

Alan Eastham

Alan Eastham (Jr.) was born and attended school in Dumas, Arkansas. His father was in business there and his mother was a nurse at the hospital and later with the Arkansas public health service.

He earned a B.A. degree in Philosophy at Hendrix College in 1973 and returned to Dumas for a year to work for his father. In 1974, he married Carolyn Laux of Morrilton, and they moved to Fayetteville so that he could attend the University of Arkansas School of Law. However, the U.S. Department of State made a better offer, so they left Fayetteville in January, 1975 to move to Washington. In 1982, he earned a J.D. degree (cum laude) at Georgetown University in Washington. He is a member of the D.C. Bar but has never practiced.

Entering federal government service in 1975 as a member of the U.S. Foreign Service, he had a variety of assignments both overseas and in Washington, including:

- Vice Consul in the U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal
- Staff officer in the Bureau of Public Affairs and the Office of the Coordinator for Counter Terrorism, State Department.
- Desk officer for Sri Lanka and India, State Department.
- Consul and Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar, Pakistan.
- Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs in the State Department.
- Political Counselor, U.S. Embassy Nairobi, Kenya.
- Political Counselor, U.S. Embassy Kinshasa, Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo).
- Consul General and Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate General in Bordeaux, France.

- Political Counselor, U.S. Embassy New Delhi, India.
- Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, State Department.
- Special Negotiator for Conflict Diamonds, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, State Department.
- Country Director for Central Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad, Central African Republic, Rwanda, and Burundi), State Department.
- U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi (Lilongwe).
- U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville).

During his service the State Department taught him the Nepalese and French languages.

After retiring from the State Department in 2010 with 35 years, six months, and three weeks of service, he and Carolyn moved back to Arkansas, where he began a teaching appointment at Hendrix College in Conway.

At Hendrix, he teaches courses in foreign policy, including U.S. Foreign Policy, Foreign Policy Analysis, Morality and Ethics in Foreign Policy, South Asian Foreign Policy, International Negotiations, and basic courses on politics, diplomacy, and economic development. He also coordinates the Fulbright scholarships and the Buthman Endowed Lectureship programs at Hendrix.

He and Carolyn have two sons, who live in Fayetteville and Washington, DC.