Michael Neureiter, 2014 Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award Winner

The Graduate School
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™
Graduate Recognition

Distinguished Graduate Student Awards and Hamand Society Scholars
Williams Travel Grant Winners
Research/Creative Activity Grant Winners
Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholar
Frances Meyer Hampton Graduate Scholar
Mary Bear McClay Graduate Scholar
Annie Weller Graduate Scholar
GSAC Graduate Scholar
King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Awards
  Award of Excellence- College of Arts and Humanities
  Award of Excellence- College of Business and Applied Sciences
  Award of Excellence- College of Education and Professional Studies
  Award of Excellence- College of Sciences
  Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award Winner
Teaching Award of Excellence for Graduate Assistants
Graduate School Leadership Award
Graduate School Award of Excellence
Graduate Faculty Recognition
  Rodney S. Ranes Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award

Graduate Scholarship

Thesis Awards
  Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award
  Award of Excellence- College of Arts and Humanities
  Award of Excellence- College of Business and Applied Sciences
  Award of Excellence- College of Education and Professional Studies
  Award of Excellence- College of Sciences

King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Awards
  Distinguished Research Creative/Activity Award
  Award of Excellence- College of Arts and Humanities
  Award of Excellence- College of Business and Applied Sciences
  Award of Excellence- College of Education and Professional Studies
  Award of Excellence- College of Sciences

Research/Creative Activity Grants
Williams Travel Grants
GSAC Scholarship
Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholarship
Frances Meyer Hampton Graduate Scholarship
Mary Bear McClay Graduate Scholarship
Annie Weller Graduate Scholarship
Teaching Award of Excellence for Graduate Assistants
Hamand Society Scholars

The Graduate School and the Graduate Student Advisory Council publish the Graduate Scholar annually to recognize and honor those who have achieved excellence in graduate study at Eastern Illinois University.
Awards Ceremony | April 10, 2014
Introductions and Opening Remarks
Ms. Valerie Penn, President of the Graduate Student Advisory Council
Dr. William L. Perry, President | Dr. Blair M. Lord, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Kevin Savage, Graduate Student Dean | Dr. Robert M. Augustine, Dean of the Graduate School

Distinguished Graduate Student Awards

College of Arts and Humanities
Announced by Dean Bonnie Irwin

Hannah Freeman - Art
Presented by Mr. Chris Kahler

Amanda Feder - Communication Studies
Presented by Dr. Matthew Gill

Aaron M. White - English
Presented by Dr. Ruth Hoberman

Aaron Psujek - History
Presented by Mr. Brian Mann

Desiree Ramirez - Historical Administration
Presented by Dr. Nora Pat Small

Katherine Henry - Music
Presented by Dr. Marilyn Coles

College of Sciences
Announced by Dean Harold Ornes

Vaskar Nepal KC - Biological Sciences
Presented by Dr. Robert E. Colombo

Xiao Xiao - Chemistry
Presented by Dr. Barbara Lawrence

Rachel Maxwell - Clinical Psychology
Presented by Dr. Wesley Allan

Nicole Kozeny - Communication Disorders & Sciences
Presented by Dr. Angela Anthony

Nana Quaicoe - Economics
Presented by Dr. Teshome Abebe

George Cernetig - Geographic Information Sciences
Presented by Drs. Karen Gaines and Michael Cornebise

Sarah Harley - Mathematics
Presented by Dr. Charles Delman

Stephany Slutzky - Math Education Option
Presented by Dr. Peter Wiles

Fran Hirschfelder - Natural Sciences
Presented by Dr. Andrew Methven

Luke Eastin - Political Science
Presented by Dr. Richard Wandling

Dean Pappas - School Psychology
Presented by Dr. Assege HaileMariam

Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences
Announced by Dean Mahyar Izadi

Allison Tharp - Business Administration (On-Campus)
Presented by Dr. Melody Wollan

Carolyn Thomas - Business Administration (Off-Campus)
Presented by Dr. Melody Wollan

Ashley Sorrentino - Dietetics
Presented by Dr. Karla Kennedy-Hagan

Resa Ware - Family & Consumer Sciences
Presented by Dr. Lisa Moyer

Barbara Catron - Gerontology
Presented by Dr. Jacquelyn Frank

Alex Cudone - Sustainable Energy
Presented by Dr. Chao Wen

Matthew Maher - Technology (On-Campus)
Presented by Dr. Wafeek Wahby

Cyndia Hinton - Technology (Off-Campus)
Presented by Dr. David Melton

College of Education and Professional Studies
Announced by Dean Diane Jackman

Kelsey Brandt - College Student Affairs
Presented by Dr. Diane Timm

Alyssa Swan - Clinical Counseling
Presented by Dr. Angela Yoder

Jill Moody - School Counseling
Presented by Dr. Heidi Larson

Jeff Marlo - Educational Leadership (Master’s)
Presented by Dr. John Dively

Tom Siegler - Educational Leadership (Specialist’s)
Presented by Dr. Nick Osborne

Brittnie Simpson - Elementary Education
Presented by Dr. Linda Reven

Nathan Schwartzkopf - Kinesiology and Sports Studies
Presented by Dr. Chad Carlson

Amanda Gentry - Special Education
Presented by Dr. Kathlene Shank
Hamand Society of Graduate Scholars

Announced by Dr. Nora Pat Small, Chair, Council on Graduate Studies Hamand Board
Medallion presented by Dr. William Perry, President, and Dr. Blair M. Lord, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Vaskar Nepal KC - Biological Sciences
Alyssa Swan - Clinical Counseling

Williams Travel Grants

Williams Travel Grants are awarded in the fall and spring, this year more students than ever before applied and received support for presenting their research at conferences all over the country. Due to a high numbers of recipients, students will be announced by their college and program affiliation. Details of their outstanding research are listed in subsequent pages of this program.

