Alumni recognized as Hometown Hero

Ashley Coleman, a 2006 Eastern Illinois University graduate, is the youngest person and the first person from the Metro East area to receive the, Driving the Midwest, Our Town, Our Heroes award.

Coleman was among four finalists who all serve their communities without ever expecting praise or recognition. Coleman is not only honored for her service with the Illinois Army National Guard, she is also considered a hero because of her dedication to helping area homeless and youth.

“I am and have always been driven to help out where ever I can, whenever I can,” said Coleman. “I’ve been this way for as long as I can remember.”

Coleman has inspired East St. Louis and surrounding communities through her continuing selfless service. Along with serving in the Illinois Army National Guard, Coleman strives to help those in need by donating to food pantries and providing clothing for the homeless. She has continued to devote her time and effort to work with the youth within the city of East St. Louis through educational workshops to prepare them for college.

Coleman, who works hard to encourage and motivate others, says her inspiration comes from the woman who brought her into the world.
“They helped strengthen the leader that I am today...”

Ashley Coleman

Got NEWS?

Are you or someone you know an Alumni of the College of Education and Professional studies? We want to know what’s going on in your professional lives. Let us know about outstanding accomplishments, awards, trips to conferences for professional development, and more...we want to put your story in the CEPS newsletter.

Got news? Email us at cepsnews@eiu.edu, or call us at (217) 581-2116 (Monday-Thursday, from 9-1). Ask for Crystal!
EIU professor among those recognized at Purdue University

Dr. Linda Marrs-Morford, associate professor in the department of educational leadership was recently recognized at Mackey Arena at Purdue University as part of a rededication ceremony. Marrs-Morford attended Purdue for her undergraduate degree in 1975. While there, she was selected for the woman’s basketball team which was the first varsity women’s basketball team at Purdue.

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011 as part of the Mackey Arena Celebration weekend, Purdue rededicated the 44-year-old facility after a renovation project. As a part of the rededication ceremony, Purdue welcomed back the first men’s and women’s basketball teams to ever play in the arena.

Marrs-Morford was a starter and alternated between center and power forward. Her name still appears in the rebound stat books at Purdue. She recalls the first game they played against University of Illinois. The Purdue Boilermakers won!

As for the rededication, there were a series of events including a black tie affair where Marrs-Morford said they received an informal gift.

“It was funny, when we came into the event, attendees were dressed in long dresses and tuxes. As we moved through the check-in tables, we were given shoe bags. Nike supplied sneakers for everyone!” said Marrs-Morford. “The formal attire was to celebrate this special occasion, but the sneakers were to remind us that we were in Mackey Arena.”

Marrs-Morford says she had a great time reminiscing and revisiting with her past teammates and coach.
“Literacy & Learning”
2012 Conference providing a professional development opportunity

On Friday, September 30, 2011, East Central/EIU Reading Council and the Beta Psi Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi co-sponsored the “Literacy & Learning Conference”. The conference is designed to promote literacy and to provide a professional development opportunity for undergraduate students.

Because the local regional office of education (ROE), was unable to hold their annual conference in the fall, which is designed for all the teachers in the area, EIU College of Education and Professional Studies decided to hold a conference here on campus. In the past, students would attend the ROE conference to meet their professional development requirement.

“I thought, oh my goodness, if we don’t have a conference for our students to attend, what are we going to do?” said April Flood, professor of elementary education.

Through the resources of the EIU Reading Council, Boomer Crotty was sought out to be the keynote speaker at the conference.

Over 170 students attended the conference enjoying breakout sessions on current trends and best practices in education. Some of the topics included: Autism, AG (agriculture) in the Classroom, Cultural Literacy and Study Abroad, Teacher Collaboration, and Smart Board instruction. The highlight of the conference was keynote speaker Boomer Crotty, who gave a presentation entitled, “Laughter and Literature across the Curriculum”. Crotty is a popular educational speaker known for his humorous and informative topics. His speech at EIU was no exception as he talked about “The teeny, tiny Arachnid, also known as the Itsy Bitsy Spider.”

“We were very fortunate to host such an educational experience and are looking forward to planning the “Literacy & Learning Conference 2012” for the fall,” said Joy Russell, Department Chair of Early Childhood, Elementary, & Middle Level Education.

The Mid-America Educators’ Job Fair is coming soon!

