

# East Central—EIU Reading Council Newsletter

August 2009

Dawn Paulson, President  
April Flood, President Elect/Programs

## President's Corner



It is an honor to serve as your 2009- 2010 president, and if you have any questions or ideas about how the council can better serve our members please feel free to contact me.

To jumpstart this year, four council officers and I attended the IRC Leadership Retreat. While we were there, we organized a variety of literacy functions for the upcoming year. We hope you will be able to take advantage of the wealth of information that will be shared at each of the functions listed in this newsletter. A brochure with a schedule of events will be sent to each school and will be available at each of our meetings.

You are in for a treat! On Tuesday, September 8, Linda Smerge the 2008-2009 Illinois Teacher of the Year will be on EIU's campus. Do not miss out on hearing about her transition from law to the elementary classroom! On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the EC-EIU Reading Council will have a table

set up with free literacy materials at the ROE Fall Classic at Charleston High School. We hope you will stop by and say Hi! Then on Oct 19<sup>th</sup> Tracey Tarasiuk will speak to us about incorporating technology in the upper elementary to high school level.

Please mark your calendar for the Illinois Reading Conference "Lighting the Way to Literacy" held in Springfield, Illinois, March 18-20, 2010. Our own Susan Cisna is the Conference Chair. Here is just a preview of some of the featured authors: Jan Brett, Will Hobbs, Eric Kimmel, Andrew Clements, Judith Byron Schachner (Skippyjon Jones), and Nick Bruel. Be sure to check out the IRC website for more details!

Good luck as you begin this new school year as a teacher and/or student. We hope to see you at one of our many functions!

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## Teacher of the Year

Linda Smerge was selected by the Illinois State Board of Education as the 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year.

She was a successful corporate attorney in Chicago and now teaches at Woodrow Wilson Elementary in Cicero, IL.

She will be speaking on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Buzzard Auditorium. There is no fee for this event, and CPDU's are available.





## Leadership Retreat

The Illinois Reading Council (IRC) hosted the annual Leadership Retreat at Grand Bear Lodge in Utica, Illinois. Executive Board members attending the comprehensive leadership training for the East Central-EIU Illinois Reading Council were (left to right) Dawn Paulson, April Flood, Joy Russell, and Denise Reid. Missing from photo Susan Cisna.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### Fall Council Meeting

Monday  
October 19

Speaker: Tracey  
Tarasiuk

“Increasing  
Reading  
Performance  
Through  
Technology”

CPDU's Available

### Dine with the Author

Who: Elementary Students K-5  
What: Write a story for Eric Kimmel  
When: March 22, 2010  
Where: EIU

Plan on attending and bringing students from your class

- ❖ All students stories judged will be on display at the meeting.
- ❖ The student whose story is chosen will be invited to dine with the author along with the student's parents/guardian.
- ❖ The student's teacher will receive a \$50.00 gift card from a local teacher store.



To learn more about Eric Kimmel and his books, visit [www.ericakimmel.com](http://www.ericakimmel.com).

### December Sticker Decal

For Students in Grades 4, 5, and 6

First place is an autographed book and a place of honor at the conference luncheon on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Illinois Reading Council Conference in Springfield, IL and 30 decals of the winning design. This could make a great Art project!

For more information, visit the IRC website.

### IRC Conference in Springfield, IL

March 18-20

“IRC: Lighting the Way to Literacy

For more information go to [illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

## Thinkin' and Inkin' About Lincoln: A Book Created for Illinois Students, By Illinois Students

The purpose of this project is to connect teachers and students from across Illinois through the creation of a book about one of our most famous leaders, Abraham Lincoln. Sharing in this literacy activity will have an impact on each individual class by creating an opportunity for

students to research, write, and draw/gather images about Lincoln.

For more information about this project visit the Illinois Reading Council website at [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org).



## Council Meeting Calendar 2009-2010

### Fall Council Meeting

September 8, 2009 – Tuesday  
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Buzzard Auditorium(EIU)  
2008-2009 Illinois Teacher of the Year  
Linda Smerge  
Woodrow Wilson Elementary School  
Cicero

### Regional Office of Education #11

**Fall Classic Institute**  
October 9, 2009– Friday  
<http://www.roe11.k12.il.us/>

### Fall Council Meeting

October 19, 2009 – Monday  
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. – 1501 Buzzard (EIU)  
“Increasing Reading Performance Through  
Technology”  
Tracey Tarasiuk

### Winter Council Meeting

January 28, 2010 – Thursday  
5:30-6:30p.m. Buzzard rm 2442 (EIU)  
“Classroom Strategies for ELL Students”  
Randy Kalal  
Mattoon School District

### Illinois Reading Council Conference

March 18-20, 2010 (Springfield, IL)  
“IRC: Lighting the Way to Literacy”

### Spring Council Meeting

March 22, 2010 – Monday  
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. – 1501 Buzzard (EIU)  
Eric Kimmel, Author  
Recipient of the Caldecott Honor Medal and  
Sydney Taylor Picture Book Award

### Spring Council Meeting

April 12, 2010 – Monday  
6:30-7:30p.m. Buzzard Auditorium (EIU)  
Anieta Trame  
‘Great Books! 40 Books in 40 Minutes!’  
Mattoon Middle School Librarian

### Spring Literacy Event

April 17, 2010 – Saturday  
“Leaders As Readers”  
Cross County Mall (Mattoon, IL)

### International Reading Association 55th Annual Convention

Chicago, Illinois; April 25-28, 2010  
[www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)

## We're on the Web!

EC-EIU Student Reading Council  
<http://www.eiu.edu/~reading>

Illinois Reading Council  
<http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org>

International Reading Association  
<http://www.reading.org>

## 2009-2010 East Central—EIU Reading Council Officers

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