On October 2, 2005, The Network: Addressing Collegiate Alcohol and Other Drug Issues (The Network) presented Becky Markwell, M.S. with the Outstanding Contribution to the Field Award at the annual U.S. Department of Education’s National Meeting on Alcohol, Other Drugs and Violence Prevention in Higher Education.

Ms. Markwell is the fourth recipient of The Network’s Outstanding Contribution to the Field Award, which recognizes professionals in the alcohol, other drug, and violence prevention field who have gone above and beyond the context of their position to impact the work of many individuals. Recipients of this award are recognized for empowering higher education campuses with resources to address alcohol, other drug and related health concerns. Other award criteria include actively promoting proven strategies and approaches for reducing alcohol, other drug, and violence on college campuses, and making contributions to the field that have moved it in a new direction.

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As founder and director of the Illinois Higher Education Center for Alcohol, Other Drug and Violence Prevention (IHEC), Ms. Markwell has become Illinois’ foremost proponent for the safety and well being of college students in her state. Securing funds from the Illinois Department Transportation and the Illinois Department of Human Services, Ms. Markwell has made it possible for universities and colleges in Illinois to implement and evaluate alcohol prevention programs on their campuses. Toward this effort, she coordinates biannual statewide surveys to assess alcohol use among Illinois college students. The data she collects is published in reports that are used to raise awareness and educate the state, community and campus officials [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]
about the risks involved in collegiate drinking. She also coordinates and facilitates the annual Campus Alcohol and Traffic Safety Conference in Illinois that caters to higher education and governmental professionals across the state.

Ms. Markwell has authored several statewide college drinking assessment reports and instructional guides concerning alcohol use prevention. One publication that has had significant impact is a booklet that she contributed to and edited titled, Freshman Year: A New Direction, A New Beginning. This booklet has been distributed to more than 130,000 parents throughout Illinois and other states to help prepare them for the issues their students may face in college, and to coach them in talking with their students about alcohol and other drug use.

In addition, Ms. Markwell is sought after as a highly respected trainer by campuses and governmental agencies alike. She is a staunch advocate for state laws and policies that reduce accessibility of alcohol to underage students and prevent heavy and high-risk drinking.

Ms. Markwell currently serves as the Director of the Safety Programs Office at Eastern Illinois University and as president of the Illinois Traffic Safety Leaders. The Network is the preeminent organization that proactively addresses issues of alcohol and other drug use and violence among students enrolled at its 1,500 member institutions of higher education.

Through self-regulatory initiatives, resource development and dissemination, identification of exemplary programs, technical assistance, and development of shared standards for policy, educational strategies, enforcement, evaluation, and community collaboration, the Network strives to enhance the capacity of its member institutions in creating healthy campus environments. The Network also serves as a liaison between the U.S. Department of Education, other higher education professional organizations and its member institutions.

The Network award was presented at the opening session of the 19th Annual National Meeting on Alcohol, Other Drug and Violence Prevention in High Education on Sunday, October 2nd at 5:00 p.m. at The Westin Indianapolis in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Network also sponsored a reception following this session where Ms. Markwell was the honored guest.

Mt. Zion Teacher Receives Distinguished Educator Award

Cathy Ruwe Anderson, who graduated from Eastern in 1974 with bachelor’s degrees in special education and elementary education, and in 1983 with a master’s degree in elementary education, received the prestigious Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award from the Illinois Council of Exceptional Children in 2004.

The award recognizes outstanding teachers of learners with exceptional learning needs. While earning certificates in learning disabilities, educable handicapped, emotionally disturbed and early childhood, Anderson has used the knowledge she has gained to support and be an advocate for her students.

She also received an award at the National Council for Exceptional Children conference in New Orleans and from the Secretary of Education in 2004.

Anderson is a resource teacher for students with learning disabilities at Mount Zion High School.
The vast majority of first-year teachers in Illinois feel well-prepared for their jobs and plan to dedicate their careers to education, according to a new survey.

