

Liz Hansen named department's new chair

By Cheri Hager

Teaching, advising, budgeting, planning curriculum, hiring new employees and keeping up with everyone's technical needs. It's a mound of responsibilities that may overwhelm some. But for Elizabeth Hansen, it's just another day at the office.

Hansen was named chair of the Department of Communication in May 2011, following a year serving as interim chair.

Hansen said she has little time to slow down. She stepped into the position after Renee Everett, who served as chair for 11 years, took an associate dean position at Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates in 2010.

"I juggle," Hansen said about her approach to the job. "People have described being department chair as the most difficult job in the university because you're in the middle between students, faculty and administrators."

An Arkansas native, Hansen received her bachelor's degree in journalism with a second major in English along with a minor in sec-



CHRIS RADCLIFFE | PHOTO

ondary education from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She received her master's in journalism and mass communication from Iowa State University. She received her doctorate in communication with an emphasis in media law and ethics from the University of Kentucky.

Hansen said she joined the faculty at Eastern in 1987, teaching a variety of courses within the department, including media law, writing and news reporting, public relations writing and feature writing. Hansen was a recipient of the 2008-2010 Foundation Professorship, which is

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Eastern to host '12 Town and Gown conference

By Taylor Pettit

Richmond and Eastern's relationship has led to the university being selected as the site for the 2012 International Town and Gown Association (ITGA) conference from June 4 to 8.

"I was told once that when you think of Richmond, you can't help but think of Eastern, and when you think of Eastern, you can't help but think of Richmond," said Marc Whitt, conference chair and associate vice president of public relations.

The conference, which is in its seventh year, focuses on how universities can improve and maintain relationships with their host cities.

ITGA focuses on "sharing ideas, best practices with other institutions," said Eastern President Doug Whitlock.

Whitlock said he is excited for the impression that Eastern will make on the attendees.

"When people see us for the first time, I think they will be surprised at the breadth and depth of our programs," Whitlock said.

Eastern's conference will be themed "town and gown partnerships for the present and future," according to a press release.

"The mayor, the president [Whitlock] have been involved together from the very beginning," said Kim Griffo, executive director of ITGA. "It is one of the strongest working relationships we've seen. The performing arts center is a very strong example of Town and Gown relations."

The event is expected to bring approximately 400 guests, who will be hosted by the ECU Center for the Arts.

"I believe substantially more invitations were sent out than 400," said James Street, associate vice president for capital planning and facilities management. "But the facilities can accommodate 2,000."

Past conferences have drawn guests nationally, but Eastern officials said they hope to place a larger emphasis on guests from the international community.

"We have been marketing this much earlier than it has been in the past," Whitt said. "We have already been able to secure a delegation from Australia and currently have 17 countries following our Twitter @TownandGown2012. We are hoping to attract the larger international population."

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We can all help by volunteering for department committees

It is with pride and enthusiasm that I write to you from the EKU Department of Communication Advisory Board. Along with a dedicated group of volunteer board members, faculty, staff and university leaders, we are well into a very involved and productive year of work. In 2011, we have reworked our board membership, conducted a strategic-planning session and set key goals for the future. Some of the most important imperatives include fund-raising, curriculum review and vital relationship-building opportunities.

One of the greatest accomplishments for the Department this year was the announcement of Liz Hansen, EKU Foundation Professor and member of the journalism faculty in the Department of Communication, as department chair, effective May 1, 2011. Please join me in congratulating Liz on being named the permanent chair after serving as interim chair since July 2010. I can say with great confidence that her leadership will help define the Department of Communication with first-class education and the utmost quality of character.

An ongoing reality for academic departments in colleges and universities all across America is the need to show that what we do prepares students for success in the 21st century economy. This necessity to provide the classroom curriculum, real-world work experiences and greater critical thinking skills is a very challenging task. That is why our board, the faculty and other key stakeholders in the Department of Communication are actively engaged in the assessment and retooling of those critical areas.

