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EIU Alumni named IL Principal of the Year

When asked what professional accomplishment has given him the most satisfaction, Eric Flohr, 2005 EIU alumni and principal at Collinsville High School (CHS), did not mention that he is the 2008-2009 Principal of the Year. Rather he gave multiple examples of accomplishments that he and his staff have worked on to better their school for its students.

Flohr sums up the direction of his administration in the following quote, “An effective administrator focuses first on what is best for students and then on what is best for as many adults as possible.” This is a quote that Flohr has followed throughout his career.



Eric Flohr with his wife Carol

Mr. Eric Flohr started his career in education as a high school Biology teacher and a Varsity Volleyball coach. While he was satisfied with his career he felt driven to “make a positive difference on a school level.” When asked what he most enjoys about his job Flohr said, “I enjoy the opportunity to be part of the solution or a piece of the puzzle to transform/shape a school and its culture.”

Flohr has strong feelings for Eastern Illinois University. He chose to come to EIU for his graduate degree in Educational Administration because of its great reputation.

Flohr was pleased that many of his teachers were practicing superintendents. He enjoyed the level of standards and respect he was held to at EIU and says that at the time, coming to campus was the highlight of his week. Flohr feels that his education at EIU prepared him for his future as a principal. He says, “The superintendents program at EIU allowed me to see the bigger picture as an educational leader/principal. I was impressed with the real life applications from the instructors.” One instructor in particular stands out in Flohr’s mind. He credits Dr. Voltz for inspiring him not only as a student, but as a future principal. He feels that Dr. Voltz helped him take his “game to the next level.” He also feels that his program of study prepared him for his career through the use of real life applications. Flohr says that these applications allowed him to “see the bigger picture as an educational leader/principal.”

Mr. Flohr was not always the principal of CHS. He started his career in the United States Air Force. From there he worked as an Environmental Scientist at Daily Analytical Laboratories in Peoria and then he started his teaching career. His first teaching job was teaching High School Sciences for Peoria Public Schools. He later moved on to Pleasant Valley Grade School in Peoria and before CHS he was principal at Dwight Township High School in Dwight. Flohr credits many informal mentors for giving in support and guidance throughout the years. These men and women include: Chuck Fabish, Bob Carruthers, Terry Deppert, Patricia Tucker-Ladd, Dale Adams and Dennis Craft. He also



praises all of the teachers and students that he has had the privilege of working with

throughout the years.

Flohr has found success by presenting at many workshops and mentoring new administrators. He has won many awards of excellence including: Innovative Education Award – Illinois Principals Association; Champion of the Classroom – Tandy Technologies; Grant Recipient (Twice) – First of America Bank; Grant Recipient – McDonalds; Connections 2000 Award, Illinois State Board of Education; Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers (three times) – Peoria Public

Schools; Airman of the Year – Air National Guard; Honor Graduate Technical School – United States Air Force; Joseph McEwain Scholarship – United States Air Force; and Eagle Boy Scout – Boy Scouts of America.

Flohr does not know what the future has in store for him. Right now he is considering the path that many educators are drawn to as life long learners by working on a doctorate degree. When asked his greatest accomplishment, Eric Flohr answered, “Balancing a successful educational career while being the best husband and father that I can be. As a collaborative leader I strive to shine the light on others.”

Alumni Spotlight



Jill Tomaszewski Gebke chose to complete the master’s program in College Student Affairs (CSA) because she “working at in an entry level position, as a

recruiter, and I wanted to be able to move into a higher position in higher education. I realized that I would need a master’s degree to be able to apply for most of the positions that I would like to pursue.” She had been working as the director of recruitment and student development at Kaskaskia Collge in Centralia since 2002. Upon receiving degree in CSA from EIU in 2005, Jill Tomaszewski Gebke, was definitely prepared to take the next step in her career and become the new director of enrollment management

for the college of Business at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Gebke feels that the CSA program truly prepared her for her new endeavor. She says, “The College Student Affairs program at EIU really exposed me to a variety of positions within higher education. This helped me to find what I am passionate about, which is helping students. Also, the discussions of real-life events and happenings in higher education were invaluable. This helped prepare me to see various points of view about one topic that could affect various departments on a campus and how it would impact students. These debate sessions were a great foundation to learn how to logically break down a situation and to analyze the positive and negative aspects of event. “

