The Chat Room
College of Education and Professional Studies Newsletter

The Future is Bright for Rising Stars

The Rising Stars program was created to both honor the academic achievements of EIU’s top sophomores as well as introduce them to special opportunities for further developing their potential. In addition to sophomore status, each of this year’s Rising Stars achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.78 and completed a minimum of 30 hours of coursework at EIU.

Rising Stars are those students for whom the most is hoped, of whom the most is expected, and by whom the most is accomplished. Eastern Illinois University and its Honors College salute these students as they start on their journey to greatness.

At the reception held in their honor, this year’s Rising Stars were introduced to Study Abroad, National Student Exchange, Undergraduate Research, National Scholarships, and Graduate School opportunities. They were welcomed by President Perry, received certificates from Provost Lord, and heard speeches given by Dean Augustine (Graduate School), Dean Irwin (Honors College/NSE/Undergraduate Research), Director Wendy Williamson (Study Abroad), Dr. Terry Barnhart (History Department/Madison Fellowship), and Ms. Sara Schmidt (Honors College/National Scholarships). They also heard from two students who had applied for major scholarships: Ms. Rebecca Grove (Goldwater recipient) and Mr. Ryan D’Arcy (Madison nominee).

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Courtesy of the Honors College

This year EIU had 99 Rising Stars. Many Rising Stars belong to the College of Education and Professional Studies. These students are:

Early Childhood Education
• Stevi Dillenburg
• Alexis Lobdell

Contact us at:
College of Education & Professional Studies
600 Lincoln Ave.
Charleston, Illinois 61920
cepsnews@eiu.edu
Rising Stars Cont’d

Elementary Education
• Margaret Berry
• Erin Cottet
• Ashley Griffith
• Katy Hankins
• Brittany Draft
• Danielle McFarlin
• Kiri Miller
• Amy Pulley
• Danielle Slater
• Kelley Williams
• Kristen Debnar
• Michele Gaston
• Clair Monroe
• James Schnura

Physical Education
• Emily Miller
• Jaclyn Silvestri
• Ryan Swanberg
• Alexandra Zwettler

Special Education
• Nicole Dallas
• Kelsey Usselmann

Recreational Administration: Therapeutic
• Brittany Prysock

Health Studies: Community Health Option
• Carolyn Clay

TEACHER CERTIFICATION
Art
• Renee Dettling
• Jamie Kemp

English
• Shelly Hanson
• Barbara Harrington
• Hope Nottmeyer

Foreign Language
• Emily Donsbach
• Alyssa Godzicki
• Katie Rahn

History
• Aaron Denman
• Katherine Payne
• Vincenzo Troianiello
• Erin Wise

Math
• Stefan Aydt
• Emily Hecht

Music
• Charity Hickox
• John Kelliher
• Julie Martin

Social Science Teaching
• Kirsten Gee

Career and Technical Education
• Megan Shier
HST Alum Serving in Afghanistan

Unlike some college seniors, upon graduating with a bachelors degree in Community Health from the Department of Health Studies in 2007 Richard (Rick) Rodgers had a job all lined up. Rick had re-enlisted in the United States Army and was set to deploy to Afghanistan in October of 2008. Sergeant Rodgers graduated from Gardner-South Wilmington Township High School in 2001. He joined the Army after graduating from high school, and after being deployed to Germany, he came to EIU to start his college education. While in his final year at Eastern, Rick decided to re-enlist in the Army even though he knew this would mean certain deployment. Sergeant Rodgers is proud of his country and wants to help make the world a safe place for all.

Sergeant Rodgers said of his deployment, “It is a humanitarian mission to protect the refugees from the Taliban. I want to help restore peace. The country of Afghanistan is the 3rd most littered with land mines.” While he was ready and willing to go to Afghanistan, Sergeant Rodgers knew he would miss his comforts of home. He is an avid Chicago White Sox, Bears, and Bulls fan and was sad that he would not get to see their seasons play out. He will also miss his friends, family, and his two dogs who are staying with his mom in North Carolina for the year.

In Afghanistan Sergeant Rodgers will have the opportunity to use his Community Health degree. He is qualified to teach CPR and First Aid to his fellow soldiers.

While Sergeant Rodgers is supposed to be deployed for only 12 months he may stay in Afghanistan longer. Next September Afghanistan is conducting elections and Sergeant Rodgers is unsure of whether or not he will be needed to stay overseas at that time. When Sergeant Rodgers does return from Afghanistan he is hoping to buy a house on a lake in Chicago.

