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The Link

Vol. 2 No. 8

Western Kentucky University Department of Journalism

Jan. 17, 1992

QUALITY CONTROL: re-accreditation begins

The long process of being re-accredited is nearing the final stretch.

A self-study report of the department, prepared by Department Head Jo-Ann Albers, has been completed and a five-member


accrediting team will visit Western Feb. 23-25 to conduct its study.

Accreditation is a process the department undergoes every six years (this department was established in 1977 and

has been accredited since 1979). It includes looking at the department with a critical eye and seeing if we are accomplishing our goals. It's basically a quality control process, Albers said.

Here's how re-accreditation works:

- Albers prepares the self-study which overviews Western's curriculum, accomplishments, missions, faculty and equipment.

See re-accredit 

Stephenson, Piscotty make Western cut for Hearst photo

David Stephenson and Marc Piscotty will represent Western in the Hearst Photo Competition this year.

David and Marc made Western's cut and will now compete with photo students nationwide.

The two will submit

their portfolios that include a news picture, feature picture, photo story, personality profile and a choice shot.

For the past two years, Western's photo sequence has won the Hearst Competition. Good Luck, David and Marc.

Yep, it's that time again

A few students have been lucky enough to secure real summer internships. They are Tanya Bricking, copy editing, The Courier-Journal; Susan Wessling, reporting, The Courier-Journal; Nikita Stewart, reporting, Lexington Herald-Leader; David

Stephenson, photography, Lexington Herald-Leader; Marc Piscotty (Woody), photography, The Buffalo (N.Y.) News; and Heather Stone, photography, The Washington Post.

Call The Link at 2655 and let us know as you get summer jobs.

SPJ...looking for a few good print majors

Going through journalism school without being involved with activities (other than classes, sleeping and drinking) is boring, bad and basically a bummer.

For print majors there's the Society of Professional Journalists. Sounds like a

snoozer but members say otherwise.

SPJ is good for the resume and it's a way to network with other journalists through national and regional conventions. SPJ does its share of partying. But it also serves many

purposes.

For example, each semester SPJ brings speakers to campus to talk about journalism and the newspaper business. It is also helping push for a free press in the former Soviet Union.

There are exciting

things happening at SPJ.

All print majors are welcomed — no matter if you're a freshman or sixth-year senior. Tanya Bricking is SPJ president, Chris Poynter vice president. Jim Highland is adviser. See these three people for information.

New and old faces

As the saying goes, you always return to your roots.

We welcome Harry Allen back to the Hill. Harry replaces Jim Ausenbaugh, who retired last semester. Harry will be teaching Editorial and Feature Writing and News Editing.

Allen taught at Western from 1978 to 1985. He comes to Western after being city editor at the Lakeland (Fla.) Ledger. He and his wife Janet have two children, Craig, 19, and Amy, 16.

Welcome back, Harry.

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Student Publications seems to go through secretaries about as fast as regents call for audits.

But the latest — Vonda Davis — says she's here to stay.

Vonda comes to Publications from the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation where she worked for 10 months.

Vonda's husband Daniel is a science teacher at Warren East Middle School. They have two daughters, Jennifer, 19, and Jamie, 15.

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Well, she's not new but she has a new name.

Congrats to Wilma King, who married Evan Jones over the holidays. Welcome back, Wilma Jones.

College Heights Herald names Spring staff

The Herald is more than just a student newspaper. It's a place to get experience before dreaded graduation day.

About 50 people are getting that experience this semester.

The following is the Spring staff list.

Doug Tatum, editor; Christine Taylor, managing editor; Steve Smart, photo editor; Steve

Miller, ad manager; James Brooks, features editor; Anya Arms, opinion page editor;

Tanya Bricking, special projects; John Martin, sports editor; Brian Daughtery, assistant Sports editor;

Jennifer Johnson, Diversions editor; Jerry Busser, copy desk chief and magazine editor; Chris Poynter, senior writer.

Reporters are Stephanie Stivers, Julie Grundy, Nikita Stewart, Keary Jordan, Karen Gibson, Dana Fife, Lisa Koger, Jim Hannah, Huma Ashan, Rebecca Flynn, Natalie Evans, Trina Helson, Ann Clingerman, Kenneth Schott, Rachel Swing, Kevin Kinnaird, Laura McCauley, Cara Anna, Tom Batters, Jeff Nations, Jason B. Whitley, Rebecca

Schultz, Maria Burnham, Tammy Cooley, Carrie Meredith, Pamela Kiggins, Jeanie Reinitz, Angela Bryan, Mike Brewer, Mark Critchfield, Nancy Wakeland, Jill Nevels and Jerry Mills. Patrick Richardson is cartoonist.

Photographers are Chris McKenney, Heather Stone, Tom Leininger, Marc Piscotty and David Stephenson.

PRSSA meets Jan. 22

The Public Relations Student Society of America will meet 7 p.m. Jan. 22 in DUC, Room 308.

George Kolbenschlag, APR, of Lindsey Wilson College, will speak on "The Benefits of PRSSA to a Student."

New members are required to attend for an induction ceremony. Kolbenschlag will conduct the induction.

Students interested in becoming a member of PRSSA should attend the meeting.

Re-accreditation

Continued from the front

• The accrediting team visits campus, talks to students, professors and reviews the department. The team gets a copy of the self-study. The team then recommends if the department should be re-accredited.

• The team's recommendations goes to the accrediting committee, which reviews the self-study and the recommendation, and then accepts or rejects the team's proposal.

• The committee's recommendation then goes to the accrediting council. The council approves or denies re-accreditation. A department can also be put on provisional, which means that the department has some problems and if they are corrected within a year, re-accreditation will be granted.

Albers said she doesn't think Western will have any problems getting re-accredited.

In the past, the accrediting teams have criticized Western for not having up-to-date equipment but the new Macintosh computers solved that problem, Albers said.

Being accredited has many benefits for Western, Albers said.

Certain competitions like the Hearst writing and photo competition are open only to accredited schools of journalism. And many of those national awards we win boosts Western's reputation as a good journalism school, Albers said.

Some journalism grants are only given to accredited schools.

Being accredited also allows the journalism department to lobby within the university for more money and higher salaries — when an accrediting council tells a university that its journalism school has problems or needs more money, universities usually pay attention, Albers said.

Generally, being accredited says "Hey, Western, you're doing a quality job."

Western will know it's re-accredited in May.

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