A major point of emphasis is making informed decisions regarding the program with a clear reference to information gathered from all concerned parties. Our current students and our alumni factor heavily into this process. By showcasing their work and providing feedback, it is our hope that everyone can participate in this process. At this time, there are working committees in need of volunteers to serve in the areas of fund-raising/relationship building and curricu-

lum review. If you would like to serve on one or more of these committees, please let us know by emailing Liz at liz.hansen@eku.edu.

With this and future issues of the department newsletter, we sincerely hope to foster a dialogue among current students, alumni, faculty and other key stakeholders. It is through this sharing of perspectives that we might build a better community that is grounded in our past and focused on the future for the Department of Communications at Eastern Kentucky University. If you want to learn more, see the Department's website at <http://www.communication.eku.edu/>.

Serving as chair of the Department Advisory Board during such an exciting time of growth and change is a honor and privilege. On behalf of my fellow board members, faculty and students, I wish to express the department's gratitude to our volunteers, donors, and other key contributors who have made possible so much of this good news. Your contributions are crucial to sustaining our tradition of excellence.

Sincerely,



David T. McFaddin,
MBA, Public Relations '99
Advisory Board Chair
EKU Department of Communication



CHAIR | Her friendly, approachable style makes her accessible to students and faculty alike

Eastern's highest honor for teaching excellence.

"As an experienced journalism practitioner, scholar and professor, Dr. Hansen combines a national reputation with a friendly and approachable style," said Jim Gleason, assistant professor of communication. "It's a rare combination. She's a great asset to our students in the Department of Communication, as well as contributing to the prestige of EKU as a whole."

In addition to Hansen's duties as chair, she said she is also serving a two-year term as Region 5 director of the Society of Professional Journalists

Being regional director means Hansen is responsible for the organization's chapters in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky and is a member of SPJ's national board of directors.

Hansen said she has been an SPJ member since 1976.

"When I was in high school, women couldn't join SPJ," she said.

As a college student in Arkansas, she attended the induction of the organization's first female members. "I think that's why I've been so interested [in the organization]."

As one who works closely with the new chair, Department of Communication Administrative Assistant Heather Morris said Hansen is a "great supervisor."

"She is an absolutely extraordinary person," Morris said. "She is wonderful at what she does, and works extremely hard."

With many challenges and goals in sight for the Department of Communication, Hansen said she aspires to accomplish what she feels needs to be done within the constraints of the budget.

She said some of her primary goals are to be able to reward people for doing a great job and hire more full-time faculty.

Hansen added that she wants to strengthen alumni relationships and create a more contemporary curriculum, especially in journalism. Revitalizing the advisory board is also important to Hansen, she said.

"I'm looking forward to what [the advisory board members] are going to be able to do in the area of fundraising," Hansen said.

The mother of two daughters, Hansen said she resides in Lexington with her husband

Gary. She said she enjoys cross stitching and antiquing with her husband.

"Our idea of a fun Saturday afternoon is spending time in a dusty, old antique shop," Hansen said.



Hansen, who has worked at Eastern since 1987, was named the department's chair in May, 2011.

CMS students visit Washington, D.C., for career insights

By Lindsay Huffman

In college, it is rare for an entire class of students to take an old-fashioned field trip.

Amy Thieme's class was one of the few exceptions.

The Fall 2011 Careers in Communication Studies course, CMS 490, not only looked at what careers were available to communication majors, but also helped students travel to Washington, D.C., to visit organizations and people whose careers they were interested in.

"A lot of communication students are unsure what they want to do and what's available out there," said Thieme, the professor of the course. "I wanted to open their eyes and minds to what's out there."

Thieme said she took her 14 students to D.C. for a week, where they visited places such as Ford's Theatre, the National Zoo and various museums at the Smithsonian. Prior to arrival, the students contacted communication employees at these places and asked if they would speak with the class about their careers.



Amy Thieme

"I was so surprised at...how these people opened their doors to spend hours with us," Thieme said.

Thieme said her favorite part about the trip was seeing how the students gained confidence about their career choices after talking with the professionals.

