



College of Education and Professional Studies Newsletter

## Table of Contents

SABPAC Approval Pg. 1

Spring Conference Pg. 2

EIU Fine Arts Day Pg. 2-3

Identa Austin Pg. 3-4

Eastern Record-Holding Runner  
Completes Ultramarathon Pg. 5

Alum named Superintendent  
for Sout Bend-Fort Wayne, IN  
Catholic Schools Pg. 5

English Language Learners  
Conference Pg. 6

Student Essay Pg. 7

Editor: Holly Thomas  
CEPS Graduate Assistant

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

## Health Studies Department Receives National SABPAC Approval



Eastern's Health Studies Department Faculty and Staff

Eastern's Health Studies Department recently received approval from the SOPHE/AAHE Baccalaureate Program Approval Committee (SABPAC).

Dr. Robert Bates, Chair and professor, said the department received notice of approval in January 2010, and approval

will run through Dec. 31, 2014. This is the department's first re-approval.

"Being approved by SABPAC separates Eastern's Health Studies Department from other health studies programs in the state and U.S.," Dr. Bates said.

The SABPAC evaluated every aspect of Eastern's program, comparing it to 15 criteria noted in its manual.

Dr. Bates said the approval is not an accreditation, but it is the "highest form of U.S. standards in the community health field."

He said the department "feels good about achieving approval" and that it "gives us goals to look at."

The Alumni advisory group will look at the SABPAC review to help the Health Studies Department come up with new goals to progress the program further.



Dr. Bates said the approval “re-affirmed we are doing what we need to be doing in Illinois and nationally, but it can’t end there.”

“We can’t sit back,” Dr. Bates said. “The department needs to keep moving forward.”

The department consists of 11 faculty members that teach three areas of health education: school health, community health, and first responder.

“Recognition of this approval has potential to bring in more students,” Dr. Bates said.

## 31st Annual Spring Conference Presents Dr. Sue C. Bratton

“Healing Children and Families Through Child Parent  
Relationship Therapy (CPRT)”

9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Friday, Feb. 26, 2010

Sponsored by the Department of Counseling and Student Development

## EIU Fine Arts Day with Sullivan: Cold, But Fun and Educational

Eastern pre-service teachers, from Dr. Dan Carter’s Block I, collaborated with yet another area school, Sullivan, to celebrate and learn about the arts. Earlier in the fall, these same pre-service teachers worked with students from Neoga Middle School on the children’s Science projects.



Sullivan fourth-graders with Dr. Carter’s Block I pre-service teachers during EIU’s Fine Arts Day

Eastern students hosted Sullivan fourth-graders on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009, for the EIU Fine Arts Day.

“We worked with 6th grade at Neoga and many worked with primary students during their practicum, so the fourth grade seemed a perfect fit for this fine arts project,” he said.

Dr. Carter also said he wanted his class to experience different grade levels.

“I’ve worked with two of the fourth grade teachers at Sullivan for a few years on other projects and during practicum, so I felt confident in the mentorship those teachers could provide my pre-service teachers,” Dr. Carter said.

Over 80 fourth graders participated along with 21 Block I pre-service teachers.

“This was a cold, but awesome day,” said Jessica Siesenop, Block I student. “The kids got to engage in a lot of hands on activities.”

“Despite rough weather conditions, the event went extremely well,” Dr. Carter said. “At each location, the fourth graders were actively involved in activities from dance, to writing in connection with the art exhibit, to getting on-air at the radio station.”

“We were able to link works of art from our very own Tarble Arts center to children’s books, said Margaret Munin, Block I student. “Then we went into writing prompts that let the students use their imagination, which I think is truly something that is lacking in schools, learning can be fun and if you use your imagination anything is possible.”

Dr. Carter said for the first attempt of EIU Fine Arts Day involving area elementary students, “I felt everything went smoothly.”

“It was truly a great experience. Everyone truly enjoyed themselves,” Munin said.

## No Age Limit For Top Advocates Here

Professional athletes, coaches, and industry entertainers from journalists to musicians have all graced Eastern’s halls before their mainstream debut, however, the College of Education and Professional Studies is also known for guiding political advocates to Capitol Hill.

Identa Austin, 96, is an Eastern alumna, with a political agenda to fight for senior rights, while volunteering her time to help those (of any age) less fortunate.



Identa Austin, 96, bowls in a weekly league, scoring over 230.

Austin was raised on a farm near Charleston.

“My family was always very concerned about our education,” she said.

Austin attended a schoolhouse where all of the grades were in one room before receiving a county scholarship to attend high school at Eastern Illinois State Teachers College.

She taught English for 30 years, starting in 1934, after graduating from Eastern with an English and Latin major.

Retirement was only the beginning of her life-long devotion to helping others and giving seniors a voice in D.C.

She interned for a senator and made history in 1985 by being in the Congressional Record.

“My obligation was to read him the letters that came in from seniors. Then I would make suggestions as to what to do when it came to requests,” Austin said.

She has represented her district at the Silver Haired Congress in D.C. and served on a committee and was a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging.

“I’m very glad to do it,” she said.

Austin has been and currently is involved in numerous other organizations such as the American Association of Retired Persons, American Cancer Society, Senior Services Associates, and the Fox Valley Older Adult Services.

She also donated a portion of her family’s farmland to the Illinois Retired Teachers Association, which she has been a member of for 30 years, as well as to EIU to fund the Moler-Austin Scholarship Program for Coles County high school graduates pursuing a degree in secondary education with a major in English or a foreign language.

