

John Dillon (2019)



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John Dillon grew up in the Northern Illinois manufacturing city of Rockford, where he fell hard for journalism while writing sports stories for his high school newspaper, the Boylan Line. From there it was pretty much a straight “line” to a newspaper and teaching career that ended with his retirement in 2017 as a professor emeritus at Penn State.

After graduating from Creighton University in 1969 John served three years as an Army officer stationed in Stuttgart, Germany, then earned a master’s degree in mass communication at the University of Minnesota. He joined the Richmond Times-Dispatch in Virginia in 1975, working nearly 32 years in reporting and editing positions, including 12 as a deputy managing editor. In 2007 he joined the faculty of Penn State’s Bellisario College of Communications, where he taught for 10 years and was the Norman J. Eberly Professor of Practice in Journalism.

He served for six years on The Daily Collegian board of directors, including two terms as president, and now serves on the board of directors of the Mid-State Literacy Council. He also volunteers as a precinct judge of elections in Centre County and teaches skiing at Tussey Mountain. He is married to Jan Dillon, whom he met on Match.com just two months after arriving in State College to start his Penn State job. Their family includes five children, spouses and nine grandchildren.

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