

international
alumni reunion 2014



old friends.
new beginnings.

September 12-13, 2014

For more than 50 years, Eastern has hosted international students on its campus with the assistance of dedicated staff and the vision of its leaders. Today we commend those pioneers for the establishment of programs and structures to facilitate the opportunity for citizens of other countries to enroll at EIU. We applaud those daring and brave students for their courage in leaving home to live and study in a new land and culture. And today we honor those alumni who exemplify Eastern Illinois University's definition of global citizen. Once courageous students, they now share a common history, enjoy excellent reputations in their careers and lives, and project bright futures as EIU alumni.

We are proud and honored to name them

EIU Global Ambassadors



Khaled Abdou, Ph.D., '01

Egypt



Dr. Khaled Abdou currently holds the position of Associate Professor of Financial Services at the Pennsylvania State University – Berks College. He earned his Master of Business Administration (MBA) from EIU in 2001 and also worked as a graduate assistant during his time at EIU. Khaled writes, “I traveled thousands of miles to attend EIU’s MBA program. It was a fantastic experience professionally and personally. I learned a lot and had a great time interacting with faculty, staff and colleagues.” After graduation from EIU, he used his CPA and MBA in the consulting field. He was then admitted to the Ph.D. program at the University of New Orleans in Louisiana (UNO) in 2002 and worked as a graduate assistant while pursuing his Ph.D. In 2005, Dr. Abdou earned his Master in Financial Economics and in 2006 he earned his Ph.D. in Financial Economics with specialization in Investments and Corporate Finance. His dissertation was titled “The Role of Venture Capitalists in Monitoring Portfolio Companies”.

After graduating from UNO, he joined The Pennsylvania State University – Berks College as an Assistant Professor. He teaches Finance and Accounting courses and active in research. His current areas of interest are venture



capital, corporate governance and executive compensation, financial bubbles and investment strategies. His publications have appeared in reputable academic outlets and he has presented his research in many academic conferences. In 2012, he earned his tenure and was promoted to the Associate professor position. Khaled states, “Studying at EIU provided me with the tools and

knowledge to start my research. Professors at that time guided and helped me to pursue a terminal degree.”

Dr. Abdou is a CFA Charterholder (Chartered Financial Analyst). In addition to his academic experience, he is active in financial and accounting consulting, enabling him to bring the latest financial issues to his students and solve the latest financial problems with in-depth research.



Daniel Solomon Alemu, Ph.D. '04 Ethiopia

In his words, Daniel describes his EIU experience: “I arrived at Eastern on a cold winter day in January 2003 to pursue my masters in Educational Leadership. The unbearably freezing winter had little impact on the sub-Saharan African who was received by not just a friendly campus but a warm community that

made me feel at home right from day one. My stay at Eastern was so colorful in many ways. I had the opportunity to meet incredible individuals some of whom remain close friends to date. While at EIU, I had been actively involved in International education issues including the opportunity to serve as a treasurer and vice president of the African Student Association.

An educator by background, I earned my masters in Educational Leadership from EIU in 2004. Right after graduation, I joined Illinois State University in Normal IL and earned my Ph.D. in the same field in 2008. Since then I have been teaching at The Sage Colleges in upstate New York. Very recently I was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor of educational leadership. At Sage, I serve as the director of doctoral research while teaching in the department of educational leadership.”

“The experience and world class education I received at EIU has undoubtedly been instrumental for my continued success in my career life. Better yet, EIU’s philosophy of investing in human capital through its generous international scholarship, has enabled me and many others to materialize our dreams and to contribute our share in making this world a better place. In the past three years I have been back and forth to Ethiopia where I have

been giving back to my other alma mater Addis Ababa University, a voluntary service where I help in advising doctoral students and serving as external examiner of PhD candidates. I give back because I now have the education and experience of which EIU played a major role. I also give back because I share EIU’s philosophy of investing in human capital.”



