

Graduate Alumnus

April 2014

Outstanding Graduate Alumni Awards Class of 2014



Chris Carron, '86, Class of 2011 Outstanding Graduate Alumni
Member, EIU Graduate Alumni Advisory Board

The Graduate School



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™

2014

Eastern Illinois University

Outstanding Graduate Alumni Awards



Since 1951 Eastern has offered advanced study with master's programming. Since that first offering thousands of students have earned graduate degrees, and EIU graduate alumni have changed the world we live in. In 2005 EIU celebrated more than 50 years of graduate education by honoring 50 graduate alumni as Outstanding Graduate Alumni. That same year the Graduate Alumni Advisory Board was created and met for the first time. Since those initial 50 honorees, the Graduate Alumni Advisory Board, the Graduate School, and EIU's graduate programs have continued to honor the achievements and accomplishments of our graduate alumni every year.

Center photo: The first three master's students at Eastern Illinois State Teachers College in 1952. Pictured left to right- Dwight Baptist, Anna Butler Brown, and Don Luallen. Dwight Baptist was honored as one of the original 50 Outstanding Graduate Alumni in 2005 and continues to serve on the Graduate Alumni Advisory Board.

alumni from the
college of arts and humanities

graduate programs offered in the college

Department of Art

Master of Arts in Art

Option in Art Education

Department of Communication Studies

Master of Arts in Communication Studies

Option in Communication Pedagogy

Department of English

Master of Arts in English

Certificate in the Teaching of Writing

Department of History

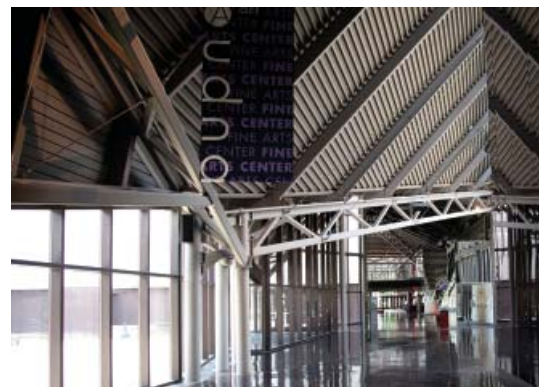
Master of Arts in History

Option in Historical Administration

Department of Music

Master of Arts in Music

Option in Music Education





Frankie Flood, '98, '00

Nominated by the graduate program in Art

Frankie Flood is an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee where he teaches in the Jewelry & Metalsmithing and Digital Fabrication and Design areas and is Director of the Digital Craft Research Lab at UWM. Frankie earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in art from EIU in 1998 and 2000. He is also a graduate of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he received his master of fine art's degree in metalsmithing.

Within the last four years Frankie has been granted \$185,000 in personal and educational grant funding by the National Endowment for the Arts, the UWM Digital Futures Grant, The Mary Tingley Grant (Greater Milwaukee Foundation), The UWM Graduate School Research Committee, and The Peter S. Reed Foundation for his research in digital technology for the production of art objects. He frequently collaborates with other colleges on his campus such as Architecture, Engineering and Health Sciences as researchers interface with the Digital Craft Research Lab to solve problems and produce prototypes. In addition, Frankie was recently awarded a UWM Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award to recognize excellence in teaching.

Frankie Flood's interest in machines and tools and the influence of his working class upbringing is a source of inspiration for the functional objects that he creates. Frankie exhibits his work nationally and internationally, has received many awards, and has been published widely. The connection between design and fabrication and how each is influenced by material and process has been the focus of his research. Frankie's most recent work has focused on the development and design of 3D printed



mechanical prosthetic hands. This work is part of ongoing research with an international design and engineering group entitled e-NABLE. He has now created five 3D printed prosthetics for local children in the Milwaukee area and he plans on incorporating this project into future curriculum development at UWM.

Angela Jones, Ph.D., '88, '90

Nominated by the graduate program in English

Angela Jones earned her bachelor's in English with teacher certification from EIU in 1988 and immediately enrolled in EIU's graduate program in English. After completing her master's in 1990, Angela continued her graduate work at Illinois State University for a year and then transferred to the University of Kansas, where she completed her Ph.D. in English in 2001. She taught at a small liberal-arts college in Pennsylvania before accepting a position at Western Kentucky University (WKU) in Bowling Green, Kentucky, in 2005.

