In a recent statewide survey, 97% of first year teachers reported being very satisfied with the teacher preparation program they completed at EIU. During the spring of their first year of teaching, over 98% of the teachers reported great satisfaction with their decision to become a teacher and 97% plan to stay in the education profession. These are very positive statistics and strongly supportive of the quality of Eastern’s teacher education programs.

When Eastern graduates were asked about the least valuable aspect of their teacher education program, a common response was “none, I was well prepared for the challenge I would face in my career.” When asked about the most valuable aspect, common responses included “My teachers were the best element, they helped give advice, were knowledgeable, supportive and informative, they took a personal interest in me”; “The opportunity to work with some of the best professors in education today”; and “My student teaching experience was extremely valuable. I had amazing cooperating and supervising teachers.”

Also included in this process was a survey of the principals who are supervising the first year teachers. Typical comments from the principals included “teachers from EIU are always well prepared”; “Eastern does a great job preparing new teachers”; and “We actively recruit EIU grads first.” The principals also encouraged Eastern to provide teachers with preparation on some of the realities of teaching including dealing with parents, working in a high stakes testing environment, and working with administrators.

While the first year teachers felt very positive about their preparation, there were areas identified that may require some increased focus on campus. A fairly large number of teachers stated they did not feel well prepared to work with English Language Learners, students whose primary language is not English.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]
There were also a significant number who would have liked to be better prepared in differentiated instruction. Both principals and teachers indicated that classroom management is always a concern for beginning and experienced teachers.

This survey was sponsored by a cooperative effort of the 12 public universities in Illinois, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois State Board of Education, and the Joyce Foundation. Included in the survey was every first year teacher in all Illinois public schools who graduated from one of the 12 public universities. The response to the survey was amazing with a 58% response, and EIU had a 68% response rate.

The results of this survey very strongly validate the quality of the teacher education programs at Eastern Illinois University. The results support that the preparation opportunities provided for EIU students are strong and positive. It is obvious that the teachers and principals believe that the primary cause of this effectiveness is the strength of the faculty in the teacher preparation programs. Eastern is and should be very proud of the results of this survey, while certainly using the results to strengthen an already very strong program.

Education Scholars hold annual picnic

On Sunday, August 28, the Education Scholars held their annual picnic at the EIU Campus Pond pavilion. Approximately forty students were in attendance.

The picnic provided students with the opportunity to socialize and enjoy free food, said Education Scholar, Heidi Koertge.

“The Education Scholars program offers many opportunities for members throughout the semester by offering teacher panels and administration panels, as well as bringing in speakers,” Koertge said.

The gathering was the first of many Education Scholars activities scheduled for the fall 2005 semester.

Education Scholar, Ingrid McCallister said, “The events hosted by the Education Scholars are great opportunities for students to meet numerous education majors and make contacts that will be helpful throughout their college career.”

The basic requirements to become a freshmen Education Scholar are that a student must be an applicant for admission to Eastern Illinois University in a field leading to teacher certification. Additionally, a student must have an ACT composite score of 24 or greater and rank in the upper half of their high school graduation class.

Upcoming fall events include sponsoring discussion panels that will feature K-12 teachers, movie nights, additional picnics, bag tournaments, LiveText training and hosting both national and regional speakers.

For more information contact Dr. Doug Bower, coordinator of the Education Scholars program at: csdb@eiu.edu.
Alumnus Tim McCollum: Forever a student of science

The 2004 recipient of the U.S. Presidential Award of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching owes much of his success in the classroom to his family, the principal who hired him, John Dively, along with all of his other administrators and most notably, Dr. Henry Taitt, professor of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle School Education at Eastern Illinois University.

“He challenged me to move beyond the traditional approach to teaching to allow kids to experience the wonder and excitement of real science,” said Tim McCollum, a 1973 and 1977 graduate of Eastern.

Because of Taitt, administrators and colleagues, McCollum has found his “calling” in teaching, which he has done for the past 33 years at Charleston Middle School.