The College of Education and Professional Studies is proud to have Sergeant Rodgers as an alumni and proud of all its alumni and students who serve our country. We wish Rick a safe trip and cannot wait to have him back home in fall 2009.

Alumni Spotlight

Dannie Moore graduated with his Masters Degree from the College Student Affairs (CSA) program in 2006. Upon graduating he took a job at Marquette University in Residence Life. After working at Marquette for 2 years Dannie got the opportunity to pursue his dream career path. He is currently working at the University of Texas at Arlington as the Assistant Director of Multicultural Affairs.

Moore currently helps underrepresented students succeed in college by overseeing a first year mentorship program that provides academic services to students at the University
Spotlight Cont’d.

of Texas at Arlington and working to educate the campus climate on different cultures.

Moore enjoys his work because, “each day I see the difference I make in the lives of the students.”

Moore remembers his times at EIU affectionately, “One of my fondest moments at EIU were the late nights studying with the cohort for our law class and realizing that after studying all night all we truly did was play around. I will never forget the family I made at EIU and in the CSA program.”

Colleen Coffey is also graduated with a master’s degree in 2006 from the College Student Affairs program. Upon graduation, she took a job as the Program Manager for The Leadership Institute – Women with Purpose where she designed and facilitated training curriculum for college women all over the country. She stayed very busy by also writing “I Heart Recruitment” with EIU alumna Jessica Gendron and speaking for the National Mental Health Awareness Campaign (NMHAC).

This past summer, Coffey was offered a full time position with NMHAC. She joined NMHAC as the first ever Program Manager. She designs and develops curriculum, works on grant writing, marketing, and supports the speaker’s bureau. Coffey is also a member of CAMPUSPEAK, an organization that represents college speakers, sponsored by NMHAC.

Colleen said, “I have so many fond memories of being at EIU. Long talks with the Docs, Rocs with Robin, writing at Jitters and Bliss, laughing with Tractor, Panhellenic meetings, and Greek Sing. Probably my most favorite memory was one Sunday mid-morning I went running. I had lived in building 6 in Greek Court for about 6 months and was trying desperately to help Lambda Chi and Delta Zeta become a true community. It was, I think, the Sunday after Greek Week and as I was running on 6th street one of the off campus houses that was occupied by Lambda Chi members was BUZZING. As I came closer, I saw almost ALL of my building 6 residents grilling out, laughing, and becoming friends. Of course, they invited me over and I obliged for a moment or two. Seeing that was the one day when I thought “I might be doing something right.”

Colleen Coffey with her dog

Coffey has started working towards her doctorate. She is currently living in Nashville.
20th Annual Special Olympics Fun Fest is a Rockin’ Event

The 20th annual Special Olympics Fun Festival took place on Saturday, September 20th, 2008. The theme of this year’s event was: SOFF Rocks the 80’s. With around 1,000 Olympians and even more volunteers, the campus of Lakeland College in Mattoon came to life for a Saturday of fun, food, games, dancing, and prizes.

Many of the volunteers that came from EIU were special education majors. For many, this was not their first time volunteering at the event. The day started out overcast and dreary; however, the weather was not enough to keep out the fun. Megan Watts, a senior special education major, says of the day’s weather, “Even though it rained a little bit at the beginning of the day, you could still tell that was not going to stop the participants from having one of the best days ever.”

All of the volunteers have different experiences. For senior Special Education Majors Jacquelyn Klacza, Johanna Frick and Jessica Manuel, dancing with their friends-for-the-day and the Elvis impersonator were by far the best parts of the day. Kate Anderson’s, senior Special Education Major, favorite part of the day was watching the Olympians receive their ribbons. “When they [the Olympians] finish a game they get to pick out a prize and their ribbon. They have such a great look of happiness on their faces. It just shows that you need to smile about the little things in life.”

Volunteers, Watts, Klacza, Frick, Anderson, and Manuel all agree that they would love to volunteer again for the SOFF event but do not know where they will be next year after they graduate. Senior Special Education major Megan Watts is considering it even if she has a job in a different location. “I would love to do it again next year. I will hopefully be at a job, but would give up my Saturday in a heart beat for this.”

