


2007

*Outstanding Graduate  
Alumni Awards*



EASTERN  
ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY



Third Annual Outstanding Graduate Alumni Awards Program  
April 20, 2007

---

Welcome

Greetings from President Louis V. Hencken

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

---

2006-2007 Graduate Alumni Advisory Board

Sandra Miller, Chair

Sharon Jackson, Vice Chair

Dwight Baptist

John Dively Jr.

Delaine Donaldson

Walter Knollenberg

Anthony Gilberti

Steven McArthur

Thomas Milowski

## Nanditha Balasubramanian

*Nominated by the graduate program in political science*



Nanditha Balasubramanian came to the United States in 1991 after completing a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Bombay University in India. While at EIU she was active in campus and community activities and after earning her master's in political science she chose to pursue a second graduate degree, graduating with a master's degree in college student affairs in 1994. Nan, as her students and colleagues know her, accepted a position at Ohio Wesleyan University as the Hall Director of a women's residence hall. On Wesleyan's campus she also coordinated programs and services at the Women's Resource Center. Southern Illinois University Foundation hired Nan in 1996 as their Assistant Director of Annual Giving program. In this position she acquired a wide range of knowledge and expertise in non-profit philanthropy laws, techniques and trends in her field. Subsequently, her expertise led to significant growth in private support to the annual fund from alumni and friends. In 2006, after a national search, she was named Director of Annual Giving. In her academic career at Eastern, Nan received the Warner/Rives Presidential Award in recognition of academic excellence, leadership and service and in 1994 was selected for a Women of Achievement award from the Women's Studies Program. Honors received for her professional work include the Virginia Carter Smith Scholarship Award; an award given to women professionals in the field of university development by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The Council again honored her in 2005 with the Pride of CASE V Award in the category of Best Annual Giving Program in recognition for her direct mail efforts that have led to increased response rates and larger gifts to the annual fund at SIUC. Honors received at Southern Illinois University Carbondale include the Outstanding Advisor Award for advising a student organization and the Spirit of Diversity Award for her mentoring and guidance of students of diverse cultures. Nan resides in Carbondale, Illinois.



## June Cooper

*Nominated by the graduate program in gerontology*

June Cooper, a native of Kenosha, Wisconsin, began her baccalaureate studies at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1936. Upon earning her teaching certificate from Racine-Kenosha Rural Normal School in Union-Grove, Wisconsin, she taught primary grades in one room and two room school houses in Wisconsin. Like many

Americans, June's career was interrupted by World War II when she enlisted in the SPARS, the women's branch of the U.S. Coast Guard, serving as a coxswain at the SPAR Barracks in Washington, D.C. With the G.I. Bill June was able to return to Coe College and graduate with a bachelor's in education. She earned a master's in counseling at Indiana University and met her future husband George. They were married in 1948. In the 50s and 60s June contributed to the baby boomer generation raising six children while George taught at Western Michigan University. George's acceptance of the chair of the new Department of Business Education at EIU brought the family to Charleston in 1962. June taught eighth grade history at Jefferson School from 1965 to 1968. While working as a guidance counselor and current events teacher at Kansas High School from 1968 to 1971 she enrolled at EIU earning another master's, this time in history. A change in her career path in the 70s resulted in her studying to become a registered nurse and she worked for the Charleston Community Hospital for one year. A return to the classroom found June teaching again for the Certificate Nurse Aid Program at the Mattoon Area Adult Education Center from 1974 to 1982. June came back to EIU to complete a master's in gerontology in 1983 and served as both the director and a staff member for Hospice of Lincolnland. Upon official retirement at the age of 76, she continued to volunteer with Hospice and also for Dynamic Home Care Hospice and finally retired in 2005 at the age of 87. June has been active in service and membership in many organizations including the Coles County Historical Society, Girl Scouts and Cole County Retired Teachers Association. June and George reside in Charleston and in addition to four sons and two daughters, they are proud grandparents of 14 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

## Roger Eddy

*Nominated by the graduate program in educational administration*



Roger Eddy's commitment to the field of education began with his academic career at Northern Illinois University where he earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1981.

