



Table of Contents

2007 Outstanding Student Teachers Named.....1
 Dr. Oliver Presents at IAHPERD.....2
 Program Assessment.....2
 KSS Graduate Research Fair.....3
 Alumni Spotlight.....3-7
 Special Education News.....7
 Special Education Convocation.....8-9
 Faculty and Student News.....10

Editor: Amber Phemister-CEPS Graduate Assistant

Contact us at:

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

Outstanding Student Teachers Named

Five student teachers from fall 2007 have been named Outstanding Student Teachers.

In order to be named an Outstanding Student Teachers, letters of recommendation from cooperating teachers, building administrators, and EIU supervisors must be submitted. The student must be of high caliber, and have dedication, intelligence, and enthusiasm.

All nominees exhibit passion for teaching and learning, along with a willingness to go beyond the required.



Shanta McKay with Tom Schroeder, cooperating teacher; and Matt Guritz Department Chair of Social Studies at Hinsdale South High School.

The winners of the Outstanding Student Teacher Award are, Courtney Becherer, Alexander Hardt, Shanta McKay, Kimberly Schackmann, and Kelli Tegeler.

When asked about his experience student teaching at the Charleston Middle School, Alexander Hardt said, "My student teaching experience was

amazing! Student teaching superseded my expectations in all areas. I grew more during the semester that I student taught than all of the previous semesters combined. I chose to take student teaching as serious as if it was my own job and I feel greatly prepared for my own classroom."



From left: Sandy Wilson, Principal; Alexander Hardt; Tim McCollum, cooperating teacher

Courtney Becherer says, "I am very grateful to have the opportunity to work with such positive, inspiring individuals as my cooperating teachers and my advisor. I have learned a great deal about myself as a future teacher, and the students I will be working with. Thank you Michael Dubois, Darla Gardner, and Dorothy Bennett."



Courtney Becherer working with her class

Dr. Oliver Presents at the IAHPERD



Dr. Jon Oliver

Dr. Jon Oliver, Assistant Professor in the Kinesiology and Sports Studies department, recently presented at the annual Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (IAHPERD) State Convention. The 2007 convention was held at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois, November 15th-16th, with approximately 3,500 health and physical education professionals in attendance.

The IAHPERD was founded almost 80 years ago, and is the premiere Illinois professional association providing support and guidance to individuals developing and conducting programs for the well-being of people in health, physical education, recreation and dance.

The title of Dr. Oliver's presentation was "Drug Testing Programs in Illinois High Schools". His presentation was based on data he collected from Illinois high school athletic directors on their perceptions on the use of drug testing programs at their schools. It also included information about existing drug programs currently used at their schools.

Dr. Oliver created a power point to represent his data and the ethical, legal, and moral issues that surround drug testing at the high school level, such as: can a school legally conduct random drug testing on students participating in extracurricular activities? While a US Supreme Court ruling says yes, is it actually effective in lowering student drug use? Dr. Oliver's research concluded that the majority of athletic directors in Illinois do agree with high school drug testing, yet only a small portion of the schools actually do drug testing, mostly because of the associated costs.

Program Assessment Across the State

In spring of 2007, the Educational Administration Graduate Assessment (EAGA) was successfully piloted. EAGA is a survey of twelve Illinois public colleges and program graduates.

The purpose of this survey, which will be administered for the first time on an annual basis, is to determine the readiness of the program graduates in accordance with the Illinois Professional School Leadership Standards and to reflect upon their program, guidance, and practicum experience. The survey results can then be used to improve the accreditation process and help education programs across the state grow.

The Teacher Graduate Survey is similar to the EAGA, in that it assesses student's abilities after graduation. The

TGA is on its fourth year. It assesses the readiness of first year teachers in accordance with the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and it too helps assess their teaching program, guidance, and student teaching experience. The TGA will be sent out to approximately 3000 first year teachers and their supervisors.