While Gebke chose Eastern Illinois University for its location, she had many great experiences while here. “I probably had two very important experiences at EIU. One of the most rewarding experiences at EIU was building professional relationships. I made many friends while in my program that I still keep in touch with. It is nice that we can talk about our profession and situations that may arise. The second was working with Dr. Eberly. I was so fortunate to have him as my advisor throughout the program. His passion for helping students and his genuine care for each of his students, current and past, is truly inspiring. His energy and creativity were just amazing to be around. He truly inspired me to be a caring higher education professional.”

One thing about EIU that stands out in Gebke’s mind was that at Eastern, no job was too small for anyone. One of her favorite classes was, “Leadership in Higher Education, which was taught by the university president, Lou Hencken. It was so amazing that the University president would take the time to teach a class. More amazingly, he was so

thoughtful and caring. He was always there with

supportive comments or concerns.”

When asked what her greatest accomplishments were, Gebke spoke of her students. “I truly take pride in the accomplishments of the students I have worked with in the past. I would like to think I had a small part in their success. I’ve worked with students that have been recognized as outstanding members in their field, but also students who thought they would never graduate from college. I think my outstanding accomplishments come from assisting students reach their goals.”

If you or anyone you know would like to be featured in our Alumni Spotlight please email us at cepsnews@eiu.edu.

Student Teaching Abroad - England!

Many college students dream of traveling through Europe after graduating from college. **Mitzi Houpt** is living that dream while in college by choosing to student teach in England through the Consortium for Overseas Student Teaching (COST). About deciding to student teach through COST Houpt says, “I chose to student teach through the COST program because I realized that there was so much to gain by the experiences of student teaching abroad. There is a lot to be learned from being completely immersed in another culture and learning to appreciate how people outside of my own nation operate on a daily basis.”

Houpt, who is from Catlin, Illinois, hopes to bring her new teaching perspective back to Illinois. She returned from England in December and is substitute teaching in the spring semester while seeking a full time teaching job in Illinois in Vermilion and Champaign counties.

Haupt chose to teach in England for many reasons. Her main reason was because she is a history major. She enjoys the rich and deep history that England had to offer. She believes that being immersed in the culture has helped her in the classroom. "I learn by seeing and doing and there are so many historical places for me to visit and become more knowledgeable about. In turn, this extra knowledge has helped me become a better teacher."



It was not all sightseeing for Haupt because her primary purpose in England was to student teach. While Haupt had many great experiences outside of the classroom, such as traveling as much as possible, she also had amazing experiences in the classroom. She recalls thinking that student teaching would be a "breeze" because her students looked so well put together in their uniforms and sounded so proper. She quickly learned that 15 year olds are the same everywhere and that she was going to have to work to get her students to behave and learn. She says, "I had to be rather strict and demanding at first. In fact, I had one student even salute me because of my demanding presence. However, this got them all working hard in my classroom. Now, some of them even thank me for the lesson at the end of the period."

Keeping with the college experience of student teaching, Haupt

stayed in the dorms at the University of Chichester. This too was a learning experience as she lived on a floor full of international students, from countries such as Belgium, Sweden, and America. Through this experience she got to gain knowledge of even more cultures, which is something Haupt values.

Haupt found the differences between an American classroom and the English classroom to be much greater than she expected. While student teaching at St. Philip Howard Catholic High School in Barnham, England, her students were on a block schedule, which meant that she did not see them everyday. She saw some of her classes only once or twice a week which took some adjusting to. She also had to get used to the fact that high school in Europe refers to years 7-13 which is America's grades 6-12, rather than 9-12. She also noted that students take general classes through year 9 and then must choose the subjects they are strongest in and study them in years 10-11. At age 16, after year 11, many students go into the workforce. Others stay and continue with the A levels, or university-prep courses. Years 12-13 are called college as well as high school. While these are big differences, Haupt was relaxed in the classroom in no time. She

says, "Not only do I feel I have become more knowledgeable about history, but I also get the experience of teaching in a high school entirely different than any school I have observed or taught in. I think I have to work harder because I am a new teacher trying to adapt to what the students are used to, all the while putting



my own “label” on the lessons. However, it is more than worthwhile because I have incredible students who help to make my experiences all the better.”

