

College of Education and  
Professional Studies  
Alumni Awards

**CEPS Rising Star**

The recipients of the CEPS Rising Star Award are within 10 years of graduation from Eastern Illinois University. They must have excelled in their field or in the career for which the CEPS degree prepared them.

**CEPS Leadership and Service Award**

The recipients of the Leadership and Service Award have had a significant impact in their chosen field, community, or society.

**CEPS Hall of Fame  
Lifetime Achievement Award**

The recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award have attained distinguished professional success and prominence. These honorees are living role models in their disciplines within the College of Education and Professional Studies and will be inducted into the College's Hall of Fame.

**College of Education and  
Professional Studies  
Alumni Awards**

**Welcome**

Dr. Diane Jackman, Dean

**Introduction of Honorees**

Dr. Misty Rhoads, CEPS Alumni Board

Ms. LaDonna Talbert, CEPS Alumni Board

Ms. Mary Bower, Assistant to the Dean

**Presentation of Awards**

Dr. Diane Jackman, Dean

**Closing Remarks**

Mr. John Hasten, President of the CEPS

Alumni Board

**2012-2013**

**College of Education and  
Professional Studies  
Alumni Board**

Chad Burgett

Mona Davenport

Lisa DiNaso

John Hasten

Ingrid Minger

Misty Rhoads

Lori Richardson

Scott Smith

LaDonna Talbert

## 2010 CEPS Alumni Award Recipients

### **CEPS Rising Star**

Colleen Coffey

Rebecca Minkwitz

### **Leadership & Service**

Mark Drone

Roger Eddy

Susan Friend

### **Lifetime Achievement**

Noelle Greathouse

John McNary

Mike Metzen

Sue Payton

Mike Rylko

## 2013 CEPS Alumni Award Recipients

### **CEPS Rising Star**

Thomas Beals

Steven Dollahan

Stephen Duzan

Justin Schuch

### **Leadership & Service**

James Basham

Mark Hudson

Quincy Suckow

Amy Zaher

### **Lifetime Achievement**

Gary Balling

Richard Bowman

James Conyers

Brian Lichtenberger

# Thomas Beals

## CEPS Rising Star



Thomas Beals is the clinic supervisor for Sarah Bush Lincoln Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, a busy clinic with four orthopedic surgeons and a staff of twenty. He manages the day-to-day operations of the clinic to ensure a smooth and efficient operation.

As his career evolves to a focus on athletic training and management, he completed the six-month Leadership and Development course at Sarah Bush Lincoln and is currently involved in a Leadership Excellence Acceleration Program, which emphasizes lean methodology and 6S

concepts for business performance improvement.

A certified Athletic Trainer, Tom previously provided coverage for Lake Land College's competitive athletic teams for over six years. Additionally, he was an adjunct faculty member at Lake Land College, teaching health education and physical education courses.

Tom earned his master's degree in physical education from Eastern Illinois University in 2010. His thesis research entitled "The Relative Age Effect and Academic Timing in College Baseball" was presented at the 2012 AAHPERD National Convention. He received his undergraduate degrees from Indiana State University and Lake Land College

Additionally, he received the National Athletic Trainer Association Research and Education Scholarship in 2001. Tom was named an RR Donnelley & Sons National Merit Scholar, and was an NJCAA Academic All-American baseball player.

With two children, Logan and Avery, Tom takes a personal interest in the encouragement of youth athletics and physical activity. He pursues this interest through involvement in coaching youth T-ball, basketball, and baseball teams associated with the Charleston Recreation Department and the Mattoon Area Family YMCA.

