



# BioBriefs

Department of Biological Sciences  
Eastern Illinois University  
Fall 2013



## BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES HOMECOMING EVENT SCHEDULE Saturday, October 19

10:30a.m. - 12:00p.m. Fishing at the Pond  
(Campus Pond Southeast of Stadium) Bring the family (kids included) & enjoy fishing at the pond.

10:30a.m. - 1:30p.m. Alumni Tent City (*Practice Fields South of O'Brien Stadium*)

All colleges will be represented at this annual tailgating event. Be sure to stop by the College of Sciences tent for a complimentary lunch.

1:30p.m. Homecoming Football Game (O'Brien Stadium) Come cheer on EIU as we take on Southeast Missouri State at O'Brien Stadium!

[For a complete list of events for EIU Homecoming 2013](#)



### Visit Our New Website!

[Click Here](#) 

*If you click on the "Why choose EIU" link, you can see short videos highlighting student research / internship activities in BIO*

**Let Us Know What You're Up To!**

[Click Here](#) 

*Create or update your BIO Alumni Profile*

## NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Anabela Maia has joined the BIO faculty this year as an anatomist/physiologist. Her research focuses on functional and ecological morphology, specifically the evolution of locomotion mechanics in fish, employing techniques that enable three dimensional conformation analyses of fins and fluid dynamics. She is a great addition to our faculty.

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## FORMER EIU BIOLOGY FACULTY PASSES AWAY

Bill James, faculty member in the Department of Zoology from 1970 to 1996, passed away on Sunday, June 23, 2013 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama at the age of 83. Many BIO alums were mentored by both Bill and his wife Judy (faculty member in Zoology from 1981-2001). Bill and Judy attended our end-of year BIO potluck in April 2013. Bill provided a strong legacy to EIU. He will be missed.



Click here for the obituary



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## PHI SIGMA HOSTS RESEARCH FAIR

Phi Sigma hosted a Research Fair in Spring 2013 that included short talks by professors in Biological Sciences followed by a hallway poster session. The event served to describe undergraduate research opportunities available in the department as well as provide a chance for students to present their research. Thanks to Phi Sigma for hosting this event.

### 2012-2013 Phi Sigma Leadership



President - Jen O'Brien

Vice President - Joe Wulffe

Secretary - Sarah Schlund

Public Relations - Lindsay Melchiorri

Historian - Paige Bieler

Treasurer - Alexandra Balaskas



## WESLEY WHITESIDE GARDEN CELEBRATES GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

EIU celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Whiteside Garden in September. The event included a reception in the University Ballroom as well as garden tours. President Perry started the ceremony by welcoming all participants. This was followed by introductions of Wes Whiteside, his family, and members of The Whiteside Garden Advisory Board. Several student interns and volunteers that contributed to the transition of the gardens to EIU from Dr. Whiteside were also recognized. Dr. Janice Coons and Mrs. Nancy Coutant have been the driving force behind making The Whiteside Garden a sustainable centerpiece for EIU and the community. The reception was attended by 220 guests, and the garden tour event was attended by 260 guests.

Whiteside began his garden in 1963 which now is home to over 1,000 types of plants. Wes learned his love of gardening from his mother and grandmother at a young age, and now at age 86 continues to spend time every day working in his garden. He has maintained it by himself over the past 50 years.

In 2010 Whiteside reached out to partner with Eastern Illinois University to ensure that the garden will be maintained when he passes away. Dr. Coons and Mrs. Coutant have begun a program to document all the plants in the garden. They supervise interns, coordinate a volunteer program, and raise funds for the garden. Community members may volunteer for the garden. If interested in volunteering, contact [whiteside.volunteer@eiu.edu](mailto:whiteside.volunteer@eiu.edu).