

The Leisure Time News

Volume 35, Issue 1

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RECREATION
ADMINISTRATION**

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The Leisure Time News

The Department of
Recreation Administration

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Message from our Chair

Greetings to the alumni and friends of the Department of Recreation Administration at EIU!

I recently received a very moving email from a person I taught as an undergraduate more than a decade ago. He insisted that I would not remember him because in his words "studying each night was not my priority". But he wanted me to know that I had made a difference in his life because I recognized that he was having difficulty and gave him some assistance at a very critical time in his undergraduate career. I did remember him, not because he was not a "stellar" student but be-



William Higelmire, Chair

cause he was determined to find a way to pursue his career goal to become a recreation professional. I was delighted to learn that he was enjoying a successful career and has a lovely family.

His letter was uplifting and made my day!

As I reflected on his letter, I thought about how my colleagues and I in Recreation Administration and EIU often take a personal interest in our students. Their successes are our successes; your successes are our successes! I send my best wishes to you and I wish you success and personal satisfaction in all that you do.

As evidence of how our academic program

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This year, the **Distinguished Alum Award** will be presented to **Robert Bland '71**

2009 Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Fair

The second annual Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Fair was held in conjunction with the Awards Banquet. Students displayed a variety of projects that were mentored by faculty in core classes and during internship. The displays were set up just inside the entrance to the 7th Street Underground where the banquet was held. Associate Dean Bower, advisory board members, alumnae, and guests viewed the displays and interacted with the students. The

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Message from our Chair (continued)

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can assist students integrate their personal and academic development, displays of their works are held throughout the year. *Showcase of the Exploration and Inquiry of Undergraduates (EIU)*, where nearly 200 students and over 100 faculty worked together on projects and presentations is a clear example of this.

Abigail Cross with faculty mentor Dr. Pommier displayed: Sunnyville 17th annual Amateur Team Golf Championship CVPA, Patrick Healy and faculty mentor Dr. Mulvaney displayed: Assessment of a Disc Golf Tournament, and Lydia Pond with faculty mentor Dr. Mulvaney displayed: A Facility Assessment of the Decatur Indoor Sports Center. In addition, several students displayed their works at the second annual Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Fair, which was held in conjunction with the Awards Banquet. A listing of the students and their works can be found later in this newsletter.

The faculty had the opportunity to display their scholarship in the second annual Publishing Scholars and Creative Works Recognition Reception. Dr.'s Byunggook (Ben) Kim, Michael Mulvaney and Higel-mire had their scholarly pieces included in the re-

ception.

The commitment of friends and supporters of the Department enables our Department to excel. Partnerships with individuals, businesses, agencies and other constituencies are invaluable in providing program enhancements for faculty and students. The generous contributions of the many donors listed in this newsletter provide funds that support student scholarships and awards and enhance our limited budget in providing faculty development assistance, technology acquisition, and other enhancements to our program.

As always, to make this newsletter more interesting, please take a few moments from your busy schedule and fill out the attached form and we'll share the information in the next issue. I can't tell you how many of you make positive comments about that portion of the newsletter and enjoy keeping up with each other. For it to be a success however, we need for you to fill out the form or email information to me at whigel-mire@eiu.edu

Annual IAPD/IPRA Conference

The IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference will be held in downtown Chicago at the Hilton Chicago from January 29th through January 31st.

This year we have elected to forego the traditional alumni gathering and the alumni association is working on alternative plans. Further details will be posted on the IPRA website under the EIURAA group.

www.ipraonline.com In addition an email will be sent to provide the details. Thanks to the hard work of the EIURAA, I know those that attend will have an enjoyable experience.



Faculty News

John Henry Pommier

Hello...oo everybody!

Yes, it is time again for my students to develop some creative revenues for their portfolio projects in Finance, revise their Gym Rec papers related to serving various individuals with disabilities, and reflect on the importance of leisure as they complete their "Crunch Time" assignment. Does this sound familiar? Any fond memories?