Both surveys are projects under the Illinois Association of Deans of Public Colleges of Education (IADPCE). They were developed by advisory committees comprised of faculty from the twelve Illinois public colleges of education. Eastern Illinois University administers both surveys on behalf of the IADPCE under the direction of Stephen Lucas, assistant professor, Secondary Education and Foundations.

KSS Graduate Research Fair

The Kinesiology and Sports Studies department held their Graduate Research Fair on December 3, 2007. The research fair is a way for graduate students from the KSS department to display their research for faculty, students, administrators and others.



The participants in the fair are required to have been enrolled in the Research Methods in Kinesiology and Sports Studies course which is taught by Dr. Brian Pritchett and Dr. Phyllis Croisant. The students in the fair prepared a poster presentation of their research project. The fair took place in the lobby of Lantz. Those in attendance

included Dr. Robert Augustine, Dean of the Graduate School, and Dr. Blair Lord, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Students who participated included: Kyle Anderson, Fern DeLima, Melissa Floress, Michael Foster, Eric Hahn, Meagan Hickenbottom, Stephanie James, Brian Jones, Russell Koenig, Maureen Khairallah, Katey Korhonen, Donna Lakinger, Kenny Mackey, Cara McQueen, Emily Oakes, Joshua Purpura, Chris Ryan, Ginger South, Melanie Taggart, Ashley Vance, Amanda Warner, and Colin Yording.



Alumni Spotlight



Frank Edwards,
Springfield, IL
Alderman in the 1st Ward.

Frank Edwards is a man of many jobs; all of which have been great experiences. Edwards graduated from Eastern in 1974 after receiving his bachelor's in Physical Education with a minor in Health and Driver Education. While here at Eastern, Edwards was active in the Air National Guard and became crew chief on an F-4 aircraft. While this experience cost him a year out of college, he felt it was worth it because he earned his Airline Transport

License. The Guard later offered him a pilot slot, but he turned it down to start teaching.

After the Guard, Edwards moved on to Springfield, IL, his hometown, where he began teaching special education, math and then physical education. After a dare from his mother, Edwards tried out to be a firefighter because of an ad in the local paper. While he thought the firefighter job would only last for the summer while school was out, it wound up lasting 26 years. During his time as a firefighter, he met his wife of 25 years. She was a nurse at the same hospital where Edwards would take trauma or heart attack patients. Because firefighting has its down time, Edwards took on a second job as a commercial pilot for 12 years, logging about 5000
[Continued on page 4]

[Continued from page 3]

hours. Back in the fire station, Edwards worked his way up from rookie to Fire Chief and soon had to quit flying.

As Fire Chief, Edwards got to work with government officials and he began to feel that things could be better in the community, which became his encouragement to get more involved. When he retired as Fire Chief in October of 2002, he ran for Springfield city Alderman in the 1st Ward and won the election. He was even reelected for another term last year. Edwards says, "I must say, I do have a new respect for people who run for public office." According to Edwards, one of his greatest rewards from his time as Alderman has been helping to take the city from a "negative cash position to a positive position in about three years", says Edwards. His city is now below the national average in growth in expenses and usage. Another reward of working as Alderman, Edwards says, is getting to work with people and "helping to solve their problems at the grass roots level."



Edwards during his time as Fire Chief

The Edwards family also runs their family-owned business, established in 1948, Springfield Autobody and Towing, previously Springfield Welding & Autobody. The business has 16 full time employees.

The Edwards family donates more than just their time and effort to the community; they also donate Frank's Alderman salary to a park being built in Springfield. The park will be completely

accessible park so children who are wheelchair-bound can enjoy the park. They also donate to the Springfield Over Flow shelter for the homeless. Frank and his wife are sponsors for the yearly 4th of July fundraiser. They also sponsor the American Cancer Society cookout in Springfield. They do the cooking and provide the food for the cookout.

