

# The Leisure Time News

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**DEPARTMENT OF  
RECREATION  
ADMINISTRATION**

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The Leisure Time News

The Department of  
Recreation Administration

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## Message from our Chair

As we near the end of 2010, we reflect back with pride at what we have accomplished this year.

Looking ahead to next year, we know that we have much to be thankful for, and that includes the gracious support of individuals like you. From all of us here in the Department of Recreation Administration, best wishes for a memory filled season and a most prosperous new year! We look forward to spring commencement when our students join the ranks of our alumni. As you will see below, they have made significant contributions to their communities and professions. If you plan to make a trip to campus, please let us know – we would love to see you and show you the progress that is being made on campus.

Partnerships with indi-



William Higelmire, Chair

viduals, businesses, agencies and other constituencies are invaluable in providing program enhance-

ments for faculty and students. The generous contributions of the many donors listed in this newsletter provide funds that support students through scholarships and awards and

enhance what is otherwise a limited budget in providing for faculty development, technology acquisition and other enhancements to our program.

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 our commitment to mentoring.

Mindy Miller with faculty mentor Dr. Pommier, displayed: Cost-Volume-

*(Continued on page 2)*



This year, the **Distinguished Alum Award** will be presented to **Ron Gbur -'78**

## Message from Dean Jackman

This has been a very busy year in the College of Education and Professional Studies and in the Department of Recreation Administration. We have all been working hard to ensure that our students are provided the best program that integrates academic and personal development, a goal set by President Perry when he came to EIU. Recreation Administration has worked hard to be a part of this initiative.

Recreation Administration students have participated in

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## Message from our Chair (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Profit-Analysis: Lake View Farms – Ladies Night and Jim Huetson with faculty mentor Dr. Mulvaney displayed: A Community –Wide Needs Assessment for the Village of Forsyth. In addition, several students displayed their works at the second annual Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Fair which was held in conjunction with the Department Awards Banquet. A

listing of the students and their works can be found.

The faculty had the opportunity to display their works in the second annual Publishing Scholars and Creative Works Recognition Reception. Dr.'s Byunggook (Ben) Kim, Michael Mulvaney and Higelmire had their scholarly pieces published during the past year included in the reception.

## Annual IAPD/IPRA Conference

The IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference will be held in downtown Chicago at the Hilton Chicago from January 27th through January 29th. This year we have elected to hold the **alumni gathering** on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup> directly after the awards luncheon. Further details will be posted on the IPRA website under the EIURAAA group. [www.ipraonline.com](http://www.ipraonline.com) In addition an email will be sent to provide the details.

## Message from our Dean (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

many integrative activities throughout the year. They have had the opportunity to listen to many alumni talk about the current job market and how to 'stand out' in this tight economy. Mentoring new professionals is something Recreation Administration has always done well. Our students have taken 'study away' classes in the Smoky Mountains with Dr. Holmes-Layman and integrated their learning in new and different ways. The Recreation Administration Student Research Fair showcases our students' scholarly interests and allows them to share their learning with others. All of these 'real life' experiences better prepare our students for the job market. Drs. Mulvaney and Pommier have been named co-editors for one of the professional journals in Recreation Administration. This editorship is a tremendous acknowledgment of their

professional abilities and sets a wonderful example for our students.

As a College, we established the CEPS Alumni Board and CEPS Philanthropy Board during the past two years. The CEPS Alumni Board has been actively working on reconnecting with alumni from all areas in the College and last March held the inaugural CEPS Alumni Awards Ceremony – and Recreation Administration Alumni were recognized in all three categories! The CEPS Philanthropy Board was just established this Spring and is focusing their attention on raising funds to enhance the technology available for students and faculty to use in teaching and in research. The College is an active participant in EIU's Capital Campaign and we have been pleased to see the support of alumni and



### College of Education and Professional Studies 1st Annual Alumni Awards Ceremony

left to right: Mike Rylko '92, Lifetime Achievement Award; Rebecca Minkwitz '07, Rising Star Award; Dr. Higelmire; and Susan Friend '95, Leadership and Service Award

friends as they establish scholarship and student-faculty research/creative activity endowments.

The faculty and staff in the College of Education and Professional Studies remain committed to continuing to offer high quality programs that focus on interaction, inquiry, and service. We have been strategic in focusing our efforts on integrating learning and professionalism. Utilizing this approach, our graduates are really able to make a difference in the future by helping individuals, young and old achieve their goals.

## Faculty News



### John Henry Pommier

Hello...oo everybody!

Time continues to fly. Believe it or not, it has been (14) years since I began teaching at EIU. If you graduated within the past (14) years, I have had the privilege of having you in classes such as Principles of

Therapeutic Recreation or Financial Practices, though one class that I may not have had you in is the Canoeing & Kayaking course. I encourage you to go to YouTube and search: *Class canoe trip 2010* and see my class (and two students from REC Club) in action on the Embarras River.

Not only did my class get on the river this Fall, the Outdoor Livings Skills class camped out at Fox Ridge State Park (thank you Glenn Lyons); the Environmental Interpretation class developed an interpretive action plan for the newly developed Sundial Park in town; and the Challenge of Leisure and Financial Practices classes assisted the 11th Annual Homecoming Race in becoming the best yet!