## 2011 CEPS Alumni Award Recipients

### CEPS Rising Star

Drew Campbell

### Leadership & Service

Mark Koepsell

Donna Martin

William Smith

Michael Sterba

### Lifetime Achievement

Larry Closson

Morrie Reece

## 2012 CEPS Alumni Award Recipients

### CEPS Rising Star

Lea-Ann Domanski

Christy Hild

Rodney Ranes

### Leadership & Service

Diane Beedy

Lisa Dieker

Richard Elghammer

Suzanne Hahn

Ryan Jastrzab

David Pankau

### Lifetime Achievement

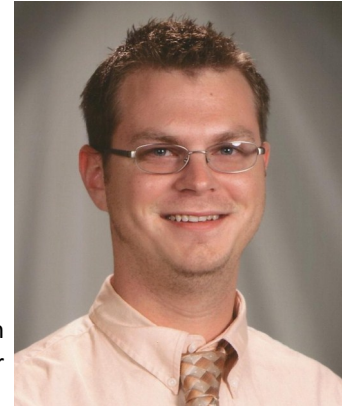
Kathy Augustine

Tim Dimke

Linda Moulton

Debra Vogel

## Steven Dollahan CEPS Rising Star



Steven is an elementary special education inclusion teacher for grades K-5 in Frankfort, Indiana. In addition to teaching, Steven is the Community Schools of Frankfort district co-trainer for use of force, restraint, and seclusion procedures in the student restraint program.

Prior to working at the elementary level, Steven was a secondary level special education teacher at Frankfort Middle School. Steven began his career at a residential school in Carmel, Indiana for at-risk youth from across the country, helping them find greater independence and gain emotional and behavioral control. He became a leading advocate for these students, assisting several into independent living arrangements outside of the residential setting and developing training modules for related support staff.

After his experience in a residential setting, Steven was promoted to special education consultant. During his transition to public education, he remained active in the residential setting by creating Interstate Compact Agreements, continuing advocacy of students for various child serving state agencies, and compliance monitoring of student rights and educational programs.

Steven received a bachelor's degree in special education in 2009 from Eastern Illinois University. While currently teaching, Steven is also a graduate student at Ball State University in the Educational Administration and Supervision program. He spends his time off with his wife Stacey, daughter Addison, and family pet Lucy. They enjoy traveling and sightseeing, camping, and Sunday night football.

# Stephen Duzan

## CEPS Rising Star



Steve Duzan is the Assistant Athletic Director and Director of Student-Athlete Services at Florida State University, responsible for all student-athlete academic programming and education. Steve's responsibilities include all personnel oversight, budget management, monitoring each athletic teams NCAA and ACC eligibility.

Steve came to Florida State from Indiana State University where he served as the Director of Athletic Academic Services for four years.

During his tenure at Indiana State, Steve had direct oversight of all academic services for student-athletes including monitoring academic progress and eligibility, budget management, tutoring, mentoring, advising, and academic programming. In addition, he served on The Leadership Advisory Board, Employee Health Benefits Advisory Committee, Staff Benefits Committee, Student Academic Services Center Policy Committee, and the Staff Council Employee Relations Committee.

Prior to his position at Indiana State, Steve spent nine years in public education as a teacher, coach, athletic director, and school administrator. His responsibilities included the professional development, supervision, and evaluation for all faculty and staff. In addition, Steve oversaw the school's budget, curriculum, academic programming, athletic facilities and scheduling, data assessment, and compliance for all learning disabled students.

Steve earned his master's degree in educational administration from Eastern Illinois in 2006 and his bachelor's degree from Millikin University. He is in the process of completing his doctorate in educational leadership and administration at Indiana State University.

He is a member of the National Association of Academic Advisors (N4A) and the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). Duzan is originally from Marshall, Illinois. He and his wife Lisa have three children: Sophia and twins Vivien and Preston.

# R. Brian Lichtenberger

## Lifetime Achievement



Brian Lichtenberger graduated from EIU in 1980 with a degree in health studies and additional coursework in athletic training. He was the first EIU student to receive the National Athletic Trainers Association Undergraduate Scholarship. Brian became a certified athletic trainer in 1981. He taught health education, physical education, and sports medicine courses at Wheeling High School for 23 years.

While providing athletic training services at Wheeling High School, Brian was a charter member of the Illinois High School Association's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. He participated in the Illinois Department of Professional and Financial Regulation Athletic Training Licensure Board where he served as Vice Chair. Brian served on the Illinois Athletic Trainers Association Board of Directors and was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 1998.