Dr. Holmes-Layman and I have published a chapter: *Reconciling different professional expectations of student internships*. In N. J. Stumbo (Ed.), *Professional Issues in Therapeutic Recreation: On Competence and Outcomes (Second Edition)*. Champaign, Illinois: Sagamore Publishing. I am currently working with Dr. Mulvaney on publications / presentations, which will discuss philanthropy and different levels of fundraising related to recreation-based affiliations.

I have really enjoyed working as the advisor for Rho Phi Lambda. They are continually involved with service opportunities in the Charleston area (i.e., Fishing Pier project, Indoor Soccer clinics, Landscape initiative, PET ribbon cutting ceremony, etc.).

I will be in Bloomington, IL on January 22nd, presenting at the Illinois Interagency Athletic

Association for Residential/ Group Home Placements Conference. If you are also attending, please look me up. I want to thank everyone for their continued support of OUR Department! Keep sending me your emails; they make my day!

Peggy Holmes Layman

As always, the fall semester has been a busy one. The Consortium in the Smoky Mountains was again successful with our students especially enjoying the talk by the Park Superintendent, Dale Duitsman, a black bear management presentation and a series of skits put on by the students around the campfire to celebrate the Great Smoky Mountain National Park's 75th Anniversary. And, as always, they get to hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail. It is a course that fully supports the President of EIU's Integrative learning initiative and will continue to provide an opportunity for the student's physical, emotional and social development along with

the cognitive aspects. I was elected to be next year's Dean over all of the schools that attend so it will be a busy summer as we coordinate the events for the Fall 2010 consortium. Another integrative learning opportunity lies with the May course to Ireland, a course which is open to all EIU students. We will look at sport, tourism and recreation services in that country and have several students already signed up, so it should be a great experience! Other fall events have included a talk at EIU by our own retired Bill Smith, held in October to coordinate with the release of the PBS Special on National Parks by Ken Burns. And you guessed it; Bill came and talked to a community and student audience about his quest to visit every National Park in the system. He also has a wonderful collection of artifacts

(Continued on page 4)

Department of Recreation Administration Advisory Council

The department wishes to recognize and thank our **Department of Recreation Administration Advisory Council** for their excellent service!

- **Ken Baker**-Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL kjbaker@eiu.edu
- **Lefty Bryden**-Charleston, IL unmebryden@earthlink.com
- **Larry Closson**-Springfield, IL – lclosson@sbcglobal.com
- **Jamie Gower**-(Chair)-Decatur Park District, Decatur, IL – jsmiege@decparcs.com
- **Ryan Jastrzab** - Itasca Park District, Itasca, IL <Ryan@itascaparkdistrict.com>
- **Kelly LaMoore**- (Secretary) Bourbonnais Twp. Prk District, Bourbonnais, IL <KellyL@btpd.org>
- **Glenn Lyons**-Charleston, IL –Fox Ridge State Park, Charleston, IL <glenn_lyons@illinois.gov>
- **Ron Oestreich**-Bolingbrook Park District, Bolingbrook, IL roestreich@bolingbrookparks.org
- **Todd Ranum**– Palatine Park District, Palatine, IL tranum@palatineparks.org
- **Diane Ratliff**– Charleston Parks and Recreation, Charleston, IL RECSUP@co.coles.il.us
- **Mike Rylko**-Buffalo Grove Park District, Buffalo Grove, IL mrylko@bgpkr.org
- **Mike Sterba**-(Past Chair) - Coloma TWSHP Park District, Rock Falls, IL ctpd4fun@essex1.com
- **Deborah Tiger**-Cunningham Children's Home, Urbana, IL dtiger@msn.net

Please consider serving on this vital Council!



