“Day in and day out, owning your own business is difficult,” says Ryan Hunt. “You have to be self-motivated.” Hunt is the owner of Total Results Training, a well-known, personal training company in Chicago. On a typical day Hunt runs boot camps, trains with clients, and is occasionally featured on Chicago news stations.

When Hunt was a graduate student at Eastern Illinois University, he had an assistantship under Dr. Jill Owen, Chair of the Kinesiology and Sports Studies department, and Dr. Stacey Ruholl, Associate Professor and Director of the Adult Fitness Program. “My assistantship really did a lot to prepare me for the day in and day out work of owning a business,” said Hunt. “I was teaching people that were older than me in some instances. And then I was working in the ATT lab, getting up early for the cardiac rehab program. Dr. Ruholl and Dr. Owen took me under their wing, looked after me, and gave me a chance. They decided who got the...
Assistantship; they believed in me." Hunt graduated with his BS in Physical Ed in 2003, and his MS in Physical Ed in 2004.

Originally from New Orleans, Hunt was recruited to play soccer for EIU. He played for four years and developed great friendships. One of his close friends moved to Chicago and six months later Hunt moved to Chicago as well. He wasn’t expecting to start his own business, but he was hoping for something different. “It was definitely a change going to Chicago from Charleston,” said Hunt. “You kind of get lost in the city unless you make something of yourself.”

Hunt founded his company with the help of Chicago. “It’s an active city,” said Hunt. “As the New Year hits, you get the New Year’s resolution crowd. Even when it’s 0 degrees outside, people are trying to get to the gym to stay in shape. Summer hits and boot camps are outside. Boot camps have been really popular for my company.”

After ten years of owning Total Results Training, Hunt still shows great passion for his career. “I love training and I love helping people. If Chicago wasn’t trying so hard, I wouldn’t have so much business or be where I am.”

“I was a competitor, and I wanted to be the best. That’s what I try and strive for with my company; trying to be the best in whatever I am, whatever I’m doing. My competitive spirit is what helps my business thrive.”

- Ryan Hunt
Wikis, collaborative online tools, seem to be everywhere these days. Tim McCollum, instructor in the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education, used these tools to develop an educational project with NASA and continues to use them in his EIU classes. Wikis not only allow McCollum’s students to collaborate and communicate on class projects, but his teacher candidates can also use wikis as a way to engage their middle school and high school learners.

Three years ago, McCollum and a team of people began to develop a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) educational project titled, “Expedition Earth and Beyond” (EEAB) (http://ares.jsc.nasa.gov/ares/eeab/index.cfm). However, the communication between team members became difficult. The group consisted of McCollum, the team of teachers – Marshalyn Bake, Michele Mailhot, Charles Lindgren – who were spread out over the country, and the Project Director, Paige Graff from the NASA Johnson Space Center. “As we were writing updated versions of lesson plans and activities for this project, the emails back and forth got really confusing,” said McCollum. “We decided to use a wiki instead.” Using a wiki worked so well that McCollum decided to use them in his education classes. He hopes to give his EIU students working experience with a tool they can later use in their own classrooms.

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Not only is he introducing his students to wikis, but he is also showing them that there is a successful, web-based, collaborative project in which students in grades 5 – 12 from across the country are already participating in. The goal of the educational project, EEAB, is to engage students in science by connecting them with scientist-mentors from the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, and astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

A team of middle or high school students have the opportunity to work on a research project with a scientist-mentor. This mentor follows the progress of the student team wiki and communicates with the students through the discussion tool. The wiki is used by students to submit requests for astronauts to take pictures of Earth from outer space that will enhance their learning. The EEAB website can access thousands of images of Earth captured by astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

“It’s a project that’s truly inquiry-based and uses available technology in a powerful way,” said McCollum. “It’s just one example of the types of things the students will be seeing in their own classrooms someday.”
There is a scholarship at Eastern unlike any other. The Shannon McNamara Scholarship was originally called the Physical Education honors Club Scholarship. It was created by a group of faculty and students in the Department of Physical Education (now Kinesiology and Sports Studies) to honor an outstanding member of the PE Honors Club (now KSS Honors Club). The scholarship was renamed in 2004, three years after the tragic murder of Shannon McNamara, a senior Physical Education major. “The department changed the name of the scholarship when the students decided to create a run in her honor. It was a fitting tribute since she was so active in the Honors Club,” said Dr. Jill Own, chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Sports Studies.