McCollum’s experiences in the classroom, both as a student and a teacher, have allowed him to pursue “new challenges, and take a more active role as an advocate for promoting quality science teaching.”

Such opportunities include training at NASA research centers, assisting with educational outreach for the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and working for three years on a weather-related project with Argonne National Lab. He currently serves as the principal investigator for a project focusing on snowflake crystal formation.

This summer, McCollum served on the National Selection Committee in Washington D.C. for choosing the 2005 Presidential Award recipients. During October, he will be involving all of his students in a distance learning project with the Mars Education Program at Arizona State University. In November, McCollum will be a presenter at the National Science Teachers Association Regional Convention at Navy Pier in Chicago.

Additionally, McCollum is beginning his second three-year term on Eastern Illinois University’s Alumni Association Board.

“Frankly, I love Eastern,” said McCollum. “As a member of the EIUAA Board, I feel that I am giving back to the university that gave so much to me.”
Professionals become certified teachers through alternative program at E.I.U.

Professionals from throughout Illinois recently became certified school teachers through the Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program at Eastern Illinois University.

The program, now starting its third year, provides Illinois teaching credentials to those who have bachelor’s degrees in certain subject areas and at least five years of related employment experience.

“This program is all about equipping individuals who already possess academic knowledge and work experience with the ability to teach,” said Jim Kestner, coordinator of the Alternative Route to Teacher Certification program.

The program’s candidates were honored for completing all requirements during a ceremony on Tuesday, June 14, in Buzzard Auditorium on the EIU campus. EIU President Lou Hencken was among the speakers.

Twenty-two candidates completed the program: William Frank Andersen Jr. of Rockford, mathematics; Colleen Belcher of Jacksonville, business education; John Bergin of Ramsey, technology education; Meredith Brown of Flossmoor, mathematics; Lori Clark of Champaign, science; Rebecca Dekker of Mt. Vernon, family and consumer sciences education; Richard F. Geiger Jr. of Champaign, science; Jennifer Greicius of Champaign, foreign languages; Dee Honn of Arthur, mathematics; David Jamieson of Winnetka, foreign languages; John Kugler of Chicago, technology education; Katherine Lapetina of Palatine, family and consumer sciences education; Amy Lutes of Hampshire, business education; Phillip Moore of Chicago, mathematics; Chad Olson of Marenisco, business education; Connie Perez of Elgin, family and consumer sciences education; Matthew Poston of Effingham, science; Donja Rich of Ocone, science; Lynn Smith of Salem, business education; Christopher Steinkrauss of Chicago, business education; James Walker of Mattoon.
LiveText, a software program designed to aid in the development of educators’ portfolios and lesson plans, has made a major impact on Eastern’s Education majors in the short time since its introduction.

“This program is very useful when writing a lesson plan,” said Heidi Koertge. “It provides the outline and you just fill in the rest.”

Additionally, after students in the Education program graduate, LiveText provides an employer easy access to a future teacher’s resume and portfolio of work. It also provides the means to deliver resources professionally.

“You can keep your LiveText subscription for as many years as you want and use it through your whole career as a teacher,” Koertge said.

Currently, LiveText Open Labs are held Tuesday-Thursday from 5-7 p.m. in Buzzard 2445 and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Buzzard 1440.
Dr. Veronica P. Stephen and co-author Judith A. Barford, Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education, published an article titled “A Journey Through Cyberspace: Technology and Course Adaptation” in the Summer 2005 issue of The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is a professional honorary society of women educators with more than 130,000 members in approximately 2,900 chapters in 14 countries worldwide. It focuses the collective energies of an international organization to achieve the greatest good for everyone involved in all fields of education -- students, instructors, and administrators. The Society promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education through seminars, workshops, conferences, scholarships, and the publication of members’ research and writing. on August 31, 2005. Eberly was sole author of “Elements of Credible Research,” and co-authored “An Exploratory Study of the Experiences of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Fraternity and Sorority Members Revisited,” with Douglas N. Case, San Diego State University, and Grahaeme A. Hesp, Florida State University.

