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## Angela Robinson comes to EIU

**Broadcast Journalist of "In Contact" gives advice to the WEIU staff**

*By Liz Edwards*

The Journalism Department is welcoming broadcast journalist Angela Robinson to campus this week. Her visit will include talking to journalism classes as well as working in the newsroom with the staff of WEIU-TV News.

Robinson is also going to conduct individual critiques with students Thursday, Feb. 15. Individual critiques will be thirty minutes each and sign-up sheets will be on the office door of Kelly Runyon, WEIU-TV in Buzzard.

Earlier this week, a welcoming reception was held in Robinson's honor. The journalism faculty and students gave Robinson a warm welcome and expressed excitement about her presence at Eastern, Terri Johnson, professor, said.

Robinson's schedule for the week includes speaking to classes and working in the newsroom and meeting with anchors Tuesday and Wednesday.

Later on Wednesday, she will be speaking at the Town Hall meeting in Charleston on the topic "Stop the Violence." She will also be attending the Diversity Conference Luncheon on Feb. 19.

Robinson is the host for the public affairs talk show,



**During a welcoming reception, Angela Robinson is welcomed by journalism faculty, as well as students. Above junior journalism major Rashida Lyles-Cowan meets Robinson. Robinson is a Fox-Thornburgh visiting professional, who will share her broadcast expertise with students.**

*Photo By Liz Edwards*

"In Contact" in Atlanta. This award-winning broadcast is produced by Atlanta Association of Black Journalists and is unique because it offers news in the African American perspective.

The Fox-Thornburgh Visiting Professionals Fund is sponsoring Robinson's visit to campus. Assistant Professor Janice Collins is her host around campus.

# Barbara Harrington earns internship

***CNN offers Harrington an broadcast journalism internship in Washington D.C.***

***By Kyle Piurek***

Since she was about 15 years old, Barbara Harrington has dreamed of working for CNN. This semester her dream came true.

"I constantly checked Turner's Web site to see what opportunities were available. This past fall, I decided to just apply for every single news-related internship they had posted," said Harrington.

Eventually she got e-mail from a Washington, D.C., coverage manager to interview for a weekend news intern position. After about five days of waiting Harrington got a phone call with the good news.

"I was assignment editing at WEIU when I got the call saying I had been selected; I was in shock," said Harrington.

Although Harrington is away from home and Eastern she still feels right at home. Through a friend of a friend, Harrington was able to work out a living arrangement.

"I can honestly say the arrangement couldn't have worked out any better! They make me feel like a part of the family and include me in all of their outings," said Harrington.

Even though CNN is a top news station Harrington is find-

ing some similarities to WEIU. She says both use the same program to write scripts and run-downs for shows.

One difference is that everything is done on a bigger scale with multiple producers run-

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**'I've learned how a major new operation works.'**

**— Barbara Harrington**

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ning shows instead of one and CNN uses more live shots.

Harrington works Wednesday through Sunday on a variety of tasks. During the weekdays she help plans coverage, research stories, contact sources and set up interviews. On the weekends she goes out on shoots and does everything from holding the microphone to conducting interviews.

"I've learned how a major news operation works. CNN has several bureaus throughout the world, you don't realize how much the different bureaus

have to coordinate with each other to get stories on the air," said Harrington.

The experience Harrington received at Eastern has been a lot of help so far at CNN. At CNN, Harrington is the only intern with any broadcast television experience besides a graduate student from the University of Missouri.

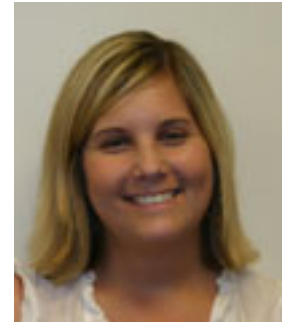
"I'm ahead of the learning curve because I've had experience in print, television and radio, so I know how to write and I know a lot of the terms the professionals use," said Harrington.

Her experience at WEIU and training from the journalism department has been a big help.

"I feel so lucky to be here and I can't thank my professors and advisers enough for preparing me for this internship," said Harrington.

For other students looking for internships Harrington encourages people to get involved in as many organizations as possible.

"News outlets like CNN get hundreds of intern applications every semester, and most of them have some type of journalism or leadership experience. If your résumé shows you're involved in several different organizations and you



**Barbara Harrington, junior journalism major, earned an internship in Washington, D.C., with CNN this semester.**

*Photo courtesy of  
[www.eiu.edu](http://www.eiu.edu)*

have many responsibilities, it will show potential employers you're driven, dedicated and well-rounded; you don't just have one specialty like everyone else," Harrington said.

In addition to working for WEIU-TV and the *Daily Eastern News*, Harrington also served as director of The Agency, the student-run public relations firm on campus. She also was in charge of publicity for the University Board.

She was part of the WEIU-TV news team to win an Emmy last year.

***Write, take photographs, edit and work on public relations campaigns***

***for The Agency, EIU's student-run public relations agency***  
***Meets Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.***

***Buzzard 2434***

# A Day in A Life of Me: Video Contest

*A video contest that inspires creativity and individuality in Eastern students*

**By Jessica Leggin**

The winner of the Day in a Life of Me video contest will be announced Friday, Feb. 19, during the Diversity Conference.