Like other COST students featured in The Chat Room, Houpt sings the praises of the COST experience. When asked to give advice to future COST student teachers she says, “Take advantage of every opportunity possible. Go on every trip you can. Be respectful of other cultures and learn as much as you can from them. Work harder than you ever have in your lesson planning because you want to show the schools your absolute best – all American teachers are judged by what you do while you are in their schools. It is an absolutely amazing experience!”

Kinesiology and Sports Studies Student Organization News

In the KSS Department, Chair Dr. Jill Owen and Instructor Colleen Kattenbraker are co-sponsors of the **Kinesiology and Sports Studies Club**. This Club is open to all KSS majors.

They meet approximately once a month during the fall and spring semesters. Meetings include having guest speakers, games, and social activities. Both students and faculty are encouraged to attend meetings.

Furthermore, students are encouraged to attend conventions/workshops related to the field, specifically the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance annual

convention (held every November in St. Charles, IL). The organization also promotes support of departmental scholarships.

The Kinesiology and Sports Studies Honors Club is co-sponsored by faculty members Stacey Ruholl and Sonya Schuette. The club is a registered student organization (RSO) that meets monthly. Eligibility requirements for students to be a member include having completed at least one full semester at EIU, being a KSS major, and having a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Members are involved in various activities throughout the year. They host food/clothing drives, assist with other charitable drives, and participate at the annual state convention. The club’s major activity includes organizing and hosting the “Run for Shannon” in April every year to raise money that is endowed to a scholarship to be given to a KSS major each year.

Recreation Administration Activities

The Student Association for Recreation has membership that is open to all majors and minors that are interested in the purpose and ideals of recreation.

The Association organizes several activities and special events throughout the year. Activities include a variety of leisure pursuits, including: bowling, bingo, rock climbing, skiing, camping, overnight trips (St. Louis, Chicago, Turkey Run, etc.), cookouts, and volunteer opportunities.

In addition to planning and organizing recreation activities, the Association also takes an active role in promoting the professional development of students in the Department of Recreation Administration. The Association coordinates and assists students in attending the annual Illinois Park and Recreation Association Conference in Chicago, IL. This conference is held each year during the last weekend in January and provides students the opportunity to attend educational sessions and network with professionals in the field of recreation.

Finally, the Association organizes and funds the department's annual student-alumni awards banquet. Held each spring (for the past 37 years), the banquet is used to recognize outstanding alumni contributions and student scholarship recipients.

In addition to the weekly activities (i.e., bowling, bingo, rock climbing, skiing, trips, etc.), the Association is currently involved in organizing students' travel, registration, and lodging for the Illinois Park and Recreation Association annual conference held January 29 – 31 at the Hilton Hotel in Chicago, IL.

Eta Sigma Gamma (Health Studies)

The National Health Education Honor Society, Eta Sigma Gamma, has been involved in many recent activities. These include: members presenting a poster display at the fall Relationship Fair sponsored by HERC, collecting clothing and supplies for the Mattoon Public Action to Deliver Shelter (P.A.D.S.), and starting a new method of communication via blog to facilitate professional communication among students and faculty. The address of the blog is: <http://esgbetanu.blogspot.com/>.

Several students participated in the Foundations Day event providing information about the academic program to new students on campus, regularly participates in Relay for Life and is currently putting together another team for the upcoming event. ESG also assists the PEACE project - Prevention, Education, and Collaboration at Eastern. The PEACE project focuses upon health and safety issues. ESG encourages all EIU Health Studies majors and minors to participate although official initiation into ESG requires upper-class standing and a 2.75 GPA.

Special Students, Special Education

The primary purpose of **Sigma Rho Epsilon** is to recognize and encourage scholastic excellence, develop leadership abilities, foster professional activities, and promote fellowship among professionals, faculty, and students of the organization. Furthermore, the intent is to instill in all people an awareness of the importance of Special Education in the development of overall human potential. In this honorary fraternity, every active member is required to complete a number of service hours. This semester, members will choose to fulfill these hours by spending time with our Natural Tie, volunteering at Smith House, providing respite for campers at Camp New Hope, assisting with the Motor Activities Training Program, or serving in a variety of other ways. Each term, members also work hard on the current semester fundraiser, a new-member project (last semester it was a coat drive for local children and adults without warm winter attire), and also schedule the volunteers for Area 9 Special Olympics events.