Shortly after arriving at WKU, Angela formalized the English department's internship program and now coordinates that program and teaches its accompanying course, overseeing 11 interns in the spring 2014 semester. She also teaches writing classes in the university's general-education program and a variety of courses, including the capstone course, in the department's professional writing program. She encourages students to serve their communities by completing client projects for on- and off-campus clients: students have assisted, for example, several campus departments, a therapeutic riding stable, and a foster grandparent program. Angela earned tenure and promotion to associate professor in 2011 and is currently serving as the inaugural faculty fellow in the Potter College of Arts & Letters Dean's Office.

Angela has also had several opportunities to work directly with the Bowling Green community through her roles as a board member for the Bowling Green International Festival, a volunteer for the Bowling Green-Warren

County Humane Society, and the founder of and a teacher at a community yoga studio. Now president of the Festival board, she

organizes monthly meetings throughout the year and checks in over a hundred vendors and answers questions from many of the approximately 15,000 patrons on the day of the event. As a Humane Society volunteer, she has fostered, evaluated, arranged rescue for, and transported dozens of dogs in need. In 2011, she collaborated with three fellow yoga teachers to found 4yoga, a community studio with a \$5 class fee to encourage everyone to experience yoga. WKU recognized Angela for her community outreach efforts with the Potter College Public Service Award in 2013.

Grateful for the 5 years of mentorship provided by EIU's English Department, especially by Dr. Jeanne Simpson, Dr. Anne Zahlan, and Dr. Ruth Hoberman, Angela deeply appreciates the solid foundation she received while an undergraduate and a graduate student at EIU.

Angela and her husband, Brian Phillips, make their home in Bowling Green with their 4 rescued dogs ranging in age from 5 to 15.





Elaine Webster, '85

Nominated by the graduate program in Historical Administration

In April 2012 Elaine Webster became Assistant Director for Advancement at the National Museum of the American Indian, a Smithsonian

Museum and leads the development and fundraising initiatives for the museum.

Elaine has been a fundraiser at the Smithsonian since 2004. During her first 8 years, she led the fundraising efforts at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. While the museum was undergoing renovation and closed, she worked as part of the capital campaign team and with the Board development committee, established a National Council, expanded local support in the Director's Circle and created a new fundraising gala for the museum, Artrageous. After re-opening, she established a strong exhibition sponsorship program, culminating in the largest exclusive corporate sponsorship for the museum's Norman Rockwell exhibition in 2010.

Also in 2010 she was competitively selected for the Smithsonian Leadership Development Program, an 18-month program on leadership principles as well as in-depth training on broader Smithsonian initiatives. She has served on the Campaign Management Group and on the Campaign Operating Committee for the Smithsonian's current national campaign.

Her prior experience at leading teams and motivating people includes fundraising at public policy organizations in Washington, DC and managing teams and fundraising in Brussels, Belgium. Elaine earned her master's in historical administration from Eastern Illinois University and a bachelor's degree in history from Iowa State University. She began her museum career at the Iowa Living History Farms in Des Moines.

Receiving a graduate degree from EIU was a turning point for Elaine. The guidance of professors Dr. David Maurer, Pat Miller, and the late Dr. Duane Elbert, propelled Elaine to dream big and do more. She considers herself privileged to have been one of their students. Their legacy is known worldwide for the high quality graduates and professionals coming out of EIU's Historical Administration program. While in Charleston, Elaine also realized a turning point in her long friendship with James Johnson and they will celebrate 25 years of marriage this June.



Tina Winings, '78, '79, '84

Nominated by the graduate program in Communication Studies

Tina Townsend Winings earned her bachelor's degree in speech communication & English in 1978, her master's in speech in 1979, and her master's in English in 1984, all from EIU. Tina retired from teaching in 2013 after 33 years at Charleston High School; she continues to be the head speech coach at CHS. During her coaching tenure at CHS, her students won more than 30 regional & sectional team championships. Moreover, she has coached eight state champions in speech individual events, as well as 20 state finalists. She also directed more than 60 shows for competition, including eight top-five finishes at state in group interps and contest plays.