Meet recruiters from school districts across the state of Illinois as well as those from out-of-state and possibly overseas to learn about teaching opportunities. This event is open to all candidates seeking positions in teaching, school administration, and special services.

February 29, 2012
09:30 AM - 03:00 PM

Quick Tip: Research the participating schools online BEFORE attending. Plan your 30-second introduction. Remember: First impressions DO count!

A list of participating school districts is available at: http://www.eiu.edu/careers/maejf.php

Alumni and Non-EIU attendees are welcome!

You will need a parking pass. Please follow the link above.
Students get hands-on experience in an actual classroom

EIU education majors receive a firsthand opportunity beyond the college setting to enhance their presentation skills.

The EC/ELE/MLE Department of Education at Eastern Illinois University, in a partnership with Martinsville Elementary school, have collaborated to enhance the instructional skills of the pre-service teachers in ELE3340 Social Studies Methods for a total of four class periods. The partnership with the Martinsville School District is entitled “Enriching Illinois Unit.”

This program is designed to allow future teachers to present social studies lessons (with an Illinois theme) to students at Martinsville Elementary School rather than to peers here on campus. Linda Sherwood, professor of education at EIU, says students get a chance to interact with children and participate in a classroom setting instead of teaching it to the class here on campus.

“Because they’re not actually children, we really don’t know how the seven-year-olds will react,” says Sherwood. “College students pretending to be second graders isn’t good enough.”

Three to four EIU students are assigned to each grade level/section of K-6 and they present the lessons they build. EIU graduate student, Erin Cottet, who is currently working on a master’s degree, was among the first four EIU students to participate in the program.

Cottet, elementary education major with an emphasis in reading says the program allowed her to spend more time in the classroom.

“This believe teaching a lesson to students is much more rewarding and helpful in preparing future teachers,” said Cottet.

Cottet says she is glad she was able to participate in the Enriching Illinois Unit. The unit, she says, not only allowed students to write and present lesson plans for elementary students, but it also provided them with experience in classroom management and collaborating with other professionals.

Sherwood explains that the more hands-on experience that college students have with a variety of grades and ages, makes them that much more employable and well-rounded.

Graduate student, Erin Cottet says the Enriching Illinois Unit program is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience in the classroom.

“I believe teaching a lesson to students is much more rewarding and helpful in preparing future teachers,” said Cottet.

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Story continued on next page
CEPS professor wins first Illinois Reading Educator Award

By Samantha Bilharz
Daily Eastern News

2012 marks the first year teachers can be nominated for the Illinois Reading Educator of the Year Award in the college category and Eastern’s very own Linda Reven won the honor.

Reven, a professor of elementary education and the coordinator for the graduate program in elementary education, has been a teacher at Eastern for 15 years.

Reven beat out teachers all across Illinois for the award.

“I was very humbled by it because I was nominated by the officers of the local reading council and several of them are current professionals and former students of mine so it meant a great deal,” Reven said.

Reven will be honored at the Annual Illinois Reading Council Conference on March 16 in Springfield. She will receive her award and make a speech.

Reven said she has attended the conference for many years, but this is the first time she has won an award.

“I want to make certain that they know how appreciative I am of this award and I want to leave a message to the audience about the importance of literacy,” Reven said.

April Flood, the Illinois Reading Council publicity chair for the state of Illinois, said she has wanted to nominate Reven for an award in the past.

“We have been wanting to nominate her for several years, but at the time they didn’t have an award that recognized one of the college reading teachers verses public schools K-12 so this is the first year for that,” Flood said.

Joy Russell, the department chair and coordinator of graduate studies in elementary education, was one of the people who nominated Reven.

“Dr. Reven is truly a role model for her students and for other faculty in terms of her high expectations for herself, for her students, for the department and truly the dedication and the concern that she has for the program and the students that’s not just a one-time thing, she has been here for 15 years and I think that she does that every single day,” Russell said.

Reven started her career as an elementary education teacher in Ohio and in 1990 she started teaching at Eastern after receiving her doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Ohio University. She is currently a member of the East Central-EIU Reading Council, the College Instructors of Reading Professionals and Illinois Title 1 Association.

“I think that literacy is such an important aspect of success for children because it permeates everything that they do,” Reven said.

Russell said she thinks Reven exemplifies what a professor should be.

“The dedication and the service as well as the content knowledge of people in our profession. I think that she really demonstrates that,” Russell said. “She has given tirelessly to so many efforts in the department on behalf of the students.”