These senior Special Education majors know the importance of volunteering and the impact their presence can make on an event such as the Family Festival. All of these girls encourage volunteering at this event. When asked to give advice to people who are hesitant to volunteer, Anderson says, “If you know how to have fun, you know how to help here! I know that people who don’t have a lot of experience with people
SOFF Cont’d.

with disabilities can be nervous. I completely understand, because I was one of those people. However, there are so many people there to help and such good directions, as long as you are positive, the rest will fall into place.”

CSD Professor and Students Conduct Research

The research team of Dr. Heidi Larson, Colleen Johnson, Travis Myers, Amanda Ghibellini, and Lincoln Estes, of the Department of Counseling and Student Development, is focusing on test anxiety and its effects on elementary school students.

They are focusing on this issue due to the rising prevalence of high stakes testing, the anxiety it incites, and its detrimental effects on the individual student. In an effort to alleviate this resulting anxiety, they taught third grade students deep breathing and guided relaxation techniques in a pilot study. The experimental layout involved experimental and control groups with a pre- and post-test format. They met with the experimental group two times per week over a span of ten weeks throughout the spring of 2008. The results indicated that students utilizing the techniques showed a statistically significant decrease in their perceived level of anxiety, while the control group did not show a significant decrease.

They presented information on how to conduct research in schools at the Illinois Counseling Association in November of 2008. They are also presenting our test anxiety research results at the American Counseling Association conference in North Carolina in March of 2009.

2008 Kinesiology & Sports Studies Award Winners

Dorothy M. Hart Memorial Scholarship
• Chris Hills

Shannon McNamara Outstanding Physical Education Scholarship
• Nicole Underwood

Thomas Woodall Exercise Science Scholarship
• Megan Hickenbottom

Errett Warner Award in Physical Education
• Crystal Jones
• Gary Kapper

Larry J. Ankenbrand Physical Education Scholarship
• Adam Shoaff

Mike and Phoebe Church Scholarship
• Chandra Steers
When most college students think of Mexico they think of spring break. **Andrea Clark** decided to think outside the box; however, and thought of student teaching. Andrea is student teaching through the Consortium for Overseas Student Teaching (COST) this semester in Queretaro, Mexico.

Andrea knew from the minute she saw Mexico on the COST list that student teaching overseas was what she wanted to do. Andrea wants to be a bilingual teacher and could think of no better way to become one than immersing herself into Mexican culture and language. Andrea said, “I live in Palatine, IL and there are many districts nearby that need teachers who are bilingual. The Spanish-speaking community is growing fast in the Chicagoland area. Working and volunteering in a number of schools, I see that most of the ELL students (English Language Learners) are Mexican Americans or have moved from Mexico recently. I have learned in my training, that you learn and understand best when the lesson or subject is tied to your past experiences. So I thought, ‘what an excellent opportunity to really see where these students are coming from’.”

To help completely immerse herself Andrea is staying with a host family rather than with other students. She is very pleased with her living situation. She teaches at the school that her host family’s children go to. When speaking of her home away from home she says, “They are able to show me around more than I would be able to myself. I can also have the experience of living the culture with a Mexican family. If I were living alone in an apartment or dorm I would probably eating pizza, watching American movies and calling my friends to have a conversation in English . . . It is so much nicer to live the culture than to watch it.”

Not everything has worked out so easily for Andrea. She had a hard time transitioning into the Mexican classroom. She has found a lack of resources available for her to use and has had to get very creative. There was also the language barrier to deal with. Andrea is teaching at a private school where the students are taught English from first grade on and use United States textbooks. But the good definitely out weighs the bad in this case. Andrea has taken initiative in her classroom and her students are writing to students from her hometown in Illinois. Of this experience she says, “They are enjoying their personal relationship with a friend in the U.S. and seeing how similar they really are, but still holding their Mexican culture.”
COST Cont’d

Andrea has found that she is having many incredible experiences outside of the classroom too. So far she has visited Mexico City, the Frida Kahlo museum, La Virgen de Guadalupe cloak; marched in a peace rally and celebrated Mexican Independence about which she says, “There were big festivals with lots of food and music and fireworks, much like the U.S. [4th of July festivities] but different in every way.”

