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Budde to join Hall of Distinguished Alumni

Neil Budde, an innovator in the online news publishing business and spring and fall 1976 Herald editor, will be one of three members of the 14th class of noted alumni to be inducted into the Hall of Distinguished Alumni.

The ceremony will take place during a Homecoming week luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 14, at the Sloan Convention Center.

In the past decade, Budde has been at the forefront of changes in the high-tech online publishing industry, but his journalism career had a rather low-tech start.

His first newspaper experience was a hand-written newspaper distributed to the neighborhood where he lived near Cleveland. His first real newspaper job at the then-twice-weekly Hardin County Enterprise (now the daily News-Enterprise).

Throughout his years at Western he worked on the Herald in various positions, including editor-in-chief.

After graduating in 1977, Budde worked for a year at the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch, then at The Courier-Journal in Louisville and USA Today. During his eight years at The Courier-Journal, Budde completed his MBA at the University of Louisville.

In August 1987, he joined Dow Jones News Retrieval where, as deputy editorial director, he oversaw design and development of the Talisman.

An update from President Chuck Clark

As you saw in the last issue of The Contact Sheet, we’re preparing to launch an alumni fund drive to raise money for a new home for the Talisman and the College Heights Herald.

Although we’ll formally kick off the campaign at Western’s Homecoming in October, we wanted to let you know that much work already is under way, and that we have some exciting news.

We’re looking at a $1 million effort to build and outfit a state-of-the-art newsroom operation for Student Publications, and to create a financial cushion that will ensure the long-term success of the Herald and the Talisman.

We’re planning a home that will be capable of serving Western’s student media for decades to come. It will be our first offices expressly designed to be a news operation — outfitted for the newspaper, the yearbook, the Web, television and other multimedia — and to accommodate whatever technology comes next to our craft. Sites are being studied and plans are being drawn.

And we have some outstanding news to report: Just a few weeks after we announced that this effort would launch this fall, people are stepping up to the plate and starting to make the financial commitments needed to finally turn this dream into reality. So far, we’ve received pledges in excess of $340,000 — $190,000 in cash from the Herald that Bob Adams and JoAnn Thompson tucked away over the years; and, most important, at least $150,000 in commitments from alumni.

This starts us toward our goal. In the coming weeks, you’ll be getting additional updates on where we stand, and the role that you can play in building the future of the Herald and the Talisman. Our alumni are scattered across the country, making a difference in our craft and others, every day — and with your help, we’ll build the kind of home at Western that the Talisman and the Herald deserve.

If you have any questions, or want more information on how you can be a part of this effort now, don’t hesitate to contact me at ChuckClark@cfl.rr.com.

You may contact the following members of the steering committee for additional information:

Chuck Clark, Orlando Sentinel, ChuckClark@cfl.rr.com
Steve Thomas, Lincoln Journal-Star, stjohn@journalstar.com
Bob Adams, WKU Student Publications, robert.adams@wku.edu
JoAnn Thompson, Student Publications, joann.thompson@wku.edu
Neil Budde, Yahoo! News, budde@yahoo-inc.com
Margo Grace, Friesens, Louisville, margograce@aol.com
Lee Grace, Mapother & Mapother, Louisville, LGrace@Mapother-Atty.com
Chris Poynter, The Courier-Journal, cpoynter@courier-journal.com
David T. Whitaker, Fruit of the Loom, Bowling Green, dwhitaker@fruit.com
Chris Poore, University of Kentucky, cpoore@kykernel.com
Tom Yunt, Woodward Communications, Inc., tyunt@wcinet.com
Leslie Watkins, WKU Development, Leslie.Watkins@wku.edu
Triv

Linda L. Dono (ldono@gns.gannett.com), special projects editor at Gannett News Service in McLean, Va., has been traveling every month or six weeks between Washington and Nashville to take care of aging parents in Nashville. She's going on year four of marriage and six years together, with three dogs and two cats. She has been at Gannett News Service for four and a half years. For the first four, she was a Washington editor, supervising reporters who covered Congress for about a third of the 100 Gannett papers. Now she is special projects editor, working on things longer term, some of them dealing with Gannett's Real Life, Real News initiative. To reach her at work, it's 7950 Jones Branch Drive, 3rd Floor, McLean, VA 22107-0320. Phone 703-854-5895.