Participants had the opportunity to cover a range of topics such as race, color and culture, implemented with a production aspect attached to the contest.

Janice Collins, assistant professor of journalism, said she believes the contest is important for students' voices to be heard when it comes to prevalent issues they go through on a day-to-day basis.

"Our students have to be encouraged and taught and supported in a way that says they are empowered by their words," said Collins.

Collins said last year the competition was called "Conversations in Color," but changed due to the feedback they received from several students.

"Instead of being inclusive, a lot of students felt because they were not of color that they really didn't have anything to say that other people can benefit from," she said. "We thought it was a valid concern so we wanted to be more inclusive this time."

Collins said the interested students' this year come from a range of diverse backgrounds.

"We have graduate students, undergrad, a homosexual, an African American, a Hispanic American and a white male," said Collins. "Those six represent students who have called my number and have come to the meetings."

Each contestant had to turn in the final draft of the video. Students had to conduct a three

to five minute video. Rules prohibited cursing and vulgarity, because the winner's final version will be aired on WEIU-TV.

Collins said this will allow the winner to receive some publicity throughout the Charleston community.

"WEIU-TV is allowing us to have 30 minutes of time to put a show on where we can talk about the students' work," she said. "(We'll) talk to the producers and makers of their video and what their thinking was behind it. This will all be run on PBS."

Collins said when it comes to the production aspect of the project; some students needed assistance when putting the actual video together.

"There is one thing having a voice and then there's another thing about having a production aspect to it," she said. "We have producers who have the vision, but they have no idea how to shoot and edit, so I said they could form teams. All they have to do is come up with the vision to get it done."

Students were allowed to be advised by faculty but faculty were not allowed to assist the students in putting their videos together. Instead contestants could have sought other students who have experience when it comes to lighting, shooting, editing, audio and writing.

Also students were allowed to tell someone else's story.

"They can introduce someone and narrate another story," Collins said.

Collins said even though she is glad to see some students take initiative and participate, she wants to see more students involved in the future.



**Dr. Janice Collins answers some questions about the video competition.**

*Photo by Kelsey Karstrand*

"I would like to see more diversity as well," she said. "I'm not sure whether it has something to do with the video contest or whether or not that at this stage of technological advancements, students have found so many other ways to get their voices out there."

Collins said she believes some students do not think their voices are important to the masses.

"I think they think it is important to their friends or family on Facebook," she said. "I really want to get the message across to these students that their voices are important and that it needs to be in the field of ideology and the field of discussion and the field of ideas."

Collins said she wants to continue the contest for next year, but believes she must re-strategize in order to get more

students to participate.

"We are going to have to do more and making sure people are comfortable with having their voices heard," she said. "In a democracy like this, if you don't have a voice and don't say anything, you lose your power."

This program is a great outlet for student expression and creativity, and Dr. Collins is the ideal person to direct it, according to James Tidwell, chair of journalism.

"Her enthusiasm and drive are infectious. I'm sure she'll have a large number of students participating in the video contest by next year," he added. "Students need to take advantage of opportunities to be tutored by Dr. Collins and at the same time create a video package that expresses their individuality and point of view."



# WEIU wins a Emmy

## **News Watch wins 2009 Mid-America College Student Emmy**

**By Meredith Mueller**

Everyday at 5:30 p.m. the hard working staff of WEIU-TV puts on their daily news show, News Watch.

This was no different on Sept. 8, 2008, but it turned into a day the staff would always remember.

The broadcast on Sept. 8 won a 2009 Mid-America College Student Emmy in the "Student Production—News" Category.

The winning news-cast was anchored by junior journalism major Barbara Harrington and senior journalism major Zach Nugent, both of whom attended the Emmys, which were held in St. Louis.

Nugent said that News Director Kelly Runyon is always

keeping track of the broadcasts she thinks are especially good, and she is constantly submitting them to different awards organizations.

The staff knew it was nominated, and the day the winners were to be announced, members were all waiting together. Nugent describes the moment they all found out about the win as "really unbelievable," and everyone was yelling at each other with excitement.

Although the win came for a newscast anchored by Harrington and Nugent, Nugent says the rest of the staff was still equally as excited, and about 20 additional staff members also traveled to the Emmys.

At the same time as the Emmy win, the same newscast

took first place for "Best Television Newscast" in the 2009 Student Silver Dome Awards sponsored by the Illinois Broadcasters Association.

Although this was exciting as well, the staff has won state awards before and was much more thrilled about the Emmy, which Nugent described as "like an Oscar, the top of the top."

Since the win, the staff has had more confidence, and Nugent adds that "it keeps motivating everyone to strive for the best."

He also said that although he loves what he does, it is nice to know that hard the work is being recognized. The staff is still continuing to work hard, because as Nugent says "winning never gets old."



The student newscast of WEIU-TV News Watch has established itself as one of the best regional newscasts after winning the 2009 Mid-America College Student Emmy.

*Photo Courtesy of WEIU-TV*

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

*The Wavelength* is the Eastern Illinois University newsletter for broadcast students. It is published by The Agency, Eastern's student-run public relations firm, sponsored by the Department of Journalism. It is printed in Buzzard Hall.

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