Nearly 99 percent of new teachers reported satisfaction with their career choices, and nearly 92 percent were happy with the quality of their colleges’ education programs.

The survey also found that more than 95 percent of new teachers plan to stay in education, with more than 85 percent planning to remain in a teaching role. In a collaborative effort among 12 state educational institutions, the Teacher Graduate Assessment project collected input from new teachers and their supervisors to gauge how well college prepared the teachers for their jobs and how to improve that effort.

“I was pleased by the survey results, as they affirmed that, overall, the public universities are doing a commendable job of preparing teachers for our Illinois schools,” said Christine Sorensen, dean of Northern Illinois University’s College of Education, who serves as the chair of the Illinois Association of Deans of Public Colleges of Education. “Both graduates and their employers indicated that teachers were well-prepared for the work they were expected to do in their schools.”

Overall, teachers were very positive about their preparedness for their jobs. Lowest-scoring areas included preparedness for teaching English-language learners, working with administrators and working in a high-accountability environment.

Four out of five new teachers were supported by a mentor, with 68 percent finding the benefit to be moderate or great. Nearly 90 percent of the supervisors responding reported having mentoring programs available.

More than 90 percent of the supervisors who responded said they had visited new teachers’ classrooms at least three times in the past year. Responses indicated that most teachers often use the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards (87 percent) and the Illinois Learning Standards (91 percent). The Illinois Professional Teaching Standards refer to key skills and competencies for all teachers, while Illinois Learning Standards refer to core skills and competencies for all students to develop.

However, nearly 20 percent of the teachers reported they don’t have “most or complete knowledge of” state technology standards. Only 55 percent of new teachers reported applying technology standards in their classrooms.

The survey results were released to the public Thursday, Nov. 3, in Springfield. The project is coordinated by Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

“This program provides very valuable data,” said Charles Rohn, dean of EIU’s College of Education and Professional Studies, who is

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4]
also president-elect of the IADPCE.

“Each institution is already very involved with trying to ensure that our preparation programs are as strong as they can be, and this will provide us with an additional tool to work toward that goal.”

Findings were reported in aggregate, but each participating institution also received data specific to its graduates to assist the universities with efforts to improve their programs. As an EIU official, Rohn was happy with what the survey showed about Eastern specifically.

“We are very pleased and proud of the results as they pertain to Eastern,” Rohn said. “They are very positive and overall are a validation of a very strong teacher education program. Virtually all of our graduates are very well satisfied with our preparation program and believe they were very well prepared to enter the teaching profession.”

EIU was ranked higher than the state averages in most areas of graduate satisfaction. For example, 96.6 percent of responding EIU graduates said they were satisfied with the quality of EIU’s teacher preparation program, higher than the statewide average of 91.7 percent. And 95.4 percent of EIU alumni were satisfied with their interaction with EIU faculty. The state average was 92.7 percent.

At the same time, Rohn said, the survey helped to identify areas where there is room for improvement at EIU, and officials have already started discussing those efforts.

“Those will certainly help us to begin to move an already strong program to an even better one,” Rohn said.

Intended to be an ongoing endeavor, the Teacher Graduate Assessment project is a cooperative effort of the Illinois Association of Deans of Public Colleges of Education and the Illinois Teacher Data Warehouse. The participating institutions in IADPCE and the project include Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Illinois at Springfield, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Western Illinois University, and the Illinois Teacher Data Warehouse.

Funding was provided by The Joyce Foundation, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois State Board of Education and the participating institutions. Copies of the report are available online at www.iadpce.org.

Alumni News:

Kyla (Mathews) Peters, ’03, is very pleased with the educational training she received from EIU.

“The CEPS, MLE office, John Coffey and Gail Lockhart provided me with numerous tools to help my students and myself be successful,” she said. Peters currently teaches sixth grade math in a southern suburb of Chicago.