Steven and Amy King are settled into life in the fast lane. Steven is a multimedia producer/photo editor with washingtonpost.com and Amy is working for ERG, an environmental research/communications consulting firm. She is writing, editing and planning events.

Linda Lyly Matthis (editorlyly@emailink.net) has some new numbers. Her address is P.O. Box 678 Fairfax, S.C. 29827. They have lived in Fairfax for three years and she is managing editor of The Allendale Sun, which began publication last July. “We’re a three-person staff, so we stay pretty busy.” She is also attempting to publish her first novel, which she hopes will be of interest to Western grads. Her main character is a small town Kentucky police reporter who graduated from Western. They say you should write what you know. An agent is looking at the first 75 pages and a synopsis. On the home front, Lawrence is in second grade.

Todd Pack (packplace@mindspring.com or tpack@tennessean.com) moved from the Orlando Sentinel to The Tennessean in March. He’s covering the business of health, which is a refreshing change after writing about Mickey Mouse! (“No one ever believes that, but it’s true.”) Marcy’s enjoying Alison’s last summer before kindergarten. Their contact information is 2212 Falcon Creek Drive, Franklin, TN 37067.

Buddy Shacklette (Buddy.Shacklette@news-jnl.com) says life is good in Florida. He and his wife Christy survived the hurricanes (“only needed to replace our home’s roof”) last year and they’re hoping for a gentler season this year. They added to the family four days after Hurricane Charley. Carter Lewis was born Aug. 17 and is now nine months old. Buddy is still at the Daytona Beach News-Journal (14 years now) covering NASCAR and prep sports. Christy works in the county Property Appraiser’s office for the county.

Brian Moore (bemo_32@yahoo.com) has bought his first house and probably will be living out of boxes when you read this. His new address is 521 School Way, Louisville, KY 40214. If you’re trying to find the house, School Way runs off Southern Parkway about four-tenths of a mile from Iroquois Park. Brian is the Bullitt County reporter for The Courier-Journal. His work number is 502.582.4608.

J. Michael Moore (jmichael.moore@comcast.net) has a new job and address. He is publications coordinator for the Denver Broncos. His work email is moorem@BRONCOS.NFL.com and phone 720.258.3104. J Mike’s new address is 7857 W. Mansfield Parkway, #9-202, Lakewood, CO 80235. His new phone number is 303.378.1757.

Mary Ann Lyons Gerth (mgerth@insightbb.com) is still a photographer at The Courier-Journal. Her address is 12920 W. Hwy 42, Prospect, KY 40059.

In case you’ve lost Scarlet Blandford Namvong (snamvong@insightbb.com), her address is 2623 Navajo Drive, Apt. A, Bowling Green, KY 42104. Noah is 2 and Nadiya is two months. Scarlet is scrapbooking and hopes to start teaching again in July at Scrapbook Country, a new store that has opened next to Hobby Lobby in Bowling Green.

Deanna Harp Hansen lives at 724 Lynwood Way, Bowling Green 42104. She’s back in school studying to be a nursing instructor. She had worked as a pediatric nurse for several years in Bowling Green.

Connie Holman (cholman@herald-leader.com) is Homeseller editor at the Lexington Herald-Leader. She recently attended the Kentucky Press Association where she received several advertising awards.

Karin Lowe (klowe@nwitimes.com), features design team leader since February 2004, says things in northwest Indiana are good. Before that she was in charge of the news design desk. The news is that she got engaged to Matt Saltanovitz and they bought a house in the same day in December. He was born and raised in Munster, went to IU and works on the news design desk at the Times. Now he’s back in school for architecture. They’re getting married in October 2006.

