

Graduate Alumnus

Outstanding Graduate Alumni Awards

Class of 2017

The Graduate School

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™



Suellyn Garner, '63, '64, '84 and Dr. Earl Boyd in 1964

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Campus Photography: Jay Grabiec, Center for Academic Technology Support

April 2017

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 degree 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 and Community Art

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

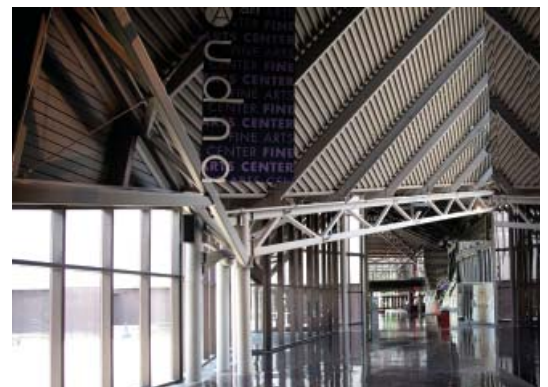
Master of Arts in History

Option in Historical Administration

Department of Music

Master of Arts in Music

Concentration in Music Education





Umme Al-wazedi, Ph.D., '03

Nominated by the graduate program in English

Umme Al-wazedi is an associate professor of English (Postcolonial Literature) and program co-director of Women's and Gender Studies at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. Umme earned her MA in English from EIU in 2003, finishing in one year. She then joined the English Department at Purdue University as a graduate assistant, graduating with a PhD in 2008. Although she moved to a large research institution, Umme took with her the culture of EIU—that connected, small community feeling. Reflecting on her time at Eastern, she credits her success at Purdue to the guidance of the professors in English who are influenced by Eastern's mission statement: "a faculty known for its excellence in teaching, research, creative activity, and service." Umme believes deeply in what Ngugi Wa Thiong'o has framed as the method of teaching: "creating space for a hundred flowers to bloom." Her relationship with each class is extremely interactive, both during lecture and discussion. She works to create space in which students explore new directions and she challenges them in thoughtful ways to approach literature, composition, and the world around them and vice versa. Umme credits both Eastern's and Purdue's (particularly her advisor and mentor Dr. Shaun Hughes) environment for this kind of teaching philosophy. At Augustana, along with teaching classes in English and Women's and Gender studies, Umme is also a first-year advisor. She models her advising philosophy after the faculty at Eastern, Drs. Anne Zahlan, Richard Sylvia, Dana Ringuette, and Susan Bazargan, caring, encouraging curiosity, and helping to plan a road map for the future. Umme also serves as a graduate alumni mentor to EIU graduate students.

In addition to teaching, advising, and research, Umme encourages students to see the world outside the US through study abroad programs—not as a tourist but as a person looking for experiential learning, to see for themselves the

challenges other communities face in managing education, health care, the environment, capital, and families—and, in turn, contribute to the growth of human freedom and social justice. With this purpose in mind, she designed a study abroad trip to India with her colleague in the Theatre Department, Dr. Jennifer Popple, taking 24 Augustana students to India over spring break. One of the highlights



of the program was their time at the Taj Mahal.

Outside Augustana, Umme has been translating for a Burmese refugee, Mohammad Hossain, who has become a part of her family. In her spare time, she loves to read, take care of her rose garden, take long walks at the banks of the Mississippi river, and read and watch Marvel comics with her nine-year-old son, Abhik Mostafa. Her daughter, Ila Mostafa, is a freshmen at Augustana College. Her husband, Abdur Razzaque, is an accountant who works as an independent contractor at LanguageLine Solutions. Umme would like to acknowledge the following people who made her year at Eastern the most memorable in her life—Peggy Eddy (Pana, IL), Linda and Bill Barter (Graduate School, EIU), Sue Songer (International Programs, EIU), Dr. Daiva Markelis (English, EIU), Dr. Fern Kory (English, EIU), Jean Toothman (secretary, English, EIU), the many librarians who helped her find books for her research, Dr. and Mrs. Belayet Khan (Geography, EIU), and Dr. Iffat Ali (Lakeland College, IL). Although Moline is now her home, Charleston was her first home away from her home in Bangladesh when she came to EIU as an international student in 2002.

