

the Journalist

a departmental newsletter for journalism majors & minors

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New name for a 'Fresh' newspaper

Minority Today *changes name to Fresh: new idea, new perspectives, new voices*

By Ashley Holstrom

When most people hear the word "minority," their first thought is race, while in reality, anyone can be part of a minority at any given time.

This is one of many reasons why Rashida Lyles-Cowan, editor in chief of *Minority Today*, a biweekly student publication, has changed the name to *Fresh*.

"It is not a degrading name," Lyles-Cowan said. "It cannot be labeled as minority or diversity."

The publication focuses on some of the same issues as any other publication, such as *The Daily Eastern News*, except that it tries to find a different, "fresh" angle than the general news peg.

"We have fresh voices, fresh ideas, fresh opinions," Lyles-Cowan said.

She said she hopes the new name will be more open to the
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Rashida Lyles-Cowan, editor of chief, of *Minority Today* changed the name of the publication to *Fresh*. This biweekly student news publication's first issue was Sept. 23.

Photo by Kim Foster

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A Day in the DEN newsroom premieres

Journalism students document a day in the life of a news room

By Ellie Sternaman

The *Daily Eastern News* premiered its documentary about daily life in the newsroom Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Buzzard Hall.

The documentary covered meetings, interviews, stories, deadlines, challenges, hires, fires and a lot of late nights.

Students on the summer staff began filming the documentary in early May and completed filming in mid July.

"We decided to do the documentary because we wanted to get the journalism department some publicity," said Sam Sottosanto, senior journalism major and editor in chief. "We plan to use the documentary as a recruitment tool to get more people to write for the DEN."

News editor Rashida Lyles-Cowan said the purpose of the documentary was to show people what activity goes on in the newsroom on a typical day. "We wanted to see how people felt about what happens in the newsroom," said Lyles-Cowan.

The summer staff included 10-13 people who spent up to an average of 100 hours a week at the DEN, Lyles-Cowan said.

Sottosanto said the staff worked a lot of late nights to meet deadlines.

"Our first night was very



Journalism students write stories and work to meet deadlines in the newsroom at the *Daily Eastern News*. Their work was the topic of a documentary created this summer to illustrate the hard work and camaraderie that goes into creating a news publication.

Photo By Ellie Sternaman

hectic, some of us didn't leave 'til 2 a.m.," said Sottosanto.

"Our biggest challenges were getting stories in by deadline and talking to the right sources," Sottosanto said.

"It has been a challenge working at the DEN, but I have learned so much that has helped me in what I'm doing now and what I want to pursue in the future," said Lyles-Cowan.

"The DEN is always looking for more people and journalism majors should and need to be involved," said Lyles-Cowan.

"Working at the DEN is a stepping-stone toward working at a real publication."

"Being a part of the DEN is like being a part of a big family," Sottosanto said. "Our summer staff was really close and we had a lot of fun."

Students had refreshments in the newsroom prior to the viewing.

Kaitlyn Sullivan, senior journalism major, viewed the documentary. She said that although she had written many stories and even had her own

column for the DEN, "I had no idea how much time and effort was put into that paper, or the number of hours that were put in by students to make it all possible."

She added, "I wish more people had the opportunity to view the documentary, or maybe just get an inside look at how much time, money and hard work went into each edition of the paper."

She added she was impressed students would dedicate their free time to this.

Get involved with student media!

**Warbler, Sundays,
5 p.m.
Journalism
Conference Room
Buzzard Hall
Room 2522**

**DEN/DEN online
Newsroom
Buzzard Hall
Room 1802**

**WEIU-TV &
WEIU-FM
Weekdays until 6 p.m.
Buzzard Hall
Room 1620**

What the Constitution can do for you

James Tidwell, head of the journalism department, discusses the First Amendment

By Jennifer Brown

The First Amendment gives Americans six liberties, including freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

These freedoms were the topic of discussion Sept. 15, when the Society of Collegiate Journalists and the journalism department sponsored "What the constitution can do for you" in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. Union.