I will be in Bloomington, IL on January 21nd, presenting at the Illinois Interagency Athletic Association for Residential/Group Home Placements Conference and at the St.

Francis Medical Center in Peoria on March 1st, presenting for an ILRTA Conference. If you are attending, please look me up. Until we hopefully see each other, keep sending me your emails; they always make me smile :)!



### Peggy Holmes Layman

As usual we have had several opportunities for our students to engage in experiential and service

learning. A group of 11 students had a very successful trip to the Smoky Mountain National Park Institute at Tremont. We met other universities who were there to join us in nature study, examining tourism issues and exploring many other topics related to outdoor recreation and rural tourism. One stop that we do not get to do each year but were able to manage this fall, was to get to Cherokee, N.C. and examine it as one of the "Gateway" commu-

nities to the National Park. It also affords the opportunity to discuss the Native American culture along with the Appalachian culture. It was a very satisfying experience for all involved.

The Intro to Therapeutic Recreation course has had the opportunity for field trips including a visit to work with world class wheelchair athletes at the U of I. Those students have also heard from some great speakers, including Norma Stumbo, author of many textbooks and an influential leader in the Therapeutic Recreation field. This course always has provided Wednesday night "Gym Rec" experiences for those in the area with Developmental Disabilities. It is a great Service Learning opportunity and the students involved this fall are really wonderful and are already displaying many skills needed for future leadership.

In the field of Therapeutic Recreation there are changes in certification that our program is preparing for, as well as talk in the state to move towards licensure

*(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](mailto:kjbaker@eiu.edu)
- **Lefty Bryden**-Charleston, IL [unmebryden@hotmail.com](mailto:unmebryden@hotmail.com)
- **Corky Emberson**- Urbana Park District, Urbana, IL—[cremberson@urbanaparks.org](mailto:cremberson@urbanaparks.org)
- **Jamie Gower**-(Past Chair)-Decatur Park District, Decatur, IL – [jamiég@decparcs.com](mailto:jamiég@decparcs.com)
- **Ryan Jastrzab** - Itasca Park District, Itasca, IL <[Ryan@itascaparkdistrict.com](mailto:Ryan@itascaparkdistrict.com)>
- **Kelly LaMoore**- (Chair) Bourbonnais Twp. Prk District, Bourbonnais, IL <[KellyL@btpd.org](mailto:KellyL@btpd.org)>
- **Glenn Lyons**-Charleston, IL –Fox Ridge State Park, Charleston, IL <[glenn\\_lyons@illinois.gov](mailto:glenn_lyons@illinois.gov)>
- **Ron Oestreich**-Bolingbrook Park District, Bolingbrook, IL [roestreich@bolingbrookparks.org](mailto:roestreich@bolingbrookparks.org)
- **Todd Ranum**- Palatine Park District, Palatine, IL [tranum@palatineparks.org](mailto:tranum@palatineparks.org)
- **Diane Ratliff**- Charleston Recreation Department, Charleston, IL - [tourismdirector@co.coles.il.us](mailto:tourismdirector@co.coles.il.us)
- **John Schmeink**- St. Louis VAMC, St. Louis, MO—[John.Schmeink@Va.Gov](mailto:John.Schmeink@Va.Gov)
- **Mike Sterba**- Coloma TWSHP Park District, Rock Falls, IL [ctpd4fun@essex1.com](mailto:ctpd4fun@essex1.com)
- **Norma Stumbo**- Retired ISU, Normal, IL
- **Deborah Tiger**-Cunningham Children's Home, Urbana, IL [dtiger@cunninghamhome.org](mailto:dtiger@cunninghamhome.org)

*Please consider serving on this vital Council!*



## Faculty News (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

for TR specialists. We will see what eventually happens with licensure and will keep you informed. The processes of agency and university program accreditation and individual certification are very important. Our department intends to be offering the most up-to-date education possible so that our students complete their studies with highly marketable understandings and skills, and are able to become certified in whatever career path they have chosen. Students are first at EIU!



### Michael Mulvaney

Greetings from Charleston! I hope all is well with each of you. This fall I am teaching Research &

Evaluation in Leisure Studies, World Leisure, Senior Seminar, and the Pre-Internship course. Some of the projects students are working on in these classes include: conducting a recreation site needs study for the Charleston Parks & Recreation Department, assisting Dr. Pommier's classes with participant evaluations of the Annual Homecoming Race, and developing leisure resource profiles for countries

throughout the world.

In addition to teaching, I authored a white paper for NRPA titled, "Economic issues affecting parks & recreation" and worked with Kelly LaMore and Hollice Clark (Bourbonnais Twp. Park District) to write an article for the *Illinois Park & Recreation* magazine ("A creative approach to comprehensive planning"). I also presented sessions during the 2010 NRPA Congress (Minneapolis, MN) and the 2010 IPRA/IAPD Annual Conference (Chicago, IL). More recently, a colleague (Ryan Gower, University of Illinois)

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## Spring 2010 Awards Banquet