Leo Van Cleve, '81, '86

Nominated by the graduate program in History

Leo Van Cleve has been engaged in international education his entire career. He currently serves as the Assistant Vice Chancellor for International and Off Campus Programs at the California State University System, the largest university system in the U.S. In addition to his work in international programs he serves as the Academic Affairs representative to the Academic Senate of the CSU. He earned his bachelor's degree in history at Eastern Illinois University in 1981. During that time he participated in the U.S. Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference for students. After spending a year as an exchange at the University of Frankfurt (M), he earned his master's degree in history at EIU 1986. His work in international education has taken him around the world and kept him in contact with students. He has worked with thousands of students who have studied abroad. In the course of his career he has established dozens of partnerships including countries in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and South America. These partnerships have been structured to promote cultural understanding, language learning, and academically rigorous experiences by integrating into both the academic system and the daily life of the country. One of the most successful partnerships is a unique

“state-to-state” partnership with the German state of Baden-Württemberg, which has become the largest exchange program in Germany having exchanged some 2000 students from Germany and California in its first 20 years. The program was recognized by Minister President Kretschman of Baden-Württemberg in 2015 during his visit to California. The CSU is an institution without a majority population and the largest plurality is Latino students. In order to serve this diverse population Leo has been committed to increasing the diversity of students who study abroad as well as the diversity of destinations for study. These efforts have included reaching out to under-represented and first generation students and their parents through directed informational materials and targeted promotion. At CSU over the past 15 years he has created partnerships in Chile, China, Ghana and South Africa to increase opportunities to learn more about these areas of the world. He has presented nationally on topics ranging from academic freedom and international partnerships, to health and safety, and managing programs. He has published on program design and structure and program promotion. His work with the Academic Senate CSU keeps him in touch with the range of issues confronting higher education. Leo has lived in California with his wife and family since 1995. The experience he had at Eastern Illinois University exposed him to the opportunities in the world and the role he could play. In particular, Professor Wolfgang Schlauch was a teacher and a mentor who made an enormous impact on his life and career.





Suellyn Garner, '63, '64, '84

Nominated by the graduate program in Music

Suellyn Lindsey graduated from Cisne, IL high school and enrolled at EIU at age 16. She majored in piano and minored in voice, played the saxophone and bassoon, and earned her bachelor's degree in 1963. While earning her master's degree she worked as a graduate assistant with duties of assisting Dr. Leo Dvorak's sophomore harmony class, teaching piano and woodwinds, and accompanying solo recitals. Her master's thesis was titled, *The Solo Piano Music of Dmitri Kabalevsky*. In spring semester of 1964, a song and dance group from EIU was chosen to travel for the USO and Suellyn was pianist and assistant director for The Easternaires as they visited military bases in Florida and the Caribbean. Dr. Earl Boyd directed the 13 students throughout the southeastern United States, Panama, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and several small islands with military presence including Eleuthera, Grand Turk and others. (*see cover photo*) Suellyn's first job was at East Leyden High School in Franklin Park, IL where she was a full-time pianist for the choral department and assistant choral director. In 1966, she married Don Garner, a professor in the Speech Communications department at EIU. That year, she taught general music and chorus at Charleston Junior High School. Hired to teach seventh and eighth grades, in mid-September, four sections of sixth graders moved into the church across the street and they were added to her teaching load. In 1974, Charleston Junior High School invited her back to the new building and she taught seventh and eighth grade general music. All music, art, PE and library were eliminated from the district schools at the end of 1976 and Suellyn, with no tenure, was eliminated as well. Suellyn's next step was to acquire certification that would allow her to teach in a general elementary classroom. In the fall of 1978, she was employed again by the Charleston School District,