Andrea poses near an altar set up for Dia de los Muertos which is celebrated November 1-2

Andrea feels that all of these experiences are contributing to her future for the better. She believes that “this experience will show your dedication to your career and how far you will go for your future students for them to succeed.” She also appreciates the personal growth the COST program has allowed her so far. “COST is an excellent program that allows you to open your eyes to a different culture and lifestyle... Of course it is a sacrifice to give up your current life, family, friends, and to step out of your comfort zone, but it is definitely worth it. It is an experience of a lifetime and something that you will look back and be so glad you made the time and effort to do.”

Growing up as an Irish-American Erin Collins was looking for any reason to visit the land of her family’s origin. Upon hearing of the Consortium for Overseas Student Teaching (COST) program she knew she found it. “Putting Ireland down as one of my top choices was a way for me to maybe get the chance to visit the place my family came from.”

However, participation in this program would not strictly be sight-seeing and vacation. Erin is student teaching while in Ireland. Erin had wanted to study abroad earlier in her college career but would not have been able to get enough credits, so COST was the perfect opportunity for her.
COST Cont’d

Erin’s experience differs when compared to the other two COST students the Chat Room has featured, “Ireland is not like most COST sites in that it is not linked to a specific university.” Erin chose not to live with a host family but rather with another COST student from Ohio State University. She has found the transition into the Irish classroom to be ongoing. “It takes awhile to get used to a totally different school system, and the accents, but everyone here is so ridiculously nice and welcoming.”

A typical classroom in Ireland

When Erin returns home at the end of the semester she plans of going back to the south side of Chicago, where she is from, to teach for a few years before continuing her education at the masters level. Erin feels that by student teaching through COST she will have an edge over other teacher candidates. “I believe those of us in COST will have an advantage over other student teachers because we are thrown into situations where we are somewhat totally out of our element.” She is grateful for her opportunity and thinks anyone with an interest should definitely do it as most will never get the opportunity to do something like this.

One of the things that has impressed Erin the most so far has occurred in the classroom. She finds it remarkable that not only is she getting the opportunity to teach English to students from Ireland, but from Germany, Denmark, Spain, Lithuania, and Slovakia as well. Outside of the classroom she just cannot get away from the scenery. “Walking out of my front door and seeing mountains everyday is indescribable.”

A mountain range in Ireland

Erin does have some advice to future COST students: “Plan and get excited! And if they are going to Ireland, to pack lots of sweaters!”

Learning with Technology

In order to market correct health information, Misty Rhoads, faculty in the Department of Health Studies, creates podcasts to share this information with students.

The nature of this project is very appealing to Rhoads as her dissertation for her PhD. is on podcasts. A podcast is a web-based audio and video broadcast. Rhoads has enlisted the help of professors in the department to take parts in the broadcasts which she has dubbed “Health Professors on the Download.”
Technology Cont’d

To come up with topics for the podcasts Rhoads uses her classes and outside sources. Rhoads asks her students every semester for myths they may know of relating to the health field. She has heard some pretty unbelievable stories and wants to set the record straight. Rhoads conducted a survey with 18 topic choices including: aging, death, and dying, women’s health issues, holistic health/complementary and alternative medicines, bioterrorism, environmental health, mental health, weight management, drugs, tobacco/alcohol, stress, relationships, contraception/pregnancy, sexual anatomy, human diseases/immunity/infection, exercise, nutrition, sexuality, sexually transmitted infections, and other topics. The top three were the first picks to be broadcast on a flat screen television in Lantz Arena as well as on the health studies website. These included: sex, exercise, and nutrition. However, if all goes well, all topics will be discussed in podcasts throughout the year.

Rhoads is hopeful that by using humor in the podcasts the department will be able to reach out to students and give them correct information. If all goes well she is considering making a project out of these podcasts for her next semester’s classes in which the students will create their own podcast.

Department of Health Studies
Looking to Connect With Alumni Through Facebook

Facebook just may become the new popular site for alumni networking. Facebook has been historically for college and high school students; however, with more and more graduates graduating out of the facebook era it is becoming easier for alumni to stay connected.

Founded in 2004 by then sophomore, Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook started out as a reference tool for students at Harvard University. It was to be an electronic reference of students attending the university instead of the paper facebook copies that some universities hand out to students. Facebook quickly expanded to other Ivy League institutions, then colleges, high schools, and the over 13 general population.

