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Plenty of opportunities to get involved

By Jo-Ann Albers, Dept. Head

"Better late than never" is the thought that comes to mind. I missed the opportunity offered by the first Fall '97 issue of The Link to welcome new and returning students through no one's fault but my own.

We are delighted to have you all here. Many of you attended the opening sequence meetings. I hope all of you are taking steps to join the appropriate student organizations so you are plugged in to what's happening in your majors and professional areas. Organizations and faculty members to contact are:

- **Advertising Club**
  - Carolyn Stringer, GWH 313

- **National Press Photographers Association**
  - Mike Morse, GCC 215

- **Public Relations Student Society of America**
  - Dr. John Barnum, GWH 306

- **Society of Professional Journalists**
  - Jim Highland, GCC 2C

- **Western Kentucky Minority Communicators**
  - Wilma King-Jones, Gee 2A

If you're interested in working on *The Herald*, see Lori Becker, editor; Kurt Fattic, photo editor; or Jeremy Clemons, advertising manager.

Assignment of mentors for new majors has gotten off to a slow start but should be completed by the end of next week. If you are a new major and do not receive a letter telling you who your mentor is, please call the department office on extension 4144 so you can be matched. The preliminary enrollment list we are working from is incomplete and lacking some addresses.

Juniors and seniors who have not volunteered to be mentors are needed. If you don't receive a form in one of your classes, please stop by the department office.

- See page 2 Opportunities

Kansas secretary likes Bowling Green's famous hill

By Sherry Compton

If you spend much time in Gordon Wilson, then chances are you've noticed a new face. Karen Dinkins started on Sept. 8 as a secretary for the journalism department.

Karen is 30 years old with a bachelors degree in English Lit. from Pittsburg State University in Kansas. Karen has worked as an editorial assistant at Intertec Publishing in Overland Park, Kansas, and as billing specialist at Deluxe Check Printers in Lenexa, Kansas.

She is certified as a sign language interpreter and has used this ability to work with children. Her hobbies include reading nonfiction books, fishing, boating and traveling.

Karen says that she was "ready for a change" and moved to Bowling Green to be near her boyfriend. She likes the small town atmosphere and enjoys the trees, and yes, even the hills after living in Kansas most of her life.

She has also noticed that WKU's journalism department "pays close attention to students" and is impressed with the concern that is shown to advising and helping them. After Karen has time to settle in and check out the courses offered, she plans on getting a second degree.

So if you see Karen in the hallway or in a class next semester, be sure to say hello and welcome her to the campus. Try it in sign language, if you can.

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The Link serves the Department of Journalism’s students, faculty and administrators. Suggestions and materials will be accepted from anyone in the department.

Seth Alexander, co-editor
Sarah Ramsey, co-editor
Dr. Augustine Thator, advisor
PRSSA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

WHEN: November 8-11
WHERE: Opryland Hotel
DEADLINE: October 17
COST: Member $165
Nonmember $180

For more registration information or an application come by the PR Lab in Gordon Wilson Rm 307 or call 5840.

TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND

10. Don't have to travel far -- only 1 hour.
9. Don't have to stay on campus for the weekend.
8. Learn country line dances from the pros.
7. Dress up as your favorite celebrities and party.
6. Meet other pr students from across the nation.
5. Get to skip school for two days.
4. The PRSA National Conference is across the hall.
3. Network with the professionals.
2. Have resumes and portfolios critiqued.
1. Learn tons about your future jobs.

Opportunities

From page 1

An expanded and improved Journalism Resources Center is open in the department office. It contains periodicals and books of interest, including material from the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center; and the Career Corner, an area with Internet access, directories of available internships and communications employers, and some career information. Eventually it will have sample resumes and cover letters on file to help you in a search for an internship or permanent position.

As we await the arrival of Dr. Gary Ransdell, new president of WKU, we are working on plans for construction of a new building and for enhancing the chances of having it funded by the Kentucky Legislature for the 1998-2000 biennium. (Ransdell is a department alumnus, in case you didn't know. Dr. Robert Blann remembers having him in a few classes.)

Dr. Barbara Burch, academic vice president and acting president, attended the Friday department faculty meeting and updated us on university happenings from her perspective.

You may hear the faculty talking a lot about accreditation. Right now we are completing the self-study report that will guide the January 25-28 visit of a team from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Our accreditation is up for renewal in May.

I hope you will make plans to attend student meetings with team members. On January 26, four visitors will divide up to meet with majors in the four department sequences. Times and places will be posted in January. We are not going to tell you what to say at these meetings. You should feel free to express anything that's on your mind.

Summer Internship-Deadlines Are Approaching Fast

It's time to touch up your portfolio, cover letter and resume. Most deadlines for the summer of '98 internships are in October and November. Internship opportunities can be found by coordinator's office doors or posted in the journalism hallway.

Public Relations – GW 306 Advertising – GW 313
Print Journalism – GCC 119 Photojournalism – GCC 215

Want to get published and have portfolio pieces?

This fall The Link will hold a contest for the best feature, photograph and ad. Applicants will be picked from various classes or they can be submitted directly to the PR Lab in GW Rm 307.

With five more issues left in the semester, one has plenty of opportunities to build an impressive portfolio.