Epha Riche has been promoted to news design director at the Indianapolis Star. She and Sam will be heading to San Antonio so Sam can pick up his award for the best sports action photo in the National Press Photographers Association competition. Their son Will is quickly heading toward his second birthday. Their address is 318 Meadowview Lane, Greenwood, IN 46142.
Tom "Hitman" Hernes has settled in nicely as a page designer for the news department at the The Times of Northwest Indiana in Munster, Ind. He has worked at the newspaper for almost four years. Tom and his wife Charlene reside at 416 Manor Drive, Hobart, IN 46342. Tom has become a big White Sox supporter since living near Chicago, attending several games a year, including opening day the past three years. Tom would like to hear from his classmates, and can be reached by e-mail at thernes@nwtimes.com. Home phone number is (219) 947-1918. Work phone number is (219) 933-4152 after 4:30 p.m. central time Monday through Friday.

Stephanie Gladney (sgladney@herald-leader.com), said she's not engaged (like everyone else). But she has accepted a features design position at the Chicago Sun-Times. She'll be working dayshifts Sunday through Thursday doing the daily entertainment section. She'll also be in a rotation to design the Weekend section and the Red Streak. As many of you know, Chad (her boyfriend) moved to Chicago in January. He is in his first real play which opens June 17. They're both really excited to be in the same city again. Stephanie will be

Linsmier, Herald selected for SPJ national awards

Edward Linsmier, a senior from Saxe, Va., was the national winner in the General News Photography category in the Society of Professional Journalists' 2004 Mark of Excellence competition.

The Herald was selected as a national finalist in the Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper (published two-three times per week) category.

The national winner was the Argonaut of the University of Idaho. The GW Hatchet of George Washington University also was a national finalist.

Herald staff members received several awards last week in the Kentucky Press Association's 2005 advertising competition.

The Herald received first-place awards in five categories and finished third overall in the general excellence competition for KPA associate members.

The awards, presented May 13 in Louisville, were:

First place: Amelia Farmer of Fisherville for classified section; Matthew Rountree of Elizabethtown for real estate ad and use of color; Michael Reuter of Gardendale, Ala., and Rachel Griffin of Owensboro for creative use of the newspaper/house ads; and spring 2004 staff for special publications.

Second place: Reuter and Griffin for creative use of the newspaper/house ads; Rountree for entertainment and dining ad; and Griffin for general miscellaneous ads.

Third place: Reuter for entertainment and dining ad; spring 2004 staff for special sections; and Prospect junior Katie Hollenkamp and Daniel Byrd, a May graduate from Glasgow, for general miscellaneous ads.

Other Western grads who attended the awards luncheon were Mark Mahagan of the Daily News, and Connie Holman of the Lexington Herald-Leader.
Induction ‘almost like Homecoming’

Surrounded by family, colleagues, former and current students and friends, Bob Adams, longtime Herald adviser and shorter time Talisman adviser, was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame on April 19 in Lexington.

“It was almost like Homecoming,” Adams said.

The text of his acceptance speech follows:

First, I want to thank the committee who make the selections. I’m honored to be included among such a distinguished group of people. I’m especially honored because I never expected to be standing here today.

After a session with college folks at the January KPA meeting, Beth Barnes said she needed to speak with me. I doubt if she has ever had anyone react like I did. I think my first question was, “Are you sure?”

Then, as I’m prone to do when emotion overtakes me, I probably had to wipe a bit of moisture from my eyes. My next request was for her to send me something in writing — just so I could be sure before I told anyone else.

I said something to Sherry (who was at KPA) but told her not to tell anybody until I could find out if it was really true. I did tell my wife and my mother because I was sure they could keep a secret.

I didn’t hear anything else for about three weeks — or more. Finally, I got an e-mail from Beth that included the date of today’s luncheon. The note said that if I couldn’t make it, we could do it next year. I canceled my reporting class for today. I wasn’t going to take a chance.

I want to introduce some special people here today. My wife Sandy, sons Andy and stepchildren — Chad, Justin, Nicole, Tara and Clint Whittington. My brother Bill is here from northwest Minnesota. My mother — who is in an assisted living facility in Minnesota — could not be here. Two people watching from above today — my father and an uncle who were responsible for the scheme that got me to Western in the first place — probably have take a break from their storytelling and are undoubtedly proud today.

