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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PLETZ HONORED

by: Suzie Hampson
Student Hometown News Bureau

CHARLESTON, IL.--John Pletz, a sophomore at Eastern Illinois University, has earned the 1987 Curtis D. MacDougall Newspaper Scholarship for his outstanding achievements in the field of journalism.

Pletz was selected by the journalism faculty following his recommendation by the nominating committee. The committee consisted of Daniel E. Thornburgh, executive officer of the Eastern Illinois University Foundation; David Reed, chairman of the

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PLETZ HONORED

journalism department; and John Ryan, editorial adviser to the Daily Eastern News.

"I was really surprised. It's really nice when you can pick up a journalism scholarship and see your work pay off," said Pletz.

Pletz is currently the Verge editor and night sports editor for the Daily Eastern News. He has also served as a staff reporter and photographer.

"As a sophomore, he is one of the top involved sophomores. He really shows a lot of promise as a college journalist," said John Ryan, editorial adviser to the Daily Eastern News.

As a freshman at Eastern, Pletz received the Outstanding Freshman Journalist award from Eastern's chapter of the Society of Collegiate Journalists. He also received the Talented Student award for his work on the Daily Eastern News.

Pletz began his work in newspaper during his junior year in high school where he attended Pontiac Township.

Since then he has worked as a string reporter and photographer for the Pontiac Daily Leader and still continues his work when he is home from school.

"John is dedicated to a career in journalism and he's showing a willingness to take a leadership role at the paper even though he is only a sophomore. John is not only capable, but he works to motivate others to meet his own high standards for the paper," said Gary Holaway, a journalism professor at Eastern and Pontiac

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PLETZ HONORED

resident.

Pletz served an internship with the Leader and a second internship last summer at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. He was the youngest intern ever hired at the training center.

Pletz said his future plans are to work at a large metropolitan newspaper.

Pletz is the son of G.H. Pletz of Pontiac, and a 1986 graduate from Pontiac Township High School.