"My favorite part was seeing the light bulb click on in students' minds because when these professionals talked, they gave students insights and wisdom and practical advice for achieving their dreams," Thieme said.

Students who went to D.C. said they learned a lot from the trip.

"[Talking with professionals] made me excited about my five-year plan, but also made me realize I needed to get busy," said Kindra Clark, senior communication studies major from Mount Washington. "People think that a bachelor's degree just gets you a job, but there is so much more. Experience is an asset for a career."

Clark said her favorite place to visit was the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian. She added that it would be an "awesome career path" to be a hiring recruiter at the museum.

Even students who were not able to tour the places they initially applied to said they found the trip to be helpful.

"I actually learned more than what I expect-

ed," said Tiffany Clemons, senior communication studies major from Hazard. "I found out so many things about myself I really had no idea about...What I enjoyed most about this trip was the fact I left there knowing that my career path could become totally opposite from what it is I want to do."

Clemons and Clark agreed that the trip to D.C. made them feel more comfortable about what to expect after graduation.

"Given the opportunity to meet so many extraordinary people has helped me to realize not to settle or sell myself short," Clemons said. "All in all, I went to Washington with one career option and I left with three. I like those odds."

Clark said she believes every college student should take a course such as CMS 490.

"It was nice to listen to people who have jobs that we want in the future," Clark said. "They were completely honest and gave us some of the best tips about careers and how to get started."

Thieme said she hopes to be able to offer the same opportunity to future students.

"It's a good opportunity [for students] to learn outside the classroom, to see firsthand how what you learn in the classroom is used in a professional setting and to give them confidence," Thieme said. "You can do these jobs if you work really hard."

TOWN | Sessions to focus on involving students in all aspects of community life

The committee—consisting of representatives from Berea College, Blue Grass Airport, Richmond and Eastern—has already attracted its first sponsor: AT&T, which announced Nov. 29 that it will be the presenting sponsor for the conference.

"We're always supportive of ECU and schools throughout Kentucky," said Mary Pat Regan, president of AT&T Kentucky.

As the presenting sponsor, AT&T will contribute \$5,000, sponsor the opening banquet, participate in the exhibit hall, have an opportunity to provide a presentation and act as an "anchor" for the event, Regan said.

Committee members also said they hope to include as much student input as possible.

"I think really getting the students involved is important," said Erica Childress, 20, public relations major from Independence. "I want to go into higher education public relations, so this is exactly what I want



Erica Childress

to do."

Childress has become involved in the project through her honors senior thesis and has been referred to as Whit's "left arm."

Childress said she will become more involved in the project as they approach the conference date, but her main objective is to involve student organizations.

"The event is an international, cultural event," Childress said. "I know honors; I know SGA. I don't know Greek life; I don't know the cultural groups on campus. I want to make sure I have their input."

The conference will feature sessions on various issues, such as seeking creative ways to involve students, quality of life, economic issues, off-campus housing, student affairs, marketing and how the new Center for the Arts can affect Richmond and Eastern. Musical performances by The Drifters, The Coasters and The Platters will also be featured.

Debra Hoskins, director of the ECU Center for the Arts, said the performances were booked to provide a performance that will be fun. The events are open to the public and will offer discounted registration prices to students.

"One thing that's going to be impressive, besides the show, is how it all came to be," Hoskins said. "This is not just one event; this is the work of state, county and city. It's unusual and highly commendable."

One main aspect of town and college relations focuses on how a university can help a community, and Madison County has been supportive of the project, Whitlock said.

"The presence of this campus with all these smart people with all these areas of expertise...it is making sure that the faculty and staff are involved with the life of the community," Whitlock said.

The registration fees are expected to cover all costs associated with the conference, making the conference self-sustaining.

"We're excited to get here. We're excited for Richmond. We're excited for Kentucky at large," Griffo said.



Debra Hoskins

ALUMNI UPDATES

C. Richard Mattingly, BEM 1978, is the executive vice president and chief operating officer for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Bethesda, Md.