This named scholarship allows Shannon’s passion to be shared with current students and inspires them to raise funds to add to the scholarship through the annual “Run for Shannon McNamara”, a 3K run/walk on Eastern’s campus sponsored by the KSS Honors Club.

In the process, the students and the participants learn about how special Shannon was – a physical education major, a member of the department Honors Club, and a student worker at the Student Rec Center. Her friends and the department’s faculty could see that she would have been one of the few people in the world to make a great difference in the lives of the students she would teach. The process of organizing the run each year keeps her memory alive and Shannon McNamara’s legacy remains an inspiration to future generations.

Thanks to Crystal Alston for providing this article.
**1980s**

**John Hart ’84,** MS in Physical Education, is the new football coach for the Huntley High School Red Raiders, in Huntley, IL. Previously, he coached at Warren Central in Indianapolis, IN.

**Mike Twidwell ’85,** BS in Physical Education, is the new boys’ basketball head coach for the Armstrong-Potomac Trojans in Armstrong, IL. He left his position as a physical education teacher at South View Middle School in Danville, IL.

**Larry McCulley ’87,** BS in Health Studies and ’88 MA in Gerontology, has been appointed by the Governor to the Medical District Commission Board for St. Clair County. His term began on Oct. 31, 2012.

**Kim Buscemi ’88,** BS in Recreation Administration, is the new Superintendent of Recreation Services for Crystal Lake Park District as of October, 2012.

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**1990s**

**Richard Dunsworth ’94,** MSEd in Guidance and Counseling, is the new president at University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, AR. Previously, Dunsworth was the vice president for enrollment at Millikin University since 2004.

**Jennifer Hendrickson ’97,** BSEd in Elementary Education, is the new librarian for the Oakwood Public Library, in Oakwood, IL.

**Amy Darrah ’98,** BSEd in Elementary Education, married Jimmy Carboni on July 21, 2012. She currently works as a sixth-grade language arts teacher at Putnam County Junior High School in Granville, IL.

**Aaron Hill ’99,** MSEd in Educational Administration, was announced as association president for the 2012-2013 school years by the Illinois Principals Association. Aaron has been the Principal at Du Quoin Middle School in Du Quoin, IL since 2004.
2000s

Joseph Kravitz ’02, BS in Physical Education, married Carrie Claudnic on June 8, 2012. Currently, Joseph works as a physical education/health teacher at Lockport Township High School in Lockport, IL.

Jana Matouskova ’04, MS in Physical Education, married Andrew McDanald on July 7, 2012. Jana works at Quince Orchard High School, Gaithersburg, MD, as a tennis coach.

Tim Andries ’08, BS in Recreation Administration, has returned from active duty, serving in the 1st Infantry Division and in Afghanistan from 2008 – 2012. He is now training to be an officer for the La Grange Police Department in La Grange, IL.

2000s

Kelly Abrahams ’09, degree in Physical Education, married Scott Raineri on September 29, 2012. She is employed as a registered nurse at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, IL.

2010s

Amber Duffield ’10, BSEd in Elementary Education, married Jason March on May 26, 2012. Amber is a substitute teacher in the Dixon area.

Elizabeth Pardo ’10, BSEd in Special Education, is the new special education resource teacher at Emerson Elementary School, in Elmhurst, IL.

Got News?

Are you or someone you know an Alumni of the College of Education and Professional Studies? Is there something would like to share?

Email us at cepsnews@eiu.edu

We want to know what’s going on in your professional lives!