Announcing the College of Sciences- Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Graduate Coordinator, Political Science
Biological Sciences- Jennifer Alberts, Matthew Craffey, Ryan Hastings, Eric Hendricks, Tara Hohoff, Sarah Huck, Adam Hughes, Clinton Morgeson, Vaskar Nepal KC, Manisha Pant, David Petry, Yudong Qu, Sharon Rayford, Meagan Thomas, Erin Tuegel, Miranda White
Chemistry- Xiao Xiao
Communications Disorders & Sciences- Clare Kilbride, Caitlin Maxheimer
Political Science- Keneshbek Abdirakhmanov, Rachel Dicke, David Trotter
Psychology- Jarvis Howe, Rachel Maxwell

Announcing the College of Education and Professional Studies- Dr. Chad Carlson, Member, Council on Graduate Studies; Graduate Coordinator, Kinesiology and Sports Studies
Counseling- Brittany Arthur, Gwi Chun, Megan Eshleman, Rebecca Eskew, Aaron Hale, Young Kwon, Haley Madlem, Regina Maj, Rob McKinney, Jill Moody, Keri Offenstein, Vanessa Payne, Sarah Puchalski, Amanda Rice, Margaret Schwartzkopf, Alyssa Swan, Holly Westjohn, Rebecca Williams
College Student Affairs- Sally Adams

Announcing the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences- Dr. David Boggs, Member, Council on Graduate Studies
Business Administration- Matt Askew, Craig Harris, Yifan Liu, Kevin Savage, Marissa Sutera, Allison Tharp
Dietetics- Rachael Jannusch
Family and Consumer Sciences- Molly Button, Joshua Fourman, Brittany Poders
Gerontology- August Lamczyk, Randall Reed
Technology- Kent Martin
Kinesiology and Sports Studies- Jessica Alexander, Tasha Buchmiller
Sustainable Energy- George Buzard, Chengdong Hu, Sunil Thapa

Announcing the College of Arts and Humanities- Dr. Matthew Gill, Member, Council on Graduate Studies; Member, Travel Grants Committee; Graduate Coordinator, Communication Studies
Communication Studies- Amanda Feder, Nathan Furstenau, Ethan Kruger, Emily Vajjala
English- Terri Coleman, Trevor Martinson, Sean Towey, Tana Young
Historical Administration- Danielle DiGiacomo
History- Logan Bruce, Aaron Psujek
Research/Creative Activity Grants

Research/Creative Activity Grants are awarded in the fall and spring, this year more students than ever before applied and received support for conducting research in partnership with external agencies and institutions. Due to the record high numbers of recipients, students will be announced by their program and college affiliation. Details of their outstanding research are listed in subsequent pages of this program. Announced by Dr. Lisa Moyer, Chair, Research Grants Committee; Graduate Coordinator, Family and Consumer Sciences

College of Business and Applied Sciences-
  Family and Consumer Sciences- **Jessica Seals**
  Sustainable Energy- **Sunil Thapa**

College of Education and Professional Studies-
  Counseling- **Aaron Hale, Rob McKinney, Jill Moody, Margaret Schwartzkopf**

College of Sciences-
  Biological Sciences- **Jennifer Alberts, Cynthia Carter, Matthew Craffey, Ryan Hastings, Tara Hohoff, Adam Hughes, Clinton Morgeson, Vaskar Nepal KC, David Ollesch, Manisha Pant, Sudip Paudel, Sharon Rayford, Lynn Schofield, Marci Slingerland, Meagan Thomas, Erin Tuegel, Miranda White**

Graduate Scholarships

Announced by Dr. Karla Kennedy-Hagan, Chair, Scholarship Committee; Graduate Coordinator, Dietetics
Presented by Dr. Barbara Lawrence, Member, Scholarship Committee; Graduate Coordinator, Chemistry

2014 Mary Bear McClay Scholar
  **Ashley Krisman**, Mathematics Education
  Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Peter Wiles

2014 Betty Wright Downing Scholar
  **Jennifer Ashley**, Dietetics
  Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Karla Kennedy-Hagan

2014 Frances Meyer Hampton Scholar
  **Taylor Alba**, School Counseling
  Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Rick Roberts

2014 Annie Weller Scholar
  **Tara Weber**, Biological Sciences
  Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Jeff Laursen

2014 GSAC Scholarship- presented by Valerie Penn, President, Graduate Student Advisory Council
  **Aaron Hale**, School Counseling

King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Award Winners

Announced by Dr. Marilyn Coles, Chair, King-Mertz Awards Committee; Graduate Coordinator, Music
Presented by Dr. Jacquelyn Frank, Member, Council on Graduate Studies; Graduate Coordinator, Gerontology

Award of Excellence for the College of Arts and Humanities
  **Steven Nathaniel**, English
  Faculty Mentor, Dr. Suzie Park

Award of Excellence for the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences
  **Matt Merkle**, Business Administration
  Faculty Mentor, Dr. Jay Shinde

Award of Excellence for the College of Education and Professional Studies
  **Katie Lancaster**, Elementary Education
  Faculty Mentor, Dr. Sham’ah Md-Yunus

Award of Excellence for the College of Sciences
  **Nana Quaicoe**, Economics
  Faculty Mentor, Dr. Teshome Abebe

Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award
  **Nichole Garbrough**, History
  Faculty Mentor, Dr. Charles Foy
Thesis Award Winners
Announced by Dr. Wesley Allan, Chair, Council on Graduate Studies; Graduate Coordinator, Clinical Psychology
Presented by Dr. Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo, Member, Council on Graduate Studies

Award of Excellence for the College of Arts and Humanities
Jessica McDonald, Communication Studies
Faculty Mentor, Dr. Melanie Mills

Award of Excellence for the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences
Sheila Greuel, Gerontology
Faculty Mentor, Dr. Jacquelyn Frank

Award of Excellence for the College of Education and Professional Studies
Merry Lucas, College Student Affairs
Faculty Mentor, Dr. Dan Nadler

Award of Excellence for the College of Sciences
Paul G. Edwards, Biological Sciences
Faculty Mentor, Dr. Karen Gaines

Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award
Michael Neureiter, Political Science
Faculty Mentor, Dr. Andrew McNitt

2014 Teaching Award of Excellence for Graduate Assistants
Announced by Mr. Bill Elliott, Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Admissions; Adviser, Graduate Student Advisory Council
Presented by Ms. Kayla Napue, Member, Council on Graduate Studies; Graduate Candidate in Special Education

Hannah Green, Masters Candidate in English

2014 Rodney S. Ranes Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award
Announced by Mr. Bill Elliott, Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Admissions; Adviser, Graduate Student Advisory Council
Presented by Ms. Kayla Napue, Member, Council on Graduate Studies; Graduate Candidate in Special Education

Dr. Robert E. Colombo, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences

Graduate School Award of Excellence
Announced by Ms. Lori Henderson, Publicity Promotion Specialist, Graduate School
Presented by Ms. Kayla Napue, Member, Council on Graduate Studies; Graduate Candidate in Special Education

Michael W. Babcock, Videographer, Web Office, Center for Academic Technology Support
For leadership and artistic achievement in capturing graduate student research on film.