Approximately 150 attended the event.

"A federal law passed several years ago mandates that universities celebrate constitution day in some way," James Tidwell, journalism department chair, said.

Four years ago, the SCJ, a campus RSO, began open mic on the south library quad. This gave students the opportunity to speak their minds about anything they might want to say.

SCJ has organized all campus constitution events including, this year, a wall to express ideas on.

Tidwell was chosen for the panel by president of SCJ, Emily Steele. The panel also



James Tidwell, head of journalism department, and Karen Swenson, professor of political science, discuss the importance of First Amendment rights.

Photo by Jennifer Brown

included political science professors Karen Swenson and Richard Wandling.

"We started talking about it last year and we wanted a variety of speakers with different backgrounds to represent the diversity of the Constitution," Steele, a senior journalism ma-

major, said. Steele also said Tidwell was chosen for the panel because of his background in communication law. In combination with the political science professors, the knowledge the panelists brought to the table was strong and informative for members

of the student body, faculty and members of the community.

"It's critically important that the U.S. Constitution gives the media independence from government and prohibits the government from interfering with freedom of the press," Tidwell said.

Fresh name change

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public and not only people of color.

"We try to make our stories different to stand out," Lyles-Cowan said. "We do not only cover events, but issues and people, too."

Spenser Nobles, last year's editor in chief of *Minority Today*, said he thinks the new name will get people's attention.

"It is more inclusive; I think

people were afraid of the word minority," Nobles said.

He also hopes that the new name will bring in more readership, as well as new contributors and reporters.

Kyle Hillman, a freshman biological sciences major, said the name of a publication would not really matter to him.

"To be honest, I would more than likely skim through it and see if it sounded interesting and decide from there," Hillman said.

The staff of *Fresh* is large this year; in the past, four or five reporters created the stories. This year, 10-15 reporters have volunteered.

"We are not limiting ourselves; we have all different cultures and heritages," Lyles-Cowan said.

In the past, *Minority Today* had not been published regularly, Lyles-Cowan hopes to change that this year.

"We are expanding; we have a new website that will have weekly updates and blogs on

it," Lyles-Cowan said.

Lyles-Cowan's high hopes do not end with simply slapping a different name on the publication.

"We are going to try to cover new things," she said. Adding, her staff is excited and willing to work hard.

Lyles-Cowan has been a reporter for three years, starting during her sophomore year.

"It is my love, my passion," Lyles-Cowan said.

The first issue of *Fresh* was published Sept. 23.

New editors offer new ideas, new look

By Crystal R. Alston

New editors offer fresh ideas to Eastern Illinois University student publications.

The Daily Eastern News (*The DEN*), *Fresh* (formally known as *Minority Today*) and *The Warbler* have recently named three journalism majors to man the position as editor and chief, a status that all three students take seriously.

For Samantha Sottosanto, being named editor of the *DEN* was unexpected. From Plainfield, Ill., Sottosanto was shy in high school. Her passion for writing and dreams of one day becoming a novelist led her to journalism, the area of interest that she says has helped her to

here.”

Over the years, Sottosanto has had many mentors, including teachers, professors and past editors who she said have prepared her for the position as editor and chief. In addition, she is not afraid to try new things. Working at WEIU, she gets the opportunity to dabble in multiple facets of journalism, including multimedia, creative storytelling and broadcast radio.

“I just love to tell stories,” said Sottosanto.

The first in her immediate family to attend college, Sottosanto is determined to succeed. She believes that she is a strong leader, creative, friendly and a good listener. She has learned from prior editors of the *DEN*, particularly, she says, Nicole Weskerna and Chris Essig who graduated two years ago.

“They made me feel like I was important and gave me the encouragement I needed to become a better journalist,” Sottosanto said.

This semester, the *DEN* staff is made up of new faces. Although, she said, this may be challenging, Sottosanto remains encouraged that with a team effort, the *DEN* will show great improvement.

