

OLD FRIENDS. NEW BEGINNINGS.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2007.

2007 international
ALUMNI reunion



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

*One must care about a world
one will never see ~ Bertrand Russell*





Tope Adeyemi-Bello Ph.D., '83, '84 Nigeria

Following his father's advice, an alumnus of Eastern, Tope Adeyemi-Bello came to study at EIU in 1981. Tope completed a bachelor's in business in 1983 and a master's in business administration in 1984. While working on his master's degree he published his first paper in collaboration with Dr. Kathawala and Dr. Gholamnezhad. Tope writes that "the quality of the MBA program at EIU was highlighted by the fact I was one of only a couple of Ph.D. candidates at the University of Arkansas with a publication in hand upon admission." The University of Arkansas provided more than a doctoral degree, it was here that Tope met his wife Kathy in 1985 and they were married in 1988. While finishing his dissertation in 1990 he was offered a tenure-track faculty position at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. He is currently a professor in the Department of Management at ECU. Tope continues to publish and currently has over 40 articles in various scholarly outlets. He was the ECU Teacher-Scholar of the Year for the College of Business in 2002 and received the Commerce Club's College of Business Teaching Excellence Award in 2004. Tope, his wife Kathy and their children, Brianna and Jackson reside in Greenville, North Carolina.

Nanditha Balasubramanian, '92, '94 India



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.



Kailas Chinta, '75 India

Kailas (Shah) Chinta is of Indian descent but was born and raised in Kenya. In 1972 she arrived in the U.S. to study home economics at EIU and earned a bachelor's degree in 1975. It was during her years as a student that Kailas developed a deep faith in Christ, and felt the call to serve humanity in the name of Christ. Arriving in India in 1980 she realized her dream of uplifting the children of India when she and her husband,

Jayaraj, had the opportunity to serve as house parents to 26 tribal boys in a children's home in the Panchmahal District of Gujarat. The couple was able to offer these children, living in tribal groups in remote areas of the jungle without proper educational facilities, a chance at formal education and a brighter future. Kailas and her husband founded the Ark Family Ministries in 1995 with the mission of strengthening and enriching the lives of Indian families. Through this organization they conduct family seminars and pre-marital counseling for young adults throughout India. In 2002 the couple's housemaid, Laxmi, learned her husband was HIV positive and upon his death the Chintas assisted in the care and education of her children. Word of mouth spread of the help Laxmi and her family received. This resulted in other HIV/AIDS patients coming to seek help from the Chintas. In Kailas' words, "the flood gates opened for these people many of whom had experienced rejection from family and friends due to the shame and stigma attached to the disease." Since 2002 they have cared for more than 140 patients, providing counseling, testing, medical care and an opportunity for these patients and their families to experience a "community spirit of belonging and acceptance." When schooling was denied for the HIV positive children in the Chintas' care, they realized the need for a residential school. In 2004 the Ashrivad Residential School was opened as a private English medium school for children either affected or infected with HIV/AIDS. Starting with 11 children, there are currently 30 resident students, 9 of whom are HIV positive. The Chintas' college age daughter and son volunteer their time and help their parents in this mission of outreach. Kailas' dream of serving the "downtrodden" has been realized and continues with her and her family's work in India. Kailas writes, "my family and I have the greatest joy of uplifting and providing quality life to these downtrodden people in the name of Christ who loves them."

Lasun Emiola, Ph.D., '73, '74 Nigeria



After attending teacher training colleges in Nigeria, Lasun Emiola came to EIU in 1972 to study physical education. He earned a bachelor's in physical education in 1973 and a master's in physical education in 1974. His doctorate in physical education was completed at Oregon State University in 1977. He is currently a professor of physical and health education at the University of Ilorin in Ilorin, Nigeria. His current research activities include the effect of sports participation on the skeletal growth of children, physical fitness and health habits of Kwara State children and the seasonal variation in the physical fitness of soccer players. Lasun currently has five books in publication with topics ranging from physical education to sports studies. He has published numerous articles in scholarly journals on those same topics as well as on nutrition, recreation, and health and wellness. A few of his many professional memberships include serving as director of the National Institute for Sports from 2000-2006; president of the West Africa Universities Games (WAUG) since 2003; member executive All Africa University Games; president of the Nigeria Association of Sports Science and Medicine since 1995; and member of the Presidential Monitoring Committee for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. Lasun and his wife Tinu have six children and live in Ilorin, Nigeria.