Brian became the Division Head for Health Education, Physical Education, and Driver Education at Wheeling High School in 2003. As division head, the Physical Education program received the Blue Ribbon Award from IAHPERD. Brian became the associate principal of operations in 2007 and served until 2010. Brian currently serves as director of operations for Township High School District 214. In the past three years, he has planned and supervised over 50 million dollars in school improvements.

In 2006, Brian was appointed to the Board of Commissioners of the Wheeling Park District where he currently serves as the Vice-President. This park district includes 19 parks, an 18-hole golf course, and banquet facility at Chevy Chase Country Club. Currently, the district's largest park, Heritage, is undergoing a 30 million dollar renovation in partnership with the Village of Wheeling and The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Cook County.

Brian has been married to Kim, a self-employed visual merchandiser, since 1986. They have two children, Dana and Nathan.

# James Conyers

## Lifetime Achievement



James Conyers was born in Mattoon, Illinois and grew up on a farm about 3 miles south of town. He received a bachelor's degree in education in history in 1967 and a specialist degree in education in guidance and counseling in 1974.

Following graduation he served for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Gambia, West Africa. After leaving the Peace Corps, Jim enrolled in a graduate program in counseling at Western Illinois University and received a master's degree in education in 1970. While at Western, he met his wife to be, Dolores. He and his wife both took jobs at the Navajo Methodist Mission School in Farmington, New Mexico.

He left the Navajo Methodist Mission School after four years to become guidance counselor and then principal at Mesa Alta Junior High School in Bloomfield, New Mexico, a community nearby. He worked as counselor for nine years and then served as principal at the school for seven.

After 30 years with Bloomfield Schools, Jim took a position as Transition Specialist/Counselor and then Executive Director/Principal at Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle Community Grant School which is a school funded by the Bureau of Indian Education, but controlled by the Navajo Nation. In addition, Jim serves as President of the Bloomfield Board of Education in the district where he formerly worked and is President of Region I of the New Mexico School Board Association. Recently, he was elected to the Public Education Commission for District 5 of the state of New Mexico.

Jim continues to teach graduate classes in counseling at the Farmington Center of New Mexico Highlands University and at San Juan College. He currently lives in Bloomfield with his wife, Dolores. He has two children and three grandchildren.

# Justin Schuch

## CEPS Rising Star



Justin Schuch completed his master's degree in College Student Affairs from Eastern Illinois University in 2011 after receiving his bachelor's degree from EIU in communications studies with an emphasis in rhetoric and public advocacy. He presented his master's thesis at the Great Lakes Association of College and University Housing Officers's (GLACUHO) 2010 Annual Conference. Entitled "A Queer Network: The Effects of LGBT Student Organizations on Self-acceptance in College Students," it received a top 10 program award at the conference.

While a graduate student at EIU, Justin served as Associate Resident Director at Weller Hall, Advisor of Student Affairs Prep Program, and President of the College Student Personnel Association. He was active in GLACUHO, a regional professional housing administrators' organization.

Upon graduation, Justin served as a Hall Director for four residence halls at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. After only 15 months, he was promoted to the post of Coordinator of Residential Leadership and Engagement. Working with student leadership organizations and training full time staff and graduate assistants, Justin works to enhance the student experience on campus.

Justin also currently serves as the Chair for the Contemporary Issues Committee for GLACUHO. He is an instructor in the University College at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.



# James Basham

## Leadership & Service



Dr. James (Jamie) Basham is an Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas in the Department of Special Education. He proudly received his bachelor's and master's degrees in special education from Eastern Illinois University in 1994 and 1996 respectively and earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois.

Dr. Basham's research is focused on student learning and cognition in modern learning environments chiefly related to instructional design and technology. Much of his work concentrates on the application of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.

