

# GRADUATE SCHOLAR

**EIU 2023** | JOURNAL OF SCHOLARSHIP AND RECOGNITION



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™

**WWW.EIU.EDU**



# GRADUATE SCHOLAR

EIU 2023 | JOURNAL OF SCHOLARSHIP AND RECOGNITION

## GRADUATE RECOGNITION CEREMONY 4.11.23

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS	2
HAMAND SOCIETY OF GRADUATE SCHOLARS	3
WILLIAMS TRAVEL GRANTS	3
RESEARCH/CREATIVE ACTIVITY GRANTS	4
GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS	4
GRADUATE ALUMNI FUND OUTSTANDING RESEARCH/CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD	5
MASTER'S THESIS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE	5
KING-MERTZ RESEARCH CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD	5
2023 RODNEY S. RANES OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FACULTY MENTOR AWARD	5
GRADUATE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARD	6
GRADUATE SCHOOL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE	6

## GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS JOURNAL

ROBERT & KATHRYN AUGUSTINE DISTINGUISHED MASTER'S THESIS AWARD	7
EIU COLLEGE MASTER'S THESIS AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE	7
2023 GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD	9
KING-MERTZ RESEARCH CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARDS	10
2023 RODNEY S. RANES OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FACULTY MENTOR AWARD	12
RESEARCH/CREATIVE ACTIVITY GRANTS	12
WILLIAMS TRAVEL GRANTS	16
GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS	22
HAMAND SOCIETY OF GRADUATE SCHOLARS	23
DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE STUDENTS	26

## DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

### INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS:

Dr. Ryan C. Hendrickson, L.M. Hamand Dean of the Graduate School

### PRESIDENT:

Dr. David Glassman

### PROVOST & VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS:

Dr. Jay Gatrell

### PRESIDENT, GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Ms. Téa Wheat

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Announced by Dean Barabara Bonnekessen

### ERIC BURTON *Art*

*Presented by Ann Coddington*

### JESSIE FAUCONIER *Biological Sciences-Online Option*

*Presented by Dr. Britto Nathan*

### KEN NWAJOEI *Biological Sciences- Non-Thesis Option*

*Presented by Dr. Britto Nathan*

### ALLISON EARL *Biological Sciences- Thesis Option*

*Presented by Dr. Scott Meiners*

### SAMUEL KNEBEL *Chemistry*

*Presented by Dr. Bob Chestnut*

### DEVANGI PANT *Clinical Psychology*

*Presented by Dr. Wesley Allan*

### PILAR BARRIO SANCHEZ *Communication Studies*

*Presented by Dr. Angela Jacobs*

### KINGSFORD ONYINA *Economics*

*Presented by Dr. Michael Cornebise*

### KATIE EGGLESTON *English*

*Presented by Dr. Marjorie Worthington*

### JOSH THOMPSON *Geographic Information Sciences*

*Presented by Dr. David Viertel*

### NOAH GARCIA *History*

*Presented by Dr. Lee Patterson*

### DAVID LAURIA *Music Education*

*Presented by Dr. Danelle Larson*

### DAVID MARTINS *Music Instrumental Performance*

*Presented by Dr. Jamie V. Ryan*

### JIBRIL RICHTER *Political Science On-Campus*

*Presented by Dr. Ryan Burge*

### VICTORIA DINGMAN *Political Science Online*

*Presented by Dr. Ryan Burge*

### RACHAEL MCDONOUGH *School Psychology*

*Presented by Dr. Margaret Floress*

### TAYLOR DANIELS *Specialist in School Psychology*

*Presented by Dr. Margaret Floress*

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Announced by Dean John Storsved

### KIYEON YOCH *Aging Studies*

*Presented by Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke*

### MCKENNA LANTER *Communication Disorders and Sciences*

*Presented by Dr. Nichole Mulvey*

### NIONDINA NYSTROEM *Exercise Physiology*

*Presented by Dr. Andrew Kerins*

### KIM ROSS *Health Promotion*

*Presented by Dr. Lauri DeRuiter-Willems*

### RUBY AMANDA OBORO-OFFERIE *Human Services*

*Presented by Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke*

### JACOB HORD *Sports Administration*

*Presented by Dr. Andrew Kerins*



## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Announced by Dean Laretta Henderson

**AMINA FEDER** *Clinical Counseling*  
Presented by Dr. Angela Yoder

**JACOB MUELLER** *College Student Affairs*  
Presented by Dr. Jon Coleman

**SAMANTHA PHILLIPS** *Curriculum and Instruction*  
Presented by Dr. Dawn VanGunten

**TYLER NIEBRUGGE** *Educational Leadership:  
Masters of Science in Education*  
Presented by Dr. Nick Osborne

**AMBER BEHREND** *Educational Leadership:  
Specialist Degree in Educational Administration*  
Presented by Dr. Aaron Mattox