For more than 25 years, Tina has been a member of the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association and has served on the ICTA board of directors for more than fifteen years, in a variety of positions, including president of the association. Tina organized a special workshop series for new coaches in 2003, which continues today. Her service to ICTA earned her the *Edith Harrod Award* in 2006 and the *W.P. Sandford Award*, ICTA's highest award, in 2013. Tina has served for more than a dozen years as a member of the IHSA Drama & Group Interp Committee; she also was a member of the State Speech Advisory Committee for Individual Events, helping to create and implement the newest IHSA Speech event – Performance in the Round.

In addition to directing approximately 100 plays, group interps, and variety shows at CHS, Tina also served as Associate Director for Play Selection for the Illinois High School Theatre Festival, where she was in charge of selecting performances scheduled to appear at the annual festival. Over the years, she directed 10 shows (involving more than 200 students) which were selected for performance at the state festival. Tina achieved National Board Certification in English in 2001. She served as a mentor and local coordinator

for National Board candidates, working with more than 50 candidates from area schools. She was one of the first NBCTs to achieve recertification

in 2010. Her love for learning and mentoring extended to her district where she was a founding participant in the CUSD #1 New Teacher Induction Program in 2005. Each year, she continues to present a two-day training for experienced teachers who will work as mentors with new teachers.

Furthermore, Tina served on the Charleston Education Association board for more than fifteen years, including terms as vice president and president. She was also the vice president of the Coles County United Way for five years. Other honors include the *ROE Education is the Key Award*; an *Illinois House of Representatives Special Resolution*; the *National Communication Association Oberle Award*; the *John Hires Speech Coaching Award*; and the *National Federation of High Schools Outstanding Speech, Debate, & Theatre Educator Award*, which recognizes seven speech, theatre, and debate educators from around the nation.

She has many fond memories of her days at EIU, including many hours with great instructors such as Janet Norberg, Cal Smith, & Beryl McClerren. Tina currently resides in Charleston with her husband Larry, a retired engineer, who is also an EIU alumnus.



alumni from the

lumpkin college of business and applied sciences

graduate programs offered in the college

School of Business

Master of Business Administration

Certificate in Accountancy

School of Family and Consumer Sciences

Master of Science in

Family and Consumer Sciences

Master of Science in Dietetics

Master of Arts in Gerontology

School of Technology

Master of Science in Sustainable Energy

Master of Science in Technology

Certificate Programs in:

Computer Technology

Technology Security

Quality Systems

Work Performance Improvement



Karen Chapman-Novakofski, Ph.D. '83

Nominated by the graduate program in Dietetics



Dr. Karen Chapman-Novakofski received her bachelor's and doctorate degrees from the University of Illinois; her master's degree from Eastern Illinois University; and interned at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. She worked at a veterans' medical center for over ten years while completing her education; was a clinical instructor for the College of Medicine and Division of Nutritional Sciences for ten years; and joined the faculty of the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences in 1991. She is currently Professor of Nutrition and Extension Specialist within the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, the Division of Nutritional Sciences and the Department of Internal Medicine. She is also a registered and licensed dietitian.



Karen is an internationally recognized expert in the area of nutrition education theory and applied nutrition education interventions. She has written ten book chapters, eight nutrition

manuals, and published over 200 refereed journal articles, proceedings, and abstracts, and serves as the editor for the *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*. She has been invited to lecture to more than 130 audiences internationally, nationally, and locally. Her research interests focus on how people make lifestyle changes, especially related to diabetes and osteoporosis. She also investigates new educational strategies such as apps, online video, and social media for nutrition-related behavior change.

Karen has been honored with many awards, including the *Outstanding Research Paper* award from the Diabetes Education and Care practice group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; *Mary Abbott Hess Award for Innovation in Education*; and the *Excellence in Nutrition Education Award* from the American Society for Nutrition. She served on the Institute of Medicine's planning committee for national school nutrition education standards and currently serves as the chair of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Nutrition and Health Committee for Planning and Guidance.

She is married to Dr. Jan Novakofski, also at the University of Illinois. They have two children, Liz, who is a systems operations engineer with Northrup Grumman in California, and Scot who is a web developer at Eastern Illinois University.



