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Illinois Teacher of the Year



Eastern Alum, Kevin Rutter, named Illinois Teacher of the Year, 2009-2010.

Kevin Rutter is the fifth Eastern alumnus to win Illinois Teacher of the Year. He teaches at Carl Schurz High School in Chicago.

Mary Folino, principal of Carl Schurz High School, is proud, but not surprised.

When asked how he affected his students, Folino said, "Tremendously! They do wonderful jobs. He helps them get internships with the government, big corporations and banks."

Rutter has been with Schurz since 2000. Soon after arriving, he helped establish what the school calls the Business, Finance and Careers Academy. Interested students can enter the three-year program their sophomore year.

"Students want to get in this because of him," Folino said. "They win competitions nationally against select enrollment schools."

Rutter brings in guest speakers, helps students set up internships and assists his students in other ways that help them find employment after college. He is now the coordinator of the program.

"When the coordinator retired, I invited him to take over, and he just ran away with it," Folino said.

Rutter graduated from Eastern in 1997 with a teacher certificate and a degree in social studies.

2009 CEPS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Department of Counseling & Student Development

Mary Vaupel Cralley Memorial
Award:
Amanda Ghebellini

Glen E. Hubele Graduate
Assistantship:
Melissa Sons-Ashmore

Lella Cox Schaaf College
Student Affairs Fund:
Erika Weaver

E. Warner/S. Rives Higher
Education Award:
Brian Gorman
Courtney Quinn
Erica Roa

Department of Educational Leadership

Hans C. Olsen Scholarship:
Debra Korte

Warner Educational
Administration Scholarship:
Heidi Blackwell
Amy McClain
Bill Hamilton

Rohn Family Scholarship:
Stephanie Rinehart

Charles Titus, chair of the social studies program, was proud to see the honor delivered to a graduate from his program.

“We’re thrilled that one of our folks got selected for such an honor as teacher of the year,” Titus said. “From what I understand, he was an outstanding student here at Eastern.”

Eastern began as a teachers’ college, and its history of teacher education remains strong.

The program is so strong that still today, education is what first comes to many people’s minds when they think of Eastern, said Jill Nilsen, vice president for external relations.

“A few years ago we surveyed current students, prospective students, faculty and staff and alumni, and everyone of those groups said our teacher education program is what Eastern is best known for,” Nilsen said. “It rose to the top of every group surveyed.”

Nilsen said one reason Eastern has such a strong education department is its focus on integrative learning. Students seeking teachers certification take methods courses and student teaching, gaining in-class experience before graduation.

“They’re able to take that book knowledge and put it into practice,” Nilsen said.

The four past winners of the Illinois Teacher of the Year award from Eastern have been Joe Fatheree, Robert Grimm, Peggy Allan and Ruth Hawkins.

By, Sarah Ruholl, DEN Administration Editor
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Neoga Science Collaboration

For the second year in a row, Dr. Dan Carter’s pre-service teachers in his fall Block 1 section participated in the Neoga Science Collaboration. The Eastern students worked with 64 sixth-graders from Neoga Middle School taught by Donna Kastl, Carol Smith, and Kirk Hacker.

“I was initially quite nervous,” said Brianne Worman, elementary education major. “I’ve always been set in my ways about teaching younger students, but my experience with these sixth-graders showed me a greater potential for myself than I ever imagined.”

CEPS Telefund:
John Buchta
Dan Erwin
Jeremy Keese
Erika Metz

Department of Secondary
Education and Foundations

Thomas R. Drury Scholarship:
Kristen Chaney
Kathleen Kash

Alice Groff Pennybacker
Secondary Education
Scholarship:
Erin O'Grady

Lou and Mary Kay Hencken
Scholarship:
Elizabeth Hunt

Moler-Austin Scholarship:
Eric Sinclair

Errett and Mazie Warner
Presidential Award:
Megan Kvistad
Hope Nottmeyer

Secondary Education Telefund
Award:
Julie Cole
Kimberly Harper

McKenna Secondary Education
Scholarship:
Joseph Courtney

Department of Health Studies

Student Achievement Award:
Jenna Manigold



Eastern pre-service teachers take time helping Neoga Middle School student learn science.

The sixth-graders were given one of three science topics to write a research paper on as well as present their findings. Students researched plants, frogs, and Earth science.

Dr. Carter's students traveled to Neoga on September 28, to help the sixth-graders focus on the writing process.

"This experience was very beneficial to me as a future educator," said Katy Hankins, elementary education major.

The Block 1 students taught the three classes how to write good paragraphs, how to summarize, and how to cite sources.

"It was their first time being responsible for a student's learning, instead of just observing," Carter said.

Lisa Lippe, elementary education major, said her students were eager to learn.

"I think some were a bit overwhelmed," she said. "But my group made me so proud."