which received a planning grant from the state to develop curriculum for elementary schools that would integrate all the arts into basic education. As project director, she expanded the framework of the initial proposal, projected costs and personnel and developed a three-year plan. A full-blown Title IV-c grant was awarded in the summer of 1979 and Project ABE was born. Teacher-made, teacher-taught and community-supported, by the time project funds for development were finished, all elementary teachers in the district had participated in the creation of the concept-based, arts-inclusive curriculum or had been given materials and inservice to utilize them. After years of proposal writing, budget balancing and program design, Suellyn spent the following two years, funded by the same agency, distributing materials to elementary schools all over the state and directing workshops for teachers. Project ABE had brought half a million dollars to the district. By 1984 Suellyn had earned a specialist degree in educational administration from EIU, allowing her to be a principal or school superintendent. 1983 found her in the building where she started in 1966. Suellyn became assistant principal and director of assessment for the district. In 1990, she moved to Carl Sandburg School, a K-4 building with 250 students and became Director of Curriculum and Assessment, remaining there until retirement in 1994.

In her retirement she has visited all 50 states at least once, all of the Canadian provinces, and 37 countries. The education Suellyn received at EIU allowed her to embark on four career changes. The lessons that music teaches—precision, memory, attentiveness, detail, analysis, collaboration—among many others are transferable throughout life.

Suellyn volunteers at Tarble Arts Center, Soup Stop and Coalition for People in Need. She has two sons who are married to lovely women, four brilliant beautiful grandchildren; and still plays the piano every day.

Debbie Grinnell, '91

Nominated by the graduate program in Historical Administration

During Debbie Grinnell's 25-year career with Naper Settlement in Naperville, IL, she has served in several roles, including registrar, curator, director of preservation services, vice president of museum services and her current position as vice president for advancement and campus development.

As Curator of Exhibits and Research she led a \$2.8 million restoration effort of the museum's Martin-Mitchell Mansion and worked with the chief curator to complete a \$1.7 million, 3,800 square foot permanent exhibition on the community's history. The restoration of the mansion earned recognition from the American Association of State and Local History, and Landmarks Illinois.

Her tenure as Vice President for Museum Services saw her managing a multimillion dollar stormwater management project and a \$490,000 early learning playscape. The site's stormwater management project garnered awards from The Conservation Foundation, the Illinois Association of Museums, and the US Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with the Chicago Wilderness Foundation. The playscape project was honored with a 2014 Outstanding Facility & Parks Award from the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association. In her current role as Vice President for Advancement and Campus Development she oversees the master site planning, develops capital plans, identifies granting opportunities and coordinates donor relations and fundraising.

After she and her husband purchased a home in St. Charles, IL, she served for five years as Vice Chair on the town's Preservation Commission, later serving as a member of a unified panel in Naperville to revise its preservation

ordinance and commission overseeing its locally-designated historic district. She has served as

a non-voting member and liaison of the museum to the Historic Preservation Commission in Naperville for the past 8 years. In the field of history, the American Association of State and Local History's national awards program is a gold standard for history museums and Debbie serves as Illinois' state representative on behalf of this program, promoting the award-winning work of museums within their communities, large and small.

Debbie earned a bachelor's in history from Marquette University in 1990 and her master's in historical administration from EIU in 1991. Debbie credits EIU's

historical administration program with a network that provided her with access to other thought-leaders and museum professionals who offered her advice, resources and inspiration. She writes, "In particular, and on behalf of the almost 400 HA alumni spread across the US and abroad, I want to express our gratitude to Dr. Dave

Maurer and the late Doctors Duane Elbert and Robert Hennings, who had the foresight and saw the potential for a Midwestern program dedicated to providing a rigorous academic and hands-on curriculum in the preparation of museum professionals."

