



The Chat Room

College of Education and Professional Studies Newsletter

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Editor: Holly Thomas
CEPS Graduate Assistant

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

Alex, the answer is...

Eastern students from the Kinesiology and Sports Studies Department traveled to Lisle, Ill., to compete and win the Quiz Bowl held during the Illinois Athletic Trainers Association Annual State Meeting held in Lisle, Ill., on November 7, 2010.

“This is truly something for us to be proud of,” said John Storsved, assistant professor & Clinical Coordinator in the department.

Eastern beat Western Illinois in the first round; North Park College in the 2nd round and then in the final/championship round, knocked out Northern Illinois and the University of Illinois.



EIU students advance to represent Illinois at the Quiz Bowl held in Minneapolis, Minn.

The team included the following athletic training majors: Jacob Smith, Miranda Williams, Rachel Snow, and Jennifer McCann, serving as the alternative. They advance to represent the state of Illinois at the Great Lakes Athletic Trainers Association District 4 Annual meeting in Minneapolis, on March 10-12, 2011.

The student quiz bowl is a Jeopardy format game which tests the students' knowledge in all of the areas of athletic training education. If the team wins in March, they advance to the National Athletic Trainers Association Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium June 19-22, 2011, in New Orleans, LA.

Teaching in Australia

The days are hot and sunny for Nicole Dallas, an elementary education major at Eastern, student teaching in Australia. Living two minutes away from the beach, Nicole enjoys a second summer during Illinois' winter.

"This has been a thoroughly rewarding experience and I have enjoyed every minute of it and grown so much as both individual and professional as well," Dallas said. "I have learned that children are children no matter where you go. Which is nice because it was easy to jump right in and start teaching the second day I was in the classroom," she said.

Nicole lives with a host family originally from England. She said not only is she learning about Australia's culture, but that of the United Kingdom as well. "The COST program is a very positive experience that I think all student teachers should strongly consider doing," she said. "I now see more clearly the importance of multicultural education in the classroom. The world is like a big playground just waiting to be explored."



Nicole Dallas exploring Australia's wildlife.



Dallas gets a taste of summer during Illinois winter.

Looking outside the box, Nicole said she has more confidence in herself "as a person and as a professional in the teaching field."

Alumna Receives Polestar Award

Pam Storm, Eastern alumna, received the Polestar Award at the recent Illinois School Library Media Association conference. She retired as the Charleston, Ill., school district's head librarian last spring, but currently teaches at Eastern. "It was kind of the perfect end to a career," Storm said.

The award, named after the North Star (referring importance of guidance for a school librarian), is the association's highest honor and is based on contributions to school library programs in the state. Peggy Burton, librarian at Williams Elementary School in Mattoon, nominated Storm for the award.

"I felt she was very deserving of the award," Burton said in an interview with the Journal-Gazette. "She never stops helping people to use the library."

Storm earned her B.S. in Education in 1971, and her master's in Instructional Media the following year. She continues to volunteer her time at the Ashmore and Mark Twain elementary school libraries, as well as the Charleston public library.



Pam Storm processes books at the Charleston Public Library in Charleston, Ill., on Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010. (Journal Gazette/ Times-Courier, Kevin Kilhoffer)

Student Education Association Receives Award

The Eastern Illinois University Local Chapter Student Education Association-IEA/NEA received the Local Excellence Award, for being the best chapter in the country for the 101-200 members category (there are 3 categories: 1-100 members, 101-200 members, and 201+ members).

Eastern's Chapter represents over 100 Future Teachers and Support Professionals. S.E.A. is a non-profit and voluntary association that offers professional development opportunities. In Illinois, there are over 40 college institutions involved in local Student Education Associations. Nationally, there are over 3.2 million members of not only students, but active teachers and education service professionals.

"IEA SP was also awarded the 2009-2010 Excellent State Affiliate award from the NEA Student Program," said Sarah Haynes, President of EIU Student Education Association-IEA/NEA. "This is an outstanding honor and statement to reflect the entire IEA Student Program."

Award Renamed in Honor of Eastern Counseling & Student Development Professor

At the 20th anniversary banquet recognizing the founding of the Illinois Nu Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, the chapter's Balanced Man Scholarship was re-named the Dr. Charles Eberly Balanced Man Scholarship.