Fred Apeaning, '07

Ghana



Originally from Ghana in West Africa (WA), Fred earned a bachelor's degree in Food Science from University of Ghana, Legon, WA in June, 1999. He earned a master's in Environmental Science from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio in 2005 and master's in Technology from EIU in 2007.

Fred has international experience in quality assurance and food safety in both corporate and manufacturing locations. He worked for the Heinz Europe plant in Ghana as a Quality Assurance Supervisor. He was Corporate Quality Assurance for Sara Lee Corporation, Food and Beverage division in Downers Grove, IL after graduation from EIU for a number of years. Fred had the opportunity of working with both Supply Chain and co-manufacturing plants across Northern America ensuring product quality consistency and regulatory compliance for meat, bakery, coffee and tea plants. After the spin-off of the Sara Lee Corporation in 2012, Fred was promoted to work at the Jimmy Dean plant in Florence, AL as Statistical Process Control Manager where he is leading statistical process control, lean and six sigma initiatives at the facility.

Fred is a senior member of American Society of Quality (ASQ) and is certified quality engineer (CQE) and certified six sigma black belt (CSSBB). He also has other professional certifications including Safe



Quality Foods Practitioner (SQF), Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Certified Technology Manager (CTM) with The Association of Technology Management and Applied Engineering.

Fred states, "The education received at EIU provided me the solid background quality

engineering techniques and six sigma to pass all the professional ASQ professional certifications. I am indebted to EIU for the quality of education, experience and connections." Fred and his wife Doreen, and their three children, currently live in Florence, Alabama.



Marek Marciniak, Ph.D., '98, '05 Poland

Marek writes, "EIU has transformed my life in many ways. First, it enabled me to earn two graduate degrees that played a significant role in my decision to pursue a Ph.D. program and to solidify my academic career. Second, it provided me with work experience through graduate assistantships and an instructor position that proved invaluable in my

professional pursuits. Third, it allowed me to meet wonderful people and make lasting friendships. Last but not least, it helped me bridge my passion for English with a newly discovered passion for finance."

"My transformative experience with EIU spans two decades and two colleges. In 1998 I completed a Master's degree in English. My thesis on English reflexives was recognized with an EIU Distinguished Thesis Award in April of 1999. In 2005 I graduated with an MBA. From January 2007 to May 2008 I held the position of a finance instructor in the School of Business. Without EIU and its dedicated English and business faculty I would never have embarked on a Ph.D. program and became a finance professor."

"In 2008 I started a Ph.D. program in finance at Florida Atlantic University. In March of 2013 I defended my dissertation which dealt with different aspects of illegal insider trading prior to takeovers of U.S. targets. The two papers based on the dissertation have been published in respectable finance journals. Since the beginning of my Ph.D. program I have been a devoted researcher. To date I have had seven publications in finance journals on such topics as bank capital during the financial crisis, Greek sovereign debt crisis, Special Economic Zones in Poland, exchange-traded funds, mergers and acquisitions, insider trading, and S&P indices. I maintain an active research agenda since I strongly believe that research and teaching coexist in symbiosis, i.e., they enlighten and strengthen each other. In 2013 I joined the Department of Economics and Finance at West Chester University of Pennsylvania as a tenure-track assistant professor of finance. I have been teaching investments, financial analysis in Excel, and contemporary issues in finance. I have been enjoying both my students and colleagues since they all create a stimulating atmosphere conducive to teaching, learning, and researching. I have scored multiple successes as a teacher and I must admit that to this day I draw my inspiration from my wonderful EIU professors."

