Chris Sundheim is a national editor for the Associated Press, helping to oversee the wire service’s U.S. news report from its world headquarters in New York City. He is responsible for surveying the top stories in the United States each day and working with reporters across the country. Sundheim has coordinated coverage of historic events, such as Hurricane Katrina, the 2006 midterm elections, and the return of the space shuttle program after the Columbia disaster. He joined the AP in 2000 as a reporter in the Indianapolis bureau. In 2002 he became a desk supervisor, and in 2004 he transferred to the Chicago bureau. Sundheim has degrees in journalism and history from Eastern Illinois University. While at Eastern, he worked for four years at The Daily Eastern News before graduating in 1995. Prior to his time at the AP, Chris was a reporter for the Champaign News-Gazette.

Special Guest: George Garties, AP bureau chief for Illinois

From gay rights to racial bias, from plummeting circulation to “infotainment,” from burnt-out reporters to hard-bitten editors, The Paper goes inside the newsroom to reveal the drama of deadline journalism. But this is not some big-city major daily. It’s The Daily Collegian, published by students at Pennsylvania State University who, in the course of one crisis-filled year, face crushing deadlines, ethical dilemmas, doubts and disagreements, all the while shouldering courses, homework, and exams.

The Paper is by turns inspiring and astonished in its exploration of tomorrow’s journalists wrestling with today’s national media questions. Do you lure newspaper readers by entertaining them or offering them hard news? How do you deliver the news when you are obstructed by wary public officials and misleading public relations campaigns? What is the media’s responsibility to serve the public interest in all its diversity? The film addresses these urgent questions in a gripping story that interweaves the drama of pressure-cooker journalism with the idealism of youth.

—Description from official website: http://www.thepaperdocumentary.com

Run time: 78 minutes

This film is presented in conjunction with the Booth Library Film Series. Further information and a schedule of upcoming screenings are available on the library’s website.
Gene Deerman is an assistant professor of sociology at Eastern Illinois University. Her current scholarly interests include examining right-wing activism, the political influence of conservative think tanks, and new projects in the area of rural sociology. Her work on social movements examines processes of identity and community among activists. Professor Deerman teaches an advanced course on social movements that examines the impact of political activism on the twentieth century.

The Civil Rights Movement, News Images, and the Awakening of the American Social Conscience

Civil Rights activists deliberately used the power of images to galvanize social conscience and support for the movement. This panel discussion begins with the news coverage of the murder of Emmett Till to explore questions of how the media shape our collective memory.

Speakers: Gene Deerman, Eugenia Jefferson, and Sally Turner

Eugenia Jefferson is a senior journalism major from Matteson, Illinois, where she attended Rich Central High School. At Eastern, she is the online production editor for The Daily Eastern News and a copy editor/designer for Minority Today. She was a design intern at The Star Newspapers in Chicago. She is past president of the National Association of Black Journalists, EIU Chapter; vice-president of the American Copy Editors Society, EIU Chapter; and a member of the Society of Collegiate Journalists.

Sally Turner teaches journalism and advises the yearbook staff at Eastern Illinois University. She received her bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Missouri and her Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. She works with the high school press as the executive director of the Illinois Journalism Education Association and the Eastern Illinois High School Press Association. She has worked in newspapers in Missouri and Colorado.

Martha Irvine is a Chicago-based national writer for the Associated Press. Since 2001, she has developed a beat that focuses on issues relevant to young adults and teens – from trends to social issues. Irvine began her journalism career in 1987, working at newspapers and magazines in Australia, New Zealand, Michigan, and Minnesota. In 1995 she joined the AP bureau in Portland, Oregon. Irvine received a 2001 Studs Terkel Award for her coverage of social issues in Chicago. In 2004, the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors recognized her profile of a teen who was born with HIV. That same year she was a finalist for the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association “Journalist of the Year” award. She also won a 2007 Front Page Award from the Newswomen’s Club of New York for a feature about a dying mother’s quest to explain her inevitable demise to her young children.

John M. Ryan is director of Student Publications and a professor of journalism at Eastern Illinois University. In addition to teaching opinion writing, media management, and reporting on the arts, as well as other writing and reporting courses, he oversees The Daily Eastern News, the Warbler, Minority Today, and the Vehicle. Before coming to Eastern, John was a staff writer for the Champaign News-Gazette and the State Journal-Register in Springfield, Illinois.