coming season.

Photo courtesy of Lori Casey and Kate Pleasant

pus a part of every new episode to give their local and national viewers a complete view of the university.

"It's a great campus with many opportunities for the public," Casey said.

"Often people don't come on campus, unless they work here, go to school here or have a son or daughter attending."

Pleasant, an Eastern alum,

said being able to do the intros on the campus is fascinating to her.

"It brings me a lot of pride to be able to share such a great place with all of our viewers," Pleasant added.

"We get to share the history and things that make this place great with a lot of people, and that's a pretty unique opportunity."

The intros will be filmed at various places on campus, both inside and outside. These include O'Brien Stadium, the campus ponds, an outdoor classroom, Mary J. Booth Library and Doudna Fine Arts Center.

"We hope the show reaches EIU alums and brings back great memories," Casey said.



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and her husband, Paul Trelstad, who is a manager at Gannet Broadcasting Company, joined WEIU staff members at the dinner table during the event, and offered to critique their work in the future.

Networking with Beall and Trelstad is what students traveling to events like this is all

about. Building a relationship with professionals leads to jobs and internships.

The Emmy was awarded to WEIU students just before dinner was served. Junior journalism major, Barbara Harrington, who co-anchored and produced the winning show, accepted the award on behalf of the team.

Harrington is also The Agency director and a DEN reporter.

The group received a Swarovski Crystal with the Emmy statue carved in its front center.

"It all happened so fast," Roche said.

"It truly was surreal being able to attend, Nugent said.



The women from WEIU who attended the Mid-America Emmy Gala in St. Louis, where they won an Emmy for the best student news production. From left, first row are Krista Henery, Avery Drake, and Marine Glisovic; second row, from left are Emily Mieure, Leah Carter, Barbara Harrington, Katie Jones, Katherine Rufener and Kristan Kelleher.

Photo courtesy of WEIU

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— Nugent

**Watch award-winning News Watch
5:30 p.m. weeknights
WEIU-TV 51**

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