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WEIU News Watch wins best in state

Students win awards at the Ill. News Broadcasters Association

By Crystal R. Alston

WEIU-T.V. News Watch has been acknowledged, yet again, by the Illinois News Broadcasters Association (INBA) as having the best collegiate newscast in the state.

Friday, April 16, nearly 20 Eastern students from WEIU attended the INBA 2010 Spring Convention in Oak Brook, Ill., for three days of professional development, journalism edu-

cation, and camaraderie.

Many Illinois college/university students and professionals were present at the convention including University of Illinois, Northern, Southern Illinois University and many others.

Saturday, April 17, INBA announced the winners of its annual collegiate student competition. WEIU students placed in six categories including:

- Outstanding TV Newscast

— 1st place to WEIU News Watch.

- Outstanding TV News Reporting — 1st place to Katherine Rufener

- Outstanding TV Sports Reporting — 3rd Place to Emily Mieure

- Outstanding Videography — 3rd Place to Kevin Ratermann

- Outstanding Sports Program — 1st Place to Avery Drake

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Broadcast students show awards won at the Illinois News Broadcasters Association meeting April 17, from left, Marine Glisovic, Lamar Holliday, Holden Kurwcki, Krista Henery, Mike Gismondi, Zach Nugent, Katie Jones, Avery Drake, Matt Draus, Emily Mieure, Leah Carter, Joe Astrouski, Vicki Paisley, Rachel Morris, and Dustin Tylman. Not pictured were Kate Rufener, Kevin Ratermann and John Twork.

Photo courtesy of WEIU

Speaker Larry Smith talks hyper local

Former CNN anchor Larry Smith talks about the importance of New Media

By Liz Edwards

Larry Smith developed an idea for creating his own company. Since local affiliates were cutting the sports department, Smith had an idea to customize a sportscast himself and provide that information by pdf to local stations.

April 22, at 10 a.m., Smith, former CNN anchor and Eastern graduate, spoke to communication studies and journalism students about the importance of the new media.

Smith left CNN after 16 years of covering more than 55 sporting events including, major championships such as the World Series and the Olympics. Before CNN, Smith worked at WEIU and local stations in the area.

He described major networks such as CNN as “not looking to the future.”

Smith decided to leave CNN last year, because he became disenchanted with corporations’ power over networks, and Smith said, “CNN began to cut its sports reporting.”

He modified his original idea for pdf of local news and decided to place reporters in each town where they would be in charge of the stories for that town. Then, an anchor at his studio would report the news and viewers could watch the broadcast on jayelitv.com. Viewers can view the broadcast anywhere.



Eastern alumnus Russ Leonard, left, helps Larry Smith with hyper local news. Smith recently spoke to students. Smith hires reporters to go to individual towns to report local stories. An anchor broadcasts the stories and viewers can watch them online.

Photo By Liz Edwards

Smith said he is using the vehicle of the future and the idea of hyper local.

“It has gone from a dream, to a philosophy, to on-air in eight months,” he said.

With the help of investors, Smith has built a studio and is debt-free.

“It is your station. It is your story,” Smith said. “So many

stories that never get told, now can be.”

Jayelitv.com is broadcasting 24 hours for Mattoon and Peachtree City, Ga. Soon he is launching a new broadcast for the city of Bloomington, Ill. Smith has eleven full time employees and five part-time employees.

He charges a dollar for an

advertisement on the Web site. Smith said, “Possibilities are endless.”

Smith hopes to have 200 cities in five years.

Smith talked about his new company, and he gave advice to broadcast journalism students.

“Without practical experience you are really setting yourself back,” Smith said.

Jack K. Neal named WEIU General Manager

Jack K. Neal, who currently serves as station manager for KUHT-TV, at the University of Houston, was appointed the new WEIU General Manager

by Vice President Blair Lord.

Neal has been in television since 1978 and has an MBA and B.S. in management, from California Coast University.

One of four candidates interviewed, his background includes station manager for the Public Broadcasting Council of New York, president and

general manager of Blue Ridge Public Television, Roanoke, Va., and program director for the Educational TV Association of metropolitan Cleveland.

A Hidden Jewel: WEIU Summer Internship

WEIU News Watch offers an internship to journalism students from across the country

By Liz Edwards

For seven years, WEIU-News Watch has offered a summer internship program to broadcast journalism students. 10 to 15 students from across the country are given the opportunity to participate in the program. The internship begins May 7 and ends August 8.