- **Chair Award** – Mike Dial
- **Faculty Award** – Nick Bellamy, Alysha Walters, Lauren Clock, James Connolly, Mindy Miller, Mindy Allen, Carrie Wojewicki, Ryan O'Rourke, and Martha Rauch
- **Ewen "Lefty" Bryden Alumni Scholarship** – Anthony Pritchard and Kristen Bertucci
- **Gretchen Sue Denton Memorial Scholarship** – Brittany Prysock and Katie Klimek
- **William G. Riordan Scholarship** – Hannah Morgenroth and Sara Fosbender
- **Dorothe L. Johnson Memorial Scholarship** – Brittany Prysock
- **William A. Smith Scholarship** – Katie Klimek

## Recreation Administration GRADUATES

### GRADUATES FALL 2009

Gosa, Jonathon  
Manning, Bryan  
Sorg, Nolan  
Stewart, Kyle

### SPRING 2010

Andersen, Mark  
Boeger, Kasey  
Connelly, James  
Dial, Mike  
Nozinor, Alicus  
Reed, (BoB) Robert  
Woods, Lindsay

### SUMMER 2010

Bernhardy, Alexandra  
Brutti, Jessica TR  
Clock, Lauren TR  
Fosbender, Sara  
Gensler, Amber  
Goble, Andy  
Miller, Mindy  
Smith, Kyle  
Spear, Lance  
Sterricker, Hannah  
Wojewocki, Carrie

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>

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  
7th Street Underground (MLK Union Lower Level)*

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 15, 2011**  
\_\_\_\_\_ 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 13 , 2011 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 15, 2011,  
5:30 p.m.  
**7th Street Underground**  
(MLK Union Lower Level)

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## *Alumni Information Sheet*

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

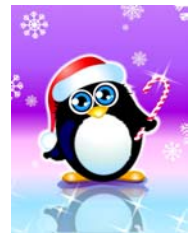
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Graduating Class (year / semester) \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Family News \_\_\_\_\_  
Employment \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Employment News \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 2010 Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Fair

The third 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 Stovetop grill located at Lincoln Springs Resort. The event was by all accounts a success and many positive comments were received regarding the quality of the displays. Works displayed included:

- *A Community-Wide Recreation Needs Assessment: Village of Forsyth* Jim Huetson; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mike Mulvaney
- *Cost-Volume-Profit-Analysis: Lake View Farms-Ladies Night* Mindy Allen; Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Henry Pommier
- *Eat Me Healthy Eating Game* Amber Varecha, Ryan O'Rouke; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mike Mulvaney, Dr. Peggy Holmes-Layman
- *Dreamhunt 2010* Aly Walker; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mike Mulvaney
- *The Chronicles of a Commuting Transfer Student* Mindy Allen; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mike Mulvaney
- *Orland Park Trivia Game* Katie Klimek; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Peggy Holmes-Layman
- *Survivorland Game* Brittany Prysock; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Peggy Holmes-Layman
- *Choice or Dilemma Game* Allison Salo, Hannah Morgenroth; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Peggy Holmes-Layman
- *Get Fit Card Game* Aly Walter, Kyra Hampton; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Peggy Holmes-Layman
- *Charleston Leisure Resources Game* Amber Gensler; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Peggy Holmes-Layman
- *Explornatura-Costa Rica* Adam Kessler; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bill Higelmire
- *Iwireless Center* Andy Sigwalt; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bill Higelmire



## 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 31, 2010 these are the names of individuals that contributed to the drive.

- |                               |                         |                           |                       |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Dennis H. Alldridge         | • Rita K. Fletcher      | • Matthew S. Long         | • Julie A. Schnell    |
| • Charles T. Balling          | • Susan B. Friend       | • Glenn Lyons             | • Theresa M. Shields  |
| • Gary F. Balling             | • Ronald N. Gbur        | • James P. McDonnell      | • Kelly J. Lamore     |
| • Bernie Young and Associates | • Kathleen M. Gilmartin | • Dorothy A. McLaughlin   | • Keri J. Stepp       |
| • Robert E. Bland             | • Paula K. Greider      | • Robert M. O'Shaughnessy | • Toby J. Smith       |
| • Karen V. Bollman            | • Robert E. Hale        | • Karen R. Parks          | • Michael P. Sterba   |
| • Ewen L. Bryden              | • Vicki A. Hampton      | • Scott Pilkerton         | • Jane M. Underys     |
| • Christine Cothern           | • William F. Higelmire  | • Douglas M. Raffel       | • William C. Voorhees |
| • Sherry L. Egan              | • Patrick L. Hussey     | • Michael A. Rylko        | • Katie L. Weisbacher |
| • Elaine M. Finley            | • Myrna Ingalls         | • Katie Salo              | • Lori R. Willson     |
| • Patrick K. Fitzgerald       | • Dr Annie Lee Jones    |                           | • Kevin A. Yates      |
|                               | • Karen A. Kiester      |                           |                       |

## Faculty News (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

and I are in the final stages of co-authoring a textbook for Sagamore Publishing designed for pre-internship students, titled “Navigating the Internship Experience”. Finally, John Pommier and I have been selected to serve as co-editors of *Schole: A Journal of Leisure Studies and Recreation Education*.

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!



**Ben  
Byungook  
Kim**

Hello!  
Things are moving fast here

for my third year with Department of Recreation Administration. In this fall I am teaching Planning & Design of Leisure Facilities, Travel & Tourism, and Festivals & Special Events. In addition to teaching, I also presented a Leisure Research Sym-

posium session at the 2010 NRPA conference.