This semester the **Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC)** has many activities lined up including a Pizza Party/Game night, Bowling and a BBQ with the residents of some of the homes in Charleston, IL that house individuals with disabilities. They will also be present at Polar Plunge on March 7th in Effingham, IL. In addition to those activities, on Wednesday nights during the semester the SCEC will be hosting Bingo at the Tull House, a group home in Charleston, IL, which will allow members to interact with the residents there.

Preparing Students for Professionalism (ECE/ELE/MLE)

The **Eastern Illinois University Student Federation**, one of seven organizations in the Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education and Middle Level Education (ECE/ELE/MLE) department accepts students from all disciplines, but is primarily focused on issues that are relevant to students who intend to pursue a profession in teaching. The cooperative arrangement between the Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT) and the EIU Student Federation helps to prepare these students for entry into the field of teaching and other related professions, while acquainting them with the organizational philosophies of the IFT, the AFT, and the labor movement.

Other organizations in the department include: Association of Childhood Education International (ACEI), Student Education Association (SEA) / Illinois Education Association (IEA), Student Association for the Education of Young Children (SAEYC), Middle Level Educators Club (MLEC), and Kappa Delta Pi (KDP).

News from Secondary Education

Illuminate helps SED 2000 students connect with education outside of Central Illinois

Students in the introductory education course for secondary education (SED 2000) enjoyed the benefits of technology this semester when the Eastern's new videoconferencing system, Illuminate, brought live speakers from hundreds and even thousands of miles away into their



Students participate in Illuminate, a live videoconferencing system.

classrooms. For two classes, a teacher panel of local educators that were talking to students face-to-face in the EIU classroom was joined by a teacher in the Chicago area as a fourth panelist. The Chicago-area educator and former EIU alum added

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a teacher's perspective from schools that have more diversity and are much larger than most schools in the local area. The educator spoke to students on the "big screen" in the front of the classroom and was able to present and interact by answering students questions from her own classroom in



the Chicago area. In another case, a student teacher currently

completing her student teaching experience in Ireland joined the class through

Elluminate to talk about the benefits and challenges of studying abroad. She answered questions that ranged from how the education systems differ to whether she thought there would be disadvantages to finding a job when she arrives back. Some students even wondered what the weather was like in Ireland this time of year.

The **William C. Hine Distinguished Service Award**, which is presented to a chapter councilor of Alpha Sigma Lambda for commitment, dedication and leadership in Dean Hine's honor was awarded to James Johnson at Villanova University at the Annual ACHE Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on November 8, 2008.

The following faculty will be presenting at the **2009 ATE Annual Meeting** in Dallas, TX in February -Rose Gong, Audrey Edwards, Sham'ah Md-Yunus, and Kiran Padmaraju will speak on "English Language Learners: Current Laws and Ideal Policies." Their talk will

focus on policy issues involved in serving this at-risk population. -Cheryl Warner and Dawn Paulson will present "Practicum Mentoring Project: Approaching Pre-Service Practicum with a Partnership". This presentation will focus on the pilot practicum mentoring project put into place during the fall 2008 semester. -Teresa Freking, Dawn Paulson and Cheryl Warner will present "Teacherspace: Wikki Utilization for Communication Amongst Student Teachers, Faculty, Mentors, and Alumni".

Undergraduate Research Fair (Gus Albear)

The Undergraduate Education Research Fair is an annual event of the College of Education and the SED/EDF department at Eastern Illinois University. The fair highlights the research of department and college-wide undergraduates during each academic year. The protocols require that the student researchers submit pedagogically focused papers, which cover a large array of subjects, to their particular teachers who in turn submit to the Secondary Education & Foundations (SED/EDF) department the best papers they receive. The department then selects the top 25 papers and further chooses from that grouping the top 10 papers. These are then presented in open public forum at Eastern Illinois University. The forum includes a professional presentation format that uses multiple presentation mediums, including technology, and is followed by a poster session where the student researchers answer any and all questions from the audience. During the process of final selection the top ten student researchers are evaluated by a selection committee

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of administrators, faculty and previous student participants. The final goal of the fair is the selection of the 5 best student researchers for the academic year who will represent Eastern Illinois University at a professional national education conference.