Ejike Charles Igboegwu, Ph.D., '75, '76 Nigeria

Ejike Charles Igboegwu transferred to EIU after earning the National Certificate of Education at the University of Nigeria in 1973. He earned two bachelor's degrees simultaneously in the School of Technology in 1975, one in industrial technology and another in technology education. A year later he completed his master's in technology education, also at EIU. His doctoral degree in industrial technology teaching was earned from the University of Illinois in 1980. Charles, commonly addressed as "Dr. Charles" by colleagues and students, taught for seven years in the Hammond Indiana Public School System as a public school shop teacher. In 1989 he accepted a faculty position with Indiana Vocational Technical College, now known as Ivy Tech Community College. He has been with the college as it developed from an area vocational technical college to a community college system. During the past 18 years, Charles has served as an instructor, chair of the Division of Applied Science and Technology, as well as program chair and adviser in the Design Technology Program. In 1996 he was promoted to the academic rank of full professor in Design Technology. Charles has also developed a successful Tech-Prep Program in the local public schools. Since 1994 Charles has served as a guest lecturer for Purdue University in the departments of Engineering and Mechanical Engineering Technology teaching engineering graphics and AutoCAD. He has co-authored two workbooks in engineering graphics and AutoCAD and has a third about to be published. Charles is a member in the Omicron Lambda Beta Chapter of the Scholastic Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. A father of three children, his oldest a son, Uchenna works in the music industry in Nigeria; his daughter Uzoma was born in Charleston and is a graduate of Purdue University Calumet; and his youngest daughter Diondra is a freshman at IUPU- Indianapolis pursuing a degree in nursing.

Sylvia Nunez Jerdan, '77 Peru



Sylvia Nunez Jerdan was an eleven year old when she came to the U.S. from Peru with her mother. Teaching herself to speak English, she excelled in school, graduated from Mattoon High School and was able to earn a scholarship to Eastern Illinois University. She earned a bachelor's degree in medical technology in 1977 and is a registered medical technologist of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. From 1977 to 1982 she worked as a medical technologist for Decatur Memorial Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital and Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, where she was the Supervisor of Microbiology. In 1983 she returned to her alma mater and worked in the university's Student Health Services until 1985. Since 1985 Sylvia has assisted her husband Greg in the family's business, Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, providing professional funeral service with compassion and support to grieving families. Active in her community, Sylvia has volunteered and provided hours of service to community groups as well as tutoring and translating for Spanish speaking students and patients. Sylvia's daughter Brooke uses words such as "determined, strong, self-reliant, gracious and patriotic" to describe her mother. She writes of her mother's gratefulness at the opportunity to study at Eastern and how she even wrote a formal note of thanks to the International Program's staff thanking them for their support. Sylvia has also been an inspiration for other family members to come to the U.S. for an education. Brooke writes of how her mother's active role in the community has brought a sense of multiculturalism to an area traditionally not known for its diversity. Of Sylvia's sense of American patriotism and her pride in her heritage, Brooke writes, "my father, sisters and I have been very fortunate to have had many opportunities to visit Peru with my Mom. She has exposed and instilled in us the Peruvian culture, values and customs and encouraged us to incorporate both countries' unique qualities into our lives." Sylvia and her husband Greg reside in Mattoon and have four daughters, Brooke, Courtney, Kimberly and Kendra.



Margaret Mwale, '94, '96 Zambia

The example Margaret Mwale's parents set for her and her six siblings in Zambia was the value of education, economics, self-determination and independence. Margaret's mother was a school teacher and school administrator while her father worked for a financial institution. Margaret came to the U.S. in 1989 to pursue a bachelor's degree in economics at Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio. In addition to

obtaining a degree at Bluffton she also met her future husband, Kaemba and they have now been married for 12 years. In 1994 she earned a master's degree in economics from EIU and after completing graduate course work at Valparaiso University she transferred back to Eastern and completed a master's in education in guidance and counseling, with an emphasis in college student personnel work in 1996. She also earned certification in economic community development in 2006 from Chalmers Center for Economic and Community Development, Covenant College in Georgia. From 1996 to 2002 Margaret was the director of admissions for the School of Physical Therapy at the University of Indianapolis. She also served as the program director for Tabernacle in Indianapolis and coordinator of community outreach for CPC in Mobile, Alabama. Since 2005 she has held the position of associate for community relations with the Self-Development of People program in Louisville, Kentucky. The Self-Development of People's mission statement reads, "we participate in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people who are seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice." Margaret works to coordinate and lead the development of a communication strategy for Self-Development of People in conjunction with the National Committee and staff, communicate with past, current and potential Self-Development of People partners, lead and coordinate educational and training programs and cultivate and maintain relationships locally and nationally with other organizations. Support from her family in the pursuit of higher education has been so important to Margaret she writes, "I am grateful to my husband for his support and encouragement while completing my graduate studies at Eastern Illinois University; to my parents for their encouragement and enormous sacrifices they have made for me and my siblings from a very early age to enable us to become the adults we are today and to all my siblings for their encouragement, example and support of me through the years."

