

East Central - EIU Reading Council Newsletter



August 2007

FALL MEETING – September 10, 2007 (Monday)

Featuring:

Illinois Teacher of the Year 2006-2007

Joe Fatheree

7:00 p.m. Buzzard Auditorium (EIU)

Joe Fatheree began his teaching profession in 1990 as an English teacher at Effingham High School. In 1994 he became a history teacher and then accepted the position of technology instructor in 2000. Growing-up in an impoverished community in Southern Illinois, Joe found that a teacher helped him understand that education was a source of self-improvement. Because of this teacher, he was inspired to believe in people and to help other people achieve a sense of self worth. This belief has become Joe Fatheree's personal mantra and one that he instills in his students.

Three years ago Joe started a program that exemplifies his passion for helping students become successful learners and citizens. The "No Barriers Project-creating opportunity through education" was designed to help students understand how extreme poverty impacts student success. During the program's first year, students collected over 2500 coats for homeless children living in the St. Louis Area. In the second year, the students collected over 4000 books and partnered with KCET, a PBS station in St. Louis, to find a literacy expert to take the books into homes of disenfranchised children to help them improve their reading skills.

Mr. Fatheree also formed a partnership with a school in East St. Louis. Now in its third year, students from both schools are working cooperatively to develop media projects. Students participating in this program are learning much both academically and socially by gaining insight into other cultures and breaking down the barriers of miscommunication and misunderstanding.

Joe Fatheree holds a history degree from Eastern Illinois University and a master's degree in Educational Administration.

Source: <http://www.isbe.net/news/2006/oct8.htm>

STATE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR CALL FOR CHANGES IN NCLB

On Friday, April 27th, the 2006-2007 State Teachers of the Year held a press conference in Washington, D.C. to outline ten recommendations for the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Be certain to read the article that appeared in the June/July issue of Reading Today where twelve of the State Teachers of the Year, including Joe Fatheree, discussed ways NCLB could be changed to better meet the present needs of students, parents, teachers, and schools.

Source: Reading Today, Vol. 24, No. 6, June/July 2007.

2008 Monarch Award Nominee: Boxes for Katje

The Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA) established the Monarch Award: Illinois' K-3 Children's Choice Award in 2003. The program was designed to encourage children in grades K-3 in Illinois to read and become familiar with children's books, authors and illustrators.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear Candace Fleming who will be the featured speaker at the November 12th EC-EIU Reading Council meeting. She is the author of the 2008 Monarch Award Nominee: Boxes for Katje. Katje's family is struggling to survive in a small Dutch town at the end of World War II when a package arrives from a stranger across the ocean in America!

Source: <http://www.islma.org/monarch.htm>

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EAST CENTRAL – EIU READING COUNCIL CALENDAR (2007 – 2008)

COUNCIL MEETING

September 10, 2007 - Monday 7:00 p.m.
Buzzard Auditorium (EIU)
2006-2007 Illinois Teacher of the Year
Joe Fatheree
Effingham High School, Effingham, IL

ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL CONFERENCE

March 13-15, 2008 (Springfield, IL)
“Literacy: Unleash the Power”
<http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/conference.html>

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #11

FALL CLASSIC INSTITUTE

October 5, 2007 – Friday
http://www.roe11.k12.il.us/institute/inst_roe.htm

COUNCIL MEETING

April 9, 2008 – Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Charleston/Mattoon Room
Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union (EIU)
“Picture Storybooks: A Hidden Treasure”
Gail Huizinga & Sue Johnson
Homewood, IL

COUNCIL MEETING

November 12, 2007 – Monday 7:00 p.m.
Buzzard Auditorium (EIU)
Candace Fleming
Author of the 2008 Monarch Award Nominee:
[Boxes for Katje](#)

SPRING LITERACY EVENT

April 19, 2008 – Saturday
“Leaders As Readers”
Cross County Mall (Mattoon, IL)

COUNCIL MEETING

February 6, 2008 – Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Charleston/Mattoon Room
Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union (EIU)
“Life (and books) after Harry Potter”
Judy Looby, Director of Youth Services
Charleston Carnegie Public Library

INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION

May 4-8, 2008 (Atlanta, GA)
“Engaging Learners in Literacy”
www.reading.org

East Central-EIU Reading Council

Linda Reven
2 Fairfield Lane
Charleston, IL 61920



Bring a friend to a Council Meeting!

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS REPORT

Richard Long, Director of Government Relations for IRA, provides monthly reports via a listserv to IRA members who enroll. The following is summarized from his report of June 29, 2007.

Head Start Reauthorization – This passed the House and Senate with additional funds to support enhanced early language and pre-literacy development of children and more teacher training. Children qualify if their parents earn up to 130% of the poverty level. It now goes to the Appropriation Committee for funding adjustments!

Reading First – There have been cuts to funding due to ethical issues from past management. In contrast, significant increases are proposed for Title I, programs for teachers, ELL programs and others.

NCLB - According to Richard Long, "Reading and literacy programs are also in the mix of the discussions. Both House and Senate education committees are interested in middle and high school literacy. IRA has been pushing the Striving Readers legislation but others are suggesting that a more comprehensive program of high school reform would be more productive."

If you want more information on these items, please contact Lucia Schroeder, Governmental Relations Representative, at laschroeder@eiu.edu.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Nancy Stewart was the recipient of the East Central – EIU Reading Council Scholarship last spring. She was recognized at the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education Awards and Recognition Ceremony that was held on April 20, 2007 in Buzzard Auditorium. Nancy is an elementary education major at Eastern Illinois University and resides in Ogden, IL.

Websites

EC-EIU STUDENT READING COUNCIL: <http://www.eiu.edu/~reading>
ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL: <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org>
INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION: <http://www.reading.org>