Faculty News (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

tied to the National Parks which includes early advertising pamphlets, souvenir spoons, and early books among other things. It was a fun and informative night. Along with these activities, I was also able to attend the Illinois Recreation Therapy Conference and the Midwest Environmental Education Conference, both providing new ideas which were brought into the classroom. As we look forward to the Spring, I hope everyone is going to come to the banquet as the students already have great things planned for a wonderful evening. Hope to see you there!

Michael Mulvaney

Hello from Charleston! Things here are moving along as I settle in for my fourth year with the Department of Recreation Administration. This fall I am teaching Research & Evaluation in Leisure Studies, Computers in Leisure Service Agencies, Operations of Leisure Facilities, and the Pre-Internship course. Some of the projects students are working on in these classes include: conducting a community-wide recreation needs study for the Village of Forsyth; assisting Dr. Pommier's classes with participant evaluations of the Annual Homecoming Race, and; developing operations and maintenance manuals

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Thank you! Alumni and friends of the Recreation Administration Department are providing vital resources to our students. Gifts to our Annual Fund are allowing us to:

- Endow the William A. Smith Scholarship
- Support the newly created Undergraduate Research Fair held in conjunction with our annual Awards Banquet
- Provide for travel expenses so students can attend the IPRA/IAPD State Conference
- Host the annual Student Symposium that brings well known professionals to campus to interact with students.

Please, give a gift and help the next generation of Recreation Administration majors at Eastern achieve their dreams!

<http://www.eiu.edu/~develop/gift.php>

Spring 2009 Awards Banquet

- **Chair Award** – Abigail Cross
- **Faculty Award** – Alicus Nozinor, Jill Presutti, Jacqueline Vaiden, Stephen Fox, Patrick Healy, Kate Albertson, Kathleen Boyle, Bryan Manning, Bradley Kockler, Kristina Witt, Lindsay Woods
- **Ewen “Lefty” Bryden Alumni Scholarship** – Brittany Prysock
- **Gretchen Sue Denton Memorial Scholarship** – Martha Rauch
- **William G. Riordan Scholarship** – Shannon Fair and Lydia Pond
- **Dorothe L. Johnson Memorial Scholarship** – Michael Dial
- **William A. Smith Scholarship** – James Connelly



Recreation Administration GRADUATES

FALL 2008

- Andersen, Mark
- Greene, Chelsea
- Holbrook, Candice
- Marshall, Robert
- Schone, Ryan

SPRING 2009

- Albertsen, Kate
- Doughty, Darin
- Healy, Patrick
- Pond, Lydia
- Sallade, Jennifer, TR
- Sigwalt, Andy
- Smith, Norris
- Witt, Kristina, TR

SUMMER 2009

- Conrad Kurtis
- Cross Abby, TR
- Fair, Shannon
- Gosa, Jonathon
- Grapenthien, Dan
- Kockler, Brad
- Lopez, Justin
- Manning, Brian, TR
- Medema, Kevin
- Presutti, Jill TR
- Shaffer, Jason
- Schmitt, Eric
- Vaiden, Jacqueline
- Wilson, Chad

In order to conserve resources, would you please contact Jerilyn <jhutson@eiu.edu> and let her know which method of delivery you would prefer to receive the newsletter (email or postal mail). Please email Jerilyn the following information:

Name (maiden if applicable)

Graduation year

Option:

Your postal address

OR

Your email address

Department of Recreation Administration's
36th Annual Spring Alumni and Awards Banquet

*Please note that the Spring Alumni and Awards Banquet will be hosted in
Lincoln Springs Resort (3 miles east of Charleston on Rt. 16)*

Name _____ Class _____
Home Address: Street _____
City/State _____
Home Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
Business/Agency: _____
Agency Phone: _____ Job Title _____

_____ Yes, I will attend the Awards Banquet on Friday, **April 23, 2010**
_____ Yes, I would be willing to sponsor a student to attend the Banquet
_____ Number of tickets needed

* Check enclosed for \$ _____ (\$15 for non-REC club members, alumni, family, friends).
Please, make check payable to Eastern Illinois University

Please return this information form by Wednesday, April 21, 2010 to:
The Awards Banquet Committee
EIU - Recreation Administration
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920

- Or contact the Department via EMail <whigelmire@eiu.edu>
Phone (581-3018) with the preceding questions addressed.