Kim Khue Tran, CFA, BIO '75 Vietnam



Kim is currently the Senior Director of Finance for the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, DC. The National Trust is a privately funded not-for profit organization working to save America's historic places. She supports the investment and analysis of \$300M in endowment and retirement funds over a wide range of asset classes. Previously, she was CFO for the National Apartment Association, BoatPeople SOS, and United Way of the National Capital Area. Kim earned an MBA in Finance from Columbia University after graduating from EIU's School of Business with a major in Production Management. She is a CFA charter holder. *In Kim's words*, "I could never forget my (too brief) years at Eastern. I remember being scared of not making the grade(s), of weak verbal skills, of living in a dorm and of eating American food for the first time in my life. It turned out that the food, the accommodations and especially the friendships at Eastern were far superior to what I encountered later in the big city. I remember Mr. Filskow, our foreign student advisor, Ms. Carlene Pennel, an EIU staffer, whom I saw a couple of years ago at her 80th birthday reunion in Springfield, MO, and Nhu Y Hermann, an MBA student, who were always there to cheer us up, arrange social events for us or chauffeur us around the area. I could never forget our contract law professor and his pounding into us the "without recourse" definition. I still feel sorry for the professor who took on the challenge of teaching Accounting 101 and its assorted debit and credit definitions to a little Vietnamese girl who had no idea what double entry bookkeeping was all about (and even now I still try not to understand it) – maybe it's why I became good at finance and managerial accounting instead - T-accounts were simply not my cup of tea. My Illinois connections remain strong - I'm married to Steve Kozlowski, a CPA who was born and raised in Bloomington, IL and graduated from ISU. Our son goes to U of I in Urbana, which means I come back to Illinois at least once a year."

"I have never forgotten all the help I received along the way, and I am a firm believer in volunteering. Over the years, I have worked for the Catholic Charities in Houston, TX, helping resettle refugees, Compass in Washington, DC helping non-profits with strategy planning, BoatPeople SOS in Falls Church, VA, with board of director functions and, of course, volunteering at PTO functions. Currently, I am an Ambassador for Columbia University's MBA program helping interview and recruit potential students in the DC area."



Jing Shao, '05
China

Jing Shao enrolled in EIU's School of Technology in August of 2003 and earned her master's degree in June of 2005. She writes, "Studying at EIU enabled me to meet people from different countries, share experiences from different cultures, make friends from different backgrounds, and most of all gain the best

knowledge to aid my future endeavors. Through activities organized by the university, I made many friends coming from all over the world. I developed more tolerance, compassion, acceptance and curiosity to the world around me. EIU was a phenomenal experience for me." Describing her life after EIU, she states, "After graduation, instead of accepting a job in the US, I decided to go back to China to bring my new knowledge in bridging China to the world. I worked as a project manager for China National Electric Import & Export Corp., a major international industrial trading and service company in Beijing, and three years later became head of international business department. I have participated in many infrastructure projects domestically and internationally: building high-speed rail systems, modernizing commercial seaport management system, planning and building commercial trucking assembly line, designing and implementing efficient water treatment technology in waste water management plant. With my solid experience at EIU, I was able to liaise with business partners/ associates from different countries with confidence and understanding. Combining knowledge I learned and wonderful experience at EIU, I am able to make a positive contribution in the process of my professional and personal growth. I am honored as a graduate of EIU."

Currently Jing Shao is based in Beijing, China., but enjoys frequent business and leisure travels around the world.



Zhibo Wang, '98
China



Zhibo Wang earned his bachelor's degree in English Literature from Qingdao University, China in 1991. After working as a business clerk for five years, he attended EIU and earned a master's degree in English in 1998. For a brief period, he attended Illinois State University, and returned to China in 2000.

After returning to China, he started teaching English, first at Ocean University in Qingdao, and then at New Oriental School in Beijing. He settled in Linyi from 2001 and has been teaching various classes in English at Linyi University. Linyi University is a new school which fosters the creation of brand new ideas. Zhibo Wang has taught English Literature, Intensive reading, English Press and English Writing. Zhibo Wang's expertise in English Writing is something he is most proud of, which was obtained through his academic training at EIU.



In the future, Zhibo Wang hopes to further enhance his abilities in English teaching. He is also working to collaborate and establish a stronger connection between Eastern Illinois University and Linyi University.