One of the most important things that happened this year is that my daughter, Chloe Yoon Kim. She is adorable and very cute. Interestingly, is that she walks so fast everyday and I can't help it but look at her all the time –that's my baby!

I continue to work on my courses as well as my research and service lines. Hope you have a happy season.

## Annette's Perspective



Season's 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. This year has brought me many ups and quite a life changing down, and with all of those came many reasons to be thankful. First, let me start by saying that this past year was one of the most challenging years of my life. On February 11, when I tried to get up in the morning I found myself to be paralyzed from the waist down, I was rushed to Barnes in St. Louis and was told the problem was due to a ruptured disc that was cutting into my upper spine (thorax area). Before going into surgery my family and I were told there was a good chance I would never walk again because I had irreversible spine damage. After a long road of recovery with 3 months of physical therapy, I am walking mostly unassisted but sometimes I do have to use a cane. I am very thankful to just be walking and for all the prayers that were offered for me. I was gone from EIU from the first of February to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. Along with that “down” in my life, came many “ups” this year.

Two of my grandsons have both proposed to their girlfriends, so we will be celebrating the addition of their wives into our family. They plan on getting married in October 2011 and January 2012, so their mom, Julie,

will have her hands full for sure! One more “up” to mention; my granddaughter, Heather, is expecting her second child next April, which means I will a great grandma for the second time-- this time it will be a great grandson. My lesson learned this year is that life is full of ups and downs, and I can make it through the best and worst of times and am very thankful for it!

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. I enjoy getting to know each 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](mailto:ardiehl@eiu.edu), give me a call at 217- 581-3018 or contact me on FB – just send me a message or I'll be glad to be your friend. Please keep me updated-if you do not send me the latest up-date about yourself and family I can't keep the other alumni informed about you in the news letter—and I believe everyone likes to hear about each other. ~Annette~



The Department of Recreation Administration would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you the best for the holidays and new year!



# Alumni News

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



What the alums are doing!!! Please let me know what you

are doing—always need new names to add to the alum info list—send to me either by way of Face Book ( Annette Cutright-Diehl) or email—ardiehl@eiu.edu.

**Culkin, Dodie** – SP'78 –

[dodie.culkin@hmhbup.com](mailto:dodie.culkin@hmhbup.com) – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt -- 1-888-328-8199 x6474 (w)

**Gbur, Ron** – FA'78-- [rgbur@patlatineparks.org](mailto:rgbur@patlatineparks.org) – Executor Director for the Palatine Park District – Palatine, IL

**Nelson, Jeffrey** -- FA'86 – Group Therapist in Chicago, IL at the St. Joseph Hospital – 1-773-665-3063 (w)

**Becker (Dietzen), Teri** – FA 90 –

[tebccslp@comcast.net](mailto:tebccslp@comcast.net) – Living in Champaign, IL with husband John (20 years) (EIU alum) and has three daughters (Tori (18), (Miranda (15½), (Linna (8½). Retired from Army National Guard after 22 years and one year deployment to Kuwait/Iraq. Employed at the U of I Dept. of Speech and Hearing Science as a Clinical Instructor/Speech Language Pathologist in Champaign, IL. Phone: (h) 217-552-4120 and (w) 217-333-2205.

**Zaritsky Honn), Kara** – SP'91 –

[karahz@comcast.net](mailto:karahz@comcast.net) – Lives in Denver, CO with her spouse and daughter. She is currently the General Manager of Peak Athletics, prior to this she was the Director of Spa & Fitness Operations for the Cherry Creek Country Club. In her spare time she enjoys snowboarding, hiking, and spending time with her family.

**Hunt, Jeff** – SP'92 – Living in Chandler, AZ when he is not spending time in Cholla Bay (Puerto Penasco) in Sonora, Mexico on the sea of Cortez where his second home is located. He is the designated broker/owner of a real estate firm called Rider's Realty ([www.jeffhunt.com](http://www.jeffhunt.com)) located in Chandler, AZ. Jeff can also be found on FB...and he would be more than happy to help you locate properties to own.

**Tim & Renee (Smith) DeCamp** – SU'91 – They live in Plano, IL with their two children. Tim is a deputy with Kendall County Sheriffs Office and Renee works with special needs population.

**Tammen (McNabb), Tammy** – SP'93 – [tammytammen@att.net](mailto:tammytammen@att.net) – Living in Nashville, TN with husband Brad and their 3 children (Addi (14), (Camden (12), (Layla 7). Stay at home mom and loving it. Her husband is the General Manager of the Nashville Sounds AAA Baseball Club of the Milwaukee Brewers. Been there a year and they love the “southern life”.

**Greene, Shelby** – SP'93 – [cosmogirlieus@yahoo.com](mailto:cosmogirlieus@yahoo.com) – Still happily single and living the fantastic southern California life! Lives in Vista, CA. Employed by Concepts Worldwide (international meeting management company) in Carlsbad, CA as the Manager of Purchasing & Key Accounts with responsibilities of handling 3 key accounts, prepare and negotiate all client proposals, agreements, budgets and hotel contracts throughout the year. Phone—(h) 760-560-6525 and (w) 760-448-8532.

