

# Eastern named school of the year

## University receives honor

**Maggie Hamper/ Staff Reporter Issue date: 12/6/05**

The Great Lakes Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls chose Eastern as the school of the year at its annual conference this year.

This is the highest honor a GLAURCH member can receive. The conference took place at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse on Nov. 18. GLAURCH is a regional residence hall organization that encompasses Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois and the Ontario, Canada, region.

This organization seeks to recognize outstanding residence hall organizations as well as to help residence hall organizations get the resources they need to become and remain outstanding.

Any school that is both a member of and in good standing with GLAURCH can submit a bid to be considered for the award. Six schools, including Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, placed a bid for the award this year, said Jeff Flaxman, Eastern's RHA national communications coordinator.

Before the conference took place, GLAURCH narrowed the choice down to two schools: Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., and Eastern.

At the conference, the national communications coordinator from each of the 58 schools that attended voted based on a previous question and answer session. Eastern won by more than 50 percent of the votes, Flaxman said.

Eastern has been a member of GLACURH since the conference was founded in 1975, and has attended this conference frequently.

At the conference, delegates chosen from each school exhibit presentations on differing aspects of new approaches to difficulties their residence hall association has faced. "They put on leadership presentations that these delegates can learn and bring back to their own schools," said Jody Stone, assistant director of housing.

Students leave with the knowledge of neighboring schools and are free to apply these approaches back at their schools.

Out of the 25 delegates who applied, 13 were chosen to represent Eastern at this conference based on their availability and desire to attend.

These delegates included Brittany Niwa, an RHA voter for Carman Hall. She said she thought the most influential part of attending the conference was "going to the programs knowing no one and meeting people and getting input from them."

Karen Miller, who frequently attends RHA meetings, also attended the conference.

"I went because I wanted to improve my leadership skills, meet new people and go to a conference because I was told that they were a lot of fun," Miller said. "I wanted to experience it for myself."