

# East Central—EIU

## Reading Council Newsletter

### *2011 Holiday Newsletter*

#### FALL SEMESTER, BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL!

Fall 2011 for the East Central/EIU Reading Council was one of the most successful and busiest semesters ever! The Council undertook several new initiatives aimed at promoting literacy as well as raising organizational awareness in order to increase active membership. In addition, the Council held periodic meetings, instituted a fall public service project, and hosted a conference.

A new East Central/EIU Reading Council logo was unveiled this semester. The logo, pictured here, features the “castle” of Eastern Illinois University in the foreground with an open book in front. The logo was designed by Aaron Taylor, an EIU alumnus, who is a librarian in the Charleston school district. Mr.

Taylor donated his time for the project and the logo will be used on the Reading Council’s materials.



In September, the Council cohosted the “Illinois Teacher of the Year” award winner on campus. This year’s recipient was Annice Brave. Ms. Brave teaches English and Journalism at Alton High School. This

event was cohosted with other EIU student organizations and held on EIU’s campus.

In October, the Council held a professional meeting and presentation for area middle school teachers. The event was well attended. In addition to this meeting, the Council hosted the Fall “Literacy in Learning” Conference and sponsored a public service project. Both of these events are detailed further in this newsletter.

The Council also sold t-shirts this semester featuring the new logo. The t-shirts will arrive in December and help raise the organizational profile on campus and in Central Illinois. All in all, it was a busy and successful semester!

#### PRESIDENT’S CORNER—JACQUELYNNE BROSAM

One of the primary goals of literacy instruction is the application of reading, writing, speaking and listening skills to real life tasks. How wonderful it is when December arrives and our classroom activities accomplish these goals.

Think about it – making a wish list, writing letters and cards with holiday greetings, reading recipes to determine what goodies to make, reciting the words of a favorite holiday song or poem,

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## FALL 2011 “LEARNING IN LITERACY” CONFERENCE

The 2011 Fall “Literacy in Learning” conference was held on the campus of Eastern Illinois University on Friday, September 30. Over 170 students attended the conference enjoying breakout sessions on current trends and best practices in education. Some of the topics included: Autism, AG 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...aka...the Itsy Bitsy Spider.” This subject required audience participation and was well received by Eastern students.



*EIU Students participate in the keynote presentation at the 2011 “Literacy in Learning” conference.*

***HAPPY HOLIDAYS, SEASONS GREETINGS, & HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

## FEBRUARY READING COUNCIL PROGRAM & SUITCASE POETRY NIGHT

In Fall 2011, the Reading Council hosted presentations on struggling middle school students and teacher collaboration.

In February, the Reading Council will host kindergarten

teachers from the Cumberland County School District. Topics of discussion are emergent literacy activities and primary reading skills development, especially as it pertains to early childhood students. The date, location and time will be listed in the Spring brochure. Please consider attending this event

Suitcase Poetry Night will be held on Wednesday, March 21. The location will be in Buzzard Hall. Suitcase Poetry is led by guest speaker Pam Nelson. This will be a fun and educational meeting for all. Both events are free and open to the public.



*“Literacy in Learning” conference keynote Speaker Boomer Crotty presents “Laughter Across the Curriculum”*

## PRESIDENT’S CORNER CONTINUED.....

and sharing the traditions of the season with others are all genuine literacy tasks.

We do these activities at this special time of the year. Classrooms are buzzing with fun, but with fun that incorporates authentic reading and writing. What a wonderful few weeks when students enjoy the reading and writing assignments because they

are linked to such a highly anticipated holiday.

This December get involved in plenty of holiday reading and writing. This season is special and so are the literacy gifts that allow us to enjoy it! These are the gifts we need all throughout the year as well.

On behalf of the East Central/EIU Reading Council, I wish you Season’s Greetings and a very Happy New Year!