Facebook is no longer just for student use. It is a great way for everyone to get connected. Utilizing a social networking site whether it is facebook, myspace or others is beneficial in keeping contacts with friends and colleagues.
Facebook Cont’d

Two faculty members are actively trying to reach out to current and former students through the social networking site of facebook. Dr. Doug Bower the Associate Dean of the CEPS currently uses facebook to connect with Ed Scholars and Dr. Robert Bates of the department of Health Studies already has about 30-40 alumni he connects with through facebook and is looking to add more.

Education Coordinator to Help Local Students

DEN Issue date: 10/17/08 Section: News

Jim Kestner is an avid long distance runner and the coordinator for web-based alternative routes to teacher certification at Eastern.

However, what separates Kestner from most long distance runners is his cause.

Kestner does not just run for the sake of his own fitness, but for the music.

The Run for Music is a fundraiser, so band and choir students from the Villa Grove area can participate in a concert at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla.

Most people do not realize that Kestner is a marathon runner and he is planning on running in a 26.5-mile marathon on Sunday in Columbus, Ohio. The significance of the event is that Kestner is attempting to raise a $1,000 for every mile he runs.

Kestner believed that Friends of Music, the Villa Grove booster organization, needed to come up with a way of helping these students reach their goal of playing at Disney World.

Because Kestner was planning on attending the marathon before the organization’s dilemma, he realized that he could try and attract sponsors to help fund the students’ trip.

The $26,000 that Kestner plans to raise will go towards the students’ transportation fees.

“ The buses will cost (more than) $20,000 and the kids will pay for their stays,” Kestner said. “If the kids do 32 hours of service work, the booster group will pay for the buses.”

Kestner has been training vigorously for the upcoming marathon since April.

His training started off with 10-12 weeks of speed and strength conditioning. Then he progressed to running 40-50 miles a week.

As for his diet, Kestner has had to consume a lot of slow-burning carbohydrates to maintain the energy needed to endure these long distance runs.

Kestner also had to adjust his calorie intake in order to maintain the weight that would be lost from running. When reflecting on all of his training, Kestner just wants the kids to get the acknowledgment they deserve.

“They work hard and they don’t always get recognition, and now they are going to be in front of a worldwide audience at Disney World,” Kestner said.

The best way for people to get involved is to go through Kestner’s Web site www.runformusic.org and donate money for the cause.

Kestner also said that it would be great to have some music mentors involved with the students.
Kestner Cont’d

to show that there is music after high school.

For people who want to get more directly involved, they can e-mail Kestner at jimk@kesweb.com.

Nick Alexander can be reached at 581-7942 or at njalexander@eiu.edu.

CSD Professor Presents in Greece

Dr. Gloria A. Leitschuh, Professor in the Department of Counseling & Student Development at EIU, was a presenter at the 10th International Conference on Education in Athens, Greece, during May of 2008.

The title of her presentation was “Racism and Discrimination: How Students Learn from one another.” Dr. Leitschuh teaches courses in clinical counseling, diagnostics, cross cultural counseling and also provides psychological consultation to groups and individuals.

After presenting Dr. Leitschuh spoke with many participants and attendants from a variety of countries about prejudice and discrimination. Dr. Leitschuh said that, “A common theme seemed to be that most individuals could identify a group of people in their country who were treated differently based on their respective race, culture, religion, sex, or any one of the ‘isms’ which we face in the United States.”

New CEPS Faculty

Along with several faculty mentioned in the September newsletter, Jackie Brosam joined the tenured EIU faculty this year. Jackie is no stranger to EIU. She received both her undergraduate and Master’s degrees from Eastern Illinois University in Elementary Education. Her son Jim and daughter Jeanette are also both EIU graduates in the department of education.

Jackie has worked as a Reading Recovery/ Title I teacher
Faculty Cont’d.

and also as a Reading Specialist at schools in Olney and Effingham, IL and in Vigo Co. School Corp. in Terre Haute and also at an inner-city school in Terre Haute, IN.

Brosam is currently working on her dissertation on examining the impact of prereading strategies on reading comprehension among middle school students. She also has a busy teaching schedule this year teaching classes such as: ELE 3280 Developmental Reading in Elementary Education, ELE 3281 Developmental Reading in Early Childhood Education, ELE 4880 Diagnostic and Prescriptive Reading, and she is also supervising a 4000 level practicum.

Of returning to EIU Jackie says, “Although I am commuting to EIU from IN, I am glad to be back teaching in Central Illinois!”