“Thematic and interdisciplinary units are all the rave. With my middle school endorsement, I am well equipped to create engaging lessons and play a huge role on my sixth grade team,” she said.

Peters will finish her master’s degree in education this May from St. Xavier University-Chicago.
Summer Study Abroad Opportunities Emphasize Diversity in the Classroom

Two years ago, Dr. Marylin Lisowski was the first professor from the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education to lead a group of students abroad. As a part of their Block II Science Methods course and Practicum, Lisowski’s students earned college credit by participating in field studies on Andros Island, Bahamas. Since then, faculty-led study abroad trips have gained popularity within the department.

“For those who are not as comfortable going overseas, faculty-led programs provide students with more assistance and a greater feeling of security while they are in a foreign country.” said Emily Brueseke, assistant to the director of Study Abroad. Additionally, faculty-led study abroad trips allow experienced travelers to gain EIU course credits.

This summer, Lisowski will again sponsor a trip to Andros Island. Dr. Judy Barford and Dr. Daniel Carter will also sponsor a trip to Canada in conjunction with York University. The program, Toronto for Teachers, provides students the opportunity to fulfill requirements for ELE3350, Language Arts in the Elementary Classroom, STG 4000, Multicultural/Disability Practicum, ELE 4741, Independent Study and EIU/5990, International Education.

These two unique short-term trips supplement coursework taught in the Education department, coursework which emphasizes diversity in the classroom.

“Our department feels that offering even short-term study abroad experiences can help our pre-service teachers develop skills, understanding, confidence and a global perspective that will be very beneficial as they work with children,” said Dr. Merribeth Bruning, EC/ELE/MLE department chair.

In addition to such valuable learning opportunities, options for group excursions are planned for those students who participate in the Toronto for Teachers program.

The Stratford Festival Theatre, Niagara Falls and the Scottish Castle, Casa Loma, are attractions which are visited while students are abroad.

Through the Toronto for Teachers faculty-led study abroad program, EIU students are given the chance to observe in a Canadian classroom.

“The teaching multicultural lessons is a minimal part of creating appreciation for diversity. The students must experience it firsthand if they are to relate it successfully to their students,” said Carter.

For more information on the Toronto for Teachers program, contact Dan Carter or Judy Barford. Those interested may also visit the Toronto for Teachers Website at http://www.eiu.edu/~toronto. For more information on the Andros Island trip, contact Marilyn. Lisowski and visit her website at http://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~cfmfl/.
For the past thirteen years, Shawn Peoples has made students her life. Peoples’ began her career counseling students when she served as a Residence Hall Counselor in Lawson Hall on Eastern Illinois University’s campus.

Having completed both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at EIU, Peoples was well-prepared to continue her student development services in higher education.

After several years of working in recruitment and student support at St. Louis Community College at Meramec and Housing and Residence life at St. Louis University, Peoples recently returned to EIU to continue providing students with the guidance and support needed to help them succeed.

As the new Coordinator of the Minority Teacher Identification and Enrichment Program and the new Coordinator of Education Scholars, Peoples will provide a support network that assists minority teacher education candidates with academic support and appropriate role models.

The ultimate purpose of the Minority Teacher Identification and Enrichment Program is to increase the number of minority students participating in EIU teacher preparation programs, to increase the pool of minority teachers in the state of Illinois and to motivate minority students to apply to and attend institutions of higher education.

Additionally, Peoples will further encourage participation in the Education Scholars program by maintaining positive relationships with state-wide community colleges and high schools.

“Being recognized as an Education Scholar shows the university community and potential employers that a student is committed to academic excellence and the teaching profession,” Peoples said.

Benefits to being an Education Scholar include referrals to departments for scholarship consideration, networking opportunities for P-12 teachers and administrators, professional development workshops, awards/recognition events and social activities.