Brian Dickens, CMS 1984, is the owner of New Heights, an event management business in Richmond, Ky. He also owns FamilyMovieNight.info, which provides drive-in movies at clients' locations.

Charles Egerton, BEM 1986, is a freelance director and producer of documentaries for TBNK.org, a local access facility in Newport.



Steve Hensley, BEM 1999, is a news anchor at WYMT-TV in Hazard.

Deborah Kohl Kremer, PUB 1987, is a freelance writer and public relations consultant who has published two books—*Northern Kentucky's Dixie Highway* and *Kentucky: An Explorer's Guide*—with a third on the way (*Villa Hills*). She has also created an iPhone app, *Kentucky's Bluegrass Country*, which is a travel guide to Lexington.

Rob Carr, JOU 1988, is a staff photographer with Getty Images/Sport based in Baltimore, Md.

Mark Isham, BEM 1988, is the morning announcer for WKEQ in Lake Cumberland.

William A. Brantley, CMS 1990, received his doctorate in public policy and administration in 2009 and currently works for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management as a human resources specialist.



Jenna Mink, JOU 2008, is a business reporter at *The Daily News in Bowling Green*.

Anna Cheek Gordon, BEM 1991, is a production assistant and writer for Kentucky Educational Television in Lexington.

Sam Gordon, BEM 1992, is a maintenance engi-

neer at WLEX-TV in Lexington.

Chris Caldwell, PUB 1992, is the executive vice president at Naylor, LLC, in Richmond.

Kerri Ferrell, PUB 2004, is the director of Corporate Suites for the *Louisville Bats in Louisville*.



Clint Riley, JOU 1992, is the director of editorial services at Merck & Co., Inc., the world's second largest pharmaceutical company.

Jeannie (Herron) Clark, BEM 1992, is the production supervisor in broadcast services at Campbellsville University in Campbellsville.

DeAnn Stephens, BEM 1994, is co-host of the morning show at radio station WBUL, 98.1 The Bull, in Lexington.

Heather Bowman Baber, PUB 1997, is the public relations manager for marketing and communications for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

Jesse B. Kelsey, BEM 1998, is the vice president of production at Hammond Communications Group in Lexington. He also is the project manager of the media support services for the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournament.

Denny Liford, BEM 1998, is the electronic media coordinator at Union College in Barbourville.

Lanny Brannock, JOU 1999, is the communi-

Jeff Newton, JOU 1997, is an associate producer for "60 Minutes" at CBS News in New York.



cations officer for the Office of Employment and Training in Frankfort.

David T. McFaddin, PUB 1999, is the regional director of external and legislative affairs for AT&T, based out of Richmond, and servicing 48 counties in central, northern and eastern Kentucky.

David Hoverman, BEM 2000, is a commercial

producer and director for Insight Media in Lexington.

Jason Epperson, BEM 2000, is a director and producer as well as owner of Eppic Films, Inc., in Lexington.

Warner Allen, PUB 2000, is an associate consultant for The Covenant Group in Covington.

Schanda Stroud, BEM 2002, works for September Films.

Jerian Shaw, PUB 2002, is the director of patient and community relations at Pattie A. Clay Regional Medical Center in Richmond.



Adam Baker, BEM 2006, is a news reporter at WLEX-TV in Lexington.

Samantha J. Rogers, PUB 2002, is the marketing coordinator at Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital in Lexington.

Kasey Mills, BEM 2003, is a news producer at WLEX-TV in Lexington.

Hayden Shawler, BEM 2003, is in sales at Cengage Learning in Louisville.

Amber Jones Kennoy, CMS 2004, is a senior marketing consultant with WKYT-TV in Lexington.

Justin Allen, BEM 2004, is the producer and director of the distance-learning program at Kentucky Educational Television in Lexington.

Katherine J. Shepherd, BEM 2005, is a news producer at WLEX-TV in Lexington.

Reid Connelly, BEM 2005, is the computer store operator and graduate student at Eastern Kentucky University.

Andy Pollard, BEM 2005, is a cinematographer for NFL Films in Kansas City, Mo.