**JESSICA MEADOWS** *School Counseling*  
Presented by Dr. Heidi Larson

**MEGAN HENRICHS** *Special Education*  
Presented by Dr. Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel

## LUMPKIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

Announced by TBA

**DENNIS CRISTINA** *Business Administration:  
On-Campus*  
Presented by Dr. David J. Boggs

**REBECCA BURTON** *Business Administration:  
Online Option*  
Presented by Dr. David J. Boggs

**NATHALIA RIVAS ZEPEDA** *Cybersecurity*  
Presented by Dr. Rigoberto Chinchilla

**ELIZABETH NWAOUZURU** *Sustainability*  
Presented by Dr. Christopher Laingen

**DAWN CREATH** *Talent Development*  
Presented by Dr. David Melton

**NATHAN SHULTS** *Technology: On-Campus*  
Presented by Dr. David Melton

## HAMAND SOCIETY OF GRADUATE SCHOLARS

**AMINA FEDER** *Clinical Counseling*

**JESSICA MEADOWS** *School Counseling*

**JACOB MUELLER** *College Student Affairs*

**RUBY OBORO-OFFERIE** *Human Services Program  
Administration*

**SAMANTHA PHILLIPS** *Curriculum and Instruction*

## WILLIAMS TRAVEL GRANTS

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

#### BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

COY BLAIR  
JOSH BRUEGGE  
ALLISON EARL  
CAROLYN KARNES  
ISABELLA LOPEZ  
SYDNEY MCANDREWS

TYLER PASLEY  
MITCHELL ROSANDICH  
RYAN SKOWRONSKI  
VALERIE THOMPSON  
ALEXIS VANDENBERG

#### CHEMISTRY

BRIANNA HAASE

SAMUEL KNEBEL

#### ENGLISH

EJ HICKS

#### HISTORY

PHINEHAS ASIAMAH

#### SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

CRISTIN ROZEK  
KAYLEE HAMPTON

KAELI O'DONNELL  
JESSICA WHITE

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

#### COUNSELING

KENDRA BIERMAN  
ETHAN CARLSON  
AMINA FEDER  
ABIGAIL FROHNING  
ETHAN HOMEYER

KELSEY LANGLEY  
REBEKAH MAGEE  
JESSICA MEADOWS  
JAKE PEARSON  
CORBEN ROTH

### COLLEGE STUDENT AFFAIRS

TAYLOR COMER

TJ ESTABROOK

CHRISTOPHER GIBSON

DIONNE LIPSCOMB

GINA PEARSON

DIEGO ULLOA

ANDERS VOSS

### CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

## LUMPKIN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MD ZIAD HAIDAR

JULIA HESS

### SUSTAINABILITY

ISRA ABO IQSAYSA

ERIC OGBE

TAHER GARAMANLI

### TECHNOLOGY

KESAVA PRAJWAL CHEKKA

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

### COMMUNICATION DISORDERS & SCIENCES

SAMANTHA GOODMANSON

ALEXA HOFFMAN

GRACE SNIDER

MYKALA WOLF

### EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY

NIONDINA NYSTROEM

### CHEMISTRY

BRIANNA HAASE

SAMUEL KNEBEL

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

### COUNSELING

KENDRA BIERMAN

CORBEN ROTH

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

ABBY HERBERT

## LUMPKIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

### SUSTAINABILITY

ISRA ABO IQSAYSA

ERIC OGBE

### TECHNOLOGY

ABHIJITH NUTHIPALLY

RAVITEJA MUVVA

KESAVA PRAJWAL CHEKKA

JUSTINE OGBORIGBO

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

### HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

RUBY AMANDA OBORO-OFFERIE

## GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

## RESEARCH/CREATIVE ACTIVITY GRANTS

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

### ART

LILLY AMES

CARLA ERAUSQUI

CANDY FRIMPONG

### BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

COY BLAIR

JOSH BRUEGGE

CAROLYN KARNS

SYDNEY MCANDREWS

TYLER PASLEY

JOAN PHILIP

MITCHELL ROSANDICH

RYAN SKOWRONSKI

VALERIE THOMPSON

ALEXIS VANDENBERG

JAKEB WATTS

### 2023 BETTY WRIGHT DOWNING SCHOLAR

MCKENNA LANTER *Communication Disorders & Sciences*

Graduate Coordinator: Nichole Mulvey, Ph.D.

### 2023 FRANCES MEYER HAMPTON SCHOLAR

LOIS KARIMU *Counseling (Clinical)*

Graduate Coordinator: Catherine Polydore, Ph.D.

### 2023 EIU UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONALS OF ILLINOIS GRADUATE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

AVEEN VARMA SURYAMONI *Technology*

Graduate Coordinator: David Melton, Ph.D.

## 2023 GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**TAYLOR COMER** *College Student Affairs*

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

**KINGSFORD ONYINA** *Economics*

### LUMPKIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY:

**SHRAVANI ANUPATI** *Technology*

## ROBERT & KATHRYN AUGUSTINE DISTINGUISHED MASTER'S THESIS AWARD

**BRYAN WYSOPAL** *English*

*Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jad Smith*

## KING-MERTZ RESEARCH CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**JESSICA WISEMAN** *Special Education*

*Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel*

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

**IVO MAKIANICH** *Art*

*Faculty Mentor: Ann B. Coddington*

### LUMPKIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

**ISRA ABO IQSAYSA** *Sustainability, Energy Research*

*Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nichole Hugo*

## KING-MERTZ DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH/CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD

**INGE JONES** *Curriculum and Instruction*

*Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sham'ah Md-Yunus*

## 2023 RODNEY S. RANES OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

**DR. JERRY J. CLOWARD** *Professor and CENCERE Director*

## GRADUATE ALUMNI FUND OUTSTANDING RESEARCH/CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD

**CAROLYN KARNS** *Biological Sciences*

## MASTER'S THESIS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**KRISTEN MACLIN** *Curriculum and Instruction*

*Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alexis Jones*

### COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

**SAMUEL NOZICKA** *Exercise Physiology*

*Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brian Pritschet*

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

**CLAYTON CROZIER** *Clinical Psychology*

*Faculty Mentor: Dr. Wesley Allan*

### LUMPKIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

**MARTIN OSEI** *Sustainability, Energy Management*

*Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nichole Hugo*

## GRADUATE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARD

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & NUTRITION

**DR. JULIE DIETZ** *Department Chair*

**DR. KRYSTAL L. HODGE** *Professor*

In recognition of the pioneering efforts of Drs. Dietz and Hodge to support and advance the use of Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) to improve accessibility of graduate education at Eastern Illinois University.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

**MR. NATE R. ATKINSON** *Lead Web Developer*

In recognition of Nate's outstanding efforts towards improving the graduate school's application and admission process to be more accessible and user-friendly.

## THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Ryan C. Hendrickson, Ph.D. *L. M. Hamand Dean*  
Lana Beasley, *Program Coordinator, Certification Officer*  
Myra Taylor, *Graduate School Support Specialist*  
Tracey Hutchison, *Admissions & Records Officer*  
Cathy Gordon, *Office Manager*

### 2022-2023 Council on Graduate Studies

Beth Gill, Ph.D., *Chair*  
Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, Ph.D.  
Kevin Anderson, Ph.D.  
Jim Bruehler, Ph.D.  
Christina Edmonds-Behrend, Ph.D.  
Nikki Hillier, Ph.D.  
Nichole Hugo, Ph.D.  
Elizabeth Nwaozuru

### 2022-2023 Graduate Student Advisory Council

Téa Wheat, *President*  
Elian Mackey, *Vice President for Public Relations*  
Jessica Meadows, *Graduate Student Dean*  
Ruby Amanda Oboro-Offerie, *Vice President for Administrative Services*  
Justin Richards, *Vice President for Programming*  
Attainea Toulon, *Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion*  
Gabe King, *Graduate School Student Adviser*  
Dianne Timm, Ph.D., *Faculty Adviser*  
Myra Taylor, *Graduate School Staff Adviser*

### Graduate School Alumni Advisory Board

Jim Acklin, '79, '87, '98  
Matt Davidson, '82, '84  
Craig Gatto, Ph.D., '87, '89  
Marilyn Holt, '88, '94  
Mark Kasper, Ed.D., '83, '86  
Nancie King Mertz, '77  
Linda Komes, '74  
Kendra McClure, '10  
David VanVooren, '78, '79

### College of Education

Cliff Karnes, Ed.D. *Educational Leadership, Master's & Specialist's Programs, Chair and Coordinator*  
Catherine Polydore, Ph.D. *Counseling and Higher Education Programs, Chair and Coordinator*  
Daniel Carter, Ph.D. *Curriculum and Instruction, Coordinator*  
Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel, Ph.D. *Special Education, Coordinator*

### College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Ann Coddington, M.F.A. *Art, Coordinator*  
Brad Olson, Ph.D. *Art Education and Community Arts, Coordinator*  
Britto Nathan, Ph.D. *Biological Sciences, Coordinator*  
Radu Semeniuc, Ph.D. *Chemistry, Coordinator*  
Wesley Allan, Ph.D. *Clinical Psychology, Coordinator*  
Angela Jacobs, Ph.D. *Communication Studies, Coordinator*  
Michael Cornebise, Ph.D. *Economics*  
Marjorie Worthington, Ph.D. *English, Coordinator*  
Lee Patterson, Ph.D. *History, Coordinator*  
David Viertel, Ph.D. *Geographic Information Sciences, Coordinator*  
Jamie Ryan, D.M.A. *Music, Coordinator*  
Peter Wiles, Ph.D. *Mathematics Education, Coordinator*  
Ryan Burge, Ph.D. *Political Science, Coordinator*  
Margaret Floress, Ph.D. *School Psychology, Coordinator*

### Lumpkin College of Business & Technology

David Boggs, Ph.D. *Business Administration, Coordinator*  
Rigoberto Chinchilla, Ph.D. *Cybersecurity, Coordinator*  
Nichole Hugo, Ph.D. *Sustainability, Coordinator*  
David Melton, Ph.D. *Technology, Talent Development, Coordinator*

### College of Health & Human Services

Nikki Hillier, Ph.D. *Health Promotion, Coordinator*  
Krystal Hodge, Ph.D. *Nutrition and Dietetics, Coordinator*  
Andrew Kerins, Ph.D. *Exercise Physiology, Sports Administration, Coordinator*  
Nichole Mulvey, Ph.D. *Communication Disorders & Sciences, Coordinator*  
Kathleen O'Rourke, Ph.D. *Aging Studies, Human Services Coordinator*





## ROBERT & KATHRYN AUGUSTINE DISTINGUISHED MASTER'S THESIS AWARD

Named for, and supported by Robert Augustine, Ph.D., EIU Graduate School dean from 1998 through 2015, and his wife, Kathryn, an alumna of EIU's College of Education, the Distinguished Master's Thesis Award recognizes the highest achievement in master's degree research.