Kathy Pendleton, Ph.D., '79, '80

Nominated by the graduate program in Family and Consumer Sciences

Kathy Pendleton began her education at EIU in 1976 as a divorced mother of three and earned a bachelor's degree in home economics in 1979 and master's degree in home economics in 1980. Since leaving EIU she has worked in several capacities. She was employed by the State of Illinois as a Child Protective Investigator and a Day Care Licensing Representative. She also worked as a Child Protective Investigator for the City of Virginia Beach while living in Virginia. Upon returning to Illinois Kathy became the Director of the Single Parent Displaced Homemaker Program at John Wood Community College in Quincy Illinois. While in this position Kathy recognized her love for working on a college campus and the need to further her education.

Kathy returned to the classroom part-time while working full-time with the First Steps program in New Albany Indiana and as the Assistant Director of Disability Services at the University of Louisville. She completed a master's degree in 2000 and a doctorate in 2007 in Education and Counseling Psychology/College Student Personnel at the University of Louisville.

In her current position as the Director of the Student Counseling Center at the University of Louisville she is responsible for a budget of \$700,000 and the day-to-day operations and the supervision of nine full-time staff persons, and seven practicum students. She periodically teaches classes in the College of Education and Human Development

and has served on a dissertation committee. Kathy is also responsible for the writing of the Student Support Services/TRiO Grant which was funded for \$1.5 million for five years. While she no longer directs the day-to-day operations of the grant, she remains responsible for grant oversight.

In her spare time Kathy enjoys spending time with her husband, Reverend Mac Pendleton, church activities, being a band booster for her grandson, traveling, and encouraging single parents to go to college.

In Kathy's words, "Dr. Jayne Ozier took notice of a non-traditional student with three children on campus and provided the encouragement and the opportunity to go to graduate school by providing a graduate assistantship. I would not have gone to graduate school without Dr. Ozier pushing me to apply. I will forever be grateful for her support and encouragement."



alumni from the
**college of education
and professional studies**

graduate programs offered in the college

Department of Educational Leadership

- Master of Science in Education in Educational Leadership
- Specialist in Education in Educational Leadership

Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education

- Master of Science in Education in Elementary Education

Certificate Program in Reading Instruction

Department of Counseling and Student Development

- Master of Science in College Student Affairs
- Master of Science in Counseling
 - Concentration in Clinical Counseling
 - Concentration in School Counseling

Department of Secondary Education and Foundations

- Master of Science in Education for Master Teacher

Department of Special Education

- Master of Science in Education in Special Education

Department of Kinesiology and Sports Studies

- Master of Science in Kinesiology and Sports Studies





Richard Dunsworth, J.D. '94

Nominated by the graduate program in College Student Affairs

Before moving to Arkansas, Richard served Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, where he spent most of the past 22 years, serving most recently as interim president. As vice president for enrollment at Millikin from 2004-2013, Rich oversaw numerous departments, including academic development, admission, athletics, financial aid, institutional research, marketing, media relations, registrar, and student development. He held numerous other positions at Millikin, including Dean of Student Life and Academic Development, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life, and Resident Director. He also served as the university's chief judicial officer, led internal and external marketing campaigns, and was the lead writer for two university strategic plans.

In addition, Rich has extensive classroom experience, serving as an instructor in the Communication, English and Political Science programs at Millikin. He co-designed and piloted the university's first three-credit winter immersion course, Leadership and Conflict Mediation, and was a four-time recipient of the Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award presented by the university's Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils.

A native of Colorado, Rich earned a bachelor of arts in political science from Colorado State University in Fort Collins. He went on to earn a master's degree in education in 1994 from EIU and a juris doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2002. In law school he was a cum laude graduate and the recipient of the Richert Award for overall excellence in trial advocacy.

One of Rich's favorite memories of Eastern is the circumstances around deciding to enroll. He was prepared to leave central Illinois and enroll at an institution out East. Arriving at his office one morning, there sat Chuck Eberly. Dr. Eberly introduced himself, indicated he had heard that Rich was looking for a graduate program, and Chuck started selling why EIU was a great choice. Rich was enrolled as a continuing education student by the end of the week and admitted to the program by the end of the summer.

Rich and his wife, Holly, have three children, 10-year-old Nicolas and 8-year-old twins Matthew and Emma.