The Department of Secondary Education and Foundations held an **Information Fair** in fall 2008. The fair provided undergraduate students with information about scholarships, study abroad, and the comparison between the traditional and ISEP programs of study. Approximately 75 students attended. The department plans to continue to offer the information fair each fall semester.

Cheryl Warner and Dawn Paulson launched a pilot program titled **“Practicum Mentoring Project”** in fall 2008 with Sullivan and Casey-Westfield school districts. The pilot focused on an overall collaborative relationship amongst the cooperating teachers, practicum supervisors, and pre-service teachers. Cooperating teacher training and mentoring, pre-service teacher orientation to the school and community, frequent supervision and consultation with the same practicum supervisor for the district, as well as common planning time scheduled for pre-service teachers and cooperating teachers were instituted as pilot aspects to the current SED 3330 practicum experience.



Department of Health Studies and March of Dimes Team Up to Spread Knowledge of Preconception Health Care

The Department of Health Studies has been working closely with the March of Dimes (MOD) this year in order to project knowledge to college students about preconception health issues. Dr. Julie Dietz, HST department, is developing and implementing a needs assessment survey which will focus on the aforementioned topic. They are currently in the process of fine tuning a target audience, and starting to edit/rework the survey question suggestions MOD has given them.



According to Karie O'Connor, an HST alumna and Dr. Hope of the March of Dimes, “Preconception health focuses on women’s health prior to pregnancy and is an important public health strategy to reduce adverse birth outcomes in our country. Last year, the Illinois Preconception/Interconceptional Care Committee, a collaboration of State and local partners focused on improving birth outcomes, developed goals to enhance the promotion efforts and standards of care for preconception health care in Illinois.

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As members of the Social Marketing Work Group of the Committee, our goal is to increase awareness of preconception health behaviors in all women of childbearing age. We are focusing first on women in college, and we are interested in engaging a Health Promotion or Health Communication Methods class to take on this important issue as their class project.

one day...
all babies will be born healthy



march of dimes
march for babies

The committee has been working with Dr. Dietz to edit and enhance a preconception health awareness survey and hope to have the survey out to students sometime during the spring semester.”

What is Preconception Health?
Rates of adverse birth outcomes including pre-term birth, low-birth weight, birth defects, and infant mortality have not seen a significant reduction over the last several decades despite advances in medical care. In fact, according to the March of Dimes, preterm birth rates have increased 30% since 1981; thus, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has released recommendations for improving preconception health care in the United States including increasing consumer awareness. Since almost 50% of all pregnancies in Illinois are unplanned, it is important that women take charge of their own health today regardless of whether or not they are planning to get pregnant. Preconception Health is targeted towards all women of childbearing age and encompasses all areas of health including:

- Using a reliable form of birth control until you are ready to get pregnant
- Maintaining a healthy weight through proper diet & exercise

- Taking a multivitamin with 400 mcg of folic acid everyday
- Avoiding cigarettes, smoking, Alcohol, and illegal drugs
- Avoiding exposure to chemicals and other harmful substances at work and at home
- Getting regular pap smears
- Getting regular medical check ups especially if you have any medical conditions like diabetes or high blood pressure

- Learning to manage stress
- Knowing your family medical history

Additionally, there are many preconception health recommendations for

men, including maintaining a healthy weight, taking a multivitamin, avoiding alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs to avoid any fertility problems.

Information provided by Karie O'Connor and the March of Dimes

Panther Power Walks for a Cure

Relay for Life, the world's largest



fundraising walk, is a fundraising event of the American Cancer Society.

The Relay for Life fundraiser is usually held overnight and is designed to

spread awareness of cancer prevention, treatments and cures, celebrate survivorship and raise



money for research to find more cures for cancer. This past year several student teaching coordinators participated in the walk.

