

2011 Outstanding Graduate
Alumni Awards





2011
Eastern Illinois University
Outstanding Graduate Alumni Awards

Seventh Annual Outstanding Graduate Alumni Awards Program
April 15, 2011

Welcome

Greetings from Dr. Robert M. Augustine, Dean, Graduate School
Greetings from Marilyn Holt, Graduate Alumni Advisory Board

Dinner

Awards presented by

Dr. Patricia Poulter, Associate Dean - College of Arts & Humanities
Dr. Jeanne Snyder, Associate Dean - Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences
Dr. Diane Jackman, Dean - College of Education & Professional Studies
Dr. Mary Anne Hanner, Dean - College of Sciences

2010 - 2011 Graduate Alumni Advisory Board

Jerry Boyd, Chair	Sharon Jackson
Stan Adkins	Walter Knollenberg
Dwight Baptist	Linda Komes
Bob Dennison	Steven McArthur
John Dively	Pam Rathjen
Michele Heidel	Jamie Willis
Marilyn Holt	

Christian Carron, '86

Nominated by the graduate program in
historical administration



Christian G. Carron currently works as Director of Education, Interpretation and Research for the Grand Rapids Public Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He holds a B.A. in history, art and museum studies from Luther College, and earned a master's degree in Historical Administration from EIU in 1986. During his career, Carron has worked as a curator, researcher, author, educator and administrator at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, The Kentucky Library and Museum at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans, Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum in Decorah, Iowa, and the Missouri Historical Society and Museum of Transportation in St. Louis. He has curated and directed major exhibitions on the history of furniture manufacturing, American ethnicity and immigration, ancient Egypt, the European Middle Ages, Dead Sea Scrolls, and the American Civil War. Published works include *Grand Rapids Furniture: The Story of America's Furniture City*, *Field Guide to Ethnic Groups in West Michigan*, and the *West Michigan Ethnic Resources Directory*. Nationally, Carron has served as a grants reviewer and panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities and Michigan Humanities Council, an advisor for the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, and an accreditation reviewer for the American Association of Museums. In 2010 he received the American Association of Museum's prestigious Brooking Prize for Creativity in Museums. A strong advocate for EIU's Historical Administration program, he twice served as president of the program's alumni association, and has returned to Charleston periodically as a conference moderator and lecturer. Over the years Carron has employed as staff or interns nearly a dozen EIU Historical Administration graduates or future students. His memories of EIU include dressing in period costume as an interpreter at Lincoln Log Cabin; learning about Federal candlesticks and Chippendale claw feet in various rooms of Dr. Duane Elbert's farmhouse in Lerna, death-defying history of architecture field trips with Dr. Bob Hennings, and his Historical Administration program classmates, who decades later still form the basis of a professional network that stretches throughout the U.S. and Canada.



John McNary, '68, '71, '89

Nominated by the graduate program in
counseling

John McNary's career in education began in 1968 when he worked as a teacher for Paris High School. Since that time he has held positions as a district truant officer, athletic director, principal, and regional superintendent of schools. John began his tenure as Regional Superintendent of Schools in central Illinois serving an eight county region in 1994, and recently retired from that position in 2009. The Regional Office of Education is the intermediate agency between the Illinois State Board of Education and the local school districts in the region; John's region included Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar and Moultrie counties. In addition to his teaching and administrative duties he has served as a member of the Department of Educational Psychology and Guidance and the Educational Administration advisory committees, co-chair of the Truancy Advisory committee for Education Service Center #15, and Chair of the Board of Control of the Eastern Illinois Education Employment System. He holds memberships in the Illinois Association of School Administrators, Phi Delta Kappa, American Association of Educational Service Agencies, the Illinois Principal's Association and is a life member of the National Education Association. He has been awarded the IEA/NEA Region IV "Mike Hindman Special Friend to Education" honor in 1999, the EIU "Dean's Award for Service" from the School of Continuing Education in 1999, and the College of Education and Professional Studies "Lifetime Achievement Award" in 2010. John earned a bachelor's in education in history in 1968, a master's in education in guidance and counseling in 1971, and a specialist's degree in educational administration in 1989, all at EIU. He and his wife Connie reside in Paris, Illinois, they have two children and one grandson.