The sixth-graders came to Eastern on October 5, to learn proper research techniques at Booth Library and also to hear from experts on their topic. Steven Malehorn, greenhouse manager, lectured on plants while graduate students from Dr. Kathleen Bower and Dr. Steven Mullin's class presented on frog specimens and mineral identification.

Carter's students were able to travel back to Neoga to watch the final presentations at the middle school.

"I was so proud of my group for standing up in front of their peers and presenting the information," Hankins said.

Hankins was placed with a group of students who had learning disabilities.

"It was amazing to see how much they had learned in that small amount of time we had together," she said.

Jennifer Woods Memorial
Scholarship:
Ashley Wyss
Demeka Polk

Department of Early Childhood,
Elementary, and Middle Level
Education

CEPS Development
Scholarship:
Stephanie Anderson
Malgorzata Sas

Ronald A. Wilson Scholarship:
Jamie R. Jonese

Carol Schnick Coyle
Scholarship:
Kristin Larsen

Mary L. Carrico Gaskill
Scholarship:
Maggie Mae Dean

Mary K. Moore Scholarship:
Nicole Menzer

Nell C. Hutchason Scholarship:
Jillian Vokral

Errett & Mazie Warner
Scholarship:
Elizabeth Cowger
Abigail Dehner

Minnie Alice Phillips
Scholarship:
Meghan Silver
John Kelley Scholarship:
Dana Porreca

Carter said the students were quite surprised when some of the final papers and presentations were not what they expected.

“This was an experience for pre-service teachers to see the limitations of teaching,” Carter said. “It’s better for them to see that now and learn the reality of teaching. I want them to understand that though some students will be unmotivated to learn, that does not make them failures as a teacher.”

He said that a successful teacher is one who does his or her best.



Sixth-graders from Neoga Middle School after learning how to research at Booth Library

Student Teaching Overseas

Education majors have the chance to spend four months overseas student teaching for their final semester at Eastern through the Consortium for Overseas Student Teaching program.

A FOREIGN EXPERIENCE

Shauna Osmolak, a senior elementary education major, is living in Auckland, New Zealand this semester to complete her student teaching requirement.

"First and foremost, I would have to be brave enough to leave the country by myself and be away from home for four months," Osmolak said about her deciding factors.

One of the reasons Osmolak chose New Zealand, besides her research on the country and the natural beauty, was because it is an English-speaking country.

"Being on the other side of the world would be hard enough without having to deal with language barriers," she said.

Fellow student Kathleen Lashbrook, a senior elementary education major, deals with language barriers every day. Lashbrook is stationed in Cologne, Germany in a public school where students and teachers alike speak primarily German.

Lottie Leach Leeds Scholarship:

Nicole Dallas

Bryan & Adra Heise
Scholarship:

Sara Swartz

Charles & Barbara Clark
Scholarship:

Megan Bowman

Joseph E. & Gloria S. Seiler
Scholarship:

Ashley Griffith

Kelley L. Neville Scholarship:

Heather Martin

Sardella Family Scholarship:

Kristen Koebele

Bertha G. Hoedebecke
Scholarship:

Danielle McFarlin

Waunetah D. Buckler
Scholarship:

Samantha McCarthy

Martha & Vernice Clark
Scholarship:

Tabatha Roth

Miriam Bland Scholarship:

Erin Drone

Reading Council Scholarship:

Kelly Canning

William H. & Waneta Sedgwick

Catey Scholarship:

Amber Cartwright

"I've had to adjust my teaching style ... It has been frustrating and difficult at times, but because of my situation here, I feel like I will be more prepared for future classes," she said.

COST is reputable for developing the professional skills associated with teaching while in a foreign culture, allowing the student to become more internationally aware.

"I knew it would strengthen my adaptability and flexibility, and give me a better appreciation of cultures other than my own," Lashbrook said. "I've just finished my fifth week of student teaching here, and I've already learned a lot about myself and my teaching style."

A WORLDLY EXPERIENCE

The COST program allows future educators to combine the opportunity to practice teaching skills with worldly experience by living in a foreign country.

"The COST program offers student teachers an opportunity to live and work abroad for an extended period, providing professional and personal growth in ways that are increasingly important for living and teaching in the United States," said Patricia Poulter, former chair of the department of student teaching and clinical experiences.

Student participants often live with local families, and even when a non-family accommodation occurs, they are involved intimately in the community, providing a look into local life styles.

Poulter said that, through this, an appreciation is gained for their overseas hosts, and a better understanding of themselves and their place in the world is acquired.

A benefit to the program is "the ability to model (for their future students) an openness and curiosity about life," Poulter said.

Other benefits of COST include an advantage over other applicants in the work pool, as well as gained professional and practical experience.

A maximum of 10 Eastern students are selected each academic year for the COST program the following year. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 is required for consideration.

All teacher education programs, except for special education, are eligible. For more information, students can contact Poulter or Jim Kestner, interim chair of the department of student teaching.