The team of 7 walkers consisted of Mrs. Judy Briggs (team captain), Dr. Nan Carli, Mrs. Sallee Lowery (EIU student teaching coordinators for the Northwest Chicago suburban region), as well as family and friends. Walker and student teacher coordinator, Sallee Lowery, said of the event, "We decided to walk together as Panther Power, in memory of our friends and family who have died from cancer, and in honor of cancer survivors on our team as well as our student teaching department colleagues, and friends and family members who are cancer survivors."

The Panther Power team "walked for a cure" at Alexian Field (Home of the Schaumburg Flyers minor league baseball team) in Schaumburg from 4:00 pm on a Friday to 6:00 am on Saturday. Only



one team member was required to walk at all times so a tent city was

constructed for event participants to rest and celebrate in.

In 2007 Relay for life rose over \$405 million dollars. Sallee Lowery and her team members were

grateful to report that they contributed to hopefully exceeding that total in 2008 by surpassing their team goal of raising \$1,000. Sallee and her teammates would like to "thank those who contributed to this cause and supported us in this effort."

Annual EIURAAA Student Forum

The 10th Annual Eastern Illinois University Recreation Administration Alumni Association (EIURAAA Student Forum) was held on Friday, October 3rd. The opening session, "The Importance of Professional Networking," was given by Mike Selep, Director of Professional Services for Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). Brian Romes presented "A Successful Internship and Beyond!" "Experiences with Cunningham Children's Home" was led by Deb Tiger. Ryan Jastrzab and Ron Oestreich teamed up to discuss Powerhouse Programming. John Keenan discussed Private vs. Public Recreation. A new feature this year was a speed mentoring workshop where all professionals were available to the students for questions. Following the forum all attendees were treated to lunch at the Panther Paw.



A closing activity, led by Ryan Jastrzab, focused on Recreation for Thought. Many thanks go out to the EIURAAA Board of Directors for

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their fine work on this annual event. (Kelly Lamore, President, Ryan Jastrzab, Vice President, Jamie Davis, Secretary, CJ Applegate, Treasurer, R. Scott Smith, Todd Ranum,, Jamie Gower, Dave Haring, Ron Oestreich and Candice Holbrook, Student Representative)

For more information or to volunteer to work on next year's forum, feel free to contact Mr. Ryan Jastrzab at Ryan@itascaparkdistrict.com or call him at (630) 773-2257.

Annual Special Education Honors Convocation Held in December

The Annual Honors Convocation for the Department of Special Education was held on Saturday, December 20, 2008 in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Approximately 300 were in attendance, including the awardees, their family and friends, and faculty members from the Department of Special Education. Award recipients are chosen by the faculty of the Department of Special Education based on their scholarship, leadership, and service. Among others honored are the Fall 2008 graduating class from the Department of Special Education and student officers from Sigma Rho Epsilon, a Special Education Honorary Society and Student Council for Exceptional Children.

Graduate students receiving awards were Travis A. Friedrich, Tamara S. Hall, Stephanie A. Lecher, Leslie R. Patient, Nicole A. Renardo, Amanda J. Shrader, Jennifer P. Taylor, and Tanya Vipond.

Senior student awardees included Tressa Bird, Sarah N. Blue, Kathryn L. Boland, Jacy N. Brasher, Alicia M. Brink, Meghan E. Cassady, Ashley A. Chamberlain, Sara J. Corley, Kelly R. Crank, Tilia J. Detrick, Lynnsey R. Fisher, Lauren M. Florio, Dawn M. Grubb, Ashley L. Haynes, Amy M. Housing, Heather M. Janik, Laura E. Jennings, Tammy L. Jones, Richard A. Keinz, Jarielle M. Kemme, Jennifer T. Koch, Katherine E. Koop, Antonina M. Kornas, Amy M. LeJeune, Robert J. Lewis, Michelle Lisikiewicz, Morgan L. McGovern, Brendan M. McHugh, Taryn N. Minelli, Angela L. Neubauer, Monica M. Newman, Andrea M. Pitts, Talon N. Prosis, Amanda M. Raz, Julie A. Sheridan, Marlo H. Spidle, Shari A. Sterling, Lisa M. Taylor, Lydia G. Thomason, Brandy R. Trussell, Sarah M. Vetter, Ashlee J. Walton, Megan E. Watts, Katherine A. Weathers, and Kathryn A. Yaeger.