REMEMBER:
Awards Banquet
Friday,
April 23, 2010,
5:30 p.m.
Lincoln Springs Resort
(3 miles east of Charleston
on Route 16 to CR 2000E)

Alumni Information Sheet

Please help us stay in touch with you by up-dating your current status - Thank you in advance!

Name _____ Graduating Class (year / semester) _____
Home Address _____
Phone _____ E-Mail: _____
Family News _____
Employment _____ Job Title _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Employment News _____

*Please return to: Eastern Illinois University, Recreation Administration, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920
or email alumni information to: ardiehl@eiu.edu*

Research & Creative Activity Fair (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

event was by all accounts a success and many positive comments were received regarding the quality of the displays. Scholarship displayed included:

- **Taylorville Indoor Sports Center** *Amber Gensler, Mike Dial, & James Connelly; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Byunggook Kim*
- **A Comprehensive Evaluation of the 2nd Annual Disc Golf Tournament** *Pat Healy; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mike Mulvaney*
- **Cost-Volume-Profit-Analysis: The Beginner SCUBA Diving Course** *James Connelly; Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Pommier*
- **How Recreation & Leisure Interwove in the Life and Times of Abraham Lincoln** *Chris Bartels, Abbie Cross, Taylor Dunne, Shannon Fair, Amber Veracha, & Josh Wentzel; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Peggy Holmes-Layman*
- **Cost-Volume-Profit-Analysis: Dance Summer Camp** *Jacqueline Vaiden; Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Pommier*
- **FitClub West: An Internship Experience** *Ademola Adeniji; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bill Higelmire*
- **Anderson Western Colorado Camps: An Internship Experience** *Candice Holbrook; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bill Higelmire*
- **Frankfort Park District: An Internship Experience** *Adam Davison; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bill Higelmire*
- **The Decatur Indoor Sports Center Facility Assessment** *Lydia Pond; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mike Mulvaney*
- **The Big Red Barn** *Brittany Prysock & Martha Rauch; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Byunggook Kim*
- **Cost-Volume-Profit-Analysis: Sunnyville 17th Annual Amateur Team Golf Championship** *Abbie Cross; Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Pommier*
- **Cave Diving: An Informational Video** *James Connelly; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mike Mulvaney*

Annual Telefund Drive

Our sincere thanks to all of you who donated to the Annual Telefund Drive this year. Donations are used for scholarships, conferences, and enrichment activities. As of October, 2009 these are the names of individuals that contributed to the drive.

- "Bernie" Young and Associates
- Mr Dennis H. Alldridge
- Ms Chelsea A Bach
- Mr Gary F. Balling
- Ms Teresa E. Becker
- Mr Robert E. Bland
- Ms Barbara S. Boon
- Ms Mary E. Bryden
- Mrs Robin K. Burchfield
- Mrs Stacie S. Carney
- Mr Larry D. Closson
- Mrs Christine Cothorn
- Ms Nancy Darda
- Mr Lewis G Dickinson
- Mr Tim E. Dimke
- Mrs Sherry L. Egan
- Mr Thomas H. Elliott
- Mr Charles M. Evans
- Mr Patrick J. Fragassi
- Ms Susan B. Friend
- Ms Katie T. Gauthier
- Mr Ronald N. Gbur
- Mr Richard Glazebrook
- Ms Shelby D. Greene
- Mr Robert E. Hale
- Mrs Gina M. Hassett
- Dr William F. Higelmire
- Mrs Jodi C. Hoffman-Gosse
- Ms Debra L Hunt
- Dr Annie Lee Jones
- Mrs Barbara L. Kleiss
- Mr Matthew S. Long
- Mrs Ann H. Lynch
- Mr Glenn Lyons
- Mr James P. McDonnell
- Mr Robert M. O'Shaughnessy
- Mr Raymond S. Pilkerton
- Mr Joseph M. Pollina
- Mr Douglas M. Raffel
- Ms Nancy J. Ryan
- Mr Michael A. Rylko
- Mrs Julie A. Schnell
- Mrs Bunny L. Sebock
- Ms Angela L. Setzer
- Mrs Karen E. Smith
- Mr Michael P. Sterba
- Mr David W. Volkers
- Mr William C. Voorhees
- Ms Katie L. Weisbacher
- Mr Nicholas G. Willett
- Ms Leslie A. Wilson
- Mr Kevin A. Yates