Debbie and her husband, Stormy, have two children.



alumni from the
**lumpkin college of business
and applied sciences**

graduate programs offered in the college

School of Business

Master of Business Administration

School of Family and Consumer Sciences

Master of Science in

Family and Consumer Sciences

Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics

Master of Arts in Aging Studies

School of Technology

Master of Science in Sustainable Energy

Master of Science in Cybersecurity

Master of Science in Talent Development

Master of Science in Technology

Certificate Programs in:

Computer Technology

Technology Security

Training and Development

Quality Systems

Work Performance Improvement



Cathy Babbs, '83

Nominated by the graduate program in Nutrition and Dietetics



Cathy Babbs retired from Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center as Director of Food and Nutrition Services in 2016. Her long career with the Mattoon, IL hospital started in 1979 as a Clinical Nutrition Manager in the department



of Food and Nutrition Services. She has taught state food service sanitation courses, and is an Illinois Department of Public Health approved sanitation instructor. Cathy earned an associate's degree from Lincoln Land Junior College in Springfield, IL, a bachelor's in dietetics from Western Illinois University and her master's from EIU in dietetics in 1983. She completed a dietetics traineeship from St. John's Hospital in Springfield and is a licensed registered dietitian. Cathy assisted in the program development of the graduate dietetic internship program

at EIU and mentored over 100 graduate dietetic students in their one year internship at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. Her work in nutrition and dietetics has earned recognition from the American Society of Healthcare Food Service and a national award from the Hospital Foodservice Managers. She is active in her church, serves on both the Pleasant Grove Township Cemetery Committee and Mt. Tabor Church Cemetery boards.

Cathy's retirement has allowed her to spend more time as errand-runner and bookkeeper for the family farm. She and her husband, Roger, raise Hereford hogs and cattle, and grow corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay. They belong to the national Hereford Hog Association and Roger is a past president. Their farm has been recognized by the State of Illinois as a sesquicentennial farm, belonging to the same family for over 175 years.

Cathy's hobbies include genealogy research, antiques, assisting with dispersal of estates, and gourmet cooking. Cathy and Roger have two grown children, Christina (husband Tony) Coffey and Corey (wife Lauren), and two grandsons, Jake and Ben. Christina teaches third grade and Corey continues the tradition of farming the family farm.



Carrie Boelens, '04

Nominated by the graduate program in Family and Consumer Sciences

Carrie Boelens, is proud to be a Mission Partner with OSF HealthCare supporting the Mission of the Sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis “serving with the greatest care and love.” In her role as Community Relations Specialist at OSF Saint Luke Medical Center in Kewanee, she supports internal and external marketing strategies and is actively engaged in the community of Kewanee. She was named a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow in 2013 and was named the 2011 Outstanding Working Woman of Illinois. In 2007, she travelled to Bangalore, India as a member of a Rotary International Group Study Exchange.

Carrie earned an associate’s degree from Lake Land College, a bachelor’s in Workforce Education Development from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and a master’s from EIU in Family and Consumer Sciences. While teaching family and consumer sciences at Sullivan High School, she took a leap of faith and accepted a teaching assistantship in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences. While attending EIU, she worked part time at Coles County Health Department as Community Health Educator and had the greatest college roommate ever, her Grandma, the late Mrs. Evelyn Titus of Lerna, IL. Mrs. Titus celebrated her 80th birthday watching Carrie cross the stage at commencement in Lantz Gym.

Upon graduation, she began her career with University of Illinois Extension as Youth Development Educator in Henry & Stark Counties, relocating to Kewanee, IL. She returned to public health and served as Community Health Educator for Henry & Stark County Health Departments for seven years. Living outside of Central Illinois, Carrie

returned to serve on the School of Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Committee and guest lecturer in FCS Foundation courses.

“My time at EIU was nothing short of magical. The collaborative relationships between faculty, staff and students provided a foundation of learning that solidified my identity and value system.”

Carrie resides in rural Atkinson and is the wife to Brian



and mom to Garren (4 years) and Rhett (9 months). Carrie is an active member of Saint Malachy Catholic Church, Geneseo, Illinois, Northwest Area Cursillo-Catholic Diocese of Peoria, Cambridge Community Unit #227 Board of Education, and numerous civic and community organizations. In her “free” time, you can find her running, reading, spending time with family or out and about conducting consumer market research (shopping). She finds the greatest joy in inspiring others to be the best version of themselves.