Students involved in the program are journalism and communication majors with an interest in broadcast and desire to receive hands-on training.

Students are required to work twenty to thirty hours a week.

Unlike other internships, WEIU offers participants a stipend and living expenses for their work. The twelve week program consists of two weeks of training where students are given a quick run-through of the operations of newsroom.

The remainder of the program is spent on-air. Kelly Runyon, News Director of WEIU-TV, described the program as an opportunity for journalism students to learn "a little bit of everything." Students will learn every aspect of the newsroom from reporting to operating the camera.

Kelly Runyon also said, "(WEIU internship program) offers skills that will never be taught in the classroom."



Junior broadcast journalism major Lamar Holliday participated in the WEIU summer internship program and describes the program as a hidden jewel.

Photo by Liz Edwards

Applications for the internship are due in January. The two-page application requires applicants to list references, journalism classes and media experience.

Kelly Runyon said that she was looking for students "that have good references and some

experience."

Lamar Holliday participated in the internship program last summer. Lamar is a junior journalism student who was attending Indiana State University when he heard about WEIU-TV summer internship program.

He decided to go online and

apply. His experiences at the program persuaded him to attend Eastern. Holliday said that the internship program has given him the necessary hands-on experience.

"The WEIU-News internship program is an hidden jewel," Holliday said.

WEIU to celebrate 25 anniversary beginning July 1

By Liz Edwards

July 1, WEIU will celebrate the 25th anniversary of WEIU FM, which started broadcasting July 1, 1985, in Coleman Hall. WEIU-TV began broadcasting on channel 51 July 1, 1986. (WEIU-TV joined PBS January 30 1992.) Since the WEIU-FM

and WEIU-TV's anniversaries are only one year part, WEIU has decided to celebrate their anniversaries in one year long celebration.

WEIU and the Alumni Services are combining efforts over Homecoming weekend 2010. Friday, Oct. 22, Alumni

Services is giving campus and station tours to WEIU alumni.

Alumni can watch the live broadcast of News Watch at 5:30. Later that evening, a reunion dinner and social gathering are planned. Saturday, Oct. 25, alumni can meet at the rotary parking lot to listen to

the live radio/ TV broadcast of the Homecoming parade. Also, tickets to the football game will be given to WEIU alumni.

Ke'an Armstrong, publicity/promotion, outreach/ grant manager of WEIU, said other plans are still being made for the year long celebration.

April/May 2010



WEIU-News Watch wins again

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- Outstanding Radio Sports Play-by-Play — 1st Place to John Twork

WEIU students who work at the station are volunteers and are not required by the curriculum to participate. Kelly Runyon, WEIU-TV News Director, said she is proud of the staff. Runyon said she gets the best students because they are all volunteers, which means they WANT to do the job.

"A lot of passion, hard work and dedication is put forth by these students," said Runyon. "The payoff is what they learn, not a grade, but an experience."

Along with the awards presentation, the INBA selected four statewide students to receive scholarships.

In order for students to receive the monetary award, they had to first submit an application and video samples of their best work. Eight finalists are then selected and interviewed. Among those chosen for the scholarship, three were Lamar Holliday, Victoria Paisley and



Not only did Eastern students receive awards for their outstanding work at WEIU-News Watch, but three also received scholarships.

Photo Courtesy of WEIU-News

Rachel Morris.

Holliday, who is very active at WEIU, said that Runyon urged students to apply for the scholarship and he thought he would take a chance.

"I didn't want to get my hopes up too high," said Holliday. "I was shocked," he said, after hearing his name called to receive one of the scholarships.

Paisley who is a familiar face in the WEIU station lo-

cated in Buzzard Hall, admitted that she was a little nervous during the interview process but she was thrilled to find out that she was one of the students chosen

Students involved with WEIU News Watch received plaques as a token of achievement.

"WEIU was definitely the envy of the convention," said Runyon.

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Illinois News Broadcasters Association Awards

Outstanding Television Newscast — 1st place

WEIU News Watch

Outstanding Television News Reporting — 1st place

Katherine Rufener

Outstanding Television Sports Reporting — 3rd Place

Emily Mieure

Outstanding Videography — 3rd Place

Kevin Ratermann

Outstanding TV Sports Program — 1st Place

Avery Drake

Outstanding Radio Sports Play-by-Play — 1st Place

John Twork