Faculty News (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

for various leisure service agencies throughout the state.

In addition to teaching, I co-authored two articles for the journal of *Public Personnel Management* titled, "The development of a pay-for-performance appraisal system for municipal agencies" (in press) and "The development of a model for the distribution of merit pay increase monies for municipal agencies" (in press). I also presented a session during the 2009 IPRA/IAPD Annual Conference (Chicago, IL). More recently, I am working with the NRPA and the American Academy of Park and Recreation Administrators

on the development of a white paper that focuses on the impact the recent economic downturn has had on urban public parks and recreation agencies, non-urban special districts (i.e., park districts, forest preserve districts, etc.), and municipal departments. The intent of this white paper is to not only summarize the effects of this economic downturn, but provide public park and recreation agencies with recommendations and examples of best practices for managing their agencies during this time of uncertainty.

I continue to work on creating additional application-based activities for my courses as well as my research and service lines. If you or your agency has any ideas, I would love to hear from you. Have a happy winter and spring season!



Annette's Perspective

Seasons Greetings from my desk at the EIU Recreation Department! Well, it's that time of year again – it's time to end the semester and celebrate Christmas and the New Year. It seems as though this time comes sooner and sooner each year. Since I last wrote, not a whole lot has



changed with my family and myself. Everyone in my family is doing fine. We did recently celebrate my grandson Michael's wedding on Halloween to his new wife Satina. It was a Masquerade and a great time, mainly because the whole family was together. This got me thinking about why I love and appreciate Christmas so much. So, instead of writing my general paragraph with updates about my family, I decided to share a poem with you that I really like.

A Christmas Wish by Philipe Brisebois

A time of year to think of love and sharing
A time of peace for the whole world to cherish
A time to be with all your friends and family
And wish them all a [Merry Christmas](#)

Making angels in the snow or sliding down a hill
Roasting chestnuts on the fire takes away the chill
Candy canes and mistletoe and grandma's home made pie
Ginger bread and hot cocoa, you know it's [Christmas time](#)

Seasons come and seasons pass but we still remember
the joy we shared on Christmas last.
Looking forward to next December--flowers bloom, then pumpkins grow, then suddenly it starts to snow.
Then our hearts are young again [because you know it's Christmas time](#)

On Christmas eve Santa will soon be coming
with lots of toys for girls and boys to play with.
To see their eyes sparkle like stars above
is all we need for a Merry Christmas....
So live your life with kindness and love in your heart
and you'll always have a [Merry Christmas](#).

So, I would like to wish each and every one of you a Very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. May you be healthy and have all your wishes come true in the new year. Remember, if you need any help or questions, I am always here to help. If you just want to visit, I am here as well. I enjoy getting to know all of you during your time at EIU and wish you a successful and loving life beyond that. Please feel free to contact me at ardiehl@eiu.edu or give me a call 581-3018. I really need your news so I can include you in the newsletter ~Annette



Alumni News

The Annual EIURAAA Student Forum would like to have you present for the Department's students this Fall.