“Besides offices within the College of Education and Professional Studies, I work with the Office of Minority Affairs,” said Peoples. “I am also looking forward to working with the Admissions Office in order to help get out information about both programs to the various schools in the state.”

“It is truly a blessing and an honor to return to an institution that provided me with a foundation not only rooted in academic achievement but also in student development,” said Peoples. “I am glad to be back on campus to interact with students and hopefully provide the same type of lifelong experiences that will help them to develop as well-rounded individuals inside and outside the classroom.”
On November 10, 2005, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Eastern Illinois University’s Education Scholars held a pizza party and bowling night with the local chapter of Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Approximately 25 children and 40 Education Scholars attended the event.

The pizza party and bowling night allowed the Education Scholars to be further involved with children in the Charleston community. The program was organized by the Education Scholars’ Community Involvement Committee.

The Education Scholars’ annual recognition reception will be held Sunday, December 4, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. in Buzzard Hall, Rooms 2444 and 2504.

MacAfee Gymnasium was the site of the first Outdoor Recreation and Leisure Show. On November 5, 2005, Dr. Peggy Holmes-Layman and her Programming in Recreation class hosted the event.

“Awareness needs to increase of what leisure and recreational opportunities exist both on campus and in the Charleston and surrounding communities,” said Holmes-Layman. “Education and exposure to the various activities available can help the students and the community.”

Holmes-Layman added that commonly overlooked sources of recreation and leisure included Fox Ridge State Park, The Douglas Hart Nature Center and historical sites such as Lincoln Log Cabin and the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum.

“Participating in a worthwhile activity greatly adds to the student experience and to anyone’s quality of life,” she said. “Many activities have physical, social emotional and/or cognitive benefits.”

Several leisure service agencies were present either in person and or with materials and displays including: Fox Ridge State Park, Eagle Creek Resort, TimberCreek Campgrounds, Eastern Illinois University Union Board, Douglas-Hart Nature Center, EIU Campus Recreation, Lincoln Log Cabin, Charleston Travel and Tourism Bureau and the Charleston Recreation Foundation.

Approximately 34 visitors and 22 students took advantage of the resources provided during the show.

Holmes-Layman hopes to make the Outdoor Recreation and Leisure Show an annual event.
Outside classroom keeps students learning

Located in the middle of the North Quad is a classroom.

Instead of chairs, a chalkboard, four walls and a ceiling, this classroom consists of two rows made up of 3-foot brick walls shaped in a half octagon. The inner wall is dug one foot deeper into the ground, and there is an area in front laid with crushed stone for the professor to lecture.

There are no desks, the walls are the surrounding trees and the ceiling is the sky.

Two years ago, John Henry Pommier, professor of recreation administration, came up with the idea of an outdoor classroom setting.

Class is not held outside every day. Instead when the weather is nice and noise from the construction site at Blair Hall is limited, Pommier brings his recreational administration classes outside.

“Students need a change in scenery sometimes, and they appreciate being able to go outside for class,” Pommier said.

Pommier takes his classes, such as operation of leisure facilities and recreation for individuals with disabilities, to the outside classroom and students learn how environments affect people’s learning and living styles.

As they learn, they see how an environment change from indoor to outdoor setting is affecting them.

“I enjoy learning in a new environment instead of just the classroom and being outside,” said Erin Morettes, a student of Pommier and recreation administration major. “Plus, being outside relates to what we are learning in class.”

Working in such programs as “Outward Bound School,” a school that uses the outdoors as a classroom to help students learn, Pommier thought of the idea of applying an outside classroom to Eastern’s campus.

When students work outside, they are efficient and seem to pay more attention, Pommier said.

“It’s like eating a banana split everyday, after a while you become bored with it,” Pommier said. “For students learning in a classroom, it becomes boring, but if they get to learn outside every once in awhile,

With being in a classroom everyday, most college students don’t want to go to class, but being able to go outside, sometimes class becomes more comfortable and students are willing to attend and learn, said Lindsay Loekle, also a student in Pommier’s class and recreation administration major.