**Royer, Rick** – SU'93 – [rconsultinginc@yahoo.com](mailto:rconsultinginc@yahoo.com) – Lives in Volo, IL (far north burb of Chicago) with his wife Cyndy of nine years and two sons Caleb (7) and Tysen (5) and their dog of nine years, a Boxer named Bosley. Started racing triathlons 2 years ago and completed his seventh one at the end of this race season, completing two top three finishes in his age group. He will be competing in two 70.3 (½ Ironmans) in 2011 with his goal of completing his first full Ironman in 2012 (140.6). He and his wife will be competing in April of 2011 in St. Louis, MO as she is also a runner. They spend most of their time training, racing and keeping up with the boys who enjoy bikes riding, soccer, baseball, books and swimming. Rick remembers Mr. Smith's class (after 17 years) that would meet by the pond and have to prepare a meal with nothing but a camp fire. He especially remembers the fire cooked oranges, which were delicious and wishes he could remember how to fix them!!

**Frank, Stacie** – SU'93 – [stayC\\_frank@hotmail.com](mailto:stayC_frank@hotmail.com)

**Purcell, Pat** – FA'94 – [pepurcell@hotmail.com](mailto:pepurcell@hotmail.com) – Living in Shelbyville, IL with husband Charles. They have a son in Champaign, IL and daughter in Charleston, IL and 18 g'children and 2 g'g'children. Pat's husband runs a coffee shop and resale shop in Windsor, IL. while Pat is recreating, helping children and selling some Mary Kay products.

**Hughes, Bryan** – FA'94 – [bryanchughes@cox.net](mailto:bryanchughes@cox.net) -- Bryan lives in Scottsdale, AZ with fiancé Patty and their 4 dogs and 2 cats. They love to travel and explore the SW (road trips)—two great places to visit are Lake Tahoe and Yosemite National Park. Bryan has worked for the Town of Fountain Hills (AZ) Community Services since 1995. He is Supervisor of Recreation. (1-480-816-5135)

([Bhughes@fh.az.gov](mailto:Bhughes@fh.az.gov))

**Kobler, Bill** -- Phone – 1-618—830-2911. Lives in Troy, IL with wife Emily and two little girls. Emily teaches 7<sup>th</sup> grade math in the Edwardsville school district. Bill has worked for Southern Wine and Spirits of Illinois for the past six years as District Manager. He over sees the day to day operations in the Northern part of the St. Louis's Metro East in Illinois.

**Chiappetta, Matt** – SU'95 – Living in Olathe, KS with wife Jessica (Niles) and their two children -- Madi (9) and Nick (7). Matt is Managing Partner at Rawhide Harley Davidson in Olathe, KS.

**Parks, Karen** – SP'97 – Karen moved to Orlando, FL right after graduation working in the Special Events area of recreation--working at places such as Hard Rock Live, Convention Planning Service and Unique Option—later going into Convention Exhibit Design where she worked for Freeman (largest Convention Decorating Company in the US). Recently she decided to change her career path and has become a certified Firefighter/EMT. Karen and her husband of 2 months (married in Oct.) live in Windermere, FL. They had a wonderful honeymoon in Italy. Phone—1-407-217-2653.



*Alumni News cont.*

**Hromek, Corey** – SU'97 – Lives in Joliet, IL with wife (Carrie) and their 7 year old daughter and a new son, born on Aug. 10, 2010. Works at the Wesmere Country Club as the Clubhouse Director (6 yrs.). Supervises staff, coordinates recreation programs, supervises the facilities plus more. Corey is also on the Board of Directors of the Spanish Community Center of Joliet where he is the Committee Chair for Special Events.

**Gower, Jamie** – FA'97-- [jamiieg@decparcs.com](mailto:jamiieg@decparcs.com) – Manager DISC for the Decatur Park District in Decatur, IL. (w) 217-429-3472.

**Grill (Flanigan), Maggie** – SU'99 – Maggie and her husband and daughter Nora live in LaGrange, IL plus their dog Mr. Cairo. She has been working at a foodservice supplies distributor outside of Chicago, IL for 11½ years.

**Schmeink, John** – SU'99 – [John.Schmeink@VA.Gov](mailto:John.Schmeink@VA.Gov) – Working in St. Louis for the St. Louis VAMC as a Recreation Therapist. Phone: (w) 314-652-4100 x66341.

**Jastrzab, Ryan** – SU'99 – [ryan-jastrzab@lemontparkdistrict.org](mailto:ryan-jastrzab@lemontparkdistrict.org) – Deputy Director for the Lemont Park District in Lemont, IL. Phone—(w) 630-257-6787 x3003.

**Ratliff (Drury), Diane** – [TourismDirector@co.coles.il.us](mailto:TourismDirector@co.coles.il.us) – Diane has worked for the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department since 2001 as the Recreation Supervisor. Recently she accepted the position as Tourism & Special Events Director for the City of Charleston, Illinois – She is taking 3 road races (Duathlon, 5/10/15k, and the 40 Relay) that she started with her to her new position. Congratulations on the new position. Diane lives in Charleston with her husband Ken and their two children Timothy (8) and Taylor (6).

