



2008  
Outstanding  
Graduate  
Alumni  
Awards

The Graduate School

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™



April 18, 2008



Fourth Annual Outstanding Graduate Alumni Awards Program  
April 18, 2008

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Welcome

Greetings from President William L. Perry

Dinner

Greetings from Graduate Faculty

Graduate Students

Graduate Alumni

Awards presented by

College of Arts & Humanities- James Johnson, Dean

College of Education & Professional Studies- Diane Jackman, Dean

College of Sciences- Mary Anne Hanner , Dean

Lumpkin College of Business & Applied Sciences- Diane Hoadley, Dean

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2007 - 2008 Graduate Alumni Advisory Board

Sharon Jackson, Chair

Tom Milowski, Vice Chair

Stan Adkins

Dwight Baptist

Jerry Boyd

John Dively Jr.

Marilyn Holt

Walter Knollenberg

Linda Komes

Anthony Gilberti

Steven McArthur

Pam Rathjen

## Craig Gatto, Ph.D.

Nominated by the graduate program in biological sciences



It was as a student at EIU that Craig Gatto discovered the two loves of his life, science and his wife Sheri, with whom he shared freshman classes with in English and speech. Craig earned both his bachelor's and his master's degrees in zoology from EIU in 1987 and 1989. While a student at Eastern his research interests involved a collaborative effort between the zoology and chemistry departments and it was this inter-disciplinary approach that has since defined his entire career. In 1994 Craig earned his doctorate in physiology from the Medical School at the University of Missouri-Columbia and in 1995 moved to Portland, Oregon to complete a five-year postdoctoral fellowship at Oregon Health Sciences University. During his time at OHSU he was the recipient of back-to-back American Heart Association Awards for the number-one-ranked research proposal in 1996 and 1997 and also received the National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health. After five years in Oregon and the birth of their son Tyler, Craig and Sheri returned to Illinois where Craig joined the faculty of Illinois State University. Since arriving at ISU, he has received several grants from the NIH, NSF, AHA, and USDA totaling over 2.4 million dollars. His research currently focuses on the biochemistry of membrane transport proteins, most notably the sodium pump, which is the pharmacological target for digitalis; digitalis being the predominant treatment for congestive heart failure. Retaining a professional connection to his alma mater, Craig actively collaborates with EIU biological sciences professor, Dr. Chuck Costa. The two men have co-authored a paper which was published in the prestigious *Journal of Biological Chemistry* in 2003. They are currently at work on another manuscript with plans for publication in 2008. Craig has served as the Director of the Biochemistry & Molecular Biology program at ISU and he currently serves on an NIH grant review panel that meets in Washington, D.C. three times a year. He was recently tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Illinois State. He and his wife Sheri and son Tyler reside in Normal, Illinois.



## Noëlle Greathouse, Ph.D.

Nominated by the graduate program in elementary education

Noelle Greathouse has lived her life dedicated to education, both as a student and a teacher. Noelle earned her bachelor's in elementary education from the University of Illinois in 1957. Immediately upon graduating from the U of I her career in public education began and she spent the next 29 years teaching preschool through third grade. In 1970 she earned a master's in elementary education from EIU and completed her doctorate from Indiana State University in 1991. Upon retiring from the public school system in 1988, she joined the faculty at Eastern in the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education. She retired from EIU in 2003 but when asked by the department to teach for two more years, she agreed. In her career as an educator, Noelle has also been a productive scholar. She continues to work as an NCATE Folio Reviewer for ACEI, she has published papers, developed workshops for practicing teachers, made numerous presentations at refereed professional meetings, and been invited to speak at a variety of venues. Her many awards and achievements have included, Coles County Teacher of the Year in 1974-75; EIU Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching in 1992-93; EIU Faculty Excellence Award in Service in 1994-95; faculty marshal for the College of Education and Professional Studies in 2002; and the Ronald E. Gholson Faculty Service Award in 2002. Noelle and her husband, Carlyle, have been married fifty years and have two daughters, Deborah Hardee and Darlene Riedemann, and three grandchildren. She and her husband are actively engaged in farming and live in Hindsboro, Illinois.