**BRYAN WYSOPAL** *Master of Arts in English*  
Faculty Mentor: Jad Smith, Ph. D., Professor of English

### *David Lindsay's A Voyage to Arcturus: An Anti-Fantasy*

This is a study of David Lindsay's *A Voyage to Arcturus* (1920) in which I argue that the novel is an anti-fantasy, that is, a fantasy that negates certain tropes common to the genre as part of the author's wider intentions for writing. I contextualize Lindsay by comparing him to several authors of his time who also worked in the mode of fantasy, then explain how the generic traits of the novel are handled unconventionally to promote Lindsay's personal philosophy. I explore Lindsay's treatment of the basic generic traits of the hero and his quest, the imaginary world, and the novel's themes regarding the nature of reality,

the concept of identity, and the individual's purpose or destiny. Lindsay's intention was not to write an entertaining or imaginative story but to express his sincerest convictions about the nature of the Absolute. The result is a dense, idiosyncratic novel that is often overlooked for being challenging and defying generic expectations. My thesis offers a lens to readers designed to make *Arcturus* accessible and strives to do so in an equally accessible manner.

## EIU COLLEGE MASTER'S THESIS AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES



**CLAYTON CROZIER** *Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology*  
Faculty Mentor: Wesley Allan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology

### *COVID Fears and Social Anxiety in College Students*

The COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with numerous negative mental health outcomes such as social anxiety, and lead to a great deal of uncertainty. Intolerance of Uncertainty is a relatively new concept in the psychology literature and has begun to be studied in the context of anxiety. Literature has found a positive correlation between Intolerance of Uncertainty and several types of social anxiety. With these findings, researchers have begun to examine the COVID-19 pandemic to see how Intolerance of Uncertainty affects people's mental health during the pandemic. Intolerance of Uncertainty may be a mediator between social anxiety and the fears related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper proposed a study to examine whether Intolerance of Uncertainty is a mediator between social anxiety and fear of COVID-19 in college students and found that Intolerance of Uncertainty acts a mediator between fear of COVID-19 and social anxiety.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



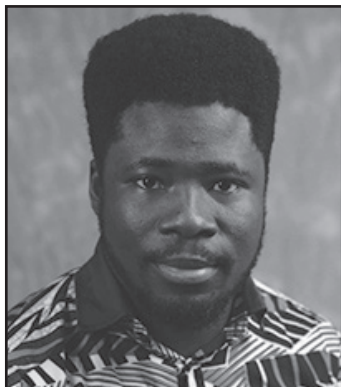
**KRISTIN MACLIN** *Master of Science in Education, Curriculum and Instruction*  
*Faculty Mentor: Alexis Jones, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Teaching, Learning and Foundations*

### ***The White Ally Experience: A Look into the Impacts of Being a White Ally***

If an ally knew what they would experience, would they be more willing to stand up? Racism, institutional racism, racial bias, discrimination, and microaggressions have existed in our country since its inception. One way to work to overcome these is by growing allyship and having allies who are willing to speak up and stand beside marginalized groups. This research study addressed what allyship means, the byproducts of racist structures

that allies have encountered, ally burnout, and ways to overcome burnout. These were researched through surveys from BIPOCs, named allies, and my school colleague populations. My research found that many White participants who identified as an ally or were called allies have experienced byproducts of racist structures and burnout and have developed strategies to overcome the burnout.

## LUMPKIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY



**MARTIN OSEI** *Master of Science in Sustainability, Energy Management*  
*Faculty Mentor: Nichole Hugo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sustainability*

### ***Development of Phase Change Thermal Storage Medium: Cooking with More Power and Versatility***

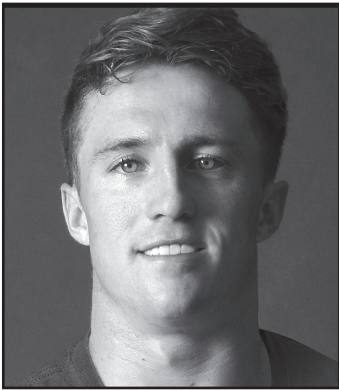
With an Insulated Solar Electric Cooker (ISEC), a 100 W solar panel directly cooks food while providing 5W off-grid electricity access; but it cooks slowly. Storing the day's energy with phase change thermal storage allows ISEC to cook more rapidly as well as cook after sunset. The ISEC is made by sticking a 3ohm resistive to an aluminum pot (inner phase change assembly PCA) where another cooking pot fits. The resistive heater is surrounded by a bigger pot (outer PCA) that contains the PCM and is tightly sealed. The solar panel is

connected to the resistive heater with a thermal switch and fuse.

The convenience and utility of this new cooking technology improve as the user adapts to unique opportunities and limitations. The efficiency of thermal storage is comparable to that of more expensive systems using battery storage and induction cooktops. Best cooking time is achieved by raising water to its boiling temperature under 10 minutes, obtained by heating the PCA to ~142°C and testing different configurations of the PCA with 1.0 kg of water. A Global Community of researchers, funding agencies, nonprofits, student groups, and local enterprises develops this opensource technology for production and dissemination.

Most households in rural communities depend on burning firewood, charcoal, and coal as their primary source of fuel for cooking. With potential benefits in the field of sustainability through a reduction in production levels of carbon monoxide and deforestation, this project will also prevent the deaths of four million people annually from associated emissions.

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**SAMUEL NOZICKA** *Master of Science in Exercise Physiology*

Faculty Mentor: Brian Pritschet, Ph.D., Professor of Kinesiology &amp; Sports Studies

***The Relationship Between Relative Muscular Strength and Joint Mobility in Firefighters***

Firefighters job requirements consist of running upstairs, climbing ladders, ceiling breach and pull, carrying equipment, forcible entry, dragging hoses, raising ladders, and rescue of patrons all while wearing heavy protective equipment that limits their mobility (Park et al., 2015). The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between relative strength and mobility within the population of firefighters. The subjects were volunteers consisting of twelve male firefighter ranging in age from 25-52 with the mean age of 37.7

7.7 years. Leighton Flexometer was used to measure joint range of motion (ROM) in different active movement patterns (Leighton, 1966). Absolute strength was evaluated using a 5RM estimate of 1RM (Haff & Triplett, 2016; Shephard, 2009) for the back squat, conventional deadlift, pull up, and bench press. Relative strength was calculated for each of the movement patterns by dividing the subjects 1RM by their bodyweight Baechle & Earle, 2008; Dohoney et al., 2002; Haff & Triplett, 2016; Shephard, 2009). The relationship between relative strength and joint mobility in firefighters showed negative correlations indicated that increased plantar flexion ROM could lead to decrease in relative strength ratios in both the back squat  $r(9) = -.66$ ,  $p = .026$  and conventional deadlift  $r(9) = -.61$ ,  $p = .036$ . A positive correlation that was increased shoulder flexion ROM could lead to increase relative strength ratio in the back squat  $r(9) = .70$ ,  $p = .017$ . It was concluded that increased joint mobility does not illicit increased relative strength in firefighters except in specific joints and exercises. Shoulder flexion ROM correlated with increased relative strength of the back squat in firefighters was the one exception to the findings of this study. Firefighters sample size was too small to entirely understand the relationship. The relationship between relative strength and joint mobility in firefighters needs to be further investigated.