“It’s a wonderful addition to our campus and a great learning environment,” said William Higelmire, chair of recreation administration department. “I’m looking forward to seeing the expansion of it in the future.”

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CEPS Faculty in the News

Scott A.G.M. Crawford, Physical Education, had an “Issues” piece appear in the September 2005 issue of Journal of Physical Education Recreation, and Dance. The topic for discussion was “Is it better for PE/Kinesiology graduate assistants to teach university activity classes, or for athletic coaches to teach these classes?”


Robert Bates attended the National Safety Council’s Congress and exposition in September. He moderated a session on reducing the costs of eye injuries. The Congress and Exposition is the nation’s largest gathering of Safety and Health professionals. This year over 18,000 professionals attended presentations and workshops on the latest approaches to reducing losses due to accidents both at work and at home.

Dr. Andrew M. White and ten preservice teachers made two presentations titled “Making Connections” at the Fall Regional Conference for Teachers held at Charleston High School on Friday, October 7. The workshop instructed teachers from grades K-8 how to effectively use children’s literature and mathematics as motivating factors in the classroom. The group acted out “Betcha” and “Jumanji” and followed each with mathematical activities which followed the storybook theme. Eastern Illinois University preservice teachers making the presentation were:

Tim McGinness, Aaron Crutchfield, Michelle Erickson, Justin Palm, Billy Gherardini, Kyle Geistwhite, Stacy Livengood, Candice Kuchar, Michael Packard, and Jason Van Pelt. The group has been asked to present the workshop at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics annual meeting in St. Louis, Mo., next April.

Dr. Marylin Lisowski was selected to be the Teacher Preparation Representative for the Board of Directors and Council for the National Science Teachers Association. This is the largest organization that is comprised of university and K-12 science educators. Her term will be for three years.

Robyn B. Paige, a master’s candidate in College Student Affairs, presented “Culture and Ethnicity in Prevention of Hazing Programs” at the National Summit on Black Greek-Letter Organizations in Little Rock, Arkansas, on October 1. The Summit was sponsored by the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP). Robyn is an Associate Resident Director in Greek Court.

Drs. Cavanaugh, Simons, Phillips, and Walker will be attending and presenting sessions at the Illinois Association for Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance state conference in November in St Charles, IL. Presentations will be done on back pack weight, cigarette butt litter, and fit vs fat.

Drs. Cavanaugh, Simons, Phillips, and Walker recently submitted an article for consideration titled “Weighing in on Backpacks” to the Illinois Journal of Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 7]
Drs. Simons and Phillips recently submitted an article for consideration titled “Not Nit Policies Are Leaving Children Behind” to the Illinois Journal of Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance.

Drs. Phillips and Dietz with Dr Borzi from Communication Studies recently submitted an article for consideration titled “The I Sing the Body Electric Program” to the American Journal of Health Education.

Drs. Bates and Cavanaugh making a presentation at the Illinois High School and College Driver Education Association in Effingham in May, entitled: “From Behind the Wheel: A Student’s Perspective.” The dynamic duo presented the results of a study of college students and their perceptions of their high school driver education experience.

Susan Woods, Health Studies, and Mark Brown, Daemen College, had their article,” Lessons To Be Learned: Promoting Multicultural Discourse through a College Minority Student Panel,” published in the Fall 2005 journal Multicultural Education.

Robert Bates attended the National Safety Council’s Congress and exposition in September. He moderated a session on reducing the costs of eye injuries. The Congress and Exposition is the nation’s largest gathering of Safety and Health professionals. This year over 18,000 professionals attended presentations and workshops on the latest approaches to reducing losses due to accidents both at work and at home.