Renewable Energy Center, Practicum Supervisors- Tim Zimmer, James Gilbert, Chad Weber, Ryan Siegel
For creating and leading the practicum for graduate candidates earning the
Master of Science in Sustainable Energy.

Graduate School Leadership Award
Announced by Dr. Robert Augustine, Dean, Graduate School
Presented by Ms. Kayla Napue, Member, Council on Graduate Studies; Graduate Candidate in Special Education

Dr. John Willems, Chair, School of Business
Dr. Melody Wollan, Graduate Coordinator, MBA
The Graduate School Leadership Award recognizes an academic program for exemplary leadership in graduate education that serves as a model of academic excellence.
Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award

**Michael Neureiter**, Master of Arts in Political Science
Andrew McNitt, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Faculty Mentor

**Sources of Media Bias in Coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The 2010 Gaza Flotilla Raid in German, British, & U.S. Newspapers**

This study examines (1) whether German, British, and U.S. media coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is biased, and (2) if such a bias exists, what its sources are. Applying Dave D’Alessio’s and Mike Allen’s framework for measuring media bias to a sample of 240 newspaper articles on the 2010 Gaza Flotilla Raid, we find that British and especially German newspapers exhibit a significant anti-Israel bias, whereas the results for the United States are mixed. Testing five explanations of media bias commonly mentioned in the relevant literature, we find that a newspaper’s political affiliation as well as a country’s public opinion, demographic make-up, and relationship with Israel explain the occurrence of media bias in coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict rather well, whereas national business interests do not. Moreover, our findings suggest the existence of a strong interplay between demographics, public opinion, foreign policy, and media bias.

Master’s Thesis Award of Excellence in the College of Arts and Humanities

**Jessica McDonald**, Master of Arts in Communication Studies
Melanie Mills, Ph.D., Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor

**Coordination and Symbolic Convergence at the CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center**

Using Coordinated Management of Meaning (CMM) and Symbolic Convergence Theory (SCT), this study examines the ways in which meaning is managed between the CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center and its visitors. Using the metaphor of conversation, this study demonstrates three ways in which the museum and its visitors achieve a rhetorical vision: historical conversation, personal conversation, and residual conversation. The two groups must work together in order to create connections to the museum’s purpose that reverberate beyond the museum into the lives of others, spreading its message, and the importance of retelling that message, to future generations. Studying the ways in which CANDLES connects with its visitors, the Terre Haute, Indiana community at large, and current events around the world is extremely important to understanding how the Holocaust and its messages are relevant to contemporary society. CANDLES plays a role in continuing to tell the story of the Holocaust, preserving its memory while simultaneously raising awareness that such places of public memory exist and contribute to the world today. Small museums face great challenges in preserving and maintaining important social connections with the past so that future generations are able to participate in the historical, personal, and residual conversations that CANDLES and similar museums have created. In order for smaller museums with unique narratives, like CANDLES, to continue to function and exist, their rhetorical visions must work within and beyond the museums’ boundaries, spreading their messages among various groups of people, in the local community and in society at large.
The present study was designed to understand the impact a five-week summer bridge program, at a mid-sized public institution, has on provisionally admitted students’ self-efficacy. Self-efficacy is defined as “the belief in one’s own capabilities to organize and execute the courses of action required to produce given attainments”, which can significantly affect how individuals think, feel, behave and motivate themselves in daily activities (Bandura, 1994). By using a pre- and post-test survey model and the College Self-Efficacy Inventory (CSEI) (Solberg, O’Brien, Villareal, Kennel, & Davis, 1993), the change in participants’ overall, academic, social and roommate self-efficacy was measured. After completing the program, there were statistically significant differences in students’ self-efficacy on all four scales; a positive increase was found using all four scales. There were not statistically significant differences in the self-efficacy levels of students from different demographic backgrounds. These results provide insight into the academic, social, and support needs of provisionally admitted students as they begin their collegiate journey. The researcher provided several recommendations for future research of provisionally admitted students’ self-efficacy, as well as for the institution’s summer bridge program.
Master’s Thesis Award of Excellence in the College of Sciences

Paul G. Edwards, Master of Science in Biological Sciences
Karen Gaines, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Bioavailability, Bioaccumulation, and Trophic Transfer of Trace Metals in the Tims Branch-Steed Pond Tributary

The Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site (SRS) is a 777 km² former nuclear weapon material production facility along the Savannah River in west-central South Carolina. In 1954, environmental discharges were released from “M-Area”, a fuel and aluminum-clad U nuclear reactor into the Tims Branch-Steed Pond water system. Discharges released into Tims Branch contained large volumes of inorganic wastes including depleted and natural U, Al, and Ni along with smaller quantities of Hg, Pb, Cu, Cr, and Zn. The purpose of this investigation was to better understand the dynamics of the Tims Branch water system within an ecological risk assessment framework by examining metal concentrations, bioavailability and trophic transfer of contaminants in lower trophic level biota in 7 beaver-impounded ponds in Tims Branch. Biofilm, detritus, Anuran and Anisopteran larvae were analyzed for stable isotopes ($\delta^{15}N$, $\delta^{13}C$) and trace metals: V, Cr, Ni, Cu, Zn, As, Se, Sr, Hg, Pb, U, with a focus on Ni, U and Hg. Results from this study support intraspecific biomagnification of focal metals, with little evidence of interspecific biomagnification for Ni and U. Biofilms were ideal indicators for system contamination and digestive tract removed Anuran larvae gave a clear representation of the bioavailability of the focal metals. Differences in trace metal concentrations between trophic levels indicated that only a portion of these contaminants are bioavailable. Hg concentrations increased through higher trophic levels indicating interspecific biomagnification. Transfer factors (TFs) from biofilm and detritus to higher trophic level organisms and hazard quotients (HQs) for Ni were low indicating little risk to those organisms. TFs for U were low but displayed high HQs demonstrating reduced bioavailability but high risk due to the high U concentrations in this system. Hg TFs and HQs were both high in the Tims Branch tributary displaying a high risk for this trace metal.