After graduating from NIU, Roger began his career in public education at Hutsonville, teaching American history and physical education for seven years before being promoted to principal at Hutsonville High School. Three years later he served as principal at Watseka High School in Watseka, Illinois. After five years at Watseka, Roger returned to Crawford County and began his tenure as Superintendent of Schools for the Hutsonville school district, a position he currently holds. While working in public education as a teacher, coach and administrator he earned a master's degree in educational administration from EIU in 1986 and a specialist's degree in educational administration in 1996. Roger was recently elected to his third term as State Representative of the 109<sup>th</sup> district. He is a member of the Higher Education Committee, the Elementary and Secondary Education Regular and Appropriations Committee, Labor Committee, Gaming Committee and most recently was named Minority Spokesperson for the new Ethanol Production Oversight Committee in the House of Representatives. Roger and his wife Rebecca, an early childhood teacher, have been married 26 years and have five children: Matt, Lisa, Brenda, Beth and Jessica. They reside in rural Hutsonville with their two youngest children.



## **David Fields, Ed.D.**

*Nominated by the graduate program in educational administration*

David Fields embarked on a career dedicated to education as a social studies teacher at Danville High School and North Ridge Junior High in 1960. His academic career includes a bachelor's in education in 1959 and a master's in education in 1960, both from EIU. His doctorate of education administration was earned at the University of Illinois in 1989. He most recently retired as the Superintendent of Schools for the Danville District where he served from 1991 to 2001 and before that worked as the Assistant Superintendent for Danville beginning in 1983. David was appointed by Governor Blagojevich to the Illinois State Board of Education in 2004 and he currently serves as the State Board's Chair of the Education Policy Planning Committee and as a member of the Board Operations Committee. He has been and is an active member of the community and has worked with numerous community organizations, such as the Danville Lions and Rotary Clubs, Danville Community Public Schools Foundation and the Lakeview School of Nursing to name a few. David has been the recipient of many civic awards, including an African American Achiever Award from the NAACP, Illinois Educator of the Year, Illinois Association of Educational Professionals' Administrator of the Year and the Regional Office of Education named him an Outstanding Educator. David and his wife Marian reside in Danville and have two children, Jeanette and John.

## Dave Lehrer

*Nominated by the graduate program in economics*



Dave Lehrer earned both his bachelor's and his master's in economics from EIU in 1988 and 1989. Upon graduating from Eastern, Dave went to work for the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) as a public policy analyst. The GAO is often referred to as the investigative arm of Congress, or the congressional watchdog, and studies how the federal government spends taxpayers' dollars. GAO evaluates federal programs, audits federal expenditures and issues legal opinions; its work leads to laws and acts that improve government operations and save billions of taxpayer dollars. In Dave's current role as an Assistant Director of Education, Workforce and Income Security issues, he manages a nation-wide staff of economists, researchers and investigators that conduct public policy issues including retirement and pensions, welfare, employment security and safety and equal employment opportunity. In the past he has also been involved with policy issues concerning agriculture, food safety, child nutrition, tax policy and surface and aviation transportation. The GAO's Office of Human Capital, where Dave is an adjunct faculty member, gives him a chance to teach and canvas colleges for potential recruits. He and his wife Jill '87 live in Grant Park, Illinois.



## Gregory Sadlek, Ph.D.

*Nominated by the graduate program in English*

Gregory M. Sadlek is the founding Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Cleveland State University (CSU) in Cleveland, Ohio. The college includes departments and schools in the humanities, social sciences, and fine arts, as well as a number of research and cultural centers. From 1989 to 2005, Greg was a member of the Department of English at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), where he taught courses in the history of the English language as well as on the poetry of Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, and Dante Alighieri. In his last two years at UNO, he held the Jefferis Chair of English. Before coming to UNO, he also taught at Northern Illinois University, Eastern Illinois University, Hamilton College, and the Université de Nantes in France. Greg earned his bachelor's in philosophy at Quincy College. He came to Eastern for his master's in English in 1977, earned his doctorate in English from Northern Illinois University, and studied theology on the graduate level for one year at the Catholic Theological Union. Greg has presented numerous papers and published widely on medieval literature. He edited two volumes of the *Index to Reviews of Bibliographical Publications*, a reference work for scholars working in any of the fields of scholarly bibliography. His book, *Idleness Working: The Discourse of Love's Labor from Ovid through Chaucer and Gower*, a literary critical study of ancient and medieval love poetry, was published by Catholic University of America Press in 2004. Before becoming a dean at CSU, he was Chairperson of the UNO English Department from 1994 to 2000. From 1995 to 1998, he was Secretary/Treasurer of the International Courtly Literature Society, North American Branch, a professional society for scholars studying medieval courtly literature. From 1998 to 1999, he served as President of the UNO chapter of the American Association of University Professors. Greg is married to Françoise Rolland, they reside in Shaker Heights, Ohio with their son, Benjamin, a high school student. Their older son, Jonathan, is a student at the University of North Dakota.



