10-2003

UA68/13/4 The Hilltopper Journalist

WKU Journalism & Broadcasting

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This special edition of The Hilltopper Journalist documents the move of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting into Mass Media and Technology Hall. The photographs were taken by students in Tim Broekema’s Photojournalism Practicum class. Articles about the move and about the School’s new director, Pam Johnson, and the departing director, Jo-Ann Albers, are on pages 3 and 4.

A message from the director

Dear Friends of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting:

First things first. I am very pleased to be the new director of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting. I accepted the position because when I came for the interview, four things won me over:

- Hard working and eager students.
- A dedicated and talented faculty and staff.
- A supportive and caring administration.
- A solid and innovative curriculum.

My initial primary goals will be to maintain and enhance the current program and culture of the school, promote the school nationally and internationally, and obtain four endowed professorships and the naming of the school.

I look forward to having a productive and fun time at Western.

Pam McAllister Johnson, Ph.D.
Epleys Movers was in charge of moving the School of Journalism and Broadcasting from the top of the hill to its new home at the bottom in Mass Media and Technology Hall.

Chad Stevens, center, and Jeanne Altenas-Smith, right, both photojournalists-in-residence at Western, and photo student Matt Thorne, discuss the new photography studio.

James Kenney, coordinator of the photojournalism program, gets a greeting at his window from photojournalism students after class. "I can't wait until those shades come in," Kenney said.

Mark Simpson, assistant professor, right, shows off one of the facility's new desktop computers to associate professor Cory Lash.

Wilma King-Jones, coordinator of the public relations program settles into her new office in Mass Media and Technology Hall.
By HJ Staff

Pam McLain-Johnson is a businesswoman who’s put high on her agenda, a Midwesterner who’s lived in New York and Beverly Hills, a woman who captivates the public as an endowed professor of a general-circulation newspaper in the United States.

And since July 1, she has been the Dean of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting at Kent State University.

"She’s a very good fit for the job," said Pam McLain-Johnson, the new dean of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting at Kent State University. "I think she’s going to do great things here."

Johnson became dean last month after spending 20 years at the University of Michigan. Her son, John, 25, is a student at Michigan State University. She has a B.A. in industrial labor relations and an M.A. in management information systems from the University of Michigan.

Johnson has been on the job at Kent State for three months, and she said she’s happy with the progress of the school.

"I think our students are going to be very pleased with what we’ve accomplished," she said. "We’ve improved the facilities, and we’ve increased our budget."

Johnson said that she’s been working closely with the faculty and staff to improve the school’s programs.

"I think we’re making progress," she said. "We’re going to have some new courses and some new programs."
Barry Gutierrez, Mark Hilltopper Journalist

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success.

Broadcasting merged to form

Allers bids farewell after 16 years

Jo-Ann Allers was the director of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting for 16 years. She is on optional retirement, but still teaches one class and is helping with the transition.

By Jo-Ann Allers

Deciding to come to Western Kentucky University is one of my best decisions ever. There have been no regrets and only a couple of surprises. But it is time to step down from the directorship of the School of Journalism & Broadcasting as it was not made easily, but it was the right step.

I researched the job pretty well. I knew a lot about the program because I chaired the 1986 Accreditation Council on Education for Journalism and Communication (ACEJC) visit the first time that I was there in 1993. I was a site visit team member (with faculty because I did feel the need to meet with students to get an idea of what they were doing in the program).

My decision to come to Western was made out of my representation of Women in Communication on the Accrediting Council on Education for Journalism and Communication for six years at the time. The opportunity to be director of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting was also right in time for me and I was ready for a change.

The attraction of academia included wanting to make a positive impact in journalism and mass communication education. I wanted to be in a place that didn’t conclude you weren’t going to be successful. I had to think (though the students in the program knew a lot about the program for me). I also wanted to

and see what I might be able to do for my

success.

Western Kentucky University services were in place for me. I was born about 100 miles east of here and grew up in the little town of Highway 80 next door to Bradley’s Pleasant Baptist Church. It set this coming home and was an opportunity to renew involvement in the Kentucky Press Association. I was the first head of the KPA newspaper division established a few months before I left The Clarion Engineer in May 1981 to become editor of Stangs Journal in Michigan.

I have always thought that journalism education is the cornerstone of our democracy, and our young people need to understand that. I think this is why the School of Journalism and Broadcasting has been so successful.

Jo-Ann Allers

School of Journalism & Broadcasting

Jo-Ann Allers

Word of the Week

May 12 - 16

This week we recognize

Bob McMillan

was selected as the 2002 recipient of the National Student Media Foundation's

News Advisor of the Year award. Bob served as the adviser for The Western Times and Kentuckian, earning numerous awards since joining the program in 1998. He is the first Western student to receive this award.

The first recipient of the Joan Bennett award was

Bob McMillan, adviser of the student newspaper The Western Times. The award is named after the first woman to win the National Student Media Foundation's News Advisor of the Year award and is given annually to a woman who has made significant contributions to student media. Bob is the second recipient of the award. The first recipient was Joan Bennett, who served as the adviser of The Western Times from 1982 to 1998.

Building a new era in Journalism & Broadcasting

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Incorporating technology, advertising and public relations, the new Building A will house the Department of Journalism and Broadcasting.

The building will serve as a central hub for students, faculty and staff.

It will feature a new media center, a state-of-the-art television studio, and a 300-seat auditorium.

The building will also include a newsroom for the student newspaper The Western Times and the student television station.

The building is scheduled to open in fall 2003.

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Western Kentucky University
Movers spent several weeks getting the school of Journalism and Broadcasting from the top of the Hill to the bottom.

Empty boxes line the walls of Mass Media and Technology Hall.

Workers load boxes from the photojournalism program in Garrett Conference Center.

Jo-Ann Albers, former director of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting, prepares for the move. "I'll never find this," Albers said.

Empty boxes line the walls of Mass Media and Technology Hall.

Associate professor Harry Allen stayed in his office until 6 a.m. one Wednesday, getting ready for a noon pick-up by the movers. They came on Friday.

Tim Broekema, a visiting professor in residence, tries to keep up with the organized chaos of the move.

Photo by Maggie Huber

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Photo by Maggie Huber
Tracey Self cleans the floor of the Mass Media and Technology Hall while WKU students Sarah McDonald and Heather Cowherd study.

Richard Pennington puts finishing touches on Mass Media and Technology Hall. Pennington has been working on the building for almost a year.

Mike Morse teaches the first basic photography class in Mass Media and Technology Hall on Sept. 22, 2003.

WKU Spirit Masters Natalie Croney of Hopkinsville and Natasha DeJarnett of Georgetown visit the new gallery in Mass Media and Technology Hall.

The sun sinks behind Guthrie Bell Tower, which can be seen from the northwest face of Mass Media and Technology Hall.