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

Certificate Program in English as a Second Language 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





Tim Warneke, '83, '84

Nominated by the graduate program in Kinesiology and Sports Studies

Equipped with bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education with a concentration in exercise science from Eastern Illinois University, Tim Warneke joined the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University School of Medicine as an inaugural member of the Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA) research team. Designed to increase understanding of contributors to changes in cardiovascular disease risk factors during the critical years of transition from young adulthood to middle age, CARDIA, a multicenter, longitudinal, epidemiological study received funding from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Studies continue today and with more than 600 manuscripts published on CARDIA data.

Leaving CARDIA as Northwestern University's clinic coordinator, Tim transitioned into the role of Medical Research Associate in the Department of Research and Development with Ciba-Geigy, at the time the third largest pharmaceutical company in the world. His role at Ciba-Geigy was to confirm the integrity of data reporting and adherence to Good Clinical Practice by physicians conducting the company's clinical trials in support of New Drug Applications (NDA) such as Lotensin, an anti-hypertensive, and Formoterol, an inhaled treatment for asthma.

After Ciba-Geigy, Tim's career led to contributions at a diverse list of companies and cultures as well as experiences and responsibilities in pharmaceutical development. Holding increasing roles of responsibility at Abbott Laboratories, Quintiles, Inc., a contract research organization, and

specialty pharma companies King Pharmaceuticals and BioDelivery Sciences International Tim was involved in a number of successful NDAs (New Drug Application.) The most recent NDAs being Bunavail, for opioid addiction and Belbuca, for chronic pain.

In 2011, Tim began the entrepreneurial phase of his career by co-creating Mesa Science Associates (MSA) where he serves as Vice President of Operations. MSA is a company created to assist academic researchers progress their inventions from bench science to the market place primarily in the anti-bioterrorism space. This endeavor also continued some of the collaborative efforts started at King Pharmaceuticals. With these scientists and governmental agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security, Biomedical Advanced

Research and Development Authority (BARDA), and Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) Mesa Science Associates works to obtain FDA approval for products addressing bioterrorism threats including radiologic, biologic and nerve agent poisoning for both military and civilian use. "This work has touched me personally" Tim says, "with my son, a US Marine, carrying a product I'm associated with onto the battlefields of Afghanistan."

In 2015, Tim and his MSA partners created the joint venture MesaGreen, a virtual pharmaceutical company that develops consumer and animal health products for out-licensing opportunities. In his role with MesaGreen, Tim is Chief Operating Officer.

Tim resides in Raleigh, North Carolina with his wife Jennifer. They have 5 adult children who all have found their own success in life. In his spare time he is President of CPR Training Partners, Inc., a company that provides CPR, AED and first-aid training to healthcare professionals and lay people requiring certification. While a student at EIU Tim participated on the men's cross-country and track teams.



alumni from the
college of sciences

graduate programs offered in the college

Department of Biological Sciences

Master of Science in Biological Sciences

Department of Chemistry

Master of Science in Chemistry

Master of Science in Biochemistry/Biotechnology

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

Certificate in Geographic Information

Sciences in Environmental Life Sciences

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

Master of Arts in Mathematics

Option Elementary/Middle School

Mathematics Education

Option Secondary Mathematics Education

Department of Political Science

Master of Arts in Political Science

Master of Arts in Political Science with the Option
in Public Administration/Public Policy

Certificate in Public Planning

Department of Psychology

Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology

Master of Science in School Psychology

Specialist in School Psychology





Paul Mugerditchian, '80, '81

Nominated by the graduate program in Economics

Dot Transportation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Dot Foods, Inc., employs roughly 1600 people across the US, with 1,200 of those employed as company drivers. Paul Mugerditchian's tenure at Dot Transportation began in 2001 when he started at the company in logistics and finance, and soon moved into a leadership position responsible for all inventory management. He has served as President of Dot Transportation since 2008.



Dot Foods, Inc. redistributes food and food products serving the food away from home market domestically and abroad, and recently surpassed the \$6 billion mark in total revenue.

Paul received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from EIU, completing his undergraduate degree in economics in 1980 and his graduate degree in

economics in the summer of 1981.