Susan Morris, Ph.D., '79, '81

Nominated by the graduate program in
English



Susan Morris graduated from EIU in 1979 with a bachelor's in Communications (emphasis on film) followed by a master's in English Literature in 1981. She taught in the English department from 1981 to 1989 before returning to school at Southern Illinois University where she received a Ph.D. in Philosophy. Susan has taught at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan since 1998 in the Humanities department, which allows her to teach many subjects such as Philosophy, Eastern Religions, Film, and Race & Gender Theory. In addition, she has been involved in university service. She was instrumental in creating degree minors in Philosophy, Art History, Film Studies, and Women & Gender Studies and served as the university's General Education Coordinator for three years. For the past ten years she has also worked with the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris, serving for the last two years as the museum's Coordinator. The museum uses its vast collection of racist artifacts from the early 20th century to the present time to educate visitors about the history of racism in the United States and to facilitate learning and discussion of issues related to race, gender, religious diversity, and sexual orientation (web site: www.ferris.edu/jimcrow). Susan also writes poetry and scholarship in film, philosophy, and women's music, and performs regularly in venues around Michigan as a jazz singer. She wishes to express her gratitude to Eastern for being such a great place and especially to her mentors, professors Don Dolton and Ted Quinn and her hero, Doug DiBianco.



Norman Plummer, '71, '72

Nominated by the graduate program in economics

Norm Plummer accepted a position with Protection Mutual Insurance Company immediately upon earning his master's in economics from EIU. Norm rose through the ranks at Protection Mutual to Vice President of Information Technology and under his leadership the company reorganized its policy-processing function, which involved the implementation of work-

in-process tracking, procedure redesign, and training and development. Among his many accomplishments at Protection Mutual, he designed and implemented an online process to manage the company's earthquake portfolio, a portfolio representing an exposure of more than \$1.5 billion while collecting \$25 million in annual premiums. Leaving Protection Mutual in 1999, Norm organized a new software development company, Bigston Information Technologies, owned by the Bigston Corporation in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Working from the start as Bigston's President and Chief Operating Officer, Norm conceived the idea behind the Bigston Production System, a system noted for its flexibility and popularity in customer service, manufacturing, and supply chain applications. An example of Norm's work involved setting up an operation for the assembly of electronic subway signs for Kawasaki Railcar, a company supplying subway cars to New York City Transit. In spite of the rigorous safety requirements involved in subway car operations, BIT's work was certified for production within 60 days. In 2010 he reincorporated BIT into his privately owned company, Haeiwacom, Inc., a firm specializing in providing software and software services for real-time data capture and reporting from business processes. Haeiwacom's (HAY-wa-com) name is derived from the Japanese word for peace.

Steven Sabens, '71, '78, '92

Nominated by the graduate program in
educational leadership



Steve Saben's career in public education will have spanned 40 years upon his retirement at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year, with the past 17 years serving in the position of Superintendent of Carbondale Community High School District #165. A native of Mattoon and graduate of Mattoon High School, Steve earned three degrees at EIU, a bachelor's degree in math, a master's in education in educational administration, and a specialist's degree in educational administration. He has worked as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. Steve has earned numerous honors over the years including being named Outstanding Educator by the SIUC Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, receiving the Jake Goro Award for outstanding service and leadership and the "Break the Mold" award from the Illinois State Board of Education for Visionary Leadership, and he was selected as a Master Teacher under Governor Thompson's Master Teacher Program. During his tenure with the Carbondale Community High School District #165, the Carbondale Community High School has ranked number one in the state in the 18-30% low income category by Tax Foundation, they have been named a Gold Medal/Blue Ribbon School by Expansion Management Magazine, they were state champions in the Class AA IHSA Scholar Bowl, and they received the SchoolSearch "Bright A+" Award for academic excellence. Steve writes, "I have thoroughly enjoyed my service in public education and credit my success to the outstanding preparation I received at EIU and to the talented professionals I had the pleasure of working with. In particular, I want to thank Dr. John Dively for his support as a member of the administrative team at Carbondale Community High School. We both arrived in Carbondale during a period of transition and without Dr. Dively's leadership and support; my career could very well have taken a different direction." Steve and his wife Darla have three sons and four grandchildren, with one grandchild on the way.