Brian Keith Burba, BEM 2005, is a presentation director at SKY Television New Zealand in Auckland, New Zealand.

Rachel Park, BEM 2006, is the assistant director of athletic public relations at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Va.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Chelsea Wells, BEM 2006, is the director of the Evening Edition newscast at WLEX-TV in Lexington.

Joe Martin, CMS 2006, recently completed his master's in divinity from Southern Baptist Seminary.



Arielle Reese, PUB 2006, is community relations director at Rockcastle Regional Hospital in Mt. Vernon.

Mysterie Brown, CMS 2007, is the director of marketing and communications at Madison Bank in Richmond.

Virginia Hawkins McNutt, CMS 2007, is a national recruiter at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore.

Adam Dotson, BEM 2008, is a video editor at WLEX-TV in Lexington.

Emily Dowd, CMS 2008, is the event manager at Lexington Convention Center in Lexington.

Jen Fecher, CMS 2008, is an employee benefits account manager at USI Holdings in Cincinnati.

Melissa Mollohan, JOU 2008, is a copy editor and reporter at her hometown newspaper, The Kentucky New Era, in Hopkinsville, Ky.

Abbey Pyle, PUB 2008, is in International Communications at Express Home Office in Groveport, Ohio.

Marty Finley, JOU 2008, is a government and political reporter at The News-Enterprise in Elizabethtown.

Tiffany Jarvis, BEM 2008, is an assistant agent and videographer with Keller Williams Realty in Louisville.

Robert Tipton, BEM 2008, is a production assistant with WLEX-TV in Lexington.

Amber Ungaro, BEM 2008, is a photojournalist with WLEX-TV in Lexington.

Debra Brandenburg, PUB 2008, is the director of tourism for Beattyville and Lee County.

Jessica Ross, BEM 2008, is the director of media for Kona Ice corporate.

Kevin Britton, PUB 2001, is the assistant director of athletic public relations at Eastern Kentucky University.



Billy Colemore, CMS 2009, is the local outreach coordinator for the Lexington International Book Project.



Kevin Martin, JOU 2004, is the photo editor at San Antonio Express-News.

MaryBeth Smoot, CMS 2009, recently completed her master's in sports administration from Xavier University.

Kathryn McBride, JOU 2009, is entering her final year of law school at the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

Ben Kleppinger, JOU 2009, is a page designer and copy editor at the Danville Advocate-Messenger and the Jessamine Journal.

Chris Fields, CMS 2010, recently completed his master's in higher education/student personnel services from Columbia University.

Jessica Spencer, JOU 2010, is an administrative assistant in Eastern's AmeriCorps Department

Eva Hollenberg, PUB 2010, is the communications coordinator for the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Cassandra Whitaker, CMS 2011, is a marketing assistant at ST Media Group International, a marketing and communications firm in Cincinnati..

Outstanding Students 2010-2011

Andreas & Poppy
Zizos Award
Kristina Hamon
& **Taylor Pettit**

Charles Weaver Fund
Tiffany Evans

Christy L. Guttridge
Scholarships

Broadcasting and Electronic
Media: **Sarah Kaufman**

Journalism: **Kristina Hamon**

Communication Studies:
Tiffany Evans

PR: **Rachel Mollozzi**

Chris Schulte Intern Award
Sarah Kaufman

Dr. Dean Cannon Award
Amy Janowiecki

Dr. Glen Kleine Award
Xi Xiong

Dr. Libby Fraas Award
Whitney Leggett

Dan Mason BEM
Scholarship:
Ryan Pruitt
& **Kevin Anders**

Karen Rudick Award
Lindsay Bramlage

Kentucky Broadcasters
Association's Harry
Barfield Award
Katelynn Jo Griffin

Distinguished
Alumnus 2011

Ferrell Wellman

1991 BEM Grad
Former ECU BEM professor
and host of KET's
"Comment on Kentucky"
Resides in Lexington.

Yearbook scrambles to find funding source to continue printing

By Alex Little
and Lindsay Huffman

A yearbook is a chronicle used to preserve people, events and memories. But Eastern's yearbook, the *Milestone*, may be forced to stop publishing in the near future.