**Earlywine, Jonathon** -- SP 2000 – [10167@redroof.com](mailto:10167@redroof.com) -- Lives in Plainfield, IL with his wife and two kids. After graduating from EIU Jon worked at Hilton Grand Vacations Club and also with Royal Pacific and Caribe Royale all in Orlando. He is now employed as General Manager of a Red Roof Inn in the Chicago, IL area. (1-630-323-8811)

**Bax, Myra** – FA'01 – [myra\\_box16@hotmail.com](mailto:myra_box16@hotmail.com) – Lives in Cape Girardeau, MO. and is employed with Touch Point Autism Services as the Director for the Southeast Missouri Office in Cape Girardeau. (1-573-339-9300)

**Banach (Rathke), Kelly** – SU'01 – [kpbanach@comcast.net](mailto:kpbanach@comcast.net) -- Living in Monee, IL. with husband Pete and their two dogs and she says life is good. Kelly is employed with the Plainfield Park District in Plainfield, IL as a Recreation Supervisor (CPRP). She is in charge of special

events, day camps and teen trips. (1-708-235-0598 (h); 1-708-275-8119 (c); 1-815-436-8812 (w).

**Steeves, Doug** – SU'02 – [info@syntheticturfofillinois.com](mailto:info@syntheticturfofillinois.com) – Living in Peotone, IL with his wife. Doug has two daughters ( 8 and 9). He has owned an artificial turf company for the last 9 years in Illinois. He may be contacted at Synthetic Turf of Illinois in Peotone, IL. (1-708-258-3610-work) (1-815-685-5733-cell) and (1-708-258-3615-fax)

**Stroud, Erin** – FA'02 – [erin-stroud@msn.com](mailto:erin-stroud@msn.com) – Living in Mill Valley, CA and working as a Special Event Coordinator for the City of Sausalito, CA.

**Carlson, Cara, CTRS** – SP'03 – [GodzGr82me@aol.com](mailto:GodzGr82me@aol.com) – Working with the Department of Veteran Affairs – Charles George VAMC in Asheville, NC. as a Recreation Therapist. Living in Asheville where her backyard feeds into the Blue Ridge Parkway. Black bears visit her on garbage nights and she has plenty of trails to explore with her dog. Cara says “I am doing what I always wanted to do in the city- I always wanted to live!!”

**Worman, Ryan** – SP'03 – [rworman@donnewalddistributing.com](mailto:rworman@donnewalddistributing.com) - Living in Sigel with his wife and son Davin. Ryan is employed with the Donnewald Distributing Company out of Centralia-Godfrey-Centralia. (1-618-532-5621)

**Gray, David** – FA'03— [dgray@peoriaparks.org](mailto:dgray@peoriaparks.org) – Lives in Peoria, IL and works for the Peoria Park District as Coordinator of RiverFront Events at the downtown outdoor concert & festival venue. Worked here since graduating from EIU and since being here he has expanded the live music offerings, incorporated live art features to concerts, helped institute recycling at the festivals and introduced the organization to using social media as a marketing tool, also developed an internship programs for college students. Check out the FB page at

[www.facebook.com/riverfrontevents](http://www.facebook.com/riverfrontevents) .

**Cassin-Khoury, Dianna** -- SP'04 – [dianna.cassinkhoury@gmail.com](mailto:dianna.cassinkhoury@gmail.com) – Lives in Oswego, IL. Working in Schaumburg, IL for the Chicago Rush as Manager for Client Services and Ticket Operations. (1-847-882-9400; [dian-nack@arenarush.com](mailto:dian-nack@arenarush.com))

**Goss, Kristin** – SU'04 – Living in Wheaton, IL and working for an entertainment rental company as an event planner.

**Kasper, Susie** – FA'04 -- Living in Pennsylvania and working for the National Park Service (Lackawaxen, PA) as a Park Ranger on the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River. The job concentrates on Historical Interpretation and Environmental Education. During the peak summer months, she spends much of her time on visitor safety, patrolling the river in a good ole' Shenandoah Canoe. Spring of 2011 Susie plans to return to school to receive her Masters in Park and Resource Management through Slippery Rock University. While attending EIU and as a recreation major she was very active in the “Rec Club”. As President of the Rec. Club she helped plan all the activities such as Progressive Dinners, Camping & Kayaking, Alumni Banquet and the infamous “Rec Crawl”. Susie said “Joining Rec. Club was one of the best decisions I made while attending Eastern as it helped a great deal with my transition into the “professional realm of things”.

**Hacker (Neven) Kristina** -- SU'05 – Married Jason Mathew Hacker on 6/10/10 and lives in Baltimore, MD. Kristina has left her job at SEASPAR to become a partner in her family's beauty supply business and to go to graduate school in Ellicott City, Maryland to become a nurse. She served as a

## Alumni News cont.

member of the Advisory Council for the Rec. Dept. for two years while coordinating and leading children and teen recreational programs for individuals with special needs at SEASPAR. Best wishes Kristina on this exciting new chapter in your life!

**Sweeney, Meredith** – SU'06 – [mercieu@yahoo.com](mailto:mercieu@yahoo.com) – Living in St. Charles, IL. Meredith is working for the state at Elgin Mental Health Center as an Activity Therapist.

**Malone, Keith** – FA'05 – A quote from Keith is "My degree in Recreation Administration has served me well". After graduation Keith worked for the St. Louis Cardinals Triple A baseball team the Memphis Redbirds. He worked as an educational assistant and coached baseball with Memphis City Schools at Humes Middle School in 2006/2007. From there he got into pro sports working with the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies selling ticket packages as an Inside Sale Rep. In May of 2008 he was offered a full-time job in Houston, TX with the WNBA's Houston Comets and was on the staff in Dec. of 2008 when the operations closed. Since then Keith has been with the Enterprise Rent-A-Car as an Account Executive working in sales and with customers in Houston, TX. He may be found on FB.