As for his experience here at Eastern, Edwards speaks of the challenges that face all college students, such as being away from home and the time commitment. Edwards says that Eastern was a great experience though. "It allowed me the free spirit that I exercised but with just the right amount of constraints", says Edwards. Edwards was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity where he put in many community volunteer hours. He also held down a job at the local pizza joint, Joe's, now called Jerry's. Edwards later got to help a fellow Eastern graduate as he flew the aircraft for Jim Edgar's campaign in his first election as Governor.

Edwards has put forth all of his effort in every education and career path he has chosen.



Bill Moser

Bill Moser has really made the best out of life, traveling, fulfilling dreams, and just taking it all in. Moser graduated from Eastern in 1967 with a bachelor's in English and a minor in Journalism. Upon graduating, Moser became a teacher. He believed at the time that teaching would give him stable hours and more time with his family, but later learned that teaching meant long hours. He began teaching

[Continued on page 5]

[Continued from page 4]

meant long hours. He began teaching at Lincoln Way High school and it just stuck. Moser speaks fondly of his years of teaching, but noted that not all were pleasant. Teaching could be a struggle and he said it took a while for him to get into the groove of things, but other times were wonderful.

In 2001, after 33 years of teaching English at Lincoln Way, he decided it was time to retire, but not completely, Moser went back to school to earn a master's in Creative Writing from Goddard College in 2003. His decision came from his enjoyment of writing, spending his summers writing short stories and poems and even making his lesson plans more and more creative.

Moser believes his love for writing comes from his love for reading and how his parents were such great story tellers at bed time when he was a child. Moser writes in various ways, such as short stories, adult and children's books, and for local businesses.

Many of his stories and books come from old family stories. As part of his thesis for his master's degree, Moser wrote his first novel, "Family Plot". He has also written a novel "Oliver, Oliver" which he is currently revising. He recently wrote a novel for late elementary school boys called "Maximillian and the Man With No Nose" which he is hoping to get published soon.

Moser is also dabbles in art. After a family trip to Greece, Moser found this overwhelming desire to paint and has since taken several classes and has been painting with watercolors ever since. A few of his painting have even taken home awards in local contests and been sold.

In his spare time, Moser loves to travel the world with his wife and family. He says, "One of the advantages of being self-employed is being able to travel." He and his wife have traveled to London with their grandson. They

have also traveled to Tuscany with the Alumni Association. In addition to their sponsored or family trips, they have personally traveled to Alaska, Venice, Prague, Romania, Rome, Chile and also around the Continental United States.



Bill Moser and his wife Ann in front of "Fred and Ginger", two avant garde buildings in Prague.

Their travels have allowed them the opportunity to see the world and make new friends. They have visited family across the globe, seeing worldly sites such as the Black Sea, the Panama Canal, and several mountain ranges.

Bill Moser is a man of many talents and abilities and he has truly made the best of his life, reaching his goals and attaining new ones.



James Contratto

For James Contratto, life since Eastern has been going smoothly.

Upon graduating from Eastern, Contratto found a job that fit his interests well as his geographic needs. He put all his efforts into assuring he got the job as Assistant Director for University Center Programs at Western Carolina University.

Contratto's position makes him responsible for over \$200,000 in student

[Continued on page 6]

[Continued from page 5]

fees to bring activities and big events to the campus. Some of the activities and events include movies to be played in the University movie theatre and bringing well known artists like Hinder, Puddle of Mudd, and Kenny Wayne Shepherd to the campus. Contratto works for the Last Minute Productions board, similar to the University Board here at Eastern, to bring these activities and events. He is also the co-adviser for the Lectures, Concerts, and Exhibitions board, which is the finer arts board that brings plays, lectures, orchestras and other fine arts events to the campus.

Aside from his full time job, Contratto also serves on several committees and has become very involved with associations such as the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) and the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA).

The ACUI is a way for union and student activities professionals from all across the world to connect and communicate with others for ideas and information. Contratto has attended one national conference and 2 regional conferences for the ACUI. He is also the Region 5 Poetry Slam Coordinator for the annual ACUI Recreational Tournaments which include activities such as chess, bowling, and poetry readings.