Sundeep Oberoi, '90 India



The world of business has been home for Sundeep Oberoi for his entire career, whether it be in the U.S. or India. Sundeep studied to be a chartered accountant (equivalent to a CPA) at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and received a bachelor's of commerce from the Brihan Maharashtra College of Commerce in Pune, India in 1985. He earned a bachelor of laws (equivalent to a juris doctorate) from Symbiosis Law College at Pune University in 1988. It was in 1988 that Sundeep came to EIU for a master's in business administration and earned that degree in 1990. Before graduating from Eastern he was offered a job with Watson Wyatt Worldwide in Chicago. While in Chicago he enrolled in the master's of laws program at DePaul University and graduated with an LLM degree in 1997. While at Watson Wyatt Worldwide he worked in a variety of positions including, benefits consultant, software developer, and technology consultant as well as managing a group of software developers in one of Watson Wyatt's call centers. In 1998 Sundeep worked as a financial implementation consultant for Peoplesoft, Inc. providing consulting and development services for their payroll and financial applications. Later that year he founded OberTech, Inc. and provided consulting and implementation service to Peoplesoft. Over the last nine years OberTech has grown to include implementing Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains and Microsoft Dynamics Customer Relationship , specializing in developing solutions for the media and entertainment industry. OberTech has offices in Naperville, Illinois and Pune, India. Sundeep lives in Naperville with his wife, Suji and their two children, Rishi and Rhea.



Alaba Obiri, '78, '80 Nigeria

After earning a Higher National Diploma (H.N.D) in civil engineering from The Polytechnic in Ibadan, Nigeria in 1976, Alaba Obiri came to the U.S. to study at EIU. While at EIU, Alaba earned a bachelor's degree in industrial technology in 1978 and an MBA in 1980. From 1980 to 2001, Alaba worked for Shell Oil in Nigeria developing and negotiating sales of natural gas. In this position he also supervised the first national gas market survey which resulted in the establishment of the first natural gas marketing and distribution company in Nigeria. After years of active participation as a member and co-laborer to the Ministry of the Foursquare Gospel Church in Nigeria, he received an invitation from the national leadership of the Church to take over the pioneering of a local church in Lagos and subsequently became the senior pastor. In 2002 he was licensed as a minister of the Foursquare Church in the U.S. and worked to establish a church in Houston, Texas and has remained the senior pastor since its inception. Alaba and his wife Anota reside in Houston, Texas where two of their three children also live.

Nicholas Obiri, Ph.D., '75, '77 Nigeria



A brief high school teaching career in Nigeria ended and the promise of a new career as a scientist opened for Nicholas Obiri in 1974 when he came to EIU to study. Nicholas was able to complete a bachelor's degree in zoology with a minor in botany in one year due to previous coursework that transferred to Eastern. In 1977 he earned a master's degree, also in zoology/botany, from EIU. His doctorate, in microbiology (immunology), was earned at Mississippi State University in 1988 and he performed post-doctoral work for Biotherapeutics, Inc. in Tennessee. Subsequently he was recruited by the Food and Drug Administration where he researched Interleukins 4 and 13 and their receptors and has coauthored and published a number of papers on this subject in peer-reviewed journals. He also served as senior staff fellow for the FDA in the Laboratory of Molecular Tumor Biology in the mid 90s. In the late 90s he worked with Dr. Norman Baylor in the Office of Vaccine in the efforts to develop a comparability protocol for vaccine products. From 1999 to 2004, Nick worked at the Division of Manufacturing and Product Quality where he reviewed Biologics Licence Applications and led preapproval facility inspection teams to support the applications. Nick is currently a Biologics Expert at the Office of Regulatory Affairs, Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health (NIAID/NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, where one of his duties is to advise biologics manufacturers on how to resolve manufacturing challenges without compromising the strength, purity, potency and safety of the product. He was also the Acting Director for a period. Among the many awards and recognition that Nick has received are the NIH/NIAID Special Act of Service Award in 2006 and the FDA Public Health Achievement Award in 2003. Nick's wife, Taiye, is an EIU alumna and they reside in North Potomac, Maryland with their two daughters, Funmi and Titilayo and their son Akin.



Sesan Kim Sokoya, DBA, '79, '81, '82 Nigeria

Sesan Kim Sokoya arrived at EIU from Nigeria as a freshman prepared to study business in the fall of 1977. He completed his bachelor's degree in business management in 1979, his master's in economics in 1981 and his master's in business administration in 1982, all at

Eastern. Kim credits his father and the faculty and staff at EIU for providing the needed encouragement to complete his doctorate in business administration from Mississippi State University in 1985. He began his professional career at Troy State University in Alabama as an assistant professor of management from 1986 to 1989 and was the recipient of the university's Outstanding Faculty Award in 1987. His career at Middle Tennessee State University began in 1989 and he is currently a tenured professor of management and international business in the College of Business at MTSU. His research interests include; governance and economic development and the locational strategies of multinational companies. Kim has served as a visiting professor to colleges in Nigeria and France, most recently at the European Summer University in Cherbourg, France. He has authored and coauthored numerous papers published in scholarly journals and won the Best Paper Award from The International Executive in 1992. Kim, his wife, Banji, and their children live in Murfreesboro, Tennessee and are active in their community. Kim writes that they have enjoyed the opportunity to "entertain college students in our home, a reminder of the hospitality I enjoyed as a student at Eastern." Kim also takes time out to watch his kids play soccer and train for marathons and half marathons.

