

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN**

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TO: Council on Graduate Studies  
RE: Graduate School Commencement Marshal  
DATE: September 2, 2008

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The Commencement Marshal carries the mace and leads the processional during commencement ceremonies. In the Fall of 2007 I received several outstanding nominations for a Commencement Marshal from the Graduate School. Dr. Bailey Young was recommended to serve in the 2007 Fall Commencement Ceremonies and Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke was recommended to serve as the Commencement Marshal for the 2008 Fall Commencement Ceremonies. The Council approved these recommendations on September 11, 2007. Please let me know if you have questions regarding Dr. O'Rourke's selection during the first Council Meeting in September. I will inform Dr. O'Rourke of her selection after that meeting. Below is a summary of her qualifications.

Dr. Lisa Taylor, Graduate Faculty Member in Family and Consumer Sciences and Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences Representative to the Council on Graduate Studies nominated Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke, Graduate Faculty Member and Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences. Dr. O'Rourke is exemplary of the criteria for Commencement Marshal as outlined below:

- Record of Graduate Teaching: During her career Dr. O'Rourke has taught 4 graduate level courses and earned Who's Who among American Teachers recognition.
- Record of Graduate Research: Dr. O'Rourke has served as a thesis advisor on 9 theses between 2001 and 2007. One of her advisees was nominated for a 2004 Thesis Ward, and another earned a Graduate School Research Award. Dr. O'Rourke has served as a committee member for 17 FCS graduate students between 2001 and 2007. She has earned 10 grants to support her research and she has co-presented work at recent discipline conferences.
- Record of Leadership in Graduate Education: Dr. O'Rourke served as a representative to the Council on Graduate Studies from 2004 to 2007 and chair of the Council 2006-2007. As part of her CGS commitment she served on the First Choice Programs Consulting Committee, Committee on the Assessment of Student Learning and the Grade Appeal Committee, and the EIU Presidential Search Committee. Dr. O'Rourke has a long history of services to graduate studies in her home department that includes service to the Graduate Committee, Thesis Guide Committee, Curriculum Committee, Gerontology Advisory Committee, and Scholarship Review Committee. She received a 2006-2007 Achievement and Contribution Award for Service.