Marc Sanner, '74, '75

Nominated by the graduate program in
business administration

Marc Sanner completed a bachelor's in accounting at Eastern Illinois University in 1974 and earned his MBA at EIU in 1975, that same year he became a Certified Public Accountant. Marc started his professional career working as an accountant at Ernst & Young for nearly three years. After leaving Ernst & Young, he accepted a position with DICKEY-john, a high tech company

in the agricultural electronics business, in Auburn, Illinois. In 1987 he joined Archer Daniels Midland holding various positions in tax and accounting from 1987 to 1995. The Archer Daniels Midland Company is a conglomerate headquartered in Decatur, Illinois. ADM operates more than 240 plants and 330 sourcing facilities worldwide. ADM trades, transports, stores and processes corn, oilseeds, wheat and cocoa into products for food, animal feed, chemical and energy uses. ADM also provides agricultural storage and transportation services. ADM was ranked 27th on the 2010 Fortune 500 list of America's largest corporations with revenues of \$69.2 billion and profits of \$1.7 billion for fiscal year 2009. Marc was promoted to a group controller in the accounting area in 1995 and then assistant to the controller in 1998. In 2001, he was promoted to Vice President of Business Development and Strategic Planning and held that position until February 2003 when he was appointed Assistant Controller in the accounting area at ADM. From July 2005 to December 2006, Marc was also selected to serve as Finance Director of Europe. In December 2006, Marc was promoted to Vice President of Mergers and Acquisitions and in October 2007 he was promoted to Vice President and General Auditor where he reports directly to the ADM Board of Directors. Giving of his time and expertise, Marc recently served on the Accountancy Advisory Board in the School of Business.

Wanda Webb, Ph.D., '71

Nominated by the graduate program in
communication disorders and sciences



Dr. Wanda Webb is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences at Vanderbilt University, and is also a Medical Consultant in Speech-Language Pathology for the Social Security Administration through the Tennessee DDS (Disability Determination Services). After receiving her bachelor's in Speech Pathology from Middle Tennessee State University and working a year as a speech therapist in a public school, she came to Eastern Illinois University and received a master's degree in Communication Disorders and Sciences. Working as a Speech-Language Pathologist at the Nashville Veterans Administration Hospital, she began collaboration with faculty and staff at Vanderbilt University. She obtained her Ph.D. in Hearing and Speech Sciences from Vanderbilt in 1979. Wanda became the Speech-Language Pathologist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and eventually became the Director of Speech-Language Pathology at the medical center, serving in that capacity until 1994. She continues her faculty appointment and teaching in the graduate training program which is now a part of Vanderbilt School of Medicine. Acquired neurologically-based speech, language and swallowing disorders comprise her primary areas of teaching, research and clinical practice. She is the co-author with Dr. Russell Love and Dr. Richard Adler of the text *Neurology for the Speech-Language Pathologist*, which is in its fifth edition. She is a Past President of the Tennessee Association of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists (TAASLP) as well as Founding member and past President of the Board of Directors of the Foundation of TAASLP. She has been awarded the Honors of that state association and is a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).



Ron Westray, '94

Nominated by the graduate program in music

Jazz musician and composer Ron Westray is best known for his work as lead trombonist with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra directed by Wynton Marsalis, and for his collaborations with Wycliffe Gordon. He launched his professional performance career in the early 1990s, recording and touring nationally with the Marcus Roberts Septet. He has appeared in concert with such luminaries as Ray Charles, Bob

Dylan, Willie Nelson, Stevie Wonder, Benny Carter, Dewey Redman, Roy Haynes, Randy Brecker and a host of other preeminent artists. A regular on the New York City club circuit, he has played premier jazz venues such as the Village Vanguard, Blue Note, Sweet Basil's, Iridium, Jazz Standard and Smalls, and is a standing member of the Mingus Band. In addition to his concerts and recordings with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, Ron has recorded as a sideman on such major labels as Columbia, Sony Classical and RCA Novus. His latest CD as leader is *Medical Cures for the Chromatic Commands of the Inner City* (Blue Canoe Records 2008). He co-leads with trumpet player Thomas Heflin on his most recent recording, *Live in Austin* (Blue Canoe Records 2011). As a composer, Ron's personal catalogue comprises dozens of original compositions and arrangements for big band and mixed ensembles. His commissions for the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra include the monumental score "Chivalrous Misdemeanors – Select Tales from Don Quixote" (2005) and arrangements of the works of Charles Mingus and Ornette Coleman. His charts have been published by Walrus Music. Before his appointment at York University he was an Assistant Professor of jazz studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He joined York's Music Department in 2009 as the Oscar Peterson Chair in Jazz Performance, a position endowed by the Government of Ontario to commemorate legendary Canadian jazz artist Oscar Peterson. He teaches in the jazz program and co-directs the York University Jazz Orchestra with Professor Al Henderson.



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