Alum news—Be sure and return the alumni information sheet that is included in the newsletter or you can email me at ardiehl@eiu.edu. If your news doesn't make it to me then it won't make it in the newsletter. I've had calls from alumni wanting to know how to reach other alum, and if your information isn't up-to-date, what can I say?.....SO KEEP ME UPDATED.... Annette Diehl

Westberg, Eric, CPRP—SP '92—Working for Broward County Parks and Recreation located in Oakland, Florida. Eric has been promoted to Parks and Recreation Manager V encompassing Regional and Nature Parks in the N. District of Broward County Parks which includes Quiet Waters Park/Deerfield Island Park. EWESTBERG@broward.org

Ingle, Chad—FA '04—Forestry Technician (Recreation) for USDA Forest Service, Land Between the Lakes NRA located in Golden Pond, KY. cgingle@fs.fed.us

Wetters, Kendra—FA '06—Living in Fredericksburg, VA. Her quote is "Always Remember...STRESSED backwards is DESSERTS." kdwetters@gmail.com

Rawlings, Dennis—SU '08—Recreation Programmer for the O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Department, located in O'Fallon, Illinois. One of his main goals is to get the numbers of participants up and expanding the programs and making them bigger.

Williams, Jennifer-FA '01- Working as an Aquatics Supervisor Lockport Township Park District jwilliams@lockportpark.org

Leasure, Amanda-SU '08- U of I Extension, McLean County, at their Unity Community Center which is an after school program for at risk kids. It has been fun so far. aleasure17@yahoo.com

Fair, Shannon— SU '09- Working at Atascadero State Hospital, Atascadero, CA. SFAIR@ash.dmh.ca.gov

REMEMBER:
Awards Banquet
Friday,
April 23, 2010,
5:30 p.m.

Lincoln Springs Resort
(3 miles east of Charleston on Route 16 to CR 2000E)



Attention Alumni!!!!!!

The Department is challenging you to show your school spirit by wearing your Eastern Illinois University clothing in unique settings—throughout the world. Prizes will be awarded to the person displaying their school spirit in the most unique setting!

This year's winner is Shannon Fair-SU'09. She attended the Michael Jackson memorial at Neverland Valley Ranch in Santa Barbara California, shortly after the passing of the King of Pop. Congratulations Shannon!!

Annual EIURAAA Student Forum

The 11th Annual EIURAA Student Forum was held on Friday, October 13th. The opening session, *Passion and Compassion*, was given by LoriKay Paden, Office of Recreation and Park Resources, University of Illinois. Ms. Paden also presented a session entitled *BTW, Professionalism Still Matters, LOL*. Edward Gudas from Lake Forest Parks and Recreation discussed *Get Out to Stand Out - Outdoor Recreation and Adventure Programming*. *Club Med and Small town Park Districts* was led by Mose Ricky from Roselle Park District. A panel of “*Master Degree ’ers*” discussed Masters Degree...Is it worth it and should I start immediately? A speed mentoring session where professionals were available to the students for questions was another option for the attendees. Following the forum all attendees were treated to lunch at the Panther Paw. A closing activity focused on team building. Lindsay Woods, a senior majoring in Therapeutic Recreation, was the recipient of the 2009 EIURAA scholarship. The scholarship award will be used to defray the cost of attending a conference of her choice. Many thanks go out to the EIURAA Board of Directors for their fine work on this annual event. (Kelly Lamore, President, Ron Oestreich, Past President, Ryan Jastrzab, Vice President, Jamie Davis, Secretary, CJ Applegate, Treasurer, R. Scott Smith, Todd Ranum,, Jamie Gower, Dave Haring, and Mike Dial, Student Representative) For more information or to volunteer to work on next year’s forum, feel free to contact Mr.Ryan Jastrzab at Ryan@itascaparkdistrict.com or call him at (630) 773-2257.