After graduation, Paul went to work as a financial economist on the staff of the Chicago Board of Trade. His work entailed designing and monitoring futures contracts and studying potential markets that might benefit from risk transfer. When the EIU economics department started trips to Chicago for student growth and exposure, Paul volunteered time with all the classes giving them an introduction to the Board of Trade.



In 1985, Paul went to work for Merrill Lynch in Little Rock, Arkansas, working with financial institutions like commercial banks, insurance companies, and public funds, helping them invest and manage their fixed income portfolios; work that he found to be very competitive and rewarding.

It was while working in Arkansas that Paul met his wife, Christie. They have three talented, beautiful daughters, and have made Quincy, IL their home since Paul went to work for Dot Foods. Paul served as an advisory board member for EIU's College of Sciences from 2006 through 2013. Paul has also served on various local boards in his community.

Paul writes, "The balanced fundamental education I received from EIU has served as a base for my career. The EIU education, strong work ethic, and the ability to understand that change is a constant in life has guided me."

Rebecca Summary, Ph.D., '75, '76

Nominated by the graduate program in Economics



Dr. Rebecca Summary earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from EIU. Upon graduating she was accepted into the University of Illinois' doctoral program in economics and graduated with her Ph.D. in 1983. Her career in academia began immediately following graduation and she accepted a position as assistant professor of economics at Southeast Missouri State University. In 1990 she was appointed as chair of the Department of Economics and in 2003 named chair of the larger and integrated Department of Economics and Finance, a position she currently holds. An active and prolific researcher, Rebecca has over 20 publications since 1990. She has maintained her service to the economics profession as an article reviewer for journals, and discussant and chair at professional

conferences. For the past 17 years Rebecca has served her profession as a forensic economist, a testament to her level of expertise in a very specialized type of work with dozens of law firms around the country retaining her.

Active in her community, Rebecca has served as treasurer and director for Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge, a statewide organization dedicated to the development of leadership skills, and promotion of awareness and discussion of state policy issues. In her role with the GMLC she has been responsible for selection of new members on a competitive basis, and fundraising for the group. Additional service to her community involves her work to allocate public funds for county organizations in Cape Girardeau to address the needs of victims of domestic violence, help in the transition of war veterans through financial and other support to their families, and service as a member of the National Panel of Consumer Arbitrators for the Better Business Bureau.

Rebecca's husband Larry is also an undergraduate and graduate alumnus of EIU, they have one son who works as a biomedical engineer for the Veterans Administration.





Thierno Thiam, Ph.D., '03

Nominated by the graduate program in Political Science

Dr. Thierno Thiam is an associate professor of Political Science and International Relations at Tuskegee University. He joined Tuskegee University in December 2010 from the Institute for State Effectiveness (ISE) based in Washington D.C. The ISE blends conceptual thought, analysis and direct experience to rethink relations between citizen, state, and market connections in a globalized world. Thierno's academic activities span across several major universities including Howard University where he taught the graduate seminar in Comparative Politics, the University of Maryland - College Park, where he taught the Politics of Africa and Purdue University where he taught courses in International Relations.

Thierno published two books, *African Communities: An Inquiry into the Logic of Community Formation in Africa* and, *Political Leadership and the Quest for Unity and Development in Africa*, and is currently working on a new book, *African Unification, Sustainable Development and Emerging Technologies*.

Recognizing the value of the study abroad experience for students, Thierno developed programs for Tuskegee with the University of Lome in Togo and the University of Technology in Jamaica. He is also actively involved with programs between Tuskegee and universities in Senegal and Liberia. In 2012 he served as committee chair for the Global Youth Innovation Network Summit, Held at Tuskegee, focusing on global development and entrepreneurship.

He has served as special assistant to Tuskegee University's president, Dr. Gilbert Rochon and to Tuskegee University's interim president, Dr. Matthew Jenkins. He is also the coordinator of the International Affairs minor and adviser of the Tuskegee Chapter of the National Political Science Honor Society.

Thierno holds a master's degree in English from the University of Dakar, a master's in Political Science from Eastern Illinois University and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Purdue University.





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