This would not be the first time the *Milestone* has not been published, however. The *Milestone* provided students a history of their years from 1922 to 1999, with the exception of 1944 and the intervention of World War II. The *Milestone* ceased publication again in 1999, remaining dormant until 2007 when the Department of Communication and Eastern officials brought it back to life.

The major factor in determining the yearbook's future: Finding a regular funding source. Jennifer Thornberry, a professor of journalism and staff adviser for the *Milestone*, said the yearbook currently receives temporary funding from the president's and provost's offices. Thornberry said she recently discovered an alumni fund for the *Milestone*, but it has not yet been received and she is unsure of how much the fund holds.

Thornberry also said the *Milestone* receives a small profit from



the revenue of yearbook sales, but sales have been low and the staff may have difficulty receiving permanent funding.

"At any university, direct sales are the hardest," Thornberry said.

Some students, however, said the yearbook faces a tough road back to relevancy.

"I don't feel that I have a connection to the yearbook," said

Warren Weatherford, a junior at Eastern. "I doubt I would be in it. I've never actually looked through the *Milestone*."

Despite concerns like Weatherford's, Thornberry said the yearbook holds something for everyone. The 2011 edition of the yearbook, for example, features sports, tailgating, the controversial preacher who visits campus and a

spread about the McGregor pipe bursting.

The current cost of the book is \$60, but Thornberry said the staff has been talking with the Student Government Association and the department about implementing a student fee that fund the yearbook's production and provide a free copy of the yearbook to any student who wanted one.

TREY BURKE | PHOTO

Student-run radio station looks to return to airwaves

By Seth Littrell, Kyle Woosley
and Lindsay Huffman

Eastern may be seeing a new type of student media on campus in the form of a student-run radio station.

Recent communication studies graduate Tony Manuel and professors from the Department of Communication have begun talks regarding starting a station due to interest from the student body.

"Many students in freshman orientation expressed interest [in a radio station]," said Liz Hansen, chair of the department.

Eastern had a similar radio station several years ago, but declining student interest caused it to close down.

Manuel said when he transferred to Eastern from the University of Kentucky he was surprised that Eastern did not already have a student-run radio station.

"I thought it was kind of funny that no-

body came up with the idea again," Manuel said.

Manuel and a group of professors began an effort to create a new radio station from scratch.

"It's largely a ground-up effort," said Jim Gleason, a public relations professor. "And I don't think that's a handicap at all."

The project is still in its planning stages, so location, budgets and the technology necessary for a station have not yet been decided.

Manuel said he thought funding would be the biggest problem about creating the new station, but they're soliciting grants from various source. So far, the Department of Communication and the College of Business and Technology have pledged \$5,500. In addition, the radio station has applied for a Student Government Association technology grant, said Allyson DeVito, part-time faculty member in the Department of Communication.

The other big challenge facing the radio station, Manuel said, is drumming up student interest and involvement. The hope is, Manuel said, that once students get involved, the station will expand its reach and attract students from a variety of majors.

"It comes down to the student body... anybody can be involved," Manuel said. "There's a lot to be said [for working at the station]. You're going to have those qualities and skills right out of college, and it's a step up from somebody who's going for the same job as you."

Gleason added he thinks students will be very involved in putting the station together.

"I love that students get to be a part of that because it's part of real life," he said.

As of now, the programming for the station has yet to be determined, but Manuel and Gleason said it will be very open to student preferences.

New professor brings enthusiasm to the journalism classroom

By Lindsay Huffman

When people describe Dr. Ginny Whitehouse, there is always one common adjective: enthusiastic.

"Ginny's energy is infectious," said Dr. Liz Hansen, chair of the Department of Communication. "Her enthusiasm is infectious. And I think she brings that to the classroom."

Whitehouse is the newest addition to the department's faculty. She moved to Kentucky with her two daughters from Washington in summer 2011 to teach a variety of journalism and other media courses at Eastern.