**OLD MAIN****2023 GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD****TÉA WHEAT**  
*President***JESSICA MEADOWS**  
*Graduate School  
Student Dean***ATTAINAEA TOULON**  
*Vice President of  
Diversity & Inclusion***JUSTIN RICHARDS**  
*Vice President of  
Programming***ELIAN MACKAY**  
*Vice President for  
Public Relations***RUBY AMANDA  
OBORO-OFFERIE**  
*Vice President for  
Administration***GABE KING**  
*Graduate School  
Student Adviser*





## KING-MERTZ RESEARCH/ CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARDS

Nancie King-Mertz, ('77 Art, EIU Graduate School) generously established the King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Awards in 2010 to recognize the highest achievement in graduate research based upon non-thesis graduate research/creative activity projects. One project, the King-Mertz Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award, is selected to represent the best non-thesis project from all EIU graduate programs, with subsequent awards given to the top projects representing each college.

Along with this support for the King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Awards, Nancie's dedication to EIU's graduate education is also evident through her receipt of an Outstanding Graduate Alumni award ('09) and her work as a member of the Graduate Alumni Advisory Board. King-Mertz continues to share her passion for the visual arts as both a creative artist and through the small business (Art De Triumph and Artful Framer Studios) she and husband, Ron, own and operate in Rockford, Illinois.

### KING-MERTZ DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH/CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARD



**INGE JONES** *Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction*  
Faculty Mentor: Sham'ah Md-Yunus, Ph. D., Professor, Teaching, Learning & Foundations

#### *The Effect of Music on the High School Foreign Language Classroom*

The purpose of the study was to investigate how the use of popular music in the target language, presented without the expectation of educational and academic outcomes, has an effect on Foreign Language Classroom Anxiety (FLCA), engagement and Willingness to Communicate (WTC) in a High School foreign language class. This study was guided by two research questions: How does the use of popular music in the target language, removed from the expectation of academic outcomes and for enjoyment only, reduce FLCA? And how does the use of popular music in the target language, removed from the expectation of academic outcomes and for enjoyment only, increase student engagement and WTC? The fourteen participants of a German II class were observed in their reactions and behaviors over a six-week intervention. Participants completed a questionnaire measuring FLCA and Foreign Language Enjoyment at three points during the study. At the end of the study, participants completed an Exit Survey with open-ended questions. Results revealed that both the questionnaire and the survey indicated a reduction in FLCA. Observation of classroom behavior supported an increase in engagement through recording students' participation by count of hands raised. The mean of hands raised on days without music was 42 compared to the mean of hands raised on days with music at 58. This constitutes a difference of 38%.

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES



**IVO MAKIANICH** *Master of Art in Art*  
Faculty Mentor: Ann B. Coddington, M.F.A., Professor, Art Foundations and Fibers

#### *Light and Space Abstract*

As a whole, my paintings depict relatable moments from ordinary life. As I develop my art practice, I have noticed the things that intrigue me the most tend to be simple. Issues of composition and light are ongoing concerns in my art practice. Rather than set out to communicate a complex metaphorical message, I paint my surroundings and allow narrative implications to emerge intuitively. The following three images encapsulate my body of work in the MA in Art program at Eastern Illinois University completed in the fall semester, 2022. The Life Drawing Room: I began this painting by working from life in the



depicted classroom. I am keenly interested in architectural spaces and respond to the complexities of a large composition with a complex perspective. I decided to turn my initial architectural painting into a scene which depicts an academic life drawing session to create a conceptual scene that presents issues of traditional figurative art in a contemporary setting. Hybrid Learning: I've always been influenced by Dutch artists of the Golden Age. I appreciated how they would use paintings in the background of domestic scenes to make social commentary. I used various digital screens to comment on how technology plays a role in contemporary life. I specifically appreciate how Vermeer would often frame the main figure to cause tension, but then include a window to off-balance this sensation. The Chair: When I started an MA program earlier this year, I was given a studio to work in for the first time in my life. I began to look around my new space and noticed the way the light streaming into the window enhanced the ordinary objects around me.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



**JESSICA WISEMAN** *Special Education*

*Faculty Mentor: Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel, Ph.D., Professor, Special Education*

### **Jess Wiseman Plan Book**

This project involved a partnership between Jessica Wiseman, MS in SPE candidate, and the local special education cooperative Eastern Illinois Area of Special Education (EIASE). The Instructional Plan Book was created as a part of Ms. Wiseman's field experience in SPE 5770 under the mentorship of Dr. Melissa Jones, instructor and Graduate Coordinator. Ms. Wiseman worked with instructional coaches at EIASE to complete a needs assessment and then design an Instructional Plan Book which is a functional, interactive resource that would support the teachers and staff in their classrooms. Many of the teachers who will benefit from this creative activity are special educators who are alternatively licensed, lacking formal teacher training on planning standards-based lessons, using evidence-based practices, and effectively assessing student performance. The Plan Book is a comprehensive, yet easy-to-use resource, allowing for editing and sharing as needed. The intent was to use it as a guide for professional development as well as for a resource/reference tool. However, instructional coaches within EIASE's programs have also been utilizing the Plan Book to guide growth plans and opportunities for improved teacher practice. Additionally, the Plan Book was accepted as a presentation at the Illinois Association of Administrators in Special Education (IAASE) fall conference but Ms. Wiseman, the creator, was not able to attend.

ers who will benefit from this creative activity are special educators who are alternatively licensed, lacking formal teacher training on planning standards-based lessons, using evidence-based practices, and effectively assessing student performance. The Plan Book is a comprehensive, yet easy-to-use resource, allowing for editing and sharing as needed. The intent was to use it as a guide for professional development as well as for a resource/reference tool. However, instructional coaches within EIASE's programs have also been utilizing the Plan Book to guide growth plans and opportunities for improved teacher practice. Additionally, the Plan Book was accepted as a presentation at the Illinois Association of Administrators in Special Education (IAASE) fall conference but Ms. Wiseman, the creator, was not able to attend.

## LUMPKIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY



**ISRA ABO IQSAYSA**

*Sustainability*

*Faculty Mentor: Nichole Hugo, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Sustainability and Hospitality*

### **Individual Household Electricity Load Forecasting Using Historical Smart Meter Data with Neural Networks**

The rise in energy consumption, energy prices, population growth, and energy need with the fears of the climate impact has revived the research in sustainable and smart design and efficient buildings. One of the critical topics in smart design and the future of energy is load forecasting, it is becoming more critical due to its numerous benefits to the grid, especially influencing grid reliability. In the past, researchers used conventional load forecasting methods that depend on time series analysis; however, in recent years, new methods were developed that use deep learning approaches, which gave more accurate results.

Residential load forecasting can be more challenging than the other types of load forecasting, due to the uncertainty and the instability of the loads. It can also be challenging because it depends on the nature of the load and on the individuals'

behavior. However, the neural networks have made difference in that area and given promising results in the single-user load forecast.

This research studies residential load forecast using neural networks, the research uses MATLAB 2022a to create the neural network and uses smart homes load data and weather data from the project Smart\* (Smart Star). The data was collected by UMASS smart home project repository. The research studies two neural network methods: Feed-Forward Neural Network (FFNN), and Layer Recurrent Neural Network (LRNN). This research applies both suggested neural networks on two different types of data, the first is more detailed data, where the input is the time and the weather, and the output is the detailed appliances' power consumption. The other type of data is less detailed data, where the input is also the time and weather data, but the output is the total load of the smart meters.

The research found that there are many variables that can affect load forecasting such as the historical pattern of the load, weather, season, and economics. And the accuracy of load forecasting depends on many factors such as the used logarithm, the used model goodness, data size, data quality, how detailed is the data, and the size of the load.



## **2023 RODNEY S. RANES OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FACULTY MENTOR AWARD**

Established by Rodney S. Ranes, former director of graduate admissions, this award is selected by the Council on Graduate Studies Ranes Board to recognize outstanding graduate faculty mentoring.