Dr. Marylin Lisowski, Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education, had a review published in the Journal of Environmental Education. The book is titled Global Environmental Challenges of the Twenty-first Century.

Scott A.G.M. Crawford, Physical Education, wrote an “Issues” piece for the August 2005 issue of the Journal of Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. The topic was, “What role should educators play in preparing individuals for potential risks?”

Scott A.G.M. Crawford, Physical Education, wrote ten biographies for Basketball: A Biographical Dictionary. The volume edited by David L. Porter was published recently by the Greenwood Press. Among those profiled was Pete Carril, the distinguished Princeton University coach; Allen Iverson, an enfant terrible of the National Basketball Association; and the 20-year Cleveland Cavaliers’ star, LeBron James.

Charles G. Eberly, Counseling and Student Development, has been selected as a member of the editorial board for Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors. The inaugural issue of the electronic journal was released on August 31, 2005. Eberly was sole author of “Elements of Credible Research,” and co-authored “An Exploratory Study of the Experiences of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Fraternity and Sorority Members Revisited,” with Douglas N. Case, San Diego State University, and Grahaeme A. Hesp, Florida State University.

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New faculty join the College of Education and Professional Studies

Sham’ah Md-Yunus joins the Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education department and has previously worked as an adjunct instructor at St. Mary-of-the-Wood College in Indiana and as an instructor at the Language Institute in Malaysia. She received her Ph.D. from Indiana State University and her research interests include families and children from diverse backgrounds, children’s values and comparative studies in mathematics education. She will teach the following courses during the fall 2005 semester: Methods and Curriculum in the Primary Grades, Early Childhood Education: History and Philosophy and Childhood and Adolescent Development. Md-Yunus enjoys gardening, collecting children’s literature from around the world, traveling and painting. She is married and has four children.

Marijon Stites joins the department of Early Childhood/Elementary/Middle Level Education as an adjunct instructor and will be teaching MLE 3110 and ELE 4000 during the fall 2005 semester. She received both her bachelor’s degree in Zoology Education with minors in Botany, Health and Driver Education and her Masters degree in Life Sciences Education from Eastern Illinois University. Stites has previously taught Junior High and High School Life Science. She enjoys gardening and collecting herbarium specimens of native Illinois wildflowers. She and her husband Ron live on a farm in rural Douglas County. They have a daughter, Romona Gail, who attends Texas A&M University and a son, Ronald Dale II, who is married and has two children.

Gustavo Albear joins the department of Secondary Education and Foundations as an instructor for the fall 2005 semester and will teach EDF 2555, Diversity of Schools and Societies: Social and Global Perspectives. Albear is also an academic advisor for the Gateway program. His prior work experience includes teaching high school and performing business training for such companies as Caterpillar, Inc., Kinkos International and AFFINA. He received his Bachelors degree in Business with a concentration in Spanish from Western Illinois University and a Masters degree in Educational Administration. In 2006 he will begin work on a Educational Specialist degree in Educational Administration. His research interests include the history and philosophy of Education. Albear is currently the co-chair of the Latin American Student Organization and serves on the Latino Heritage Committee at Eastern Illinois University. He is married to his wife, Sandra, and has four step-children: Melissa, Heather, Jennifer and Craig.
Sallee Lowery joins the Office of Student Teaching as a student teacher coordinator for the north/northwest suburbs of Chicago. She has worked as a Special Education teacher, an assistant principal and a coordinator of Special Education services. Lowery holds a Masters degree in Counselor Education from Northern Illinois University and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Administration and Supervision from National Louis University. Her research interests include literacy development in children with low-incidence disabilities and the impact of poverty on learning. She will teach STG 4000 during the fall 2005 semester. Her hobbies include folk art painting and reading. Lowery currently lives with her adult son who has recently graduated from Columbia College in Chicago.