Mark J. Kasper, Ed.D., '83, '86

Nominated by the graduate program in Kinesiology and Sports Studies

Mark J. Kasper is currently the Director of the Institute of Sports Sciences and Medicine and Human Performance Laboratory at Florida State University. As the inaugural director he is responsible for building collaborative teams from various disciplines across campus and with private industry to fund and conduct research in sports sciences and medicine and to provide educational outreach programs targeting the medical, scientific and general community. Since 2011, he has secured over \$750,000 to sustain the Institute. Dr. Kasper is also a teaching faculty member in exercise sciences and coordinates the Master of Science in Sports Sciences. Mark has over 30 years of experience working with students, professionals and the general public in the areas of health education and exercise sciences. Prior to FSU, he was on faculty at Valdosta State University where he implemented and directed an adult fitness program and the undergraduate exercise physiology degree, which earned academic endorsement from both the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

While a doctoral student at Teachers College, Columbia University, Mark established The Hospital for Special Surgery's Pediatric Outreach Program. This musculoskeletal screening, treatment and education program for urban minority children was awarded a State of New York Health Education Citation for innovative and successful delivery of a preventive program. After 25 years the outreach program continues to be a centerpiece for The Hospital's outreach efforts, having screened over 23,000 children with almost 4,000 primary or musculoskeletal referrals. As an executive board member of the Lowndes County, GA Partnership for Health, Mark worked to bring together public and private entities to partner with local schools, businesses and the community to implement strategies to increase physical activity and healthy eating among all residents using best practices from public health, health behavior and medicine. He was part of the writing team which was awarded a demonstration

grant from the Healthcare Georgia Foundation for childhood physical activity and nutrition intervention in local elementary schools.

For six years, Mark served as a member, co-chair, or chair of the ACSM's certification and registry boards and was on the inaugural academic endorsement review team. He was a reviewer for several ACSM textbooks and was a chapter author for the first and second edition of the ACSM's certification review texts.

Since 2007, he has been a peer reviewer for the Journal of American College Health, the one and only flagship scholarly publication devoted entirely to college students' health. He has presented 20 papers at professional conferences and has 11 published peer reviewed manuscripts.

Mark began his academic and teaching career at Eastern Illinois University. First, as a graduate assistant, under the supervision of Dr. Larry Ankenbrand, teaching elementary physical education in the Charleston school system. Next, as a graduate assistant under the mentorships of Dr. Thomas Woodall and Dr. Mitchell Whaley in the human performance laboratory and the adult physical fitness and cardiac rehabilitation programs, and finally, as a full time faculty member in the exercise sciences. Mark earned a bachelor's in 1983 and master's in 1986 from Eastern Illinois University. He earned an M.S. and Ed.D. in 1992 from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.





Mary N. Parker, Ed.D., '76, '85, '99

Nominated by the graduate program in Elementary Education

Mary Parker earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1976, her master's degree in Elementary Education in 1985, and her specialist degree in Educational Administration in 1999 all from Eastern Illinois University. Mary was later in the first cohort at Western Illinois University to earn her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership in 2008. She earned her degrees while working at several challenging jobs in education and other fields. Mary's first position after graduating in 1976 was at Neoga District #3. In successive years she was the 1-6 music teacher, first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and again fifth grade teacher before earning her certification to become a Title I teacher, and was then a Title I teacher and director at Neoga until 1994. In 1995 she became the Title I director and Integrated Learning System Coordinator for Mattoon Community District #2. In that capacity Mary was in charge of bringing a new integrated learning software program online for four targeted Title I schools, training teachers in the new system, maintaining several hundred computers, and overseeing the Title I budget of \$650,000. In 1997 she also accepted the additional responsibilities of becoming the principal of the kindergarten center and writing grants for the district. As a competitive grant writer, Mary was able to win \$500,000 in grants for Mattoon to help implement and maintain programs for elementary students. From 1998 to 2000, Mary also added to her workload the responsibility of being the elementary principal of elementary school with 43 employees while still handling the \$590,000 Title I Budget serving 700 students. In 2000, Mary became the superintendent of the Delavan CUSD 703 K-12 district near Peoria where she remains today. At Delavan Mary oversees a \$4.4 million budget while she works with the building principals to serve the students of the district.

Mary has also been active in promoting rural schools and has banded together with two other superintendents to do research and present locally, statewide, and nationally on the problems small schools face. She is continuing her four year research and will be presenting at the National Rural School Association in October, 2014.