**DR. JERRY J. CLOWARD**  
*Professor and CENCERE Director*

## **RESEARCH/CREATIVE ACTIVITY GRANTS**



**ISRA ABO IQSAYSA** *Masters Candidate in Sustainability*  
*Faculty Mentor: Nichole Hugo, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Sustainability and Hospitality*

***Individual Household Electricity Load Forecasting Using Historical Smart Meter Data with Neural Networks***



**LILLY AMES** *Masters Candidate in Art*  
*Faculty Mentor: Ann Coddington, M.F.A.*

***Lone Elm***



**KENDRA BIERMAN** *Masters Candidate in Counseling*  
 Faculty Mentor: Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling

***B.I.O.N.I.C.: Empowering Young Leaders to Create a Positive School Climate***



**COY BLAIR** *Masters Candidate in Biology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

***Assessment of Seasonal and Diurnal Habitat Use of Silver Carp in the Wabash and White River***



**JOSH BRUEGGE** *Masters Candidate in Biology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

***Spatial and Temporal Responses of Fish and Macroinvertebrate Communities to Dam Removals in a Midwestern River Basin***



**CARLA ERAUSQUIN BAYONA** *Masters Candidate in Art*  
 Faculty Mentor: Ann Coddington, M.F.A.

***Lone Elm***



**CANDY FRIMPONG** *Masters Candidate in Art*  
 Faculty Mentor: Ann Coddington, M.F.A.

***Lone Elm***



**BRIANNA HAASE** *Masters Candidate in Chemistry*  
 Faculty Mentor: Steven Pellizzeri, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Physical Chemistry

***Investigation of CH<sub>4</sub> Activation on Modified Metalloporphyrin Graphene Sheets***



**ABBY HERBERT** *Masters Candidate in Special Education*  
 Faculty Mentor: Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel, Ph.D., Professor of Special Education

***Student Involvement in Special Education Planning***



**CAROLYN KARNS** *Masters Candidate in Biology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Michael W. Beck, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biochemistry

***Development and Characterization of Fluorescent Chemical Tools to Study Human Carboxylesterase 2 (CES2)***



**SAMUEL KNEBEL** *Masters Candidate in Chemistry*  
Faculty Mentor: Michael W. Beck, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biochemistry

***Development of Chemical Biology Approaches to Reveal Factors That Influence Carboxylesterase 1 (CES1) Activity in Live Cells***



**SYDNEY MCANDREWS** *Masters Candidate in Biology*  
Faculty Mentor: Eden Effert-Fanta, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences

***Monitoring Stream Restoration Impacts on Habitat and Biotic Communities in an Urban Stream***



**RAVITEJA MUVVA** *Masters Candidate in Technology*  
Faculty Mentor: Toqeer A Israr, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Technology

***Face Recognized Attendance System and National Robotic Competition***



**ABHIJITH NUTHIPALLY** *Masters Candidate in Technology*  
Faculty Mentor: Toqeer A Israr, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Technology

***National Robotics Competition***



**RUBY AMANDA OBORO-OFFERIE** *Masters Candidate in Human Services Program Administration*  
Faculty Mentor: Kathleen O'Rourke, Ph.D., Professor of Aging Studies and Human Services

***Perception on Female Political Leadership Ability: When do Political Indicators Predict Equal Rating of Female Political Leaders in Africa***



**ERIC OGBE** *Masters Candidate in Sustainability*  
Faculty Mentor: Nichole Hugo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sustainability

***Improving the Energy Efficiency Performance of the Physical Science Building at Eastern Illinois University***



**JUSTINE OGBORIGBO** *Masters Candidate in Technology*  
Faculty Mentor: Toqeer A Israr, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Technology

***Face Recognized Attendance System and National Robotic Competition***



**TYLER PASLEY** *Masters Candidate in Biology*  
Faculty Mentor: Eden Effert-Fanta, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences

***Examining Tributary Contributions to Bigheaded Carp Reproduction in the Illinois River***





**JOAN PHILIP** *Masters Candidate in Biology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Gopal Periyannan, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry

***Determination of the Role of GXXXG Motif in GCPII Function***



**KESAVA PRAJWAL CHEKKA** *Masters Candidate in Technology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Toqeer A Israr, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Technology

***Face Recognized Attendance System and National Robotic Competition***



**MITCHELL ROSANDICH** *Masters Candidate in Biology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Eden Effert-Fanta, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences

***Comparing Catchability of Multiple Sampling Gears for Channel Catfish in Medium to Small Impoundments***



**CORBEN ROTH** *Masters Candidate in Counseling*  
 Faculty Mentor: Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling

***Freshmen Connection Mentorship Program***



**RYAN SKOWRONSKI** *Masters Candidate in Biology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

***Analysis of Morphological Changes in a Small Midwestern Stream Post-Restoration***



**VALERIE THOMPSON** *Masters Candidate in Biology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

***Population Demographics of Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) in the Lower Wabash River***



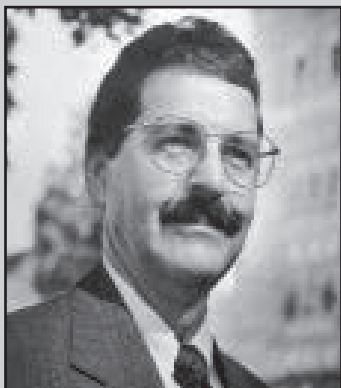
**ALEXIS VANDENBERG** *Masters Candidate in Biology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

***Long-term Effects of Stream Restoration on Fish and Macroinvertebrate Communities in a Small Midwestern Stream***



**JAKEB WATTS** *Masters Candidate in Biology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Zhiwei Liu, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

***Presence of Wolbachia in Illinois and Indiana Oak Gall Wasp Populations***



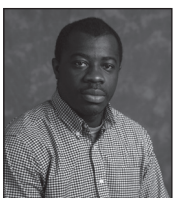
## WILLIAMS TRAVEL GRANTS

Named for Larry Williams, Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate school from 1978 through 1995, the Williams Travel Grants provide support for students to present their research at local to international conference locations. Dr. Williams' generosity has supported graduate student travel for over 20 years.



**ISRA ABO IQSAYSA** *Masters Candidate in Sustainability*  
Faculty Mentor: Nichole Hugo, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Sustainability

**Load Forecasting to Improve Energy Efficiency**  
2022 ATMAE Annual Conference, Louisville, KY



**PHINEHAS ASIAMAH** *Masters Candidate in Counseling*  
Faculty Mentor: Lee Patterson, Ph.D., Professor of History, Graduate Coordinator

**The Misuse of History in the Contemporary World: The Issue of Fact and Evidence in Historical Narrative (A Focus on Ghana)** 2nd Annual Michael Gordon Memorial History Graduate Conference - The Presence of History: Crises of Emotion, Identity, and Nostalgia, Milwaukee, WI



**KENDRA BIERMAN** *Masters Candidate in Counseling*  
Faculty Mentor: Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling

**Uniting Mattoon High School Through Impactful Student Leadership**  
Illinois Counselor Association Annual Conference, Tinley Park, IL



**COY BLAIR** *Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences*  
Faculty Mentor: Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

**Assessment of Seasonal and Diurnal Habitat Use of Silver Carp in the Wabash and White River**  
83rd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, Overland Park, KS



**JOSH BRUEGGE** *Masters Candidate in Biology*  
Faculty Mentor: Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

**Restoring Aquatic Connectivity: Trait-Based Responses of Fishes to Dam Removals in a Midwestern River**  
83rd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, Overland Park, KS



**ETHAN CARLSON** *Masters Candidate in Counseling*  
Faculty Mentor: Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling

**Uniting Mattoon High School Through Impactful Student Leadership**  
Illinois Counselor Association Annual Conference, Tinley Park, IL



**TAYLOR COMER** Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs  
Faculty Mentor: Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Associate Professor College Student Affairs

**(Under)Graduate Education: Continuing Your Education at Your Alma Mater**  
Student Affairs 101, Normal, IL



**ALLISON EARL** Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
Faculty Mentor: Scott Meiners, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