Mark Kattenbraker, who has formerly served as a Wellness Specialist at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, now serves as an instructor in the Physical Education department. He received his bachelor’s degree in Physical Education/Exercise Science from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, his Masters in Physical Education/Exercise Science from Eastern Illinois University and is currently working on his Ph.D. in Health Education at SIUC. His research interests include childhood obesity and exercise adherence. During the fall 2005 semester, Kattenbraker will teach PED 2850 Fitness for Life, PED 1500 Physical Education as a Profession and PED 1600 Weight Training. He enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, fishing and exercising. Kattenbraker is married and has a one-year-old daughter.

Kathryn Havercroft joins the Special Education department as a part-time instructor. She will teach Special Education 4700 Individualized General Curriculum and Materials. Havercroft earned both a bachelor’s degree in Education with dual certification in Special Education and Elementary Education and a Masters in Special Education from Eastern Illinois University. She is a member of the Illinois Reading Council, Daughters of the American Legion and is an avid golfer.

Brent Walker, who has previously worked as an assistant professor at Missouri Western State College, joins the Physical Education faculty as an assistant professor. Walker received his bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Bradley University, his Masters in Sport Psychology from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his Ph.D. in Social Psychology of Physical Activity from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research interests include achievement goal theory in youth sport. During the fall 2005 semester, Walker will teach PED 3700 Psychological Foundations of Coaching, PED 4320 Organization, Administration and Curriculum of Physical Education, PED 4470 Measurement and Evaluation in Physical Activity, PED 5120 Social Psychology and Physical Activity and PED 5125 Stress Management for Exercise and Health Specialists. Walker enjoys golf, tennis and any outside activities. He and his wife, Chantelle, have been married for five years. They have a one-year-old son, Larson.
Jim Kestner, coordinator of Web-Based and Alternative Teacher Certification programs for the College of Education and Professional Studies, joins the faculty of Secondary Education and Foundations. He will teach EDF 4550 Philosophy and History of Education, EDU 5400 Building Character in Youth and has previously taught the following alternative certification courses: EDU 4550 Introduction to Teaching, EDU 4560 Internship I, EDU 4561 Internship II and EDU 4560 Comprehensive Assessment. Kestner received his bachelor’s degree in English at Eastern Illinois University, and both his Masters in Educational Administration and Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. His research interests include youth character development, alternative teacher certification and teacher induction and mentoring. He has previously worked as an English teacher, a research assistant, a director of program development and an educational consultant. In his spare time, Kestner enjoys spending time with his family, running, reading, writing and fishing. He and his wife have been married for 12 years and have three children: Maxwell, Jackson and Gracyn.

Diana (Dee) Lenzi joins the Department of Physical Education as an associate professor. She has previously taught Physical Education for the past 33 years in Tuscola, Illinois. She has also coached the high school dance team for 25 years and operated Dee’s Dance Studio for ten years. She earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois and a Masters in Physical Education from Eastern Illinois University. Her research interests include the creative realm of dance in world cultures. She will teach Ballroom Dance and Technique and Theory of Modern Dance during the fall 2005 semester. Lenzi enjoys gardening, bicycling and watching all sports. She is married and has three children: Brittany, Beau and Blair and three step-daughters: Erin, Betsy and Natalie.

David R. Skocy joins the Educational Administration department as an adjunct professor. During the fall 2005 semester he will teach EDA 5700 and EDA 5000. He has served as a Special Education instructor, dean of students, high school principal and curriculum director. He currently serves as the assistant superintendent for the Mattoon School District. Skocy received his bachelor’s degree in Special Education with a minor in Psychology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He received a Masters in Education with an emphasis in Educational Administration from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and his Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. His research interests include school climate, school culture, teacher selection, teacher mentoring, administrator selection, administrator mentoring, school safety, school leadership and program development. Skocy enjoy spending time with his family, running, reading and participating in church activities. He has been married to his wife, Lissa, for 11 years and has three sons, Trey, Henry and Jason.
On your mark, get set, go
Participants compete in first duathlon at Carl Sandburg School

By Cathy Bayer

The city held its first Charleston Challenge Duathlon at Carl Sandburg School this past Saturday.