## Joanne Guennewig

Nominated by the graduate program in economics



Joanne Guennewig credits her experiences as an EIU student and her 1993 bachelor's and 1994 master's in economics for her current reputation as a business leader with the ability to deliver solid results. Combining the strong analytical skills provided by her degrees in economics and the leadership skills she built as president of Delta Zeta, Gamma Nu Chapter at Eastern she immediately began a successful career upon graduation with Avondale FSB in Chicago in 1994. Within two years of working for Avondale she was recognized by the company president at the annual awards ceremony. During the years following she continued her education and built her skills working on financial systems and operational projects including the launch of a new lending division for the bank and their web-based loan application and approval system which was the first in the country to offer automated lending decisions on home mortgage loans. Following her tenure at Avondale, she was selected in 2000 as one of a key team of four by Credit Suisse (formerly Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette) to build a business unit from the ground up that would review and process mortgage loan purchases. As a result of her efforts the business was able to increase loan volumes without significant increases in staffing and she was promoted to vice president. While working at Credit Suisse, Joanne also completed a master's degree in project management from Keller Graduate School. Joanne is currently employed at Hewitt Associates as a Program Manager. She is managing a 30 million dollar global program of projects with a team of 150 associates that will be delivered over the course of several years and provides significant impact to the consulting business' strategic goals and objectives. Joanne has been a member of the Project Management Institute since 1998 and achieved the professional milestone of Project Management Professional (PMP) certification in 2002. She is an active member of the Chicagoland Chapter and is currently serving on the Board of the 4200 member organization as the Vice President of Operations. Joanne serves her community through a variety of channels including Habitat for Humanity, Junior Achievement, American Stroke Association, and The Taproot Foundation. Additionally, Joanne remains close to the economics faculty at EIU and participates annually in their Chicagoland Financial Trip for current students. She currently resides in Oak Park, Illinois.



## David Immke, Ph.D.

Nominated by the graduate program in physical education

David Immke, a native of St. Joseph, Illinois, has contributed to fundamental advances in several areas of health care over the course of his career spanning academia, medicine, and pharmaceutical drug discovery. David's education began at EIU where he earned a bachelor's degree in zoology in 1991 and a master's degree in physical education in 1993. Upon graduating, he managed several large multi-year clinical trials at the University of Connecticut Health Center funded by federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health and NASA, elucidating the impact of exercise and dietary calcium on bone density and osteoporosis. David also assisted the medical staff of the inner-city Hartford Hospital Emergency Room in treating patients needing urgent care. Continuing his education, David was awarded a second master's degree and a Ph.D. in Neurobiology at the University of Connecticut for contributions towards a molecular understanding of the electrical excitability of the human nervous system using techniques in molecular biology and electrophysiology. David extended this work during a postdoctoral fellowship at the prestigious Vollum Institute for Advanced Biomedical Research of Oregon Health Sciences University, where he was the first to discover a role for acid-sensing ion channels in the perception of cardiac and musculoskeletal pain. David has published many academic studies in first-class scientific journals and is an editorial reviewer for several academic journals in neuroscience. Currently, David is a Principle Scientist in the research and development organization of the biotechnology company Amgen, Inc. He currently serves as the head of the Core Functions Group where he directs multiple laboratories dedicated to discovering new drugs to treat grievous human disease within the therapeutic areas of neurology, immunology, and cardiology. David, his wife Kathy, (who earned a master's degree at EIU in 1992), and their two children, Christina and Bryce, reside in Simi Valley, California, near Los Angeles.

## Harold “Skip” Nelson, II

Nominated by the graduate program in political science



Harold ‘Skip’ Nelson, II has devoted his career to law enforcement, with more than 28 years of service with the Illinois State Police. Skip earned his bachelor’s in political science at EIU in 1985 and as a working professional completed his master’s in political science in 1997. Today he is the Colonel of the Division of Operations with the ISP. With over 2,000 employees, it is the largest division within the agency and serves as the primary enforcement branch. The enforcement mission is centered in two fundamental areas, patrol and investigations, and is accomplished by a multi-faceted network of people and programs working to protect the residents and visitors of Illinois. For five years before his current appointment, Skip oversaw the Division of Internal Investigations, its functions include investigations into allegations of misconduct by ISP employees and employees of the executive branch of state government as well as background investigations of cadet trainees and new hires for the State of Illinois. From 1997 to 2002, he was appointed and served as the Colonel of the Human Resource Command, during which time he was promoted to Major. It was under his leadership that training, education, career and leadership development, and various human service programs were implemented. Skip began his career with the ISP as a Trooper in District 10 (Pesotum), patrolling the highways and has served the ISP in a number of other roles since that time. He has also worked as a Special Agent in the Financial Fraud and Forgery Bureau; served as the Recruitment Section Manager and Affirmative Action/EEO Program Manager; Personnel Bureau Chief; and District Commander of District 14 based in Macomb. He has garnered several departmental commendations, as well as meritorious service and achievement recognitions throughout his career. Skip is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute’s 82<sup>nd</sup> Administrative Officers Course and was selected from among the Department’s leaders to attend the Senior Management Institute for Police in Boston, Massachusetts. He also has served on a multitude of law enforcement committees and boards, including Regional President of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators and founding board member of the ISP Heritage Foundation. Skip is a member of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Officers, and a charter member of the Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers. Skip and his wife Phyllis reside in Litchfield, and have one daughter who is in her second year of law school at the University of Illinois.