King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Awards

Nancie King Mertz, ‘79 graduate alumna from the program in Art, established the King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Awards in 2010 to recognition the highest achievement in graduate research based on non-thesis graduate research/creative activity projects. A 2009 recipient of an Outstanding Graduate Alumni award, Nancie has been actively involved in the visual arts as both a creative artist and a small business owner. She and her husband Ron own and operate ArtDe Triumph & Artful Framer Studios in Chicago’s Lincoln Park.

One project is selected to represent the best non-thesis project from all graduate programs and a top project from each academic college is also selected.
**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
**GRADUATE SCHOLAR**

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**King-Mertz Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award**

**Nichole Garbrough**, Master of Arts in History  
Charles Foy, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Faculty Mentor

*Delaware Valley Allegiances and Identity in the Eighteenth Century*

Most historians have researched the entirety of British North America in order to explore questions of colonial identity and allegiance on the eve of the American Revolution—assuming that what may have occurred in New England affected the Middle Colonies and elsewhere in similar fashion. Others have turned this all-encompassing project to a more manageable size, casting their light most predominately on provincial Massachusetts. It is obvious, looking at this research in the aggregate that colonial identity shifted from royalist British subjects to the recognition of their second-class status within British society. This recognition created a break from the Crown, which now appeared an oppressor, and an embrace of a new identity as a group of individuals ready to stand up for their freedom and demand their natural rights or turn away from Britain forever.

In order to contribute to research on this topic, I have partaken in my own micro-historical analysis, focusing on the Delaware Valley—a region neglected by historians dealing with this topic. Documentation provided by newspapers at the time, in addition to correspondence of governors and influential leaders of the region and period contribute immensely to this research. With the documentation I collected, I attempt to demonstrate a recognizable shift of identity from a royalist colony to an American colony, separate from the British Empire. By looking at this one particular colony, I hope to contribute to the literature regarding emerging colonial identities and allegiances on the eve of the American Revolution. Through this more focused history, we can perhaps make definitive conclusions on the whole.

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**King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Award of Excellence in the College of Arts & Humanities**

**Steven Nathaniel**, Master of Arts in English  
Suzie Park, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English, Faculty Mentor

*The Subjugated Secret: Opening Ishiguro to Inaction*

In Kazuo Ishiguro’s 2005 novel Never Let Me Go, cloned students search for meaning as they proceed towards medical sacrifice (forced organ donations until “completion” or death) on behalf of the greater society. Even more than the horror of breeding children for their organs, it is the students’ compliance that most disturbs critics of the novel. In most critical assessments, Ishiguro’s story either mortifies or mobilizes. Bruce Robbins, for instance, contests the claim that Ishiguro’s characters are unduly cruel and consequently banal, suggesting alternatively that readers are compelled to act against the cruelties of their societies. What such critical readings have missed, however, is that the students’ seeming compliance liberates the narrative from purposeful application. I propose to read Never Let Me Go’s characters as embodiments of Anne-Lise François’s influential theory of the “open secret.” I argue that they glamorize their shackles and submit wholeheartedly to a self-destructive fate. Ishiguro’s characters actively refuse to advance their circumstances, which encourages us to reread the novel for its stark antagonism towards the empirical positivism on which “productive” and “efficient” societies are built.
King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Award of Excellence in the
Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences

Matt Merkle, Master of Business Administration
Jay Shinde, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Business Administration, Faculty Mentor

Stress and Public Accounting: A Comparison Study of Student Perceptions of Tax vs. Audit Environments with Implications for Academia and Practice

The negative outcomes of occupational stress affect individuals, communities, organizations and economies worldwide (Cooper & Dewe, 2004). This pervasiveness denotes the importance of gaining a better understanding of proactive, preventative occupational stress measures. Regarding a specific occupational field, the public accounting occupation has long had issues with occupational stress and its consequences, called strain, such as those direct and indirect costs arising from employee turnover (Smith, 1990; Sanders, Fulks, & Knoblett, 1995). Studies have shown that occupational stress is exacerbated when there is a misfit between the person and environment (French, 1963; Kristof-Brown & Guay, 2011). Studies have also shown that the reason for the misfit is that accounting employment candidates are uninformed/misinformed as to the environmental conditions that will surround their positions as tax or audit personnel (Aichinger & Barnes, 2010; Phillips & Crain, 1996). Therefore, this study compares student perceptions of public accounting’s tax and audit environments in regards to the perceived type of occupational factors, called stressors, found in those environments. Results of the study indicate that accounting students agree, in part, with the perceptions of practicing CPAs. However, students may not have a realistic understanding as to the degree to which stressors are prevalent in audit and not in tax. Additionally, it appears that students find audit more stressful due to work/life balance stressors but are not aware of the role that job related stressors may have in audit vs. tax. The goal of this study is to assist academic advisors, business recruiters and future researchers, by using the information gained in this study to identify any disconnect between academia and practice, and create more effective, realistic job previews. These previews will assist in creating a more appropriate person-environment fit and thereby minimize the negative effects of occupational stress in public accounting.