Since 2006, he has successfully obtained over \$12 million in research and development funding from state entities, federal agencies, and private foundations, much of which is focused on the research and development of new software systems for supporting the application of UDL within the learning environment. He is also a Co-Principal Investigator in the *Center on Online Learning and Students with Disabilities (COLSD)*, which is investigating the trends and effects on online learning in K-12 education, especially for students with disabilities.

He serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Special Education Technology (JSET) as well as Remedial and Special Education (RASE). Dr. Basham was also a recent co-guest editor for the JSET topical issue on STEM education for individuals with disabilities and diverse learning needs. This was the first publication that focused on STEM education and individuals with disabilities. Dr. Basham is the co-founder of the UDL-Implementation Research Network (UDL-IRN) and is the current President of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Special Education Technology Special Interest Group (SETSIG).

# Richard Bowman

## Lifetime Achievement



Richard Bowman currently serves as the Head coach of Women's Track and Field and Cross Country at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. During his 32 year career at Cornell, he directed athletes to over 150 Ivy League and Heptagonal conference championships.

Currently 45 school records are held by athletes he has coached, while 28 women's teams have won Ivy League conference titles during his tenure. He was voted the Northeast Region Outdoor Division 1 NCAA Coach of the Year for the 2012 season.

Three of his athletes have entered Cornell's prestigious Hall of Fame. He coached Olympian Curt Hampstead (110 hurdles), former Trinidad national champion Michael Saunders, Lauren Kulik, a two-time ECAC triple jump champion and three Ivy League Track and Field MVP's. Rich coached Jamie Greubel to an Ivy League best in the heptathlon and a berth at the NCAA championships; she currently drives bobsled for the US Olympic team.

A native of Palatine Illinois, Rich received his bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education from Eastern Illinois in 1974 and 1975 and was a graduate assistant to famed Panthers distance coach Tom Woodall. At EIU, he was part of successful cross country and track and field teams for the Panthers. During his senior year, EIU won the NCAA Division 2 National Championships under legendary coach Pat O'Brien.

Rich and his wife Janet (also an EIU graduate) live in Trumansburg, New York and have two children, Theresa and Rob.



# Gary Balling

## Lifetime Achievement

Gary Balling retired in 2012 after 36 years in the Illinois Park and Recreation Profession. During his career he served the profession at the Naperville, St. Charles, Northbrook, Morton Grove, and Oak Park Park Districts. Gary's last 25 years were in the role of Executive Director in Morton Grove and Oak Park.



He is a 1976 graduate of Eastern Illinois University, with a bachelor's degree in recreation administration. Gary received his master's degree in management and development of human resources from National Louis University. During his career, Gary served as the Board Representative to the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) Recreation Section and served as chairperson for numerous IPRA Committees.

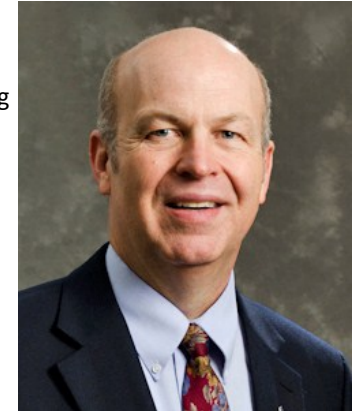
Gary has also taken an active part in local and regional committees including: IPRA Recreation Section, Council of Section & Nominations & Elections Committee; Park District Risk Management Agency; Illinois Park Employee Health Network; Park District of Oak Park Infrastructure Committee; West Suburban Special Recreation Association Board; Eastern Illinois University Recreation Department Alumni Board; and Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation Board among many other organizations. Gary authored five IPR Magazine articles and also presented numerous professional papers at IPRA, Eastern Illinois University, and at a conference in Moscow, Russia.

He is the recipient of many distinguished awards including: Eastern Illinois University Distinguished Alumni Award, 2002; IPRA Professional Recognition Award, 2000; Outstanding Recreation Professional Award, 1998-99; and Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce VIP Award, 1988. Gary is a genuine visionary, and loyal and dedicated public servant leader. He prides himself on consensus building and creative problem solving. He has earned the highest level of respect from those he has worked with including Park Board members, staff, community constituents, and his colleagues.