The other thing Beth and the committee didn’t realize was how many people were really being welcomed into the Hall of Fame. The program says six. I beg to differ.

Would all of the people who have ties to Western please stand? (About 40 percent of the people in the room stand)

Without these people and the many others who couldn’t be here today, I wouldn’t be here either. I don’t dare start thanking people who have made this possible. But I would be remiss if I didn’t mention at least two.

Dave Whitaker, a member of the Hall of Fame, was one of my mentors. He changed the direction of journalism at Western, and his influence on the College Heights Herald is still part of our culture.

The other person has kept me on task and has kept me from making a lot of mistakes over the years. That’s Jo Ann Thompson, a friend and my right hand for many of her 29 years at Western.

As I said, I can’t start to thank all of the people who have made this possible. But I’d like for Don Collins to stand and represent the former Herald staff members. Don is an editor in the sports department at USA Today. A few years ago, he and Jo Ann started a scholarship in my name at Western and they have raised almost $20,000 to help students with their education. Some of those scholarship recipients may be here today.

I keep mentioning the importance of students to my success. Only a few people really understand what a college newspaper or yearbook adviser really does or the risks involved. Chris Poore, a former Herald editor who is now the student media director here at UK, understands.

A college adviser is in a unique situation. It’s the only job that I know of where you turn over your reputation and future — in our case every semester — to a group of 18- to 22-year-old students and hope (and pray) that they will be successful. If

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More Triv...
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in Savannah, Ga. Prior to taking his present job, Tim had worked 30 years in the publishing industry. He hasn't given up newspapers completely. He writes about food and restaurants for Savannah Magazine, the Savannah Morning News and conducts cooking classes and programs throughout the Southeast. His address is 2260 Daffin Drive, Savannah, GA 31404.

Here's some new information on Emily Baker Richard. Her address is 706 Brook Hollow Road, Nashville, TN 37205. Her phone number is (615) 356-5642.

Adam Eadens (eaders@newsleader.com) sure knows how to get the boss's attention. Not only has he been dating the daughter of the publisher of the News-Leader in Springfield, Mo., where he's a copy editor, they are engaged. Details coming soon.

Mike Lamar visited on April 11

Hall of Fame induction belongs to students
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they succeed, everybody says you're doing a great job. If they fail, the perception is that you did a lousy job.

Thankfully, our students over the years have weighed heavily on the success side.

There's a lot of concern about the future of journalism. A revered writer in Detroit filed a story about what was supposed to happen, not what happened. A freelance writer reported in the Boston Globe on an event that was canceled. A Los Angeles Times writer admitted mistake after mistake in a recent story. Newspapers are losing readers who have decided they can't trust what they read.

Let me assure you that the future of journalism is bright, if the students I work with every day are any example. I think Chris would tell you the same thing.

This is all about students. I was thinking over the weekend about today. One question I'm asked more and more these days is "When are you going to retire?" I actually went to a pre-retirement seminar last Saturday.

The answer is "I don't know. The only thing I know for sure is that retirement is closer today that it was 39 years ago when I started at Western."

One thing that concerns me is losing contact with the wonderful students I've been blessed to work with. If I had retired in 1993 after 27 years, I would not know John Stamper or Kristina Goetz. Shannon Behnken or Ryan Clark. Caroline Lynch or Stephanie Gladney. Brian Moore or Jerry Brewer. And the list goes on. I still have to deal with that issue.

The other question I've been asked is what's the hardest part of my job. It's not staying until the paper is put to bed at 1 or 2 a.m. twice a week. It's not facing an angry administrator who really didn't want his mistakes exposed on the front page of the Herald. Or the history professor who didn't want his DUI published. It's not being libeled by your own president who proposed having faculty editors run the College Heights Herald. Thankfully, several people here today helped keep that from happening.