## Steve Selcke

*Nominated by the graduate program in business administration*



Steve Selcke earned his bachelor's degree in management in 1976 and his master's in business administration in 1977, both from EIU. Those degrees have served him well, both in the public and private sectors. Steve currently holds the position of Illinois Vice President of Government Relations for AT&T. He has served in that role for AT&T and its predecessor companies (Ameritech, SBC) since 1994. In his position with AT&T, he acts as the company's point person in its dealings with Illinois state and local government. Prior to joining Ameritech in 1994, Steve had a 17 year career in public service which included director of the Illinois Department of Insurance. He has also held cabinet posts as director of the Department of Professional Regulation and assistant director of the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. Steve worked as director of Legislative Affairs for former Illinois governors, Jim Edgar and Jim Thompson, as well as handling a variety of legislative responsibilities for the Capital Development Board and the Illinois House of Representatives. He currently holds membership on the boards of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Taxpayers Federation of Illinois and is active with the Illinois Manufacturers Association and the Illinois Retail Merchants. He and his wife Kathy have three sons and reside in the western suburbs of Chicago.



## Linda Norbut Suits

---

*Nominated by the graduate program in historical administration*

Linda Norbut Suits earned her master's degree in 1988 in historical administration and immediately went to work for the Arlington Heights Historical Museum as their first professional curator. She left Arlington Heights to accept the position as Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts at the Illinois State Museum where she worked on "At Home in the Heartland," an examination of home life in Illinois from the arrival of the French in the eighteenth century to the present. In 1991 she became Chief of Cultural Resource Services for the National Park Service at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site where she managed the professional staff accountable for research, exhibition and stewardship of cultural resources. Linda has worked at the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency since 1999. In her current position as Museum Program Manager she manages the curatorial program of 52 historic sites, memorials and monuments across Illinois. Her responsibilities include artifact collections stewardship, special programs and material culture research. Linda is an active contributor to the museum profession and the historical administration program at Eastern. She is currently serving as the co-chair of the local arrangements committee for the 2007 Illinois Association of Museums' annual meeting. She has written technical bulletins for the National Park Service, the Illinois Heritage Association and the Illinois Association of Museums. In 2006 she presented a paper at the IAM annual meeting and presented a workshop on re-crafting resumes for EIU students in the historical administration program. For the past three years she has shared her expertise with Eastern students by assisting Dr. Debra Reid in her Collections Care and Management Class. In the class she has worked with students on specific collections projects and held seminars for the students on collections stewardship topics. Linda and her husband, Duston, reside in Loami, Illinois with their daughters Kate and Sarah.

## Tim Thomas, Ed.D.

---

*Nominated by the graduate program in school psychology*



Tim Thomas's time spent at EIU resulted in not only his bachelor's and master's degrees but also lifelong friendships. He still plays softball in a league with four of the friends whom he met while studying at Eastern. After graduating in 1980 from the psychology program he went to work as a school psychologist. While working as a school psychologist, he served on the Illinois School Psychologist Association governing board as the Chairperson for Continuing Education and also as treasurer. He was awarded that organization's Outstanding Achievement Award for his contributions related to the advancement of professional development. Tim continued his own education earning a master's degree in educational administration from Northern Illinois University and his doctorate in educational leadership from Loyola University in Chicago. Tim is currently serving as Superintendent of the Northern Suburban Special Education District; which is a special education joint agreement cooperative consisting of 19 school districts north of Chicago. Tim has worked extensively with national and state leaders developing techniques to enable school providers to better serve students with special needs. He has worked with legislators, the Illinois State Board of Education, written numerous professional articles for various journals and has presented throughout the state and nationally regarding best practices in the field of special education. Presently, Tim is the Legislative Chairperson for the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education. He also serves on the Executive Board for the school coalition for education, research and development, the Low Incidence Cooperative Agreement, as well as U.S. Congressman Kirk's Educational Advisory Committee. Tim's wife Alicia is also an alumnus of EIU and its psychology program; they have three children and live in Naperville, Illinois.

*The mission of graduate education at Eastern Illinois University is to provide superior graduate degree, certificate, and post-baccalaureate options designed for career specialization and advancement, certification and credentialing, professional and leadership development, and preparation for advanced scholarship.*



The Graduate School  
600 Lincoln Avenue  
Charleston, Illinois 61920  
217.581.2220  
[www.eiu.edu/~graduate](http://www.eiu.edu/~graduate)