"Every day, I come up with something new to love [about Eastern]," Whitehouse said. "My children are happy, I'm happy and I'm excited



Ginny Whitehouse

about what we can potentially do with the journalism program."

Whitehouse's professional background is in media ethics, she said, about which she has written much scholarship.

She is also the co-coordinator of an annual workshop conducted by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication that teaches educators about media ethics.

And it was Whitehouse's background that led Hansen and other department members to consider her for the position at Eastern.

"I don't think there was much debate about who we wanted to bring to Eastern," Hansen said.

Whitehouse said she decided to accept the position at Eastern after 15 years of living in the western part of the country so she could be closer to her family members, several of whom live in Tennessee.

But being close to family wasn't the only factor in Whitehouse's decision to come to Ken-

tucky: She also said many members of her family have attended Eastern throughout the years, including her mother, who graduated in 1961.

"This has very much been a homecoming for me," Whitehouse said.

In the classroom, Whitehouse said she does not believe in lecturing to her students, but instead engaging them.

"Students need to be interacting with the material," she said. "I believe teaching and journalism has to be a two-way conversation."

Students said they enjoy Whitehouse's teaching style.

"I have her [for class] very early in the morning, but I'm never sleepy in her class because she's very energetic and sparky," said Kyle Woosley, freshman journalism student.

Students also said Whitehouse's methods because it enhances their understanding.

"She takes even difficult subject matter and makes it exciting," said Seth Littrell, junior journalism student. "I look forward to taking her classes in the future."

Students gain experience on the set of summer film project

By Lindsay Huffman

After several months of production and much hard work, another summer film project created by faculty and students in the Department of Communication is ready to premiere.

The project, entitled "Return to Me," focuses on a college student who "gets more than he bargained for" when he goes out with his friends one night, said John Fitch, associate professor.

The film was created as a part of the Faculty/Student Summer Film Internship that is offered to broadcasting and electronic media majors every year. This is the fifth year of the internship.

"I like to have the opportunity to work with the more advanced students outside of the classroom," Fitch said.

Chad Cogdill, assistant professor, said 11 students took part in this year's internship. Seven of the students worked on "Return to Me," while the remaining four created a documentary about the creation of the production.

The students worked on all parts of the projects, from pre-production, which started in April, to shooting in July and editing, which



will be ongoing until the film's official premiere, Fitch said.

Even the script of "Return to Me" was written by one of the broadcasting and electronic media majors in the department, Cogdill said.

"It was a really great experience," Cogdill said. "We got more students involved [this year] than we had ever had."

Students who worked on the project agreed the internship was a good learning experience for them.

"I'd never been on an actual film set before," said Josh Raines, senior broadcasting and electronic media major from Danville, Ky.

Raines said he worked mostly

during the shooting phase, ensuring the audio for the film was clear. He said the work itself wasn't difficult, but adapting to the pace of the work was challenging.

Another student and internship participant, Danielle Mears, said the most difficult part for her as a producer and editor was arranging the logistics.

"Overall, planning, getting the cast together, deciding where we were going to meet...just the planning behind everything [was the most difficult part]," said Mears, a senior broadcasting and electronic media major from Owenton, Ky.

Still, Mears said the internship was "very fun and interesting" and

would recommend other broadcasting students interested in film to apply for the internship.

"You meet new people, and you learn things that you wouldn't in a typical classroom setting," she said.

Cogdill said the film should be ready to premiere on campus in January. He added that he enjoys watching students collaborate on the project.

"They are able to get some experience on as real a production as they can," Cogdill said. "This year's group was a really solid group. They seemed really eager, really excited. From what I've seen, they did a really good job."

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There are two ways to donate to the department:

1. Donate by personal or business check

Make the check payable to "EKU Foundation" with a note in the memo line indicating the check is for the "Department of Communication."

Mail to: EKU Foundation
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521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, KY 40475

2. Donate by credit card

Go to: <http://development.eku.edu/>

In the "Gift Designation" box, indicate the donation is for the Department of Communication.

COMments

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