Awardees from the Junior class were Megan A. Arentsen, Katie M. Augustine, Sadie K. Bear, Elizabeth A. Brauneis, Lindsey N. Cottingham, Lindsey J. Dalesandro, Stephanie J. Giacchetti, Justin T. Gross, Margret M. Johanson, Glenn D. Powell, Michael B. Scheibel, Rachel M. Veach, Josephine M. Wallace, and Katelyn M. Zmijewski.

Awardees from the Sophomore class were Anastasia Deligianis, Alexandra R. Drown, Neal D. Hancock, Matthew C. Kennedy, Katie E. Kubski, Alexandra S. Underwood, Kelsey J. Usselman, and Maria R. White.

Awardees from the Cohort programs included, from the SASETT Cohort, Sarah Bloch, Kathryn Block, Jonathan Field, Sara Littleton-Wahl, Shelly Nicholson, Michelle L. Schick, and Lisa Whisler; from the WOVSSED Cohort, Eric B. McCollum, Amy Peterson, Marcia L. Puckett, and Kimberly Wright.

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nominations from the Department of Special Education throughout the 2009 calendar year.

The Fall 2008 graduating class from the from the Department of Special Education included Holly L. Bierman, Andrea E. Brady, Jacy N. Brasher, Alicia M. Brink, Christin Cavanagh, Lesley A. Cheney, Ashley N. Clifton, Sara J. Corley, Javier F. Curiel, Cheryl J. Drue, Jessica R. Dupuis, Jamie L. Hille, Kelly J. Koller, Katherine E. Koop, Victoria Kurczodyna, Amy M. LeJeune, Cathleen M. Lally, Megan E. Lynch, Rachel L. Mason, Stephanie L. Mounce, Patricia J. Mullins, Angela L. Neubauer, Amanda R. Pendegraft, Bridget R. Purdy, Jennifer L. Riegle, Megan L. Roberts, Ashley M. Robertson, Vanessa R. Rork, Kelly L. Sherlock, Amy L. Simons, Peter J. Weber, and Kathryn A. Yaeger.



Katherine Boland speaks after receiving a Telefund Award from Chair Dr. Kathleen Shank

Sigma Rho Epsilon and Student Council for Exceptional are an integral part of student service to both the Department and profession of Special Education.

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:

Spring 2008

- President - William Z. Seidelmann
- President Elect - Tressa Bird
- Vice President - Stephanie J. Giacchetti
- Secretary - Sarah M. Vetter
- Treasurer - Heather M. Janik
- Publicity - Amanda M. Raz
- Membership - Jennifer T. Koch
- Fundraiser - Megan E. Lynch
- Newsletter - Nicole A. Renardo

Fall 2008

- President - Tressa Bird
- President Elect - Stephanie J. Giacchetti
- Vice President - Jennifer P. Taylor
- Secretary - Sarah M. Vetter
- Treasurer - Jarielle M. Kemme
- Publicity - Matthew C. Kennedy
- Membership - Rachel M. Veach
- Newsletter - Richard A. Keinz
- Fundraiser - Stephen L. Udowitz

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

Spring 2008

- President - Meghan E. Cassady
- President Elect - Katherine A. Weathers
- Vice President of Membership - Amy M. LeJeune
- Vice President of Programming - Melinda J. Donahue
- Secretary - Jennifer T. Koch
- Treasurer - Jacy N. Brasher
- Service Coordinator - Kate E. Anderson
- Publicity - Ashley L. Haynes
- Historian - Nicole Connors

ˆFall 2008

- President – Katherine A. Weathers
- President Elect - Tammy L. Jones

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- Vice President of Membership – Morgan L. McGovern
- Vice President of Programming – Megan E. Watts
- Secretary – Monica M. Newman
- Treasurer – Sarah J. Gouskos
- Service Coordinator – Steven T. Dollahan
- Publicity – Audra L. Wiley
- Historian – Laura E. Jennings

Additional awards included the 2008 Telefund Award, the Errett & Mazie Warner Special Education Scholarship, the Iva P. Miller Special Education Memorial Scholarship, the 14th 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. The Warner scholarship is made annually to students who show outstanding character and scholastic achievement. The Iva P. Miller Scholarship is given annually to students for scholastic achievement and recognition of special promise in the initial phase of the special education program. 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 Dr. Robert Zabka scholarship is awarded annually and is endowed by Dr. Robert Zabka, Professor Emeritus, Eastern Illinois University.

