



THE TORCH

Honors College Alumni Newsletter

Honors Alum, Dr. Angela Beckman Anthony Honored with the 2011 Distinguished Honors Faculty Award

Dr. Angela Anthony grew up in Peotone, Illinois, a small town about an hour south of Chicago. She graduated at Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Communication Disorders and Sciences in December of 1999, and received her master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Anthony then worked at a private preschool in Washington, D.C., and in private practice in Northern Virginia until she began her Ph.D. program in Reading Education at

the University of Virginia. In 2006, she returned to Eastern Illinois University to work in the Communication Disorders and Sciences department as an Assistant Professor, and completed her Ph.D. program in 2009. She served on the Honors Council since 2008 and was both chair of the Council for two years and Departmental Honors Coordinator for the Communication Disorders and Sciences department. She worked full-time at EIU until the end of this past school year, when she moved to Virginia with her husband Graham and her son Thomas. She is currently teaching one online course per semester for the CDS department here at Eastern.

One of Dr. Anthony's biggest scholastic achievements was surviving the Ph.D. process, but what she is most proud of is having been hired as a faculty member at EIU. After five years in the CDS department, her honors students nominated her for, and the Honors Council nominated her for, the Distinguished Honors Faculty Award. Dr. Anthony chose Speech-Language Pathology as her career because of the wide variety of work settings it provides:

"I wanted to work with young children, but [Speech-Language Pathology] allowed me to consider working in schools, private practice, the university, or even a medical setting. I knew it was a profession that I would never get bored in! I did not initially see myself in the university setting, but once I got started, I was hooked! I always liked college, and now I feel like I get to be a perpetual student because I am constantly learning new things as I work to stay current in the field and prepare the next generation of students!"

Dr. Anthony was in the Honors Program while she was an undergraduate student here at Eastern, and worked in the Honors Office as the student office manager. Honors gave her a strong foundation upon which to build the rest of her education and career:



Dr. Angela Beckman Anthony

“As a student from a small town going on to graduate school in the big city, I was very well prepared to meet the challenges of that program, thanks to my time in Honors and in the CDS department at EIU. During my time as a faculty member, I was thankful to again be involved with Honors, both by teaching and by serving on the Honors Council. As a faculty member, I again had the opportunity to be challenged and engaged in the work I did for Honors.”

Dr. Anthony was notable both for her involvement with the EIU Honors College and her teaching style. Each of these contributed to her being honored as 2011 Distinguished Honors Faculty. About her teaching style, Dr. Anthony states:

“One of my goals in teaching is to be connected with students. I try to share personal experiences that relate to the course content whenever possible. I include positive experiences as well as those that didn't go so well – I think it is important for students to remember that faculty aren't perfect, and we have experienced our own mistakes and learning curves in getting to where we are. I also hope that my students can learn from some of my mistakes! In the past year, I have also been focused on making my courses more interactive, both between students and between myself and students. I have done this through in-class activities on campus, and web-based discussions now that I am teaching online. For an Honors Course, I do expect more critical thinking and independence from students than I do in a traditional course. Also, the smaller number of students in an Honors course allows me to have more flexibility on assignments, and I often ask for more student input on what would be most helpful in their learning process. I also find that the class time feels more "conversational" rather than being a more traditional lecture format.”

We wish Dr. Anthony well, as she continues to teach for EIU while making a new life for herself in Virginia.

What are our students saying about the EIU Honors College?

Rachael Jannusch, a senior Family and Consumer Sciences major: “I wanted to belong to a group on campus that had the same drive and motivation to excel in college. There are so many opportunities to be involved and make a difference on campus.”

Jenny Greenberg, a freshman English major: “I like the small class sizes. I get to know my professors on a more personal basis. I wish I could have every class a semester being an honors class, but they capped me at four.”

Lauren Schaffer, a freshman education major: “I have always valued my education very highly; being in the honors college, I'm provided with opportunities that will allow me to succeed in ways that I would not otherwise be able. I feel as if the professors here at EIU are here to actually teach me, whereas at other universities, professors don't seem to care about their students as much.”

Jen Antkowiak, a freshman Biology and Flute Performance major: “I had offers from other schools, but nothing compares to the experiences and education I am getting here at EIU!”

Clare Smith, a junior history major: “I chose to enter the honors program because I wanted to be challenged. All throughout high school I was in honors, and I always enjoyed being in classes with peers who also took academics seriously. My favorite part of the Honors College is AHS. I love being able to spend time with like-minded people outside of the classroom. It’s really great being able to be in a non-academic environment with the people I have so many classes with and having the ability to get to know them better.”

Honors Student Competes on Jeopardy!



Anne Rozek with Alex Trebek, the host of Jeopardy!

Anne Rozek, a sophomore Geography major from Cary, Illinois, was among fifteen students selected to compete in the “Jeopardy!” College Championship. She is the first Eastern Illinois student to ever make it to the championship! According to Rozek, she was one of 12,000 students that tried out for the show to compete for the grand prize, \$100,000.

Rozek said she grew up watching “Jeopardy!” but became more interested in high school. Her journey to the championship began with taking the 50-question test with her father and sister over spring break of last year. Not believing she did well, she did not expect to be selected as a finalist. She was stunned when she received the email asking her to attend a callback for ‘Jeopardy!’ According to the *Daily Herald*, she attended the callback in Kansas City, where she took another 50-question quiz and had an interview. She received a phone call from the ‘Jeopardy!’ producer in the month of December, asking her to participate in the championship in January.

Anne spent the month of December preparing by studying an hour a day, taking quizzes from a quiz site called Sporcle.com. Anne was flown to California, where she spent five days in Los Angeles taping the show. She said she was very nervous, but the host, Alex Trebek, helped her break the tension. According to the *Daily Eastern News*, over a dozen students gathered in the Andrews Hall basement on February 2 to watch Anne compete on “Jeopardy!” Anne ended the show in third place with a total of \$11,500. She said that she remains friends with the other contestants she met on the set of “Jeopardy!” and hopes to continue building those friendships.

Dr. Messer Announces Retirement Plans



Dr. Margaret Messer

Dr. Margaret Knapp Messer, Director of Honors Student Affairs, has announced her retirement, which will be effective July 1, 2012. Margaret has worked with students in the Honors College at EIU since Dr. Herbert Lasky awarded her a practicum in the Honors Programs in 1992. She was later hired as a part-time Honors Academic Advisor and in time worked her way up to Director. She served with Dean Bonnie Irwin from 2004-2010 and currently assists Dean John Stimac. Throughout her time here at Eastern, she has shown commitment and support to the campus community as well as the surrounding Charleston community where she often represented the Honors College while also serving as a mentor to all Honors students. By providing generous and unstinting support for students to grow and learn, Dr. Messer has been a keystone to the success of the Honors College. She will be missed in Booth House and across campus! Margaret enjoys hearing from former students. Please email her at mkmesser@eiu.edu or add her as a friend on Facebook!

Please mark your calendars and save the date to come and wish Dr. Messer the best in her retirement: Dr. Margaret Messer’s Retirement Party – June 22, 2012 – 2:00 P.M. – 1418 Klehm Hall.

Dr. Lasky Update!

A note for Dr. Lasky fans: Dr. Lasky and Jane are enjoying the winter in Tucson, Arizona.

Submit Information for our Newsletter!

We want to hear from you; submit items for the Honors Alumni Newsletter by emailing Dr. Messer at mkmesser@eiu.edu or our editor, Ms. Angelica Bradley at ambradley2@eiu.edu.