The hardest part of my job is one I've never done well. It's saying goodbye to the students who have become friends. It may be getting easier as I've gotten older, but it's still hard. When it gets easy, I will know it's time to turn this job over to someone else.

Until then, there's still a lot to do. One of my goals before I retire is helping Student Publications raise enough money to get into a new Student Publications Building. Our goal is to be there in two years. So there's still unfinished business.

I could go on for the rest of the afternoon, but the people you're going to hear from have impressive resumes and have earned their day in the spotlight by their body of work in journalism. My work has depended wholly on others.

I thank everybody who contributed. This is your day.
It's a win Winn for Western in Hearst

For the third time in five years Western has won the overall title in the Hearst Journalism Awards Program for the third time since 2000.

And for the second straight year a Western student has won the national photojournalism championship in San Francisco. Herald photographer Jim Winn took top honors in the photo competition and won a $5,000 scholarship.


In the overall competition, Western was followed by Arizona State, Nebraska, Missouri, North Carolina, Northwestern, Penn State, Florida, Kent State and Syracuse.

"To have an independent authority name one of our prominent academic programs as the best in American higher education is indeed a mark of distinction for WKU and for the Commonwealth," President Gary Ransdell said.

Earlier, Western won the Intercollegiate Photojournalism Competition for the 15th time in 17 years and had six students qualify for the Hearst national semifinals. Three advanced to the finals – Winn, Melanie Blanding, a junior from Roanoke, Va.; and Bowling Green senior Erik Jacobs. Blanding and Jacobs received $1,500 scholarships. Jacobs also won a $1,000 award for best single photograph while Blanding won a $1,000 award for best picture story/series.

Jae S. Lee of Hendersonville, Tenn., won the Hearst photo competition last year.

The overall Hearst championship includes print journalism, photojournalism and broadcast news.

Western will honor former Herald editor

Continued from Front Page new information services. In 1993, he developed the initial ideas and business plans for an online version of The Wall Street Journal and was asked to form a team to build it. He was named editor and directed the design, development and evolution of The Wall Street Journal Online, which debuted in 1996.

In January 2000, Budde added the title of publisher as The Wall Street Journal Online defied skeptics and became the largest paid-subscription news site on the Internet with about 700,000 subscribers.

Budde left the online Journal in late 2002 and launched a consulting firm, the Neil Budde Group. In November 2004, Budde returned to online news management as general manger of Yahoo! News, the No. 1 news site on the Internet, with more than 25 million monthly visitors.

In 2002, Budde was named one of four finalists for the World Technology Awards in the category of Media and Journalism. In 1998, he was named Business Journalist of the Year by TJFR, a newsletter covering business journalism.

Budde and his wife, Virginia B. Edwards, editor of Education Week, live in Richmond Hill, Ga., and Washington, D.C. Budde is based in Yahoo’s Santa Monica, Calif., office.

The other two inductees this year are Lee Robertson, one of Western’s greatest ambassadors; and Col. Edgar Stansbury, who has maintained his ties to Western for about 80 years.

For ticket information for the luncheon, contact the WKU Alumni Association at 1-888-WKU-ALUM.

If you were looking for an excuse to come back to Homecoming, this is it.

Come and celebrate with us.

Wrapping up some loose ends...

Bob Adams received the University’s Student Advising Award for 2005. He was recognized at graduation and the award will be presented at the provost’s opening convocation in August. Earlier he had been selected as the Potter College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences award winner.

Tim Broekema, assistant professor of photojournalism, received the Potter College Public Service Award.

Long-time fixture in the journalism department Jim Highland, professor and coordinator of the news/editorial program, is officially retiring effective July 1. He will still be around teaching on the optional retirement program although next year he will teach a full load in the fall and spend the spring in Hawaii. He was named a finalist in the Scripps Howard Foundation Journalism Teacher of the Year Award competition.

Jackie Breit, director of the High School Media Institute and co-Talisman adviser effective July 1, spent Jan. 7-22 in Indonesia for the International Journalism and Media Management Training Program to teach media professors and professionals how to be effective trainers and teachers of journalism.