The NACA provides a way for high education facilities to connect with the entertainment facilities for better opportunities. He has attended two regional conferences for the NACA and has acted as the showcase coordinator for one of them.

Recently Contratto was awarded the New Professional Award for 2007 from the ACUI. Receiving the award is a huge honor. He was nominated by his supervisor for the award. Once nominated, the nominations are reviewed by a committee where Contratto was chosen. Contratto says, "It is a big boost to morale and it makes me proud to be

a part of this association. I did not even know I was nominated." The award will cover his registration for the national ACUI conference this year, which totals over \$500.

Contratto says that there is a big difference between the cornfields of Charleston, Illinois and the mountains of Cullowhee, North Carolina. While the town is smaller than Charleston, he says he loves the area. He even got his first dog, Surge, an English Shepherd. He has also taken a few trips since Eastern, including a long distance trip to Las Vegas.



James
Contratto and
Surge

Contratto feels his experience here at Eastern was beneficial and he says, "I enjoyed my time at Eastern and I miss some old friends and professors like Eberly and Wallace."

Roy Oliver is a truly dedicated educator.

Oliver began teaching straight out of high school with a high school diploma and a War Emergency Certificate at only 19 years old. He taught at Hoxsey School, a one room school house located about ten miles northeast of Edwardsville, IL. Oliver had once attended school at the Hoxsey School house when he was a child. Because the board members of the school knew Oliver and his family, he was able to begin teaching under the War Emergency Certificate. He only received \$150.00 a month for his services as a teacher. He continued this for two years and eight summers.

Oliver decided to go back to school and received a bachelor's in elementary education in 1953 from Eastern Illinois University. While here

[Continued on page 7]

[Continued from page 6]

at Eastern, he met his wife, Vivian, at Pemberton Hall and they had a son together.

After graduating from Eastern and starting a family, Oliver returned to school to earn a Master's in Education from the University of Illinois in Administration and then to earn a Specialist degree in Administration from Southern Illinois University –Edwardsville. During this time, he spent 11 years teaching in local elementary schools, 4 years as an elementary principal, 2 years as an assistant high school principal, and he gained 12 years experience as an Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Once he had gained enough experience and realized his specialty was in curriculum development, Oliver then furthered his career in the field of education by becoming the Superintendent of the Edwardsville Community School District. He served as Superintendent for 10 wonderful years.

Aside from his duties within the school and after retiring as

Superintendent, Oliver has served as a Rotarian, he has been a member of the LeClaire Christian Church holding several offices including Chairman of the Board. He has also served on the City Planning Committee, Fire and Police Board, YMCA Board of Directors, Chamber of Commerce, and the Madison County Retired Teachers Association (MCRTA) Executive Board.

The MCRTA is an association with approximately 375 members. Oliver served on the exec board for eight years, spending two years as president. Just recently, he was honored by the MCRTA for his service for the organization. Oliver says, "Being honored by fellow educators makes one feel very good – a warm feeling".

In addition to his career, Oliver's family grew, having three children who were very supportive.

Oliver is currently teaching Speech at the St. Louis Christian College. He has spent 51 years in education and says, "I truly have loved giving my services to others and people have been wonderful to me."

Special Education News



Debra Belleau, fourth from the left, with her students and fellow staff

The Special Education Department wishes to share some great news. Debra Belleau of Charleston, Illinois and Lori A. Kirk of Sullivan, Illinois have both achieved National Board Certification.

Mrs. Belleau is a special educator in the Charleston schools and Mrs. Kirk is a special educator in the Sullivan Community Unit schools.

Both earned bachelor's degrees

in Special Education from Eastern Illinois University. In addition, Debra Belleau has earned a Master degree in Special Education.

National Board certification is national-level recognition of a teacher that has demonstrated the knowledge, skills and dispositions of a Master teacher.

We are very proud of these two outstanding alumni!