“My motivation is making the paper the best it can be,”

Sottosanto said. “My goal is for everyone to learn as a person and as a journalist.”

Fresh

Fresh voices, fresh perspective and fresh ideas are the main

focus for the student publication formally known as *Minority Today*. Rashida Lyles-Cowan, new editor for *Fresh*, says the mission for the newspaper is geared toward delivering a fresh message.

From Gurnee, Ill., Lyles-Cowan said that as a small child, she often pretended to be a journalist. At the age of five, she recalls taking a recorder, toy microphone and note pad and standing in front of the television pretending to be a reporter. Throughout high school, Lyles-Cowan said she developed a love for writing and thinks that journalism is the best major for her.

“I always felt the need to inform people about the latest news,” said Lyles-Cowan. “When I got involved with the journalism department, it opened a lot of doors and confirmed that this is where I am supposed to be.”

A host of professors and students, including former editor of the *DEN*, Emily Zulz, and last year’s editor of *Minority Today*, Spenser Noble, have guided Lyles-Cowan and taught her many methods of how to be leader. She acknowledges them as great mentors, but more than anyone, Lyles-Cowan says that her 5 year-old daughter is the reason why she is here.

“She’s the love of my life,” said Lyles-Cowan. “Because of her, I am who I am today.”

Being a single parent in college is not a cake walk, she noted; being a mom, getting good grades on top of being involved in different organizations takes time management and organization skills which



‘I always felt the need to inform people about the latest news’

Rashida Lyles-Cowan

she says she intends to incorporate in her new editor position.

Fresh replaced the name *Minority Today* for many reasons said Lyles-Cowan, but mainly because the former paper was established for minorities.

“Anybody can be a minority at any given time,” said Lyles-Cowan. In order to not marginalize ourselves, but still bring our perspective, a change needed to be made.”

Lyles-Cowan says that despite its challenges, she loves being the editor of *Fresh*.

“We have a great staff; everyone seems enthusiastic,” said Lyles-Cowan.

This semester, Lyles-Cowan says that the *Fresh* team’s plan is to focus on relevant topics.

She wants the reporters to take a spin on the matter to capture readers by taking a story and making it great. Bringing voices from the margins to the cor-

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‘My motivation is making the paper the best it can be.’

Sam Sottosanto

open up and become a more outgoing person.

“I used to be afraid of what people thought about me. Now, I don’t care,” Sottosanto said. “I am one of the loudest people

Hoffman demonstrates photo excellence

By Beth Steele

Fox-Thornburgh visiting professional Mark Hoffman met with students from Sept. 20–23, demonstrating and teaching photography skills.

Hoffman, a photographer for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, spoke to classes and met with the Warbler photo and design staff.

He also participated in the “Day in the Life of Charleston” photo project Sept. 22.

Hoffman, alumni Stephen Hass and Jay Grabiec, faculty and students took pictures of anything in Charleston from 12:01 a.m.–11:59 p.m.

Each photographer was allowed to submit five photos. Approximately 200 photos were submitted. Of these, 75 were selected to be printed in

a 4 in. by 4 in. Polaroid-type format.

These photos will be on exhibit in the Doudna Fine Arts Center from Oct. 11–Nov. 18.

The project was supported by *The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, *Decatur Herald & Review*, Canon U.S.A., *The Daily Eastern News*, the EIU College of Arts and Humanities, the Journalism Department and the EIU Center for Academic Technology (CATS).

The Fox-Thornburgh Visiting Professionals program is sponsored by an endowment from alumnus Richard Fox in honor of Dr. Daniel E. Thornburgh, former head of the department. Professionals with expertise in all areas of journalism visit, sharing the latest information and expertise with the students.



Mark Hoffman visited EIU sharing photographic expertise with students. Now with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, he has also worked at The Associated Press headquarters in New York, at the Bridgeport (Conn.) Post, the LaCrosse (Wis.) Tribune and the Faribault (Minn.) Daily News.