**Minkwitz, Becca** – SU'07 – [mink\\_223@hotmail.com](mailto:mink_223@hotmail.com) -- Lives in Winnebago, IL. Working for the Freeport Park District in Freeport, IL (work – [rminkwitz@freeportparkdistrict.org](mailto:rminkwitz@freeportparkdistrict.org)).

**Kresek, Katherine** – SU'07 – [kmkresk@yahoo.com](mailto:kmkresk@yahoo.com) – Living in Glen Homer, IL. For the last 3½ years she has been working for the Bourbonnais Township Park District, Bourbonnais, IL. Working at the preschool in the mornings and in the afternoons at the Exploration Station – the PD's children's Museum.

**Hinkle, (Jocho) Josh** – SU'07 – [jocko\\_69@hotmail.com](mailto:jocko_69@hotmail.com) – Living in Flora, IL. He has been farming for the past year but is hoping to find a job in the recreation field. Josh has a little girl named Frankie who is in the second grade.

**Galeno, James** – FA'07 -- [James.Galeno@cabelas.com](mailto:James.Galeno@cabelas.com) – Living in Glenview, IL. Working for Cabelas full time as the Aquarium Manager where he is in charge of keeping two 9,000 gallon aquariums clean. He gets to scuba dive in them 3 times a week which he says is fun. Jim also has another job on nights and weekends traveling around and doing reptile shows at schools, libraries, scout groups, birthday parties and other places. He equally loves both jobs.

**Dickinson, Lewis** – FA'07 – [dickinsonlg@unit5.org](mailto:dickinsonlg@unit5.org) -- Living in Normal, IL where

he is a Special Education Paraprofessional and Job Coach at Normal West High School. Lewis is engaged to Lindsey Beaver who is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher at Kingsley Jr. High—plans to be married on Sept. 10, 2011.

**Alison (Bach), Chelsea** – SP'08 – [cabach22@pga.com](mailto:cabach22@pga.com) – Chelsea is now living in Scottsdale, AZ. She is now currently working at the Paradise Valley Country Club as an Assistant Merchandising Manager and Assistant Golf Professional and is also the Head Girl's Golf Coach for Mesa High School. Earlier Chelsea had worked for Westbrook Village Golf Club where she had taken on the huge fun raising task for the Special Olympics of Arizona, raising over \$5,000 for their foundation, while she played 100 consecutive holes of golf. It was one of the most rewarding experience that she has participated in!

**Norman, Zach** -- SU'08 – [www.lakewilliamson.org](http://www.lakewilliamson.org) – Living in Carlinville, IL. Working at Lake Williamson & Midwest Christian Retreats. He has been going to S. America on medical mission trips every couple months going into really remote villages and holding medical clinics and education seminars. Zach says "If you are looking for adventure – head to Bolivia and the rock climbing is great".

**Lake (Pond), Lydia** – SP'09 and MS from EIU in Sports Management in 2010-- – [ldpond@noctrl.eiu.edu](mailto:ldpond@noctrl.eiu.edu) – Living in Plainfield, IL. Employed by North Central College in Naperville, IL as the Coordinator of Recreation, Assistant Athletic Facilities and Events Manager. In her free time she enjoys being an amateur photographer, playing guitar, hanging out with friends and family, and missing "Eastern".

**Doughty, Darin** – SP'09 and MS-- SU'10 – [ddoughty@mattoonymca.org](mailto:ddoughty@mattoonymca.org) – Charleston, IL. Darin is employed by the Mattoon Area Family YMCA in Mattoon, IL as the Facility and Projects Director. In addition to his normal responsibilities his main project is an addition/remodel of the

Y to just over 63,000 square feet.

**Fair, Shannon (CTRS)** – SU'09 – [sfair@ash.dmh.ca.gov](mailto:sfair@ash.dmh.ca.gov) – Shannon is living in Atascadero, CA which is about 20 minutes from the ocean. She is employed as a Recreation Therapist/Rehabilitation Therapist at Atascadero State Hospital which is an all-male, maximum security, forensic facility serving the entire state of CA. Residents are male and pose a threat to others or themselves. The majority are remanded for treatment by the superior courts of the counties of CA. and the majority being admitted from state prisons, county jails or from other state hospitals. The unit which she is working in houses mentally disordered offenders and she has a 40 person caseload. Shannon is responsible for updating the treatment plans, writing objectives for their treatment groups, and deciding what treatment groups will work best for them. She also helps individuals get a job at the hospital and go to school. Treatment groups that she is currently running could be Physical Wellness through Soccer, Stress Management, Inspiring Hope, Arts, and Crafts, and Social Skills. Treatment groups are provided to individuals throughout the hospital. Shannon is also responsible for writing progress notes on each individual who attends her groups.

**Woods, Lindsay** – SP'10 – [lmwoods2@eiu.edu](mailto:lmwoods2@eiu.edu) -- She is living in Hendersonville, TN with boyfriend Andrew. She has just returned from San Marcos, TX where she was working for Hospice and is currently in the waiting process of interviewing with Vanderbilt in Nashville, TN.