Special Education Honors Convocation

The Annual Honors Convocation for the Department of Special Education was held on Saturday, December 15th, 2007 in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Approximately 200 were in attendance, including the awardees, their family and friends, and faculty members from the department. Award recipients are chosen by the faculty of the department based on their scholarship, leadership, and service.

Among others honored are the Fall 2007 graduating class from the department and student officers from Sigma Rho Epsilon, a Special Education Honorary Society and Student Council for Exceptional Children.

Graduate students receiving awards were Candace L. Byars, Melinda Donahue, Vicky A. Hagen, Tamara S. Hall, Stephanie A. Lecher, Michael A. Leonard, Tricia K. Place, Nicole A. Renardo, and Diane L. Wheeler.

Senior student awardees included Connie J. Albin, Megan E. Balas, Kristine L. Benhoff, Suzanne L. Benning, Holly L. Bierman, Kathryn L. Boland, Margaret J. Bookie, Kelly M. Boynton, Alicia M. Brink, Meghan E. Cassady, Brittany J. Chesna, Kelly R. Crank, Ellen L. Daschler, Jodi L. Davis, Jessica R. Dupuis, Elizabeth J. Ertel, Lynnsey R. Fisher, Rachel K. Fowler, Amy L. Gielow, Dawn M. Grubb, Laura N. Grygiel, Mallory E. Gulling, Kristine K. Hahn, Margaret J. Hanke, Kristen L. Harbach, Ashley L. Haynes, Lindsey D. Herzog Moody, Tamara R. Holthaus, Amy M. Housing, Heather M. Janik, Garnet H. Jelley, Jamie L. Jennings, Laura E. Jennings, Kristen N. Jurewicz, Angela M. Kreher, Christine T. Kuspa, Amy M. Le Jeune, Michelle L. Lisikiewicz, Jacqueline M. Martin, Elizabeth R. McNamara, Angela L. Neubauer, Kimberly J. Newby, Monica M. Newman, Amanda M. Raz, Lisa M. Schmidt, Amy L. Simons, Stephanie E.

Sloman, Katherine E. Sullivan, Julie A. Templin, Ashlee J. Walton, Jessica L. Wendling, Kathryn J. Wiebers, Audra L. Wiley, Sarah C. Williams, Emily J. Wynn, and Kathryn A. Yaeger.

Awardees from the Junior class were Shannon D. Clay, Meghan M. Kennedy, James T. Scheffers, Brandy R. Trussell, and Sarah A. Trusty.

Awardees from the Sophomore class included Megan A. Arentsen, Katie M. Augustine, Amanda M. Comp, Lindsey N. Cottingham, Maria D. Cross, Cassie L. Florczyk, Justin T. Gross, Margret M. Johanson, Rachel M. Veach, and Katelyn M. Zmijewski.

Awardees from the Cohort programs included Cathy Gude, WOVSED; Susan Nellis, WOVSED; and Jeanelle Smith, AERO.

Student Council for Exceptional Children is a professional organization for students and a subsidiary to the Council for Exceptional Children. Officers of this organization were:

Fall 2007

President – Sarah Williams
President Elect – Will Seidelman
Vice President – Tressa Bird
Secretary – Megan Watts
Treasurer – Heather Janik
Publicity – Mackenzie Varek
Membership – Jennifer Koch
Newsletter – Nicole Renardo
Fundraiser – Megan Lynch

Sigma Rho Epsilon is an honorary organization for students preparing to work with individuals with exceptional needs. Their officers included:

Fall 2007

President – Katie Wiebers
President Elect – Meghan Cassady
VP of Membership – Sarah Williams
VP of Programming – Lisa Schmidt
Secretary – Lauren Florio
Treasurer – Katie Boland

[Continued on page 9]

[Continued from page 8]

Service Coordinator – Margaret Bookie
Publicity – Laura Buchanan
Historian – Nicole Connors

Additional Awards included the 2007 Telefund Award, the Errett & Mazie Warner Special Education Scholarship, the Iva P. Miller Special Education Memorial Scholarship, the 13th Annual Stephen Wayne Kennard Scholarship, and the Dr. Robert Zabka Special Education Scholarship.