**Does soil pooling often alter the results of plant-microbe interaction experiments?**  
Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Montreal, Quebec, Canada



**TJ ESTABROOK** Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs  
Faculty Mentor: Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Associate Professor College Student Affairs

**The Disclosure Decision: Higher Education Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders**  
ACPA 2023 - American College Personnel Association Conference, New Orleans, LA



**AMINA FEDER** Masters Candidate in Counseling  
Faculty Mentor: Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Higher Education

**Self-Care for Counselors Workshop**  
ICA 2023 Southern Conference: The Many Faces of Professional Counseling: Restoring Lives through Counseling and Advocacy, Collinsville, IL



**ABIGAIL FROHNING** Masters Candidate in Counseling  
Faculty Mentor: Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Higher Education

**Implementing CPRT Programs in Elementary Schools**  
ICA 2023 Southern Conference: The Many Faces of Professional Counseling: Restoring Lives through Counseling and Advocacy, Collinsville, IL



**TAHER GARAMANLI** Masters Candidate in Sustainability  
Faculty Mentor: Ryan Burge, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Graduate Coordinator, Political Science and Nichole Hugo, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Sustainability

**Renewable Energy and Political Orientation in the United States: Are they related?**  
Dallas, TX



**CHRISTOPHER GIBSON** Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs  
Faculty Mentor: Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Associate Professor College Student Affairs

**Facing Impostor Syndrome for New Professionals**  
Student Affairs 101, Normal, IL



**SAMANTHA GOODMANSON** Masters Candidate in Communication Disorders and Sciences  
Faculty Mentor: Laurel Teller, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Disorders and Sciences

**Mandarin Lexical Tones and Conditions that Effect Their Production and Perception**  
2023 Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Rosemont, IL



**BRIANNA HAASE** Masters Candidate in Chemistry  
Faculty Mentor: Steven Pellizzeri, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Physical Chemistry

**Investigation of CH<sub>4</sub> Activation on Modified Metalloporphyrin Graphene Sheets**  
American Chemical Society - Crossroads of Chemistry, Indianapolis, IN



**MD ZIAD HAIDAR** Masters Candidate in Business  
Faculty Mentor: David J. Boggs, Ph.D., Professor of Management and Coordinator of Graduate Business (MBA) Studies

**CSR and SME Resilience: A Post-Pandemic Analysis of Illinois' Fastest Growing Companies** 2023 Annual Meeting of the North American Management Society (NAMS) | MBAA International Conference, Chicago, IL



**KAYLEE HAMPTON** Masters Candidate in School Psychology  
Faculty Mentor: Margaret Floress, Ph.D., Professor and Coordinator of the School Psychology Graduate Program

**Data-Based Decision Making: Can Consultants Link Data to Evidence-Based Practices?**

National Association of School Psychologist (NASP) Annual Conference, Denver, CO



**JULIA HESS** Masters Candidate in Marketing  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Marko Grünhagen, Professor of Marketing & Lumpkin Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship

**From Catalyst to Cataclysm: The Role of Shopping Malls in the Development of Franchising in Brazil** International Society of Franchising Conference, Rennes, France



**EJ HICKS** Masters Candidate in English  
Faculty Mentor: Rachel Ryerson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English

**White Masculinity & The Desire for Control (in Savage Holiday and M. Butterfly)**  
Sigma Tau Delta, Denver, CO



**ALEXA HOFFMAN** Masters Candidate in Communication Disorders and Sciences  
Faculty Mentor: Nichole Mulvey, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Graduate Coordinator of Communication Disorders and Sciences

**Reliably Measuring Social Bid Responses in Conversation with Middle Schoolers**  
2023 Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Rosemont, IL



**ETHAN HOMEYER** Masters Candidate in Counseling  
Faculty Mentor: Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Higher Education

**Cinematherapy in Schools: The Universality of Steven Universe**  
13th Annual ICA Southern Conference, Collinsville, IL



**CAROLYN KARNS** Masters Candidate in Biology  
Faculty Mentor: Michael W. Beck, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biochemistry

**Fluorescein-based fluorogenic chemical tools to study human carboxylesterases in live cells**

ACS Spring 2023: Crossroads of Chemistry, Indianapolis, IN





**SAMUEL KNEBEL** Masters Candidate in Chemistry

Faculty Mentor: Michael W. Beck, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biochemistry

**Chemical biology approach to uncover influence of sequence variations on CES1 activity in live cells**

ACS Spring 2023: Crossroads of Chemistry, Indianapolis, IN



**KELSEY LANGLEY** Masters Candidate in Counseling

Faculty Mentor: Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Higher Education

**Neurobiologically informed child-centered play therapy: The path to felt safety**

Southern Illinois Counseling Association, Collinsville, IL



**DIONNE LIPSCOMB** Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs

Faculty Mentor: Catherine Polydore, Ph.D., Chair, Counseling & Higher Education

**Still, We Rise: Experiences of Black Women in Leadership Positions at Predominately White Institutions**

ACPA 2023 - American College Personnel Association Conference, New Orleans, LA



**BELLA LOPEZ** Masters Candidate Biological Sciences

Faculty Mentor: Scott Meiners, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

**Does soil pooling often alter the results of plant-microbe interaction experiments?**

Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Montreal, Quebec, Canada



**REBEKAH MAGEE** Masters Candidate in Counseling

Faculty Mentor: Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Higher Education

**The impact of play therapy for children and adolescents with depression**

Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference, Collinsville, IL



**SYDNEY MCANDREWS** Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

Faculty Mentor: Eden Effert-Fanta, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences

**Urban Stream Restoration Impacts on Habitat and Biological Sciencestic Communities**

Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Effingham, IL



**JESSICA MEADOWS** Masters Candidate in Counseling

Faculty Mentor: Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling

**Uniting Mattoon High School Through Impactful Student Leadership**

Illinois Counselor Association Annual Conference, Tinley Park, IL



**NIONDINA NYSTROEM** Masters Candidate in School Psychology

Faculty Mentor: Maranda D. Schaljo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; Associate Director Adult Fitness Program, CSCS

**Exploring Anterior Cruciate Ligament Tears and Athletic Identity as Predictors of Disordered Eating Behaviors in Female Collegiate Soccer Players.**

Midwest Sport and Exercise Psychology Symposium, Muncie, IN



**KAELI O'DONNELL** *Masters Candidate in Psychology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Hao-Jan Luh, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology

***Promoting Cultural Competence Through Online Educator Anti-Bias Training***

*National Association of School Psychologist (NASP) Annual Conference, Denver, CO*



**ERIC OGBE** *Masters Candidate in Sustainability*  
 Faculty Mentor: Nichole Hugo, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Sustainability

***Optical Fiber Technology for Versatile LED-Based Illumination***

*2022 ATMAE Annual Conference, Louisville, KY*



**TYLER PASLEY** *Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences*  
 Faculty Mentor: Eden Effert-Fanta, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences

***Examining Tributary Contributions to Bigheaded Carp Reproduction in the Illinois River***

*Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Effingham, IL*



**GINA PEARSON** *Masters Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction*  
 Faculty Mentor: Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Associate Professor College Student Affairs

***Facing Imposter Syndrome for New Professionals***

*Student Affairs 101, Normal, IL*



**JAKE PEARSON** *Masters Candidate in Counseling*  
 Faculty Mentor: Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling

***Uniting Mattoon High School Through Impactful Student Leadership***

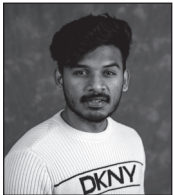
*Illinois Counselor Association Annual Conference, Tinley Park, IL*



**SAMANTHA PHILLIPS** *Masters Candidate in Education in Curriculum and Instruction*  
 Faculty Mentor: Sham'ah Md-Yunus, Ph. D., Professor, Teaching, Learning & Foundations