King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Award of Excellence in the
College of Education and Professional Studies

Katie Lancaster, Master of Science in Education in Elementary Education
Sham’Ah Md-Yunus, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education, Faculty Mentor

An Examination of Using Graphic Organizers to Teach Writing: A Case Study

The purpose of this action research study was to determine whether using graphic organizers to teach writing would have an impact on first grade students’ attitudes toward writing and proficiency in the areas of word choice and organization. This six-week study was guided by two primary research questions: 1) Does using graphic organizers impact students’ attitudes towards writing? and 2) How does using graphic organizers impact students’ ability to use word choice and organization in writing? Throughout the entirety of this study, two main sources were used to collect information. The sources used were: a survey about students’ attitudes towards writing and independent student writing samples completed three times throughout the study. At the conclusion of the research study, results showed that graphic organizers were an effective teaching technique in writing. Students showed improved attitudes toward writing and their usage of word choice and organization improved.
King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Award of Excellence in the College of Sciences

Nana Quaicoe, Master of Arts in Economics
Teshome Abebe, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Faculty Mentor

Causes of Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Layered Theory Approach to Understanding Significant Factors

The majority of studies on Sub-Saharan Africa approach poverty solely as a lack of income. We believe that poverty is more than an economic status and is inclusive of educational attainment and gender inequality, for example. Our study analyzed poverty under a unique approach, and in a departure from previous studies, delineates between various factors of poverty. The research span over a 20-year period (1990-2010) based on five-year intervals with a sample size of 46 Sub-Saharan African countries. We found factors such as female literacy and corruption as key variables to poverty alleviation in Sub-Saharan Africa over the last two decades.

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grants

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Jennifer Alberts, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Farmer Perspectives of Biomass Species, Including Giant Miscanthus, in East-Central Illinois
Jill Deppe, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Green Flame Energy, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Cynthia Carter, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Trophic Interactions in a Semiaquatic Snake Community: Insights into the Structure of a Mississippi River Floodplain Food Web
Stephen Mullin, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Matthew Craffey, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
The Potential Multi-Scale Impact of Miscanthus x Giganteus on Midwestern Breeding Songbirds
Jill Deppe, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Green Flame Energy, Research Partner
Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Aaron Hale**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling  
*B.I.O.N.I.C: An Analysis of a High School Mentoring Program*  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor  
Mattoon High School, Research Partner

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Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Ryan Hastings**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Effects of Dams on Fish and Macroinvertebrate Assemblages in the Vermilion River Basin*  
Scott Meiners, Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Research Partner

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Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Tara Hohoff**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Connectivity of Bat Habitat in Northern Illinois*  
Jill Deppe, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor  
McHenry County Conservation District, Research Partner

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Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Adam Hughes**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Do Artificial Riffles Enhance Nutrient Retention in Restored Streams?*  
Charles Pederson, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor  
United States Geological Survey, Research Partner

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Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Rob McKinney**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling  
*B.I.O.N.I.C: An Analysis of a High School Mentoring Program*  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor  
Mattoon High School, Research Partner

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Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Jill Moody**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*B.I.O.N.I.C: An Analysis of a High School Mentoring Program*  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor  
Mattoon High School, Research Partner
Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Clinton Morgeson, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Reproduction of Asian Carps in Four Illinois River Tributaries
Robert E. Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Natural History Survey, Research Partner

Vaskar Nepal KC, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Optimal Harvest of Shovelnose Sturgeon in the Lower Wabash River, Illinois
Robert E. Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Research Partner

David Ollesch, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Impact of Diet on the Growth, Condition and Mortality of Saugeyes in Illinois
Robert E. Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Research Partner

Manisha Pant, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Impact of Restoration on Fishes, Macroinvertebrates and Habitat Quality in Kickapoo Creek Near Charleston, Illinois
Robert E. Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Research Partner

Sudip Paudel, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Do the levels of mitoNEET determine cancer risk in diabetes treatment?
Michael Menze, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
University of Michigan, Research Partner

Sharon Rayford, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Habitat Associations of Young of the Year Fishes in a Large Unimpounded River
Eric Bollinger, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Research Partner

Lynn Schofield, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Spatial Use of Stopover Habitat in Migratory Songbirds Along the Gulf of Mexico
Jill Deppe, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
United States Geological Survey, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

David Ollesch, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
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Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Research Partner

Lynn Schofield, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Spatial Use of Stopover Habitat in Migratory Songbirds Along the Gulf of Mexico
Jill Deppe, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
United States Geological Survey, Research Partner
Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Margaret Schwartzkopf,** Masters Candidate in School Counseling
_B.I.O.N.I.C: An Analysis of a High School Mentoring Program_
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Mattoon High School, Research Partner

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Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Jessica Seals,** Masters Candidate in Family and Consumer Sciences
_Strengthening Families Through Mission Trips_
Michelle Sherwood, Ph.D., Professor, and
Lisa Moyer, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, Faculty Mentors
Network Tacoma, Research Partner

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Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Marci Slingerland,** Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
_The Effects of an Activity Based Science Program on Elementary School Students’ Attitudes and Interests in Science Related Fields_
Scott Meiners, Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Monroe Elementary School, Research Partner

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Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Sunil Thapa,** Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy
_Algae as Biological Binding Agents for Biomass-to-Bioenergy Strategies_
Thomas Canam, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
OneWater Inc., Research Partner

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Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Meagan Thomas,** Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
_A Methodological Test of the Application of Stable Isotope Analysis: Do Road-Kill Tissue Samples Offer Reliable Isotopic Information?_
Stephen Mullin, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Research Partner

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Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Erin Tuegel,** Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
_Chemical Degradation of Lignocellulosic Cell Wall Structures in Miscanthus x Giganteus and Zea Mays by a Cellobiose Dehydrogenase-Deficient Strain of Trametes Versicolor_
Thomas Canam, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, Research Partner

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Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Miranda White,** Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
_Parasites of Bluegill in the Sangamon River: Impact of Sewage Effluent and Seasonality on Infection Parameters and Correlation with Fish Condition_
Jeff Laursen, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Sanity District of Decatur, Research Partner
Named for Larry Williams, Ph.D., dean of the Graduate School from 1976 to 1999, the Travel Grants provide support for students to present their research at regional, state, national or international conferences. These awards have been supporting graduate student travel since Dean Williams’ retirement in 1999. The grants are awarded in the fall and the spring, and the number of graduate students applying and receiving assistance this year for travel surpassed all previous years’ numbers.