By, Chelsea Grady, DEN Staff Reporter

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Masters Research Award-Winner

Thomas A. & Gail M. Higgins
Scholarship:
Michelle Young

Coles-Douglas Scholarship:
Sabrina Bean

Department of Kinesiology &
Sports Studies

Mike & Phoebe Church
Scholarship:
Jessica Kuhn

Dr. & Mrs. Richard H. Larson
Athletic Training Scholarship:
Daniele Petty

Athletic Training Scholarship:
Scott Kinney
Andrew Hinds

Dorothy M. Hart Memorial
Scholarship:
Rendell Lowrance
Jessica Acevedo

Erret Warner Award in Physical
Education:
Joseph Johnson
Ben Hussey
Martha Pedziwiatr

Larry J. Ankenbrand Physical
Education Scholarship:
Cameron Strang

William H. Groves Memorial
Award:
Steve King



Jason Goldfarb and his father after Eastern's graduation ceremony in 2008.

Jason Goldfarb received the 2009 Adele Williamson Outstanding Masters Research Award for his thesis "Student Spiritual Development Associated with Fraternity Affiliation." Goldfarb received his master's degree in counseling in 2008 from the College of Student Affairs at Eastern.

"I was very surprised to find out that I had won," he said. "It was a great honor."

Dr. Charles Eberly, professor of counseling and student development (and Goldfarb's

thesis advisor), suggested he apply for the award.

"Jason was an ideal self-motivated student who needed little direction. He took the initiative to find information on his own, and regularly updated me on what he was doing to complete his project," said Dr. Eberly.

Goldfarb is currently enrolled in the Educational and Organizational Leadership PhD program at the University of Illinois.

"The program at Eastern was rewarding and challenging," Goldfarb said. "Having the opportunity to write a thesis gave an edge when applying to doctoral programs."

Dr. Eberly said that he is convinced that "Jason's thesis can be favorably compared to doctoral dissertations completed at many doctoral granting institutions."

Across The Country In The Field

Peter Smith, Eastern Alum, is currently the Assistant Director for Residential Life at University at Buffalo, State University of New York. He manages the six residence halls on their "Main St." or "South" campus.

Smith supervises three fulltime master level residence hall directors, three part time bachelor level assistant hall directors, a full time professional office manager and indirectly around 100 student staff members on a campus that houses around 1,400 students.

Florence McAfee Scholarship:
Jaclyn Silvestri

Barbara Snow Award:
Crystal Jones

Margaret & Walt Lowell
Voluntary Service Scholarship:
Christine Rauch

Dr. Harold & Alice Cavins
Scholarship:
Ben Hussey

Graduate Student Awards:
Nicole Underwood
Leland Buchanan
Joe Molter
Kayce Lauf
Maureen Khairallah

Recreation Administration

Ewen "Lefty" Bryden Alumni
Scholarship:
Brittany Prysock

Gretchen Sue Denton Memorial
Scholarship:
Martha Rauch

William G. Riordan Scholarship:
Shannon Fair
Lydia Pond

Dorothe L. Johnson Memorial
Scholarship:
Michael Dial

William A. Smith Scholarship:
James Connelly

"In the spring I was elected the next president for CSPA-NYS. CSPA-NYS is the NY state division of ACPA," said Smith.

The role is a 3 year commitment working with the executive board to run the state-wide student affairs professional organization.

"This has been a great organization for me and I have been involved in various leadership roles nearly since leaving EIU," he said.

Smith is currently enrolled in his second non-matriculated graduate class.

He said he is "seriously considering enrolling in the Social Foundations of Education PhD. Program."

Smith is married to his wife, Shannon, of 6 years, and they have a 2-year-old son named Gabriel.

First Associate Provost For Enrollment Management at University of Alabama

Brent A. Gage, Ph.D., was named associate provost for enrollment management at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in May, 2009.

"My family and I are very excited about the opportunities at a dynamic institution such as UAB," Gage said prior to his start date on Aug. 1.

"After meeting with President Carol Garrison, Provost Capilouto, the faculty and staff, it became clear that UAB is an institution on a trajectory for even greater success, and I look forward to being a part of that process," he said.

Gage earned his Master of Science in Education from Eastern.

From 1995-1997, he worked as first admission/financial aid counselor and then director of registration and orientation from 1997-2000, at Eastern.

Gage went to the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and was the associate dean of undergraduate admissions from 2000-2006 and then returned to Illinois to be the assistant vice provost for enrollment services at Northern Illinois University.

"Dr. Gage is at the forefront of the ever-evolving profession of student recruitment," UAB Provost Eli Capilouto said.

"His appointment as our first associate provost for enrollment management reflects our ongoing commitment to provide the best services to our current students and to continue to recruit the highly motivated and diverse individuals who have traditionally made up our student body," he said.