Hyder to teach in England Spring 2011

By Kyle Piurek

After a three-year wait Dr. Les Hyder, journalism professor, has been accepted to Harlaxton College in England. However, Hyder won’t be attending the college as a student, but as a professor.

Last fall Hyder was notified of his acceptance into the program and originally wanted to teach in fall 2011. However, the college was in need of professors for this spring’s semester. Hyder didn’t want to pass up the opportunity and risk having to wait two or three more years for another chance.

He ran a two-week faculty-led program to Ireland but this will be the first time he will be spending a full semester abroad. Unlike the faculty-led program Hyder will have time to settle in and really experi-

ence the culture.

He will be teaching three classes, one similar to Journalism and Democracy, a News Writing course and a course on Public Relations. He is currently working on the syllabuses for the classes so he can post them on Harlaxton’s website so students already accepted to the program can decide what courses they want to take.

Hyder said that by getting the opportunity to teach and live abroad will help add a different perspective for his classes back at Eastern.

Along with teaching Hyder is looking forward to being able to travel around Europe. “I’m

planning on visiting Paris and Stratford-upon-Avon to watch some Shakespearean plays and other theatre,” said Hyder.

Students interested in studying abroad have about 150 options to



Dr. Les Hyder

choose from at Eastern and their partner programs, according to Wendy Williamson, director of the Study Abroad at Eastern.

The program promotes six programs including trips Australia, Ireland, Germany, Wales and the United Kingdom. The costs of

the programs vary depending on length of the stay, location and choice of housing.

In her book *Study Abroad 101*, Williamson says that studying abroad can help increase a student’s job prospects.

“This is because our cultural, economic, and political systems are becoming more dependent on and are integrating more fully with the world,” said Williamson. “Consequently, foreign language skills, international experience, cultural knowledge and expertise, and cross-cultural abilities are advantageous from the perspective of many employers.”

Along with helping students stand out to employers, study abroad can help students increase their self-understanding, boost self-confidence, speed up your maturity, and develop an open mind.

New editors

Continued from page 4

ner of discussion about everyday social and cultural stories that are seemingly over looked is the mission of *Fresh*.

The first issue of *Fresh* was published Sept. 23. It has a brand new layout and more photography. Lyles-Cowen says that it may not be perfect but the experience is great.

Warbler

Colorized was last year's theme. This year, sleek and classy will be the premise. Kristin Jording, new editor of the Warbler, says that the 2010-2011 yearbook will capture and show off awesome photography.

Jording found her passion for journalism when she participated in a journalism workshop at University of Iowa.

Being surrounded by professors who had passion and who offered insight about what the business is about, helped Jording become more interested in the major.

Being editor of the Warbler, Jording, along with the yearbook staff has already begun working on the layout and some design.

"I like to do design," said Jording. "I think everyone should know about design, because it is important."

Christine Godbey, last year's editor recommended Jording for the position. Godbey graduated in May, even still, Jording consults with her for guidance.

"She taught me what she knows," said Jording. "She's a great leader, a great student and always a great friend."

The yearbook goes from

March to March and Jording says that her goal is to do a good job and further Christine's accomplishments this year.

"Essentially I want to get it done and win awards," said Jording.

This year's theme is

'I think everyone should know about design, because it is important.'

Kristin Jording

simply "Capture." The book will have a new look. It will show off photography that will

capture the campus, capture students and professors.

"My goal for the yearbook is to capture Eastern in 2010 and 2011," Jording said.

Photos by Crystal Alston



Support department Scholarships! Watch for Community Night fundraisers. The first, Oct. 4, at Monical's for the Mary (Wohlrahe) Durkin Agency Scholarship. Forms are in the Department office.

Coming Events

Family Weekend

October 1-3

PRSSA conference

in D.C. Oct. 15-19

Journalism

Homecoming

Chili Bash @ Roc's

Oct. 23, 5-9 p.m.

College Media

Advisers

Convention

Oct. 27-31

Louisville, Ky.

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