***Jacquelynne Brosam***  
Jacquelynne Brosam,  
President, East Central/EIU  
Reading Council

## Intl. Reading Association Conference, April 29 – May 2, 2012

The International Reading Association's 57th Annual Conference will be held April 29 – May 2, 2012 in Chicago, Illinois. The conference has seminars and sessions for beginners and first time attendees through established professionals.

In addition to sessions, workshops and symposia, there will be other special events including the Exhibit Hall full of books and other interesting reading materials for purchase.

Registration can be done online

starting December 1. For more information view: <http://www.reading.org/convention.aspx>.

Establish in 1956, the International Reading Association (IRA) is a non-profit network of organizations and individuals that span the globe.

With a membership of over 70,000 the IRA has stated goals on its Web page of promoting literacy to all through: improving the quality of reading instruction; disseminating

research and information about reading; encouraging the lifetime reading habit.

Celebrate teaching this year by attending the IRA's annual conference!

## PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECT: READING NIGHT AT CARL SANDBERG

The Council sponsored a public service project this semester by assisting with "Family Reading Night" at Carl Sandberg Elementary School in Charleston.

Over 30 students from EIU's College of Education volunteered their time and energy to make this event a success. "Family Reading Night" at Carl Sandberg was held on Tuesday, November 15. The purpose of

the night was to encourage parents to bring their families to a night of fun and learning centered around reading activities.

The EIU volunteers participated with elementary students and their families by playing games, reading stories, and participating in reader's theater. They also helped with the set up and breakdown of the event. The Council hopes in the future to continue this Fall semester public service project or explore other service project possibilities.

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS, SEASONS GREETINGS, & HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

## FESTIVAL OF YOUNG CHILD WEEK EVENT, APRIL 21

On Saturday, April 21 the EIU Student Reading Council will host a morning of guest readers and craft activities at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon, Illinois. This event known as "Festival of the Young Child" is free to the public and is in conjunction with

the national "Week of the Young Child."

The Week of the Young Child, now in its 40th year, is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the Week of the Young

Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. The EIU Student Reading Council is proud to be involved with this initiative.



## *Holiday Newsletter*

### **East Central/EIU Reading Council**

East Central—EIU Reading  
Council

600 Lincoln Ave.

Charleston, IL 61920

## 2012—2013 ELECTIONS ARE COMING

The East Central/EIU Reading Council elections for the 2012 – 2012 academic year will be held at the February council meeting. The election will be for the positions of President, President-Elect, Vice President/Membership, Treasurer, and Secretary. Voting will be done by ballot at the meeting. To be eligible to vote, you must be a current member of the Reading Council, or of the Student Reading Council. The location and meeting date information will be sent out via email.

**JOIN THE  
READING  
COUNCIL!**

## READING COUNCIL OFFICERS, 2010—2011

Jacquelyne Brosam, President  
jkbrosam@eiu.edu

Ingrid McAllister, President Elect/  
Programs  
ingridmccallister@yahoo.com

Julia Colombo, Vice President /  
Membership  
colomboj@mattoon.k12.il.us

Joy Russell, Secretary  
jkrussell@eiu.edu

April Flood, Treasurer & Past President  
adflood@eiu.edu

Susan Cisna, Newspapers in Education  
scisna@yahoo.com

Dawn Paulson, International Projects  
dmpaulson@eiu.edu

Donna Spannagel, Adult & Family  
Literacy  
dspannagel@cumberland.k12.il.us

Linda Reven, Parents & Reading  
Committee  
lmreven@eiu.edu

Carrie Dale, Governmental Relations  
cmdale@eiu.edu

Student Reading Council Liaisons:  
Denise Reid,  
dereid@eiu.edu

Jeanne Okrasinski,  
jeokrasinski@eiu.edu



***Thank you EIU Volunteers!***

*Denise Reid, Student Reading  
Counsel Advisor, manning the  
membership table at the 2011  
“Literacy in Learning” conference.*