Mary and her husband, Jerry, live on a lake in a wooded area with their three dogs, Mista P., Kash, and Dahlia. Jerry also attended Eastern Illinois University where he earned his bachelor's and specialist's degrees. Jerry started teaching in 1969 and plans to stop when Mary retires from Delavan next year. Mary and Jerry enjoy traveling and have spent many months in southern Europe, the Caribbean, and traveling the United States. Their favorite vacations have been in Italy, Kauai, and Barcelona.

In Mary's words, "I will forever be in debt to the many people who helped me professionally along the way. Special thanks go to Dr. Beverly Finley, Dr. Kenneth Sutton, and Dr. Carol Helwig from EIU, Dr. Donna McCaw from WIU, and former administrators Mr. Michael Stanley, Dr. Richard Berg and Mrs. Beverly Turkal. My thanks, love, and admiration goes out to all my family and friends who keep me grounded."



Ron Robinson, '64, '67

Nominated by the graduate program in Counseling

Ron Robinson assumed the position of Senior Vice President of SGR, Strategic Government Resources, in October of 2011 focusing on economic development, executive searches, and related consultancies. SGR is a full service national firm located in Keller, Texas and providing executive search, distance learning, and consulting services to municipalities and other governmental organizations. Recent searches include executive positions in economic development, non-profit fund raising, and museum management. Current boards where Ron serves include the Hunt County Alliance for Economic Development, past President of the Texas Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities (affiliated with NASCAR), North East Texas Railroad Authority, Greenville Board of Development and the Audie Murphy/ American Cotton Museum.

Ron graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a bachelor's in social sciences and a master's in guidance and counseling. In 1961 he began a 24-year administrative and teaching career at Eastern Illinois, Western Illinois and East Texas State University, now Texas A & M University-Commerce. Executive positions that Ron has held include Director of the University Union at Western Illinois, Director of the Sam Rayburn Student Center and Dean of Students at East Texas State University. Academic service included adjunct appointments in the Department of Recreation and the Department of Student Personnel and Guidance at Western Illinois and East Texas State respectively. While at Western Illinois University Robinson played a major role in the development of the National Entertainment Conference now known as the National Association for Campus Activities. He was a board member for many years focusing on regional development and served as the first President of the foundation of the organization. During his career he managed and promoted over 200 entertainment, cultural arts and lecture programs. In 1987 he was given a lifetime membership for his leadership in NEC. In 1986, Ron accepted the position of President/CEO of the Richardson Economic Development Partnership and the Chamber of Commerce. In 1992 he also assumed the Presidency of the Metroplex Technology Business Council. By 2000 the three organizations had a combined budget of two million, an executive staff of 21, and total membership of 1900. As President of the Richardson Chamber of Commerce, Ron managed all activities for a 1200 member organization including Leadership Richardson, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and economic development. The Richardson Chamber at its peak had approximately 200 volunteers, and

conducted over 40 events per year.



During his time in Richardson Ron served as a board member of the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives, was the founding Chairman of

the Dallas Area Chamber Executives, and served as an ex-officio board member of the North Texas Commission. From 1987 until 2004 Robinson hosted two monthly television programs related to high technology in the Telecom Corridor. From 1998 till 2001 he hosted a weekly radio show on 50 thousand watt clear channel WBAP called Tech 'n' Touch.

Robinson played a major role in the naming and development of the internationally recognized Telecom Corridor, a 5 square mile area consisting of 600 technology companies, 90,000 engineers and technical executives, and 16 million square feet of office and flex tech space in Richardson, Texas. In 2013 the Telecom Corridor was recognized and accepted for membership by the International Association of Science Parks (IASP) as "an Area of Innovation". The Telecom Corridor is the 8th area in the nation accepted for membership and one of the first to earn the "Area of Innovation" status. Ron negotiated three international agreements linking the Telecom Corridor with other technopolis organizations in Europe. He played a major role in the founding of StarTech, a for-profit high technology incubator providing pre-first round funding for tech companies in the Telecom Corridor and the Metroplex. In the mid 1990s he was involved in the recruitment of Texas Motor Speedway to Ft. Worth, Texas. He served on the Board of Trustees of Speedway Children's Charities Texas Chapter since 1996 and was President of the Board from 2008-2010. Ron retired in 2005 and moved to Greenville, Texas. He was recruited from retirement to become the President of the Greenville Economic Development Corporation in 2008 and retired from that position in October of 2011.