## Philip Simpson, Ph.D.

Nominated by the graduate program in English

Philip L. Simpson has successfully combined a career in writing and administration in higher education. Phil earned both his bachelor's and master's in English from EIU in 1986 and 1989. His doctorate in American Literature was granted by Southern Illinois University in 1996. He is currently the Vice Provost of the North Region Campuses of Brevard Community College in Cocoa, Florida. He also serves the college as Academic Dean of Humanities, Fine Arts, and Social/Behavioral Sciences since 2005. From 1997 to 2005, he was a full-time professor of English and Humanities at the Palm Bay campus of Brevard Community College. An active shaper of the field of popular culture studies, Phil recently completed a term as President of the Popular Culture Association. He still serves as Area Chair in the organization and sits on the editorial board of the *Journal of Popular Culture*. He has also held other posts with the Popular Culture Association, including vice president and executive board member for a number of years. He is the past winner of the Felicia F. Campbell Award for Outstanding Area Chair of the Popular Culture Association and most recently received the organization's prestigious 2008 Chairperson's Award for Outstanding Service. His book, *Psycho Paths: Tracking the Serial Killer through Contemporary American Fiction and Film*, was published by Southern Illinois University Press in 2000 and he is currently under contract to publish a second book. Phil's scholarly essays of literary, cultural, and cinematic criticism have appeared in numerous edited collections, encyclopedias, and journals and he contributed the Foreword to *Dark Parades: The Spectacle of Isolation in Horror Films*, by Carl Royer and Diana Royer (2005). Phil resides in Melbourne, Florida.

## Christy Strole

Nominated by the graduate program in  
communication disorders and sciences



Christy Strole gained an education and a husband from her time spent at EIU. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in speech language pathology in 1979 and 1980 and married her college sweetheart, Archie, two weeks after graduation. Together they have raised three children while she worked as a school speech-language pathologist and he as a math teacher. Christy also earned a master's in educational administration from Governors State University in 1994. In 1989 Christy joined the Legislative Committee of the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association after being inspired by the quote: "the penalty for wise men who refuse to become involved in the affairs of their government is to be ruled by fools who do." She was appointed to represent ISHA at the Illinois Special Education Legislative Action Coalition in 1990, and took over as chair of ISHA's legislative committee in 1992. She was elected Vice President of the Division of Legislation and Regulation in 2000, and was elected President of ISHA in 2006. Christy has worked on many legislative efforts, spoken all over the state, written newsletter articles in order to educate members and testified in Springfield so often she can provide valuable advice on the state of parking near the capitol. She authored a bill requiring Speech-Language Pathology Assistants to be licensed and it was signed into law in 2001. As a result of her lobbying efforts, in 2002 the caseload maximum for speech-language pathologists in Illinois schools was reduced from 80 students to 60. There are other areas where her consultation support for ISHA has resulted in successful efforts, such as: schools can now hire SLPs through private agencies, effective 2003; new graduates can obtain temporary licensure enabling them to submit billing to Medicare, effective 2004; and as of 2005 medical SLPs are allowed to work in schools without going back to college. In addition, SLPs were no longer required to complete duplicate continuing education for their licensure and their teacher certification as of 2002 and in 2007 this exemption was expanded to include licensed school social workers, counselors and school psychologists. In 2003 Christy was named a Fellow of the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association and in 2007 she received the Outstanding Alumni Award from Eastern's Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences. Christy is currently the Early Childhood Education and Speech/Language Coordinator for Kankakee School District and chair of ISHA's Legislative Committee.



## Andrew Stupperich

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Nominated by the graduate program in  
historical administration

Andy Stupperich enrolled in Eastern's graduate program in historical administration with nearly fifteen years of museum experience. Andy earned his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Missouri at St. Louis in 1984 and graduated from EIU in 2000. Prior to studying at EIU, he worked as a museum registrar for the St. Louis County Department of Parks from 1987 to 1990 and also at the Gaston County Museum of Art and History from 1991 to 1995 where he later served as Curator of Collections until 1996. The Tennessee State Museum and the Museum of American Frontier Culture have also benefited from his expertise. Upon graduating from EIU, he became associate curator of collections at The Farmer's Museum and the New York State Historical Association in Cooperstown, New York. In this position he also served as the collections liaison for museum staff and the students of the Cooperstown Graduate Program, for whom he also assisted in collections care and management classes. In 2001, Andy became a surveyor for the American Association of Museums' MAP (Museum Assessment Program) and has completed several assessments for various historic houses and museums. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency published his article "Visions of Progress: Mattoon Free Street Fairs, 1897-1903." in the *Journal of Illinois History* in 2004. This article was an outgrowth of one of his graduating requirements from EIU. Most recently, Andy was hired by the Kentucky Historical Society as curator, a post he has held since September 2007. Andy attends many of the regional and national museum conferences, and spoke recently at the Association of Midwest Museums in Cincinnati. He resides in Frankfort, Kentucky.





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