***An Investigation of Middle School Teachers' Using Culturally Responsive Teaching***

*Illinois Association of Teacher Educators Fall 2022 Conference, Peoria, IL*



**KESAVA PRAJWAL CHEKKA** *Masters Candidate in Technology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Dr. Toqeer A Israr, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Computer & Information Technology Coordinator

***DataFacts – Data Anomaly Detection Tool***

*2022 ATMAE Annual Conference, Louisville, KY*



**MITCHELL ROSANDICH** *Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences*  
 Faculty Mentor: Eden Effert-Fanta, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences

***Urban Stream Restoration Impacts on Habitat and Biological Sciencestic Communities***

*Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Effingham, IL*



**CORBEN ROTH** *Masters Candidate in Counseling*  
Faculty Mentor: Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling

### **Uniting Mattoon High School Through Impactful Student Leadership**

*Illinois Counselor Association Annual Conference, Tinley Park, IL*



**CRISTEN ROZEK** *Masters Candidate in School Psychology*  
Faculty Mentor: Gary Canivez, Ph.D., Professor of School Psychology

### **Convergent and Discriminant Validity of the WASI-II and RIAS-2**

*National Association of School Psychologists 2023 Annual Convention, Denver, CO*



**RYAN SKOWRONSKI** *Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences*  
Faculty Mentor: Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

### **Analysis of Morphological Changes in a Small Midwestern Stream Post-Restoration**

*83rd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, Overland Park, KS*



**GRACE SNIDER** *Masters Candidate in Communication Disorders and Sciences*  
Faculty Mentor: Nichole Mulvey, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Graduate Coordinator of Communication Disorders and Sciences

### **Patterns of Performance and Barriers to Success: STEP Students' Scores, Ratings, and Self-Perceptions**

*2023 Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Rosemont, IL*



**VALERIE THOMPSON** *Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences*  
Faculty Mentor: Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

### **Population Demographics of Channel Catfish *Ictalurus punctatus* in the Lower Wabash River**

*83rd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, Overland Park, KS*



**DIEGO ULLOA** *Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs*  
Faculty Mentor: Jon Coleman, Ph.D., Instructor of College Student Affairs

### **Evaluating the Assessment of Resident Assistant Training**

*ACPA 2023 - American College Personnel Association Conference, New Orleans, LA*



**ALEXIS VANDENBERG** *Masters Candidate in Biology*  
Faculty Mentor: Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences

### **Long-term Effects of Stream Restoration on Fish and Macroinvertebrate Communities in a Small Midwestern Stream**

*Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Effingham, IL*



**ANDERS VOSS** *Masters Candidate in School Psychology*  
Faculty Mentor: Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Associate Professor College Student Affairs

### **Facing Imposter Syndrome for New Professionals**

*Student Affairs 101, Normal, IL*



**JESSICA WHITE** *Masters Candidate in School Psychology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Margaret Floress, Ph.D., Professor and Coordinator of the School Psychology Graduate Program

***Data-Based Decision Making: Can Consultants Link Data to Evidence-Based Practices?***

*National Association of School Psychologist (NASP) Annual Conference, Denver, CO*



**MYKALA WOLF** *Masters Candidate in School Psychology*  
 Faculty Mentor: Margaret Floress, Ph.D., Professor and Coordinator of the School Psychology Graduate Program

***Data-Based Decision Making: Can Consultants Link Data to Evidence-Based Practices?***

*National Association of School Psychologist (NASP) Annual Conference, Denver, CO*

## GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS



### 2023 BETTY WRIGHT DOWNING SCHOLAR

**MCKENNA LANTER** *Communication Disorders & Sciences*

Established by Mr. & Mrs. Harry T. Wright in memory of Betty Wright Downing.



### 2023 FRANCES MEYER HAMPTON SCHOLAR

**LOIS KARIMU** *Counseling*

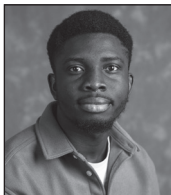
Established by Mrs. Frances Meyer Hampton in her estate, this award is presented annually to full-time students in a master's degree program.



### 2023 GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP

**TAYLOR COMER** *College Student Affairs, College of Education*

Established by the Graduate Student Advisory Council to recognize exceptional service and scholarship by a graduate student in each of the four academic colleges.



### 2023 GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP

**KINGSFORD ONYINA** *Economics, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

Established by the Graduate Student Advisory Council to recognize exceptional service and scholarship by a graduate student in each of the four academic colleges.



### 2023 GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP

**SHRAVANI ANUPATI** *Technology, Lumpkin College of Business & Technology*

Established by the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) to recognize exceptional service and scholarship by a graduate student.





## HAMAND SOCIETY OF GRADUATE SCHOLARS

Established by Martha Hamand in 2010, in honor of her husband, Dr. Lavern Hamand, first dean of the EIU Graduate School (1961-1974), the Hamand Society of Graduate Scholars was established to recognize those students whose achievements in both scholarship and service have had a documented impact on both their discipline and the community. Selected from the 2023 Class of Distinguished Graduate Students, the inductees into the Hamand Society of Scholars reflect the highest ideals of the engaged graduate student.

With Mrs. Hamand's passing in 2011, daughters Drs. Carol Stephens and Wendy Venet have continued their parents' generous legacy of supporting graduate education at EIU.



### AMINA FEDER *Counseling*

While working in another department during their first year as a graduate student, Amina's talents and passion for counseling were so evident to Dr. Angela Yoder, Professor, Counseling and Higher Education, that Dr. Yoder actively recruited Amina to become the Counseling program's graduate assistant. Given that the Counseling program only seeks out those graduate students who, according to Yoder, are "prepared for the rigorous requirements of assisting with clinical courses, supervision, research and course preparation," the move acknowledged the character and scholarship Amina possesses. Amina readily met the tasks and responsibilities of the graduate assistantship, working in multiple roles from webpage maintenance, new student interviews, teaching, and recruitment.

Amina's skills continued to flourish in their time at EIU. Working with Dr. Danessa Carter, Assistant Professor, Counseling and Higher Education, they created a presentation to assist in making waiting rooms and offices welcoming and inclusive to diverse individuals. The presentation was accepted at the MEI Rise Conference and both the spring and fall Illinois Counseling Association conferences. Amina has also worked as an outpatient counselor at RISE (Recovery/Integrity/Support/Empowerment) where Lauren Christina, MS. LCPC, Executive Director describes Amina as "committed to improving the mental health of the community at large." This sentiment about Amina was echoed by Dr. Yoder, "they have already represented EIU extremely well in both scholarly and community networks and it is my belief that they will continue to do so long after graduation."

Outside of their rigorous academic load, which includes a graduate assistantship, an internship, and research, Amina also serves on the Executive Board of the CSI, serves on PFLAG, as an officer in the honors society Chi Sigma Iota, and has completed prevention and education presentations for the local sexual assault treatment center.



**JESSICA MEADOWS** *Counseling*

"Personable, bright, hardworking and motivated...a well-respected individual who brings a great deal of human warmth to the classroom and the work environment," are all attributes ascribed to Jessica Meadows by her mentor, Dr. Heidi Larson, Professor, Counseling and Higher Education. It is these admirable qualities that obviously help Jessica manage the impressive scholarship and engagement activities that were shared by her faculty mentors.

Having received one of only five paid internships at Mattoon High School for the BIONIC (Believe It Or Not I Care) Mentoring Program, Dr. Larson shares Jessica provided "individual, family and group counseling to her clients." Further, she "helped her students with interpersonal concerns, academic issues, career exploration and college information," all while demonstrating a great deal of "empathy and understanding" to the students' individual situations. Jessica furthered her work with students at the college level through her graduate assistant position with the EIU Freshman Connection mentorship program, a new initiative to assist first generation, underrepresented, low-income, at-risk freshman. As supervisor of the program, she hired and trained 35 mentors, led small leadership groups, oversaw data collection, created yearlong curriculum, all while managing 250 student participants.