Telefund monies were awarded to Kathryn L. Boland, Antonina M. Kornas, Tanya Vipond, and Lisa M. Whisler. The Warner



Department Chair, Dr. Kathleen Shank presents

Nicole Renardo with the Dr. Robert Zabka Scholarship.

scholarship awardee was Dawn M. Grubb. Miller Scholarship awardee was Maria R. White. Kennard Scholarship awardees were Amy M. LeJeune (Fall 2008) and Katherine A. Weathers (Spring 2009). Scholarship awardee for the Dr. Robert Zabka Scholarship was Nicole Renaro.

HST Soldier Update

In the December Issue we featured an article on Rick Rodgers, an HST alum who is currently serving in Afghanistan. We are happy to report that Rick is still safe and well. He has sent off a request to his family and friends for care packages for he and his fellow soldiers.



He claims they would “love to read anything they can get thier hands on right now.” Along with

books and magazines, anything appropriate that you think a soldier away from home might enjoy would be greatly appreciated. If you would

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like to send something to Rick, or fellow soldiers in care of Rick, his current address is:

Rick Rodgers
2/1/203 PMT
FOB Ghazni (vulcan)
APO AE 09354

University Events and Updates

CEPS RESEARCH FAIR

Eastern's College of Education and Professional Studies will conduct its 12th annual Research Fair on Monday, Feb. 23, in the Buzzard Atrium and faculty lounge areas of Buzzard Hall.

The Research Fair will showcase poster session findings/results of research projects and creative activities conducted by recipients of the 2008-2009 CEPS Mini-Grants. CEPS faculty and graduate students will also display recent research findings.

Recipients of the 2009-2010 CEPS Mini-Grants will also be announced during this event.

The CEPS Research Fair and Luncheon is sponsored by Diane Jackman, dean of CEPS; the Graduate School; the CEPS Research and Grants Committee; and the CEPS Telefund Committee. This event is open to all university faculty, staff and students, as well as to the general public.

30TH ANNUAL COUNSELING/ STUDENT DEVELOPMENT SPRING CONFERENCE

The Department of Counseling and Student Development will sponsor its 30th annual Spring Conference on Feb. 27. Priscilla Dass-Brailsford will present "Providing Culturally Competent Care in the Aftermath of Violence and Psychological Trauma." This conference is designed for individuals who have basic knowledge of trauma and are responsible for overseeing, designing and/or providing services to students, clients and communities impacted by trauma, including school counselors, educators, human service professionals, health care providers and first responders. The registration fee is \$80, which includes the conference lunch, materials, and a copy of Dass-Brailsford book titled, "A Practical Approach to Trauma: Empowering Interventions." For a brochure or information, contact Debbie Gerdes (581-2400, dagerdes@eiu.edu) or visit here.

Naples, Florida Reception with President Perry

- Saturday, February 28, 2009, 2 - 4 pm
- Eastern Illinois University cordially invites you to join us as our special guest for our annual Reception with the President.
- The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort
2600 Tiburon Drive
Naples, FL
- In attendance from the University will be President William Perry, Vice President for External Relations Jill Nilsen '74, '75 and Alumni Association Executive Director Steve Rich '06.

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- Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available.
- Please RSVP by Monday, Feb. 23 by calling 1-800-ALUM-EIU or emailing alumeiu@eiu.edu

MID-AMERICA EDUCATORS' JOB FAIR

The Career Services Office will host the Mid-America Educators' Job Fair from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, in the MLK Jr. Union ballrooms. Recruiters will seek teacher, specialist and administrative candidates attending this event. Professional dress is strongly recommended. There is no fee for job candidates attending the Mid-America Educators' Job Fair, and the event is open to the public. For a list of participating schools and details, please visit [here](#).

Future Article Alert!



Beebe on "Survivor" (Monty Brinkley/CBS)

Debra (Staton) Beebe, EIU class of 1985 CEPS Alumna, participated in the 18th season of Survivor. This season the show was entitled "Sole Survivor."

Check out the April edition of the Chat Room to find out more.