# Mark Hudson

## Leadership & Service

Mark Hudson has served as Director of Housing and Dining Services at Eastern Illinois University since 2001. Prior to his return to EIU, Mark was Associate Director of Residence Services at the University of North Dakota. Mark earned both his bachelor's degree in business and his master's in college student personnel from Eastern Illinois University in 1981 and 1983 respectively.



As an undergraduate student at EIU, Mark was inducted to the National Residence Hall Honorary (which recognizes the top 1% of residence hall leaders nationwide) and became EIU's chapter president and then national director. Under his leadership, the number of campus chapters greatly increased nationwide. The University of North Dakota is now home to the Mark Hudson Chapter of NRHH; the Midwest region's NRHH Member of the Year award is named for Mark and fellow Eastern alumna Valerie Averill.

Mark is currently serving as the advisor to EIU's Residence Hall Association which is his 30th year of advisement to outstanding student leaders. He has twice been named Advisor of the Year in the Midwest region and served as advisor for the Midwest region of the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH). Mark received the Ken Stoner Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions to NACURH.

In Charleston, Mark is active in the community as an adult committee member of Boy Scout Troop 141. He is president of the Charleston Community Day Care Center Board and has held several leadership positions in the community. He is grateful for the many opportunities he was given at EIU and works every day to repay that debt by investing himself in student success.

# Quincy Suckow

## Leadership & Service



Quincy Suckow is the Regional Community Mission Director for the American Cancer Society. She earned a bachelor's degree in health studies at Eastern Illinois University in 1998. Quincy began her career with the American Cancer Society in 1999, managing patient service, prevention, and early detection programs for a four county area in the Central Valley of California.

Currently, she is the Regional Community Mission Director providing leadership to 31 counties in the Great Valley Region. She manages six full time Community Mission Directors and approximately 1000 volunteers. Quincy oversees the implementation of program and activities based in the community, including patient programs, grassroots advocacy, Colleges Against Cancer, and American Cancer Society community based research. She recruits and manages volunteers to support these efforts to decrease the incidence and mortality of cancer.

Quincy Suckow has spent her career working for non-profit organizations. Her lifelong commitment is to be the voice for people who are often overlooked in society. Quincy has championed many worthwhile causes and brings passion and dedication to the American Cancer Society's mission. She says that she was born an advocate and will take advantage of every opportunity to speak about the services of the American Cancer Society. She has also served as a volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the SPCA, and was a 2001 American Cancer Society DetermiNATION athlete.

Quincy is married and the proud mother of two daughters. On the weekends, Quincy can be seen running along the American River Bike trail training for local running races and mentoring novice runners. Her next big race is the Boston Marathon in April.

# Amy Zaher

## Leadership & Service



During her 18 years in public service, Dr. Amy M. Zaher has earned a reputation as an educator and a leader. She currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning for Berwyn North School District 98 in Berwyn, Illinois.

She served as the Director of Professional Development and Instructional Coaching for the Burnham Park Network in Chicago Public Schools. Dr. Zaher spent ten years as an elementary school teacher, and four years as a literacy coach before moving into administration. In these roles, she provided leadership and training to improve student achievement. She has been recognized for her leadership in the implementation of the Common Core Standards.

She served as Past President of Chicago Area Reading Association (CARA) and she currently serves as Regional Director for the Illinois Reading Council (IRC). Dr. Zaher has written many articles including one in *Modern Teacher Quarterly* titled *CCSS Shifting the Focus: How content and evidence based reading will garner heavy thinking from digital natives*. She has also served as a special research advisor to the author for the book *Power of Coaching – Teachers and Teaching*.

Amy graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education where she discovered her passion for learning and leadership. She continued on to earn master's degrees from Dominican University in early childhood, Olivet Nazarene University in curriculum and instruction and Chicago State University in reading. In 2010, she received her doctorate in educational leadership from National Louis University.