Scott A.G.M. Crawford, Physical Education, had several entries that appeared in the “Berkshire Encyclopedia of World Sport,” edited by David Levinson and Karen Christensen. The four-volume series was published in Great Barrington, Massachusetts by Berkshire. The pieces examined auto racing, netball, shinty, sled dog racing, and tug-of-war.

Three College Student Affairs graduate students presented at the recent Meeting of Midwest Graduate Students in Student Personnel (MOMG-SISP) Conference Oct. 22-23, in Schaumburg, Ill. Brian Clarke, GA in Counseling and Student Development, presented “Etiquette for Professionals in Student Affairs,” while Robin Zazove, GA in Orientation, and Victoria Zeter, GA in TRIO, presented “Hope Theory in Student Affairs.”

Dr. Charles Eberly, Professor of Counseling and Development, presented two programs with colleagues at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Regional Convention at Schaumburg, Ill., on Monday, Oct. 24, 2005. He presented “Knowing the Data: Understanding Research in Fraternity and Sorority Advising” with Dan Bureau, Director of Greek Life, University of Illinois Champaign, and Dr. Billy Molasso, Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Northern Illinois University. With Dr. Andrew Wall, Eastern Illinois University, and Mr. Bart Shaw, Director of Residential Learning Communities, Sigma Phi Epsilon, he co-presented “Correlates of Faculty Influence in Naturally Occurring Residential Learning Communities.”

Dr. William C. Hine, Dean of the School of Continuing Education and Professor of Education, made a presentation at the national meeting of ACHE (Association of Continuing Higher Education) Oct. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 11]
30, 2005 in Madison, Wisconsin. His topic was Third Age Learning: A New Challenge/Opportunity for American Continuing Higher Education.

Dr. Marylin Lisowski was on the Executive Planning Committee for the National Science Teachers Association Convention which was held in Chicago from Nov. 9 through 12, 2005. In addition she was the Program Strand Leader as well as a session presider for the keynote session on “World of Crocodiles” and the presider for the featured presentation on “Human Induced Climate Change”. She also presented two sessions, one titled, “People, Resources and the Environment” and one titled, “Schoolyard Sleuthing: Integrated Investigations”.

Christie Cruise, a master’s candidate in College Student Affairs, presented two sessions at the recent Illinois Academic Advising Association Conference in Palos Hills, Il.: “Multicultural Academic Advising: Techniques for Working with Diverse Populations,” with LaTanya Cobb of the University of Illinois-Champaign, and a paper on her master’s thesis, “The Effectiveness of an Intrusive Advising Program on Students on Academic Probation.”

Karen Huseman, a second-year graduate student in the College Student Affairs program at EIU, was awarded the Graduate Student of the Year for the state of Illinois at the Great Lakes College and University Housing Association-International’s convention Nov. 6, 2005. Karen is Associate Resident Director of Weller Hall. With Jenesha Penn, also a second-year CSA graduate student, Karen presented the program, “Discover Your Gifts: How to Maintain Balance in Graduate School.” A second GLACUHO program presented by a CSA graduate student was “Diversity Circles” by Dannie Moore, with Marco Morrison, a second-year graduate student in the Educational Administration program.

Dr. Veronica P. Stephen, Professor, Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education Department, conducted three presentations at the 35th Annual Illinois Association of Teacher Educators (IATE) Fall Conference held at the MLK University Union in Charleston. Presentation topics included a research study on social studies activities, addressing social issues via children’s literature, and tips for successful teaching in the first year and beyond.

Dr. Nancy K. Farber, Counseling & Student Development, and graduate students Shannon Hinkle, Jenn Scott, and Katie Taake presented “Research Based Group Guidance Programs: Creative Strategies for School Counselors” at the annual Illinois Counseling Association conference in Itasca, IL on Nov. 12.

Correction: The September issue of Connections stated that in 2006 Prof. Gustavo Albear will begin his Educational Specialist degree. In 2006, Albear will begin a doctoral program in Curriculum and Instruction at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. Connections regrets the error.