Telefund Awards are made possible through contributions from EIU alumni, faculty, and staff. Telefund monies were awarded to Angela Neubauer and Diane L. Wheeler.



Diane L. Wheeler and Angela Neubauer

The Warner Scholarship is made annually to students who show outstanding character and scholastic achievement. The Warner Scholarship was awarded to Ashley L. Haynes.



Ashley L. Haynes

The Iva P. Miller scholarship is given annually to a student for scholastic achievement and recognition of special promise in the initial phase of the special education program. The Iva P. Miller Scholarship was awarded to Rachel M. Veach.



Rachel M. Veach receiving scholarship

The Kennard Scholarship was endowed by Mrs. Carl Fallen, with matching funds provided by AMOCO Corporation. It is named for Stephen Wayne Kennard, brother of Mrs. Fallen and Michael Kennard, and son of Ike and Joann Kennard. The Kennard Scholarship was awarded to Connie Albin and Rachel L. Fowler.



Rachel L. Fowler



Connie Albin receiving scholarship

The Dr. Robert Zabka scholarship is awarded annually and is endowed by Dr. Zabka, Professor Emeritus, Eastern Illinois University.



Vicky A. Hagen receiving scholarship

Faculty and Student News

Scott A.G.M. Crawford, kinesiology and sports studies, had an "Issues" column published in the January 2008 Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The topic was, "Are dance competitions compatible with the artistic ideals of dance?"

Students must attend a meeting to formally apply for university admission to teacher education and to initiate the selection process. Students who have not previously applied must attend a meeting. The following meetings, held in Buzzard Hall 1501, are scheduled for the Spring 2008 semester: Feb. 19; 7 to 7:50 p.m. Thursday, March 20; 6 to 6:50 p.m. Monday, April 7; and 11 to 11:50 a.m. Wednesday, April 23. Registration is not required. The next opportunity to initiate the selection process and apply for university admission to teacher education will be during Summer 2008.

Scholarship Applications Available for the Dept. of **EC/ELE/MLE**. Applicants should be early childhood, elementary or middle level education majors. All applications are due no later than 4 p.m. Feb. 22.

Scott A.G.M. Crawford, kinesiology and sports studies, had an "Issues" column published in the January 2008 Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The topic was, "Are dance competitions compatible with the artistic ideals of dance?"

Dr. Dawn VanGunten, Secondary Education and Foundations, is teaching an honors section of EDF 2555, Diversity in Schools. This is the first time the course has been offered.

Dr. Audrey Edwards, Secondary Education and Foundations, is currently

on her sabbatical. She is researching and developing curriculum to address the needs of English Language Learners (ELL), offering a workshop on ELL for the Association of Teacher Educators, and is serving as a Literacy Coach for a local school district.

Mid-America Educators' Job Fair. All candidates seeking teaching, administration and specialist positions are encouraged to meet with recruiters from more than 130 schools throughout the U.S. from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, in the MLK Jr. Union ballrooms. Professional attire recommended. Bring plenty of resumes. To view participating schools and/or obtain job fair prep information/workshops, please visit http://www.eiu.edu/~careers/students/ed_fair.php.

The Department of Counseling and Student Development will present its 29th annual spring conference on Feb. 29. Participants will choose one of the following presentations -- "Understanding and Treating the Self-Injurer: Once an Obscure Psychiatric Symptom Now an Alarming Mainstream Problem," by Wendy Lader, or "Bullying and Cyberbullying: What Providers Need to Know," by Bridge Roberts-Pittman and Esther Ko. The registration fee is \$60.

Secondary Education and Foundations department is currently working to recruit secondary education students for a study abroad trip to Toronto, Canada. The trip will take place from May 5th -May 15th with faculty members Rose Gong and Dawn Paulson. This will be the first study abroad opportunity for secondary education students. The department hopes to later expand their study abroad opportunities.