University Updates and Alumni Events

Charles Eberly, professor of counseling and student development, and Michael Nowak, master’s candidate in communication studies, presented on “Guyland in the College Fraternity” at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Region IV-East Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., on Nov. 3, 2008. The presentation drew upon their endorsement of Michael Kimmel’s new book, “Guyland,” and their experiences as a fraternity adviser and leader.

Cathy Sowa, master’s candidate in college student affairs, presented on her master’s thesis dealing with “students’ preoccupations with Internet communication and mobile phone use” at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Region IV-East Conference on Nov. 3, 2008. She proposed a Communication Attachment Theory based on students’ “psychological need to affiliate with others and establish social identity in a wireless world.”

Scott A.G.M. Crawford, kinesiology and sports studies, had an “Issues” commentary published in the October 2008 Journal of Physical Education Recreation and Dance. The topic was “Should coaches prohibit ‘showboating’ by athletes on their teams?”
Updates and Events Cont’d.

**Erica Roa**, graduate assistant in the Health Education Resources Center, and **Christy Thompson**, graduate assistant in Career Services, both master’s candidates in college student affairs, presented on methods to increase the motivation of students to attend campus events and engage members of student organizations at the Midwest Meeting of Graduate Students in Student Affairs, held in conjunction with the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Region IV-East Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 3, 2008.

**FY2008 Degrees Awarded** (Information Item). In FY 2008, Eastern awarded a total of 2,998 degrees: 2,374 bachelor’s degrees, 12 post-bachelor’s certificates, 568 master’s degrees and 44 specialist degrees. This compares to FY 2007 totals of 2,904 degrees overall and 2,259 bachelor’s degrees, and with a five-year average of 2,792 degrees overall and 2,151 bachelor’s degrees. Majors with the largest number of bachelor’s degree recipients in FY 2008 were elementary education (292), general studies (195), family and consumer sciences (165), communication studies (157), physical education (153) and psychology (138). Of the 568 master’s degrees awarded, 155 were in educational administration; 56, technology; 41, counseling; 40, family and consumer sciences; 42, business administration; and 29, physical education.

Scott A.G.M. Crawford, kinesiology and sports studies, wrote an Issues column for the November/December 2008 issue of the Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The topic was “Should physical educators address political questions in the sports arena, such as the recent controversy over the Olympics?”

**HEALTH STUDIES CLASS PRESENTS POSTER DISPLAYS ABOUT DRUG ISSUES**
Students currently enrolled in HST 4800 (“Drugs and Society”) have created poster sessions dealing with a variety of drug issues. The posters will be displayed in the MLK Jr. Union Walkway from 10 to 10:50 a.m. Monday, Dec. 1; Wednesday, Dec. 3; and Friday, Dec. 5.

**HEALTHY LIFESTYLES: STRESS AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO HEALTH AND FITNESS**
Mark Kattenbraker, kinesiology and sports studies, will present information about stress and its relationship to health and fitness from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, in the Arcola/Tuscola Room, MLK Jr. Union. This workshop will examine the physical impact of stress on the body and how it relates to one’s physical fitness and overall health and well-being.
HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATIONS SOUGHT
Nominations for honorary degrees are being accepted by the university’s Honorary Degree Committee. Honorary degrees may be awarded to persons who have achieved a record of major distinction at the state and/or national level in such areas as education, public service, research, humanities, business or the professions, or those who have made a contribution to the university or higher education. Individuals may or may not have completed a degree(s) in higher education. Nomination materials may be obtained by contacting the Office of External Relations, Old Main, Room 1117, or by clicking here. Completed nominations should be returned to the Office of External Relations no later than Friday, Dec. 12.

EIU Alumni Reception and Night With Cirque du Soleil: Saltimbanco

Fellow alumni, family and friends are invited to see the Saltimbanco, Cirque du Soleil’s signature show on January 31, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sears Centre Arena in Hoffman Estates. Tickets are $77.00 and will be mailed one week prior to the event.

To order tickets, please call 1-800-ALUM-EIU. A .pdf order form will be coming soon.

EIU Alumni Association now on Facebook

Stay connected to your fellow alumni and your alma mater — “become a fan” of the EIU Alumni Association on Facebook. You’ll instantly begin to receive updates on the university and invitations to alumni events, reconnect with lost classmates, network professionally and much more. If you don’t have a Facebook account, go to facebook.com to sign up!