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Keneshbek Abdirakhmanov,** Masters Candidate in Political Science  
*The Role of Opposition in Major Political Developments in the Kyrgyz Republic*  
Challenges for Modern Democracies | Elgin, Illinois  
Ryan Hendrickson, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Sally Adams,** Masters Candidate in College of Student Affairs  
*Aligning Objectives with the Institution and Needs of Students*  
ACUHO-I Living Learning Programs | Providence, Rhode Island  
Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Jennifer Alberts,** Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Small Mammal Responses to Giant Miscanthus, A Dedicated Bioenergy Crop, In Agricultural Landscapes in East-Central Illinois*  
The Wildlife Society Annual Conference | Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Jill Deppe, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Jessica Alexander,** Masters Candidate in Kinesiology and Sports Studies  
*Comparison of Alcohol Use Among NCAA Division I FCS Student-Athletes and Non-Athletes*  
College Sport Research Institute | Columbia, South Carolina  
Sarah Stokowski, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Sports Studies, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Brittany Arthur,** Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling  
*Music Therapy With Older Adults*  
Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Williams Travel Grant

**Matt Askew**, Masters Candidate in Business Administration
A Content Analysis of Research Methods & Strategies Used by Authors
Published in the Journal of Personal Selling & Sales Management and The Impact of Market Orientation on Boundary-Spanning Employees
National Conference in Sales Management | Miami, Florida and
Academy of Marketing Science | Indianapolis, Indiana
Dave Fleming, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Business Administration, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Logan Bruce**, Masters Candidate in History
“He Used to be a Big Shot”: Class in 1930s Gangster Films
Windy City Graduate Student History Conference | Chicago, Illinois
Debra Reid, Ph.D., Professor of History, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Tasha Buchmiller**, Masters Candidate in Kinesiology and Sports Studies
Inside the Maul
College Sport Research Institute | Columbia, South Carolina
Sarah Stokowski, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Sports Studies, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Molly Button**, Masters Candidate in Family and Consumer Sciences
On Campus and Around the World: Connecting Through Social Media
NAFSA: Association of International Educators | San Diego, California
Marilyn Coles, Ph.D., Professor of Music, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**George Buzard**, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy
Study of Lab Scale Wind Energy Generation for Sustainable Energy
The Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering | New Orleans, Louisiana
Rendong Bai, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Gwi Chun**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
Getting Creative: Increasing Efficacy and Saving Time
Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Williams Travel Grant

**Terri Coleman**, Masters Candidate in English
*Racializing the Writing Center - Starting with Tutor Training*
East Central Writing Center Association Annual Conference | Oxford, Ohio
Fern Kory, Ph.D., Professor of English, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Matthew Craffey**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*The Potential Impact of a Novel Bioenergy Crop, Giant Miscanthus, on Midwestern Bird Communities*
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Kansas City, Missouri
Jill Deppe, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Rachel Dicke**, Masters Candidate in Political Science
*NATO’s Mafia Ally: The Strategic Consequences of Bulgarian Corruption*
International Studies Association Midwest Conference | St. Louis, Missouri
Ryan Hendrickson, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Danielle DiGiacomo**, Masters Candidate in Historical Administration
*Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site: Food Preservation and Herb Use Program*
American Association for State and Local History Annual Meeting | Birmingham, Alabama
Terry Barnhart, Ph.D., Professor of History, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Megan Eshleman**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling
*Music Therapy With Older Adults*
Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Rebecca Eskew**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*Getting Creative: Increasing Efficacy and Saving Time*
Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Amanda Feder**, Masters Candidate in Communication Studies
*Fighting Business with Business: Construction and Representation of the ‘Vulnerable and/or Exploited Woman’ through the Communicative Labor of the Not for Sale Campaign*
Central States Communication Association Conference | Minneapolis, Minnesota
Samantha Szczur, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor
Joshua Fourman, Masters Candidate in Family and Consumer Sciences
*Same-Sex Partner Abuse: It Isn’t Always Pretty Under the Rainbow*
Illinois Association of Family and Consumer Sciences | Bloomington, Illinois
Lisa Moyer, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences,

Nathan Furstenau, Masters Candidate in Communication Studies
*Maternity Leave as a Site of Difference: A Consideration for Mothers and Families*
Central States Communication Association Conference | Minneapolis, Minnesota
Samantha Szczur, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor

Aaron Hale, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*Games in Play Therapy and Getting Creative: Increasing Efficacy and Saving Time*
Illinois Counseling Association’s 65th Annual Conference | Skokie, Illinois
Illinois School Counselor Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, and Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentors

Craig Harris, Masters Candidate in Business Administration
*Classless Advertising: What Influences Americans vs. Kuwaitis to Accept an International Assignment?*
MBAA International Conference | Chicago, Illinois
David Boggs, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Business Administration, Faculty Mentor

Ryan Hastings, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Effects of Dams on Community Assemblages prior to Removal in a High Quality River System in Vermilion County, Illinois and Seasonal Shifts in Dam Effects on Fish Assemblages in a High Quality Illinois River*
American Fisheries Society 143rd Annual Meeting | Little Rock, Arkansas
Midwest Fish and Wildlife | Kansas City, Missouri
Robert E. Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Eric Hendricks, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Bioenergetics of Permeabilized and Intact Nerve Cell Terminals from ApoE Deficient Mice*
Comparative Mitochondrial Physiology Conference | Obergurgl, Austria
Britto Nathan, Ph.D., Professor, and Michael Menze, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentors

Tara Hohoff, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Connectivity of Bat Habitat in Northern Illinois*
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Kansas City, Missouri
Jill Deppe, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOLAR

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Jarvis Howe,** Masters Candidate in Clinical Psychology  
*Fear of Negative and Positive Evaluation Across Social Evaluative Situations*  
Anxiety and Depression Association of America | Chicago, Illinois  
Wesley D. Allan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Chengdong Hu,** Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy  
*Investigation of the Local Biomass Resources for Sustainable Energy*  
The Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering | New Orleans, Louisiana  
Jerry Cloward, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Sarah Huck,** Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Assessment of Range, Habitat, and Movement Patterns of Flathead Catfish (Pylodictis olivaris) in a Midwestern River Using Ultrasonic Telemetry*  
American Fisheries Society 143rd Annual Meeting | Little Rock, Arkansas  
Robert E. Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Adam Hughes,** Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Do artificial Riffles Enhance Nutrient Retention in Restored Streams?*  
Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting, Society for Freshwater Sciences | Portland, Oregon  
Charles Pederson Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Rachael Jannusch,** Masters Candidate in Dietetics  
*Impact of Family Mealtime on College Students’ Food Consumption and Select Lifestyle Choices*  
Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo | Houston, Texas  
Carla Honselman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Clare Kilbride,** Masters Candidate in Communication Disorders & Sciences  
*Prompt Responsiveness in School-Age Children With ASD & Language Impairment*  
Allison Haskell, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Disorders & Sciences, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Ethan Kruger,** Masters Candidate in Communication Studies  
*Ideological War: Presidents Creating Borders*  
16th Biennial Rhetoric Society of America Conference | San Antonio, Texas  
Marita Gronnvol, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor
Williams Travel Grant

**Young Kwon**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*Getting Creative: Increasing Efficacy and Saving Time*
Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**August Lamczyk**, Masters Candidate in Gerontology
*The Fall and Rise of Veteran Benefits for Veterans of the Silent and G. I. Generation: Applying Generational Intelligence Theory to History*
Association for Gerontology in Higher Education Annual Meeting | Denver, Colorado
Jacquelyn Frank, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Yifan Liu**, Masters Candidate in Business Administration
*The Effects of Pilot Financial Deregulation in China: Evidence from Shanghai’s Free-Trade Zone*
MBAA International Conference | Chicago, Illinois
Ingyu Chiou, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Finance, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Haley Madlem**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling
*What Language Do They Play In?: Multicultural Considerations for Play Therapists*
Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Regina Maj**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*Art Therapy with Children and Adolescents and Getting Creative: Increasing Efficacy and Saving Time*
Illinois School Counseling Association’s 65th Annual Conference | Skokie, Illinois
Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Heidi Larson, Associate Professor, Faculty Mentors

Williams Travel Grant

**Kent Martin**, Masters Candidate in Technology
*Improving The Rate Of Voluntary Compliance In Investigative Police Reporting Through the Application Of A Training Model and Job Aid and Teaching Research Concepts Through Collaboration With Campus Police Investigators*
The Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering | New Orleans, Louisiana
Isaac Slaven, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Trevor Martinson**, Masters Candidate in English
*Joseph Andrews’ Proleptic Position in Postmodern Literature and The Years That May Never Follow*
Humanities Education and Research Association 2014 Conference | Washington D.C., Maryland
The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture | Louisville, Kentucky
Ruth Hoberman, Ph.D., and Daiva Markelis, Ph.D., Professors of English, Faculty Mentors
Williams Travel Grant

Caitlin Maxheimer, Masters Candidate in Communication Disorders & Sciences
*Using Multisensory Input to Supplement Articulation Intervention*
Jean Smitley, Associate Professor of Communication Disorders & Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Rachel Maxwell, Masters Candidate in Clinical Psychology
*The Dimensions of Body Dysmorphic Disorder*
Association for Psychological Science 26th Conference | San Francisco, California
Susan Longley, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology, Faculty Mentor

Rob McKinney, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling
*Test Anxiety Interventions for Adolescents Preparing for the ACT: Gum Chewing and Relaxation Strategies*
Illinois Counseling Association’s 65th Annual Conference | Skokie, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

Jill Moody, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*Test Anxiety Interventions for Adolescents Preparing for the ACT: Gum Chewing and Relaxation Strategies*
and *Effects of Second-Year Student Supervision in Counseling Training Program: Skill Development and Self-Efficacy of First-Year Counselors-in-Training*
Illinois Counseling Association’s 65th Annual Conference | Skokie, Illinois
Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

Clinton Morgeson, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Demographics of Asian Carps in Four Illinois River Tributaries*
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Kansas City, Missouri
Robert E. Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Vaskar Nepal KC, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Population Characteristics of the Commercially Exploited Population of Shovelnose Sturgeon in the Lower Wabash River, Illinois*
American Fisheries Society 143rd Annual Meeting | Little Rock, Arkansas
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Kansas City, Missouri
Robert E. Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Williams Travel Grant

**Keri Offenstein**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling

*Test Anxiety Interventions for Adolescents Preparing for the ACT: Gum Chewing and Relaxation Techniques*

Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

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**Manisha Pant**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

*Habitat Restoration Leads to Increased Fish Diversity and Relative Density in a Small Midwestern Stream* and

*Impact of Restoration on Fishes, Macroinvertebrates and Habitat Quality in Kickapoo Creek*

Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Kansas City, Missouri
American Fisheries Society 143rd Annual Meeting | Little Rock, Arkansas
Robert E. Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

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**Vanessa Payne**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling

*Music Therapy With Older Adults*

Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

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**David Petry**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

*Effect of Artificial Riffles on Macroinvertebrate Assemblages in Kickapoo Creek*

52nd Annual Meeting of Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society | Bloomington, Illinois
Jeff Laursen, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

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**Brittany Poders**, Masters Candidate in Family and Consumer Sciences

*Elder Financial Exploitation: An Independent Study Project*

Illinois Council on Family Relations | Normal, Illinois
Axton Betz-Hamilton, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, Faculty Mentor

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**Aaron Psujek**, Masters Candidate in History

*Defining the Mob in the Age of the Riot Act*

Loyola University Chicago History Graduate Conference | Chicago, Illinois
Edmund Wehrle, Ph.D., Professor of History, Faculty Mentor

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**Sarah Puchalski**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling

*Test Anxiety Interventions for Adolescents Preparing for the ACT: Gum Chewing & Relaxation Strategies and Getting Creative: Increasing Efficacy and Saving Time*

Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Williams Travel Grant

**Yudong Qu**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

*Elucidating a Defined Medium for the Archaeal Acidophile, “Ferroplasma acidarmanus” Strain Fer1*

American Society for Microbiology General Meeting | Boston, Massachusetts

Kai Hung, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

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**Sharon Rayford**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

*Demographics of Channel Catfish and Blue Catfish in the Wabash River Using a Multi-Gear Approach*

American Fisheries Society 143rd Annual Meeting | Little Rock, Arkansas

Robert E. Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Eric Bollinger, Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentors

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**Randall Reed**, Masters Candidate in Gerontology

*Families and Incarceration: A 360 Degree View*

Illinois Council on Family Relations | Bloomington, Illinois

Jacquelyn Frank, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Gerontology, Faculty Mentor

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**Amanda Rice**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling

*Games in Play Therapy and Getting Creative: Increasing Efficacy and Saving Time*

Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois

Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

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**Marissa Sutera**, Masters Candidate in Business Administration

#connectingtheworld... One Hashtag at a Time

NAFSA: Association of International Educators | San Diego, California

Marilyn Coles, Ph.D., Professor of Music, Faculty Mentor
Williams Travel Grant

**Alyssa Swan**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling
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Illinois Counseling Association’s 65th Annual Conference | Skokie, Illinois
Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois
Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentors

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Williams Travel Grant

**Sunil Thapa**, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy
*Strength and Energy Characteristics of Densified Miscanthus Straw Pretreated with the White-Rot Fungus Trametes Versicolor*
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International Biomass Conference and Expo | Orlando, Florida
Thomas Canam, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

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Williams Travel Grant

**Allison Tharp**, Masters Candidate in Business Administration
*The Use and Usefulness of Social Network Site Recruiting*
---
MBAA International Conference | Chicago, Illinois
David Boggs, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Business Administration, Faculty Mentor

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Williams Travel Grant

**Meagan Thomas**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Evidence of Niche Partitioning in an Invertebrate Eating Snake Community*
---
Joint Meeting of Ichthyology and Herpetology | Chattanooga, Tennessee
Stephen Mullin, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

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Williams Travel Grant

**Sean Towey**, Masters Candidate in English
*Without Wind Resistance*
---
The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture | Louisville, Kentucky
Jad Smith, Associate Professor of English, Faculty Mentor

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Williams Travel Grant

**David Trotter**, Masters Candidate in Political Science
*21st Century Socialism—Support for Die Linke and Its Connection to the German Democratic Republic*
---
International Studies Association Midwest Annual Conference | St. Louis, Missouri
Ryan Hendrickson, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Faculty Mentor
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOLAR

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Erin Tuegel**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Chemical Degradation of Lignocellulosic Cell Wall Structures in Miscanthus x Giganteus and Zea Mays by a Cellobiose Dehydrogenase-Deficient Strain of Trametes Versicolor*  
36th Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals | Chicago, Illinois  
Thomas Canam, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Emily Vajjala**, Masters Candidate in Communication Studies  
*Colonizing Factors in Internet Rhetoric: Postcolonial and Transnational Feminist Themes from the Reporting of the Murder of Kapari Leniata*  
Central States Communication Association Convention | Minneapolis, Minnesota  
T.M. Linda Scholz, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Holly Westjohn**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling  
*Music Therapy With Older Adults*  
Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Miranda White**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Parasites of Bluegill in the Sangamon River: Impact of Sewage Effluent and Seasonality on Infection Parameters and Correlation with Fish Condition*  
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Kansas City, Missouri  
Jeff Laursen, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Rebecca Williams**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*What Language Do They Play In? Multicultural Considerations for Play Therapists and Don’t Just Stand by...ACT An Integrated Well Approach to an Unwell Body*  
Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois  
Illinois Counseling Association’s 65th Annual Conference | Chicago, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D. and Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo, Ph.D., Assistant Professors of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentors

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Xiao Xiao**, Masters Candidate in Chemistry  
*Synthesis of Cinnamaldehyde Semicarbazones and their Photochromicity*  
The 247th ACS National Meeting & Exposition | Dallas, Texas  
Edward Treadwell, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Tana Young**, Masters Candidate in English  
*Estrangement is Absolute*  
The Open Door Reading Series | Chicago, Illinois  
Ruben Quesada, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English, Faculty Mentor
Scholarships

2014 Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholar
Established by Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Wright in memory of Betty Wright Downing.

Jennifer Ashley, Masters Candidate in English

2014 Frances Meyer Hampton Graduate Scholar
Established by Mrs. Frances Meyer Hampton in her estate, this award is presented annually to a full-time student in a master’s degree program.

Taylor Alba, Masters Candidate in School Counseling

2014 Mary Bear McClay Graduate Scholar
A graduate assistantship established in 2004 by siblings Wilfred (Bill) McClay and Susan Foote, in memory of their mother, Mary Bear McClay.

Ashley Krisman, Masters Candidate in Mathematics Education

2014 Annie Weller Graduate Scholar
Established by the family of Annie L. Weller to provide financial support for a full-time undergraduate or graduate student majoring in the social sciences, history, or physical sciences.

Tara Weber, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

2014 GSAC Scholar
Established by the Graduate Student Advisory Council, this scholarship recognizes outstanding graduate scholarship and exemplary student service.

Aaron Hale, Masters Candidate in School Counseling

Teaching Awards

2014 Teaching Award of Excellence for Graduate Assistants
The graduate assistant selected from EIU is nominated at the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools.

Hannah Green, Masters Candidate in English

2014 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 honor outstanding graduate mentoring.

Robert E. Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences
Hamand Society of Graduate Scholars

Named in honor of the first dean of The Graduate School, Dr. Lavern Hamand, the Hamand Society recognizes degree-seeking graduate candidates nominated from among the class of Distinguished Graduate Students whose achievements in both scholarship and service have had a documented impact on the discipline and the community. The quality and impact of the scholarship and service achievements of Hamand Society Scholars reflect the highest ideals of the engaged graduate student.

Dean Hamand was a professor of history and served as dean from 1967 to 1974. Before her passing in 2011, his widow Martha provided support for the Society, which was created in 2010. Daughters, Carol Stephens and Wendy Venet, continue their parent’s legacy in supporting graduate education at EIU.

2014 Hamand Scholar

Vaskar Nepal KC, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

Exemplifying student scholarship, research, and service, Vaskar was selected as an EIU Distinguished International Student, and twice received the Outstanding Student in Environmental Science. His has received eight grants and awards, which have included internal and external competitions for research, scholarship, presentations, and travel. He presented his research at three professional meetings and won the Lewis L. Osborne award for outstanding student presentation. Vaskar possesses a