## Annual EIURAAA & Student Fall Forum

Over the past couple of years the Eastern Illinois University Recreation Administration Alumni Association (EIURAAA) has been sponsoring a Student Symposium on the Friday of Homecoming. EIURAAA has been running under the leadership of several individuals to make this Alumni Association a success. We are here to help raise scholarships, support trips to conferences, and to give back and teach the Recreation Administration students practical and useful information, which will help them become leaders in their profession.

It's easy to become a member and get involved - we encourage all Alumni to do so! Our Membership rate per year is \$25 - which goes to support the current Recreation Administration students. If you're interested in becoming a member please contact C.J. Applegate at 217-345-6897. He would be happy to assist you in renewing your membership or becoming a member. If you're interested in becoming involved on the EIURAAA committee or interested in more information, please contact Ryan Jastrzab, Deputy Director, Lemont Park District at 630-257-6787 X 3003 or [ryan-jastrzab@lemontparkdistrict.org](mailto:ryan-jastrzab@lemontparkdistrict.org)

Coming soon: EIURAAA Facebook Page where you will be able to communicate with friends, share ideas, and network with other recreation professionals. This will be a great tool for EIURAAA - so please become a friend.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual EIURAAA Student Forum was held on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The opening session, *Current State of the Recreation Industry and Future Trends*, was given by Mike Selep, Illinois Park and Recreation Association. Mr. Selep also presented session entitled *Therapeutic Recreation. Commercial and Resort Recreation Opportunities*, was given by Kindra Wetters (06), of Wilderness Presidential Resort Recreation, Spotsylvania, VA. Katie Boyle (09) IPRA graduate assistant led a session titled *The Road to a Masters Degree and Personal Insight on Personal Decisions*. Sara Daugherty and Kevin Linker of EIU campus recreation spoke on *The Reality of Campus Recreation. Professionalism Still Matters* was given by Ron Oestreich (91), Bolingbrook Park District. *Cover Letter and Resume Review* was conducted by several of the professionals. Following the forum all attendees were treated to a free lunch at the Panther Paw. **Many thanks go out Chris Clayton (92) owner of the Panther Paw, who donated the lunch to the attendees!** In addition, **a hearty thanks go to the EIURAAA Board of Directors for their fine work on this annual event!** (Ryan Jastrzab, President, Kelly LaMore, Past President, Jamie Davis, Secretary, CJ Applegate, Treasurer, R. Scott Smith, Todd Ranum, Jamie Gower, and Dave Haring).

### ***Rho Phi Lambda***

*Honorary Professional Recreation, Park, and Leisure Services Society*

EIU's chapter received the **2010 National Chapter Incentive Award** for being extremely involved with service and leadership opportunities that directly effect recreation-based opportunities in the Charleston area. For this past year, the students provided (10) weeks (twice/week) of indoor soccer clinics (including Saturdays), assisted with the 11th Annual Homecoming Race, helped landscape for a Charleston Recreation Foundation fundraising project, and contributed \$250.00 to the Charleston Recreation Foundation's Scholarship Fund—serving local children with an economic disadvantage.

#### **2010—2011 Officers:**

- **Brittany Prysock** (Chair)
- **Dan Hale** (Vice Chair)
- **Kathryn Klimek** (Secretary)
- **Anthony Pritchard** (Sergeant of Arms)
- **Anne Schnura** (Treasurer)



### ***Rho Phi Lambda***

#### **Fall, 2010 Inductees:**

- Alysha Walter
- Tony Eells
- Kyra Hampton
- Anthony Pritchard
- Allison Salo
- Tyler Wirth
- Josh Wetzell
- Layn Newman
- Colleen Sheridan

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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 2012 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.

### **2011 Distinguished Alum Award: Ron Gbur (class of 1978)**

This year the speaker for the Department of Recreation Administration Annual Awards Banquet will be Ron Gbur who has served as the Palatine Park District Executive Director since 2002. He is responsible for the operation of an 83,000 resident park district with 74 full time employees, over 1,000 seasonal employees, 42 parks, and an operating budget of \$19 million.

Ron began his professional career in 1979 with the South Holland Parks and Recreation Department where he served as Assistant Superintendent of Recreation. He also held a position with St. Charles Park District where he managed the Norris Recreation Center. His distinguished career with the Palatine Park District began in 1981 when he assumed the position of Facilities/Sports and Aquatics Coordinator. His next position was Golf Course Manger, followed by Superintendent of Revenue Facilities, then Superintendent of Recreation for 10 years and in 2001 he was named Deputy Director, where he managed the recreation department while developing and participating in a transition plan to facilitate the retirement of the Executive Director.

Mr. Gbur received his B.S. in Recreation Administration in 1978. Ron was President of East Hall in 1978 and was the Treasurer of the EIU Recreation Alumni Association for 8 years. In 1980 he received his M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from Chicago State University. He has been actively involved in IPRA serving on the Western Open Committee and Publications Committee as well as serving SPRA by being on the Program Committee, Scholarship Committee and the Swim for Heart Committee. In addition, Ron is an active board member of the Palatine Men's Civic Club, is a board member of the Northwest Special Recreation Association, and is a Palatine Rotary Club member, having served as President in 2001.