Rho Phi Lambda

Honorary Professional Recreation, Park, and Leisure Services Fraternity

This has been a wonderfully involved year for the Rho Phi Lambda students. Besides the personal service project(s) each student chooses to be involved with, our Department’s chapter has been extremely involved with service opportunities that directly effect recreation-based opportunities in the Charleston area. For this past year, the students finished the fishing pier project at Lake Charleston, provided (8) weeks of indoor soccer clinics (including Saturdays) - a special thank you to Lydia Pond and Shannon Fair, set-up and served as great ambassadors for the Paradise Equestrian Therapy Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, assisted with the 10th Annual Homecoming Race, helped landscape for a Charleston Recreation Foundation fundraising project, and contributed \$350.00 to the Charleston Recreation Foundation’s Scholarship Fund—serving local children with an economic disadvantage.

2009—2010 Officers:

- **Lindsay Woods** (Chair - Fall, 2009)
- **Lauren Clock** (Vice Chair—Fall, 2009; Chair—Spring, 2010)
- **Brittany Prysock** (Secretary—Fall, 2009; Vice Chair—Spring, 2010)
- **Jessica Brutti** (Sergeant of Arms)
- **James Connelly** (Treasurer)



Rho Phi Lambda

Spring, 2009 Inductee:

- Michael Mulvaney

Fall, 2009 Inductees:

- Kathryn Klimek
- Kimberly Runde
- Adam Watson
- Michael Dial
- Anne Schnura
- Mindy Allen
- Taylor Dunne
- Nick Bellamy
- Hannah Sterrick
- Robert Daniel Hale

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Call for Alumni Award Nomination

A big part of the Spring Banquet is the presentation of an award to the Outstanding Alumni of Eastern Illinois University's Department of Recreation Administration. We are currently seeking **Outstanding Alumni Award** nominations for the Spring 2011 Banquet. Self-nominations are accepted and encouraged!

The following criteria will be assessed when determining the award:

1. Must have graduated from the Department of Recreation Administration (or Leisure Studies).
2. Must have made significant contribution to the profession at large in which they work.
3. Must show evidence of successful accomplishment in their job/agency profession.
4. Must show evidence of civic and professional leadership in the community in which they live.

2010 Distinguished Alum Award: Robert Bland (class of 1971)

This year the speaker for the Department of Recreation Administration Annual Awards Banquet will be Robert Bland who was in the field of parks and recreation for nearly 35 years. He was a versatile, accomplished senior operations professional with diverse experience in the customer/financial services area. His background includes over 30 years of increasingly responsible positions with a major leisure corporation in finance, receivables, collections, property and facilitates management. He built a reputation for developing innovative methods aimed at producing new sources of revenue and eliminating unnecessary expenditures.

Bob has been semi-retired since 2003, serving as a part-time Senior Loan Officer for a mortgage company and also as Administrative Assistant to the Pastor at his church. He recently moved to East Tennessee in order to be near family. He began his career with a senior summer internship with the Charleston Recreation Department, and then stayed on as Recreation Director for the City for the next two years. He left Charleston, accepting the position of Director of Recreation at Fairfield Bay, Arkansas. He moved on to become the General Manager at Fairfield Mountains, North Carolina where he managed Fairfield's interest in this resort community during a period of acquisition to include community relations, security and all other functions as the only company representative in residence. As Executive Vice President of Property Management at Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, he acted in capacity of City Manager in the resort community with responsibility for all community relations, recreation amenities, golf courses, marinas, and all community functions including the fire department, security, and rescue units. While Vice President Loan Administration/Title he had overall responsibility for the company's receivable portfolio to include servicing, collections, title and deeding, third party collection agency, bankruptcy and foreclosure, packaging for securitization, and all other appropriate functions. During his final position as Vice President Financial Services, Fairfield Acceptance Corporation, Las Vegas, NV, he created a research department, Bankruptcy Processing Group, and refined loan servicing/collection procedures to meet growing needs of the organization.