At 8:50 a.m., the competitors are in spandex and running shoes.

Sunglasses are put into place, final stretches are done and athletes move to the beat of techno music blaring from the speakers behind.

In the background, athletes eyes up the table of gold trophies glistening in the sun.

“Last call for all runners,” an announcer shouts.

Men and women walk in strides to the starting line. One runner gets a last-minute kiss from his wife.

They take off with an ambulance not far behind.

The duathlon consists of a two-mile run, then a 20-mile bike ride and then another two-mile run.

“It’s going to be a challenge. (There are) some sizeable hills, loose gravel and one very rough railroad crossing,” said Bob Emmons, who was watching his daughter, Amy Bradford of Charleston, compete in the competition.

“All I want to do is finish it,” said Dale Wolf, a team competitor in the race.

Wolf is the former admissions director at Eastern.

He retired after 19 years of service at Eastern.

“When you see the end (of the race), it’s a great feeling,” he said.

Wolf said he had cancer in his left leg and has undergone four surgeries to treat it.

In the first race after his cancer, his goal was to finish the race and not come in last.

His wife, Deb, also competed in the race. She came in first place in the women’s 50-59 bracket.

Wolf joked about giving awards to the person to come in closest to the ambulance.

The worst part of the race is when you get off your bike and have to run another two miles, said C.J. Applegate, Charleston athletic supervisor.

There are still a few kinks to work out, he said.

“We can never have enough volunteers,” Applegate said.

He said the race turned out well and they hope to do it again next year.

This was a great course and a really good turnout, said Keith Cox, manager of Bike and Hike in Charleston.

Cox competed in the race and won the title of Best Overall Male Team along with Chris Slabach.

Slabach was the first athlete back from the first leg of the race.

His wife, Alison, was also competing on a separate team.

She was a part of the Best Overall Female team.

Eastern math professor Keith Wolcott also competed in the race.

Wolcott said he has participated in a number of triathlons and a few dualthons.

“I’ll be back,” he said of next year’s competition.

The course and organization of the event were excellent, he said.

Wolcott came in third in the 40-49 men’s age bracket.

(Reprinted with permission: The Daily Eastern News)
About 15 years ago, Doris Webb joined a group of co-workers from General Electric who each volunteered to be a “Friend for a Day” with a participant at the Special Olympics Family Festival.

But Webb’s friendliness lasted longer than one day, as she still comes out to the annual event at Lake Land College.

“I have more fun than they do,” she said during the festival Saturday.

And Webb wasn’t the only Friend for a Day with that attitude. Whether they were college students or elderly people, many of the volunteers said they benefited more than the SOFF participants they befriended.

The event has been hosted by Consolidated Communications and Lake Land College since 1984.

According to Consolidated Communications officials, the day of music, food and non-competitive games draws about 1,000 area Special Olympians and is staffed by more than 2,000 volunteers.

“It’s personal gratification,” said Webb, who is now retired from G.E. and works part-time at Eastern Illinois University.

Many of the volunteers Saturday had ties to EIU.

Kimmy Anderson, a freshman from Palatine, learned of SOFF from a poster in her residence hall.

“It looked like fun,” she said.

“I think it’s awesome. I can’t wait to do it again next year.”

EIU junior and marketing major Brandon Thompson first volunteered as a Friend for a Day last year after he heard about SOFF from a friend.

“I liked it so much last year I decided to do it again this year,” Thompson said. “It’s good to give back, and it lets me know how good I have life.”

Angela Neubauer, a junior and special education major at EIU, has been helping with Special Olympics since she started college, although Saturday was her first time at SOFF.

She wants to work in special education, she said, “because it’s something different every day, and you get to help (disabled people) all the time.”

Of course, not all of the SOFF volunteers are college students.

Charleston resident Jimmy Stewart, vice president at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, has been a Friend for a Day for several years.

“This is a tremendous reward for the whole community,” he said.

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