

CHARITY EVENT

## Relay For Life strengthens hope

By Jennifer Brown  
Staff Reporter

Six years ago, the word cancer took on a new meaning for Kathleen O'Rourke, a professor of family and consumer sciences.

O'Rourke said she has participated in seven Relay For Life events and she plans on delivering an encouraging message this weekend to keep fighting against cancer.

"It was the beginning of a new chapter in my life," O'Rourke said. "Despite the major challenges of facing cancer, I gained a deeper appreciation for my life and my family and my friends, who were with me every step of the way."

Eastern is hosting Relay For Life from 6 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Saturday.

Throughout the past seven Relay For Life events, O'Rourke has raised almost \$20,000 for the American Cancer Society.

"Fundraising for Relay For Life allows the American Cancer Society to provide more educational and support programs for those facing cancer," she said.

O'Rourke said she will deliver a message of hope and cancer awareness at Friday's Relay For Life at Eastern.

"The message will include celebrating those who are fighting and winning their battles against cancers," O'Rourke said. "It (will also) include the importance of raising awareness about cancer."

O'Rourke said she became involved in Relay For Life to help give back to her community, cancer survivors and their loved ones.

"Cancer forces you to realize the fragility of our lives and I am very thankful to live a cancer-free life," O'Rourke said. "I had tremendous support network while facing cancer and every individual deserves the same."

O'Rourke said she is inspired by the Eastern students who get involved to help fight against cancer by participating in Relay For Life.

"I am tremendously proud of the students involved in Colleges Against Cancer and those who join Relay For Life teams," O'Rourke said.



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
Dianna Nelson of Laurence, Kan. walks the survivors lap of the Relay For Life event April 18, 2010. Nelson is an 8 year survivor of breast cancer.

**"I am reminded of the courage of cancer survivors and the bond that is shared among cancer survivors."**

Kathleen O'Rourke, a professor of family and consumer sciences and cancer survivor

Amanda Woolard, a sexual health education coordinator, said each year Eastern plans a Relay For Life to get the students on campus involved and raise money for a worthy cause.

"The survivors are the most impactful part of Relay," Woolard said. "It is motivating to raise as much money as possible to make a difference in so many lives."

Woolard and the Health Education Resource Center are coordinating the Relay For Life event that will be on the Panther Trail.

Colleges Against Cancer has been involved in the planning of Relay For Life throughout the year, of which O'Rourke is a faculty adviser.

This year, there are 43 teams, with campus-supported teams from Pemberton and Taylor halls. Other teams consist of registered student organizations and Greek chapters.

Colleen O'Sullivan, the Colleg-

es Against Cancer president, is one of the coordinators for this year's Relay For Life event.

"It's a great way to meet people, hang out with friends and do something different on a Friday night at EIU," O'Sullivan said. "There's fun activities throughout the night, prizes and silent/live auction baskets."

O'Rourke said she is looking forward to the Survivor Lap at the Relay For Life event and the powerful experience it gives cancer survivors.

"I am reminded of the courage of cancer survivors and the bond that is shared among cancer survivors," O'Rourke said. "As we walk the lap, I look at the faces of those cheering for us on the sidelines and I feel a great sense of appreciation for their support."

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DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

## 3 professors receive student-given awards

20 applications sorted, 3 chosen

By Nike Ogunbodede  
Student Government Editor

Three Eastern professors received the Student's Distinguished Professor Award Tuesday after a student selection committee sorted through 20 applications.

Jennifer Prillaman, the student vice president for academic affairs, was in charge of the award's ceremony and the selection process and said she was glad that 28 people were in attendance.

"All of the professors are here, all of the nominators are here and most of student government is here even though they have their debate tonight," Prillaman said.

Vicki Hampton, a business professor, was nominated for the Distinguished Academic Subject Award by Aaron Wiessing, a former student of hers.

Wiessing, a junior management information systems major, said he was an accounting major until he took Hampton's visual basic class.

"She doesn't answer questions in class but rather turns the questions back on you to answer," Wiessing said. "She genuinely cares about her students in an extreme magnitude."

She does not teach her students to memorize but instead wants them to apply the information to everyday life, Wiessing said.

Antonio Woods, a freshman communication studies major, nominated his African American studies professor, Sumalayo Jackson, for the Distinguished Service Award.

Jackson said she was honored to receive such an award.

"I didn't think students cared enough to nominate teachers for awards like this," Jackson said. "I know I didn't think about it when I was in school."

Woods said Jackson inspired him

to declare an African American studies minor.

"During classes she always related her historical lessons with things that many college students face today," Woods said. "Professor Jackson always says that in order to achieve anything you have to achieve it with the vehicle of education."

Jacquelyn Frank, a family consumer and sciences professor, won the Distinguished Academic Support Award for her work with student nominator Isaac Sandidge.

Sandidge nominated Frank for an award last year, but she did not receive an award.

"I'm persistent," Sandidge said. Sandidge received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Eastern and said he has never met a teacher like Frank before.

"Her passion for her own research and her ability to integrate recent developments in the field to her classroom is unrivaled," Sandidge said.

Sandidge, a first year gerontology graduate student, served as Frank's teacher's assistant and had also taken several of Frank's classes.

Frank has been conducting integrative learning research, a concept President Perry speaks of, in the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in Indiana, Sandidge said.

"Within the class, we all conducted a joint service learning project that involved creating a life review for an elder veteran while the prisoners created a quilt honoring their service," Sandidge said.

Students were thrilled, Sandidge said.

"The project was so successful we were invited to give a presentation at the 2010 Annual Governor's Conference on Aging in Chicago," Sandidge said. "I've been exposed to more opportunities than I ever could have imagined."

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