Austin was inducted into the Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame and currently resides in Aurora, still fighting for what she believes in.

“It is important to read and to take an interest in everything that goes on around you,” she said. “I call my rep or senator if I feel that there is an issue that he should be interested in.”

## Times Change, Running Does Not

Many athletes peak at the collegiate sports level, but not Perry Edinger, Mattoon native and Eastern alum, who came in ninth at the 2009 Badwater Ultramarathon and was Lance Armstrong's guide runner in the Boston Marathon in 2007.



Perry Edinger runs past Badwater sign during the 2009 Badwater Ultramarathon.

The marathon is known as the "toughest race on foot," 135 miles at a time in just more than a day.

Edinger, 48, races in the Badwater Ultramarathon for himself and the love of running, a race that only awards its participants in T-shirts.

Edinger, graduated from Eastern in 1984 with a degree in Health Studies with a teacher certification, still holds cross country records at Eastern.

He said he was always fast, but thought he would eventually peak and then move on to something else.

"Times change," Edinger said. "But the one thing I could always do is run."

## Myers Named New Superintendent

The Diocese of South Bend-Fort Wayne named Mark Myers, Eastern alum, the new superintendent of Catholic Schools in August 2009. Myers assumed the position on Aug. 24 and joined the staff of the Catholic Schools Office in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne.

Myers earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Eastern in 1975, a master's degree in education from the University of Illinois in 1979, and a Ph.D. in educational administration from Indiana State University in 1991.

An Illinois native, Myers taught elementary school in Arcola for three years, however, his teaching did not stop in America. He worked four years in Japan, teaching children from over 40 countries. Myers also spent a year in both Pakistan and Taiwan establishing new schools, where he presided as principal.

After returning from overseas, Myers taught as an assistant professor at Stephen Austin State University in Texas before moving to Fort Wayne in 2000 to serve as an assistant professor at Indiana University-Purdue University.

# English Language Learners Conference

As schools in the U.S. become more diverse, teachers are finding they need to prepare themselves to teach academic and language skills to English Language Learners (ELL). Teachers need to be able to teach ELL students in a way the children can understand the content being taught.

The English Language Learners conference took place on Friday and Saturday, October 30-31, 2009.

Sham'ah Md-Yunus, the conference committee chair and assistant education professor, stated the conference objectives were to show teachers how to help children learn English, as well as, help education majors fulfill their professional development requirement.



Dr. Sham'ah Md-Yunus poses for a picture with children working.

Students got a glimpse of what teachers face when they have diversity in the classroom.

“Students not only get opportunities and skills for education, but meet professional requirements,” Dr. Yunus said.

The conference came about after elementary, middle and high school teachers and counselors were surveyed on their preparation to deal with diversity.

Dr. Yunus said educators realized their limitations and the conference was imperative to prepare them to address ELL students' needs.

Randy Kalal, a teacher with 10 years of experience with ELL students, and Jennifer Hixson, a teacher and former director of Urbana's Multicultural program, spoke at the conference.

Kalal spoke on current teaching strategies, and how to handle the needs of ELL students in mainstream classes.

Hixson spoke on literacy, and teaching ELL students how to read in English.

Dr. Yunus knows personally how students from other countries can be affected by coming to a new education system. Two of her children started school in Malaysia.

“Kids coming from a homeland have different levels of education and teachers must understand the root background, and home language to help the children,” Dr. Yunus said.

## “A Child Who Influenced Me”

I started having a major interest in teaching about seven years ago while attending Indiana State University for my first bachelor's degree. I was hired as a tumbling/cheerleading coach to teach the basics of tumbling to students who ranged from ages two to eighteen. I also coached competitive cheerleading to girls who were ages four to sixteen.

After being a coach at a gymnastics center for three years, I was hired as a high school cheerleading coach at my former high school. I was also hired as a teacher's aide for the fifth grade classroom and worked one on one with children who were between the ages of eleven and thirteen.

When looking back on my teaching experiences, one particular incident comes to mind. When I was a teacher's aide for fifth grade, we had one little boy with severe fetal alcohol syndrome. He was a very angry little boy with learning disabilities and would constantly harm himself by biting his fingers.

One particular day, he came into the classroom with a bad attitude, throwing his stuff around and causing a scene. I could tell from the minute he walked in, it was not going to be a good day.

When it came time for math class, he did not have his homework done. When I asked him where it was, he stood up and threw his chair into his desk and yelled, “I didn't do it!”

I immediately sent him to the hallway to calm down as we normally did. When I went out to check on him, I found him sitting on the floor with blood all over his fingers. I learned from that particular situation that if I had followed him into the hallway and calmly talked with him, that probably would not have happened.

From that point on, when he was sent to the hallway, I would walk out behind him and calm him down, then bring him back into the room. I would sit with him at a table and we would complete his homework together.

This seemed to work very well with both of us to keep the situation calm in front of the rest of the students. When he would have his meltdowns, you could tell that the rest of the class was affected. The teacher would have to change the assignment and the way the students would do their homework because they were shaken up from his meltdown.

We became very close and I was the only one he would talk to when he was having problems. The little boy ended up moving, which broke my heart. After he moved, we lost contact and I often wonder what happened to that little boy. This particular child made me realize that I want to be a teacher and help students grow.

The author is Darcy Nail, a student in the Integrated Secondary Education Program (ISEP) at Eastern.