He is married to Pat, three children, seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Hobbies and interests include woodworking, NASCAR, bluegrass music, and giving speeches on the American Civil War and historic figures such as Lincoln, Davis, Grant, and Lee. He is a Paul Harris fellow of Rotary International and served as Dallas District Chairman for international youth programs from 1989-1991.



alumni from the
college of sciences

graduate programs offered in the college

Department of Biological Sciences

- Master of Science in Biological Sciences
 - Certificate in Geographic Information Sciences in Environmental Life Sciences
- Master of Science in Natural Sciences
 - Concentration in Biological Sciences

Department of Chemistry

- Master of Science in Chemistry
- Master of Science in Natural Sciences
 - Concentration in Physical Sciences

Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences

- Master of Science in Communication Disorders and Sciences

Department of Economics

- Master of Arts in Economics

Department of Geology/Geography

- Professional Science Master's in Geographic Information Sciences
- Master of Science in Natural Sciences
 - Concentration in Physical Sciences

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

- Master of Arts in Mathematics
 - Option Elementary/Middle School Mathematics Education
 - Option Secondary Mathematics Education

Department of Physics

- Master of Science in Natural Sciences
 - Concentration in Physical Sciences

Department of Political Science

- Master of Arts in Political Science
 - Certificate in Public Planning

Department of Psychology

- Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology
- Specialist in School Psychology



Andrew Miller, Ph.D., '95, '97

Nominated by the graduate program in Biological Sciences

Andrew Miller earned his bachelor's degree in botany in 1995 and his master's degree in biological sciences at EIU in 1997 under the tutelage of Dr. Andrew Methven. He went on to earn his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2003 while conducting his research at The Field Museum of Natural History. After a post-doctoral appointment at The Field Museum, Andrew accepted a research professor position at the Illinois Natural History Survey at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2004.



Andrew is currently an Associate Research Professor and serves as the State Mycologist and Director of the Herbarium at INHS. His research focuses on the systematics and biodiversity of fungi, which has enabled him to travel abroad to many interesting places for his research including Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, England, Denmark, France,

New Zealand, and Spain. Along with his graduate students, Andrew has discovered and described

numerous new species of fungi from around the world. He is currently involved in a study investigating the fungus causing Bat White-Nose Syndrome, which has killed over 6 million bats throughout the United States. He also collaborates on other studies that search for new and interesting bioactive compounds in fungi that will hopefully lead to new therapeutic drugs. Andrew teaches the General Mycology course at the University of Illinois while mentoring five graduate and three undergraduate students. He was elected Secretary of the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Fungi in 2011 and is a Councilor on Systematics and Evolution for the Mycological Society of America. Andrew frequently gives lectures on edible and poisonous mushrooms and enjoys the occasional trek in the woods in search of morels.

Andrew met his wife, Jennifer, at Eastern Illinois University. In those days, there were separate departments for Botany, Environmental Biology, and Zoology, each occupying their section of the Life Sciences Building. Jennifer was a zoology major and hung out on the first floor, while Andrew was a botany major and stayed mostly on the third floor. It was only towards the end of their junior year, when Jennifer decided to take microbiology (taught on the third floor), that their paths crossed. The rest is history. They currently reside outside Sidney, Illinois on a 15-acre farm with a horse, mule, cat, three dogs, 20 goats, and 30 chickens. When not doing farm chores, Andrew enjoys restoring his 1982 Delorean.





Chad Moutray, Ph.D., '91, '92

Nominated by the graduate program in Economics

Chad Moutray is chief economist for the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), where he serves as the NAM's economic forecaster and spokesperson on economic issues. He frequently comments on current economic conditions for manufacturers through professional presentations and media interviews. He has appeared on Bloomberg, CNN, C-SPAN, Fox Business, Fox News, and Reuters television.

Prior to joining the NAM, Chad was the chief economist and director of economic research for the Office of Advocacy at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) from 2002 to 2010. In that role, he was responsible for researching the importance of entrepreneurship to the U.S. economy and highlighting various issues of importance to small business owners, policy makers and academics. In addition to discussing economic and policy trends, his personal research focused on the importance of educational attainment to both self-employment and economic growth.