In addition to her commendable role as a student and student leader, Jessica also has found time to serve the EIU campus and community. Jessica has served as the 2022-2023 Graduate Student Dean, as the student representative on the College of Education Curriculum Committee, and represented EIU's New Student Freshman Orientation/Open House. Impressively, Jessica has also presented her research at two state conferences, four local conferences and co-authored four grants, including a \$15,000 grant for the Freshman Connection Program.



**JACOB MUELLER** *College Student Affairs*

It seems Jacob Mueller's choice to pursue a Master's degree in College Student Affairs is well-suited for both his academic aptitude and his ability to, as Nathan Wehr, Director of the Office of Leadership and Engagement states, "authentically connect with students and meet them where they are."

Describing Jacob Mueller's performance as a graduate assistant in the Office of Leadership and Engagement and an Associate Resident Director in the Greek Court housing complex, Dr. Dianne Timm, Professor, Counseling and Higher Education, states, "Many of the students see him as a full professional while he is still in a graduate assistantship."

Timm continued in her assessment, adding Jacob is adept in his abilities to work "with them [Greek organizations] during challenging times ... to help maintain accountability as well as provide educational support and challenge," and to "develop and cultivate leaders in these organizations, mentoring many to think about their future in optimistic ways." Reaffirming these statements, Jacob recently received the Graduate Assistant of the Year award through the Division of Student Affairs recognition Awards.

Jacob's scholarly abilities are also impressive. Working with his thesis advisor, Dr. Jon Coleman, Instructor, Jacob has researched faculty perceptions of student athletes. According to Dr. Coleman, the research has revealed "some fascinating differences in how faculty consider the work, commitment and motivation of female athletes as compared to their male peers." Jacob will share this research at the Association of College Personnel Administrators (ACPA) National Conference in New Orleans (March 2023).



**RUBY AMANDA OBORO-OFFERIE** *Human Services*

"She set high standards for herself and then took the necessary actions to achieve those goals and standards, both academically and in her service activities," stated Dr. Jeanne R. Lord, Professor Emeritus, Department of Human Services, in her nomination of Ms. Oboro-Offerie. This summation is easily evidenced when reviewing Ruby's extensive educational and community engagement activities. Earning her B.A. in Political Studies in Kumasi, Ghana, and a M.A. in Comparative Social Research in Moscow, Russia, Ruby came to EIU to pursue her second Master's degree in human services. While at EIU, Ruby has "demonstrated a depth of insight into issues in human development and family studies with a particular interest in women's studies and advocating for individuals who are

disadvantaged," states Dr. Jill Bowers, Interim Associate Dean, College of Health and Human Services. Dr. Bowers shares Ruby has "published her research in the Women's Studies International Forum and is working on three other research publications, and has served as a manuscript reviewer for the Gender, Place and Culture Journal. Additionally, Ruby has presented her work at several conferences including the Illinois Council on Family Relations, EIU Student Research and Creativity Conference, and the EIU Graduate Exposition. With an article published in the 2022 Women's Studies International Forum, 92, Ruby currently has two articles under review, and a research manuscript in progress. Planning to go even further with her education, Ruby recently received acceptance to the doctoral degree program at the University of Oregon, and is awaiting offers from other universities.

While working as a graduate assistant in the Child and Family Life Education Center, Ruby's service activities include serving on the Graduate Student Advisory Council as an Executive Vice President, and as an active member of the Department of Human Services Student Ambassadors RSO, which works to represent the department at campus and local events.



**SAMANTHA PHILLIPS** *Curriculum and Instruction*

"How long has she worked here?" That was a question fielded by Dr. Dawn VanGuntен, Professor, Teaching, Learning and Foundations, after Samantha Phillips presented to a group of educational professionals just three weeks into the start of her educational journey at EIU. Dr. VanGuntен, who had assessed after meeting Samantha that her, "...ability to listen and communicate her questions and concerns showed she had very strong critical thinking skills as well as being responsible and motivated." These initial impressions have held true throughout Samantha's graduate studies. Working with Dr. VanGuntен to review a new State program, Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading standards (CRTL) and create a path for implementation, Samantha worked to create professional

development modules for the College of Education faculty along with in-person presentations. The work ultimately led to the development of Samantha's thesis entitled, An Exploration of Middle School Teachers' Utilization of Culturally Responsive Teaching. Ms. Phillips presented her findings at the College of Education Research Fair, the EIU Research Conference, and the Illinois Association of Teacher Education Conference. Ultimately, the study was submitted for publication in the Journal of Midwest Educational Researcher.

Paired with Ms. Phillips admirable educational path, Dr. Daniel Carter, Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator, states Samantha's fulfillment of her "...graduate assistantship duties has been excellent and impressive." Dr. Carter continues by sharing that Samantha's "...service to the profession, our college and the department is superior." Ms. Phillips also served on the Teaching, Learning and Foundations' Graduate Committee, the Council on Teacher Education (COTE), the Textbook Rental Service Committee, and the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC).





**PILAR BARRIO SANCHEZ**  
*Communication Studies*



**AMBER BEHREND**  
*Educational Leadership:  
Specialist Degree in  
Educational Administration*



**ERIC BURTON**  
*Art*



**REBECCA BURTON**  
*Business Administration  
(Online)*



**DAWN CREATH**  
*Talent Development*



**DENNIS CRISTINA**  
*Business Administration  
(On-campus)*



**TAYLOR DANIELS**  
*School Psychology  
Specialist*



**VICTORIA DINGMAN**  
*Political Science  
(Online)*



**ALLISON EARL**  
*Biological Sciences  
(Thesis Option)*



**KATIE EGGLESTON**  
*English*



**JESSIE FAUCONIER**  
*Biological Sciences  
(Online Option)*



**AMINA FEDER**  
*Clinical Counseling*





**NOAH GARCIA**  
*History*



**MEGAN HENRICHS**  
*Special Education*



**JACOB HORD**  
*Sports Administration*



**SAMUEL KNEBEL**  
*Chemistry*



**MCKENNA LANTER**  
*Communication Disorders  
and Sciences*



**DAVID LAURIA**  
*Music Education*



**DAVID MARTINS**  
*Music Instrumental  
Performance*



**RACHAEL MCDONOUGH**  
*School Psychology*



**JESSICA MEADOWS**  
*School Counseling*



**JACOB MUELLER**  
*College Student Affairs*



**TYLER NIEBRUGGE**  
*Educational Leadership:  
MS in Education*



**KEN NWAOJEI**  
*Biological Sciences  
(NonThesis Option)*



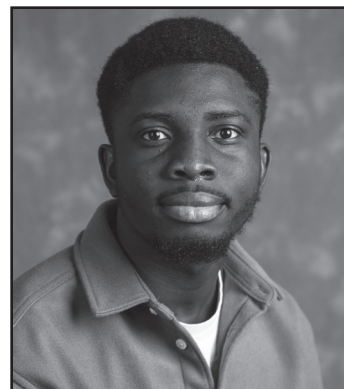
**ELIZABETH NWAUZURU**  
*Sustainability*



**NIONDINA NYSTROEM**  
*Exercise Physiology*



**RUBY AMANDA  
OBORO-OFFERIE**  
*Human Services*



**KINGSFORD ONYINA**  
*Economics*



**DEVANGI PANT**  
*Clinical Psychology*



**SAMANTHA PHILLIPS**  
*Curriculum and Instruction*



**JIBRIL RICHTER**  
*Political Science  
(On-Campus)*



**NATHALIA RIVAS ZEPEDA**  
*Cybersecurity*



**KIM ROSS**  
*Health Promotion*



**NATHAN SHULTS**  
*Technology (On-Campus)*



**JOSH THOMPSON**  
*Geographic Information  
Sciences*



**KIYEON YOCH**  
*Aging Studies*