“I feel very humbled. My volunteer work with Sigma Phi Epsilon, and my lifetime of research on the college fraternity, was undertaken to make a difference in young men's lives at a time when they are beset by multiple personal challenges,” said Dr. Eberly.



Scholarship named after Dr. Charles Eberly.

The scholarship, supported by gifts to the Ryland Hall Fund of the EIU Foundation, has been awarded since 1992.

“Fraternity, ‘done right,’ helps make it easy for a young man to do right and hard for a young man to do wrong,” Dr. Eberly said.

Professor & Student Collaborate on Published Article on Play Therapy

Dr. Angela Yoder, assistant professor in the Department of Counseling & Student Development, published an article with Eastern student, Paige Spangler, a master’s candidate in Clinical Counseling, in the December 2010 issue of *Play Therapy*. The article, “My Real Home is Inside,” was inspired by Paige’s practicum experience and an emotional goodbye with a client who became special to both her and Dr. Yoder.

“I am extremely proud of Paige. She has shown so much courage by writing in such an authentic and vulnerable way,” Dr. Yoder said. “The editor of the publication liked it so much that she emailed me to tell me she was making it a required reading for her Graduate level Play Therapy class. I am certain that this is only the beginning of Paige's writing career.”

CEPS Alumna's Memory Honored

Eastern alumna Valerie Averill's memory will continue to live on at Eastern.

The renaming of the National Residence Hall Honorary/Resident Hall Association office in honor of Averill was approved Jan. 14 at the Board of Trustees meeting.

"I can think of few things more appropriate than (renaming the NRHH/RHA office), because it will be a lifetime reminder to generations of students as to who Valerie was and how she impacted them in ways that they will never know," said Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining Services.

Renaming the office after Averill was the first step this year in honoring her.

"We are going to have a name engraved in one of the stone benches in the Centennial Plaza that sits behind Ford Hall and we are going to plant a tree in her memory outside of Pemberton (Hall), because that was the hall that she worked in during her last year here and she had a particular connection to that building," said Hudson, who was a lifelong friend to Averill.

Hudson has an agreement with the Alumni Association and the University Foundation to work on the projects to honor Averill and said it is his goal to have the projects finished by the end of the spring semester.

Averill received her bachelor's degree and completed her masters in higher education while attending Eastern from 1977 to 1983.

Both Hudson and President Emeritus, Louis Hencken met Averill when she was a freshman at Eastern in the fall of 1977.

"Valerie was very conscientious, dedicated, great when she worked with students and, once she left EIU, she was instrumental in working in housing with students," Hencken said.

Averill's family established the Valerie S. Averill Leadership Development Endowment through her alma mater to assist developing residence hall leaders.

Earnings from the endowment are used to fund registration fees, travel and related expenses to support students attending state, regional and national residence hall leadership conferences.

"Averill's family is raising money for the endowment fund because they wanted to make sure that future generations of Eastern residence hall leaders

got the opportunities that Valerie received to go to these conferences where she discovered her passion and life goals,” Hudson said.

Averill was president of RHA for two years and became involved with the National Association of College and University Resident Halls for more than 30 years.

She served as the regional advisor to three divisions of NACURH including the Great Lakes region, along with the Southwest region and the Midwest region.

For the last eight years of her life, Averill served as the national advisor to NACURH.

Joey McNamara, coordinator of Student Involvement for Programming at Lynn University, said Averill had an amazing ability to motivate people to do what they are passionate about and to never give up.

Averill served as McNamara’s adviser when he was the National Chair for NACURH in 2010.

“She taught me how to work with people and she always had new ideas to inspire people and ways to improve the organization, which is what she loved to do,” McNamara said.

Averill worked at universities including Texas Tech University, South Dakota State University, the University of Minnesota at Mankato, Kansas State University, Western Illinois University and the University of South Florida.

“Here is a woman who came to Eastern as scared and nervous as all incoming students do and she rose to be one of the most impactful national residence hall leaders in the nation with her beginning in Charleston, Ill. at EIU,” Hudson said.

Averill died on April 15, 2010 at the age of 51 as a result of complications of diabetes.

“Valerie will be missed and her legacy will live forever within the hearts of the thousands of students that she impacted while she was dedicating her life to improve the lives of students,” Hencken said.

Eastern Alumni Honored

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By, Rachel Rodgers/DEN Campus Editor

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