Prior to working at the SBA, Chad was the dean of the School of Business Administration at Robert Morris College in Chicago (now Robert Morris University of Illinois). Under his leadership, the business school had rapid growth, both adding new programs and new campuses. He began the development of an MBA program that began accepting students after his departure and created a Business Institute for students to work with local businesses on classroom projects and internships. Chad is a former board member of the National Association for Business Economics (NABE). He is also the former

president and chairman of the National Economists Club, the local NABE chapter for Washington, D.C. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from Eastern Illinois University. In 2007, he was named a distinguished alumnus by Lake Land College where he earned his associate's degree in business administration.

Chad and his wife Robin reside in Alexandria, Virginia with their two children, Charlotte and Zachary.



April Troemper, J.D., '94, '95

Nominated by the graduate program in Political Science

Judge April (Gowdy) Troemper grew up in the small, rural community of Edinburg, where she graduated as salutatorian and was voted "Most Likely to Succeed." First in her family to advance past high school, she financed her education to pursue her dream of law. She received her associate's degree from Lincoln Land Community College, bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from Eastern Illinois University, and law degree from Southern Illinois University School of Law in 1998. On December 1, 2009, Judge Troemper, at the age of 37, was sworn in as an Associate Circuit Court Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit. She is currently the only female associate judge in the six-county circuit. After law school, Judge Troemper worked at the law firms of Graham & Graham Ltd., Heyl Royster, and Sorling Northrup, focusing on medical/nursing home malpractice, personal injury, consumer fraud, civil rights, toxic tort, defamation, mediation, and appeals. Currently, she hears family/domestic, custody disputes, orders of protection, and child support matters. Always the leader, at EIU, she was President of the Pre-Law Honorary Society, Captain of the mock trial debate team, and Student Government Supreme Court Chief Justice, Senator, and Legislative Committee Chair. During graduate school, she served as Professor Leigh's teaching assistant, teaching criminal and constitutional law, and coaching the trial team. In law school, she was Captain of the National Trial Competition Team and a graduate teaching assistant. She made the Dean's List and received various academic awards while working several jobs. Judge Troemper's leadership and commitment to the legal profession continued after law school. As a member of the Illinois State Bar Association Assembly and various committees, she has been a tremendous voice for the members of the 7th Circuit. In 2008 she was elected to the ISBA Board of Governors with 70% of the vote. She also served on the Board of the Illinois Bar Foundation- the charitable arm of the ISBA. Judge Troemper is currently the First Vice President of the Sangamon County Bar Association. She also serves as President of the Profession of Leadership Foundation and the Board of Directors for Lincoln-Douglas Inn of Court. She is

Past President of the Central Illinois Women's Bar Association and Sangamon County Young Lawyers.

As a judge, she serves on the Board of Directors

of the Illinois Judges Association, the Civil Benchbook Committee, and the teaching faculty for civil law. She was recently appointed by Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Garman to the Illinois Judicial Conference Juvenile Justice Study Committee. Involved in her community, she was appointed and elected to the Springfield Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority (SMEAA) board and received the "Forty under 40" Business Leader Award. Judge Troemper has also been a guest speaker on a variety of legal topics. Judge Troemper's main goal is to make a difference and inspire others. She is a firm believer that attorneys and



judges should make time for their community and legal profession, whether through volunteering, providing pro bono hours, speaking at events, or leadership. Her other full-time job is that of a wife and mother. She is married to Brett Troemper, an eighth grade science teacher and varsity baseball coach. They have two children, Austin and Brooklynn. When not on the bench, she is at a baseball field, volleyball or basketball court, supporting her children. Aiming high is a quality Judge Troemper has not been able to shake since her first grade teacher told Judge Troemper's mother that the young girl was going to be "a CEO or something really big." Judge Troemper is proof that regardless of one's background, upbringing, financial resources and obstacles, nothing is impossible. When asked if she has more goals on the horizon, she always responds, "Absolutely."





Cover:

Chris Carron is a 1986 graduate of the Historical Administration program. He currently serves as the Director of Collections at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis. Chris was named an Outstanding Graduate Alumnus by the program in 2011 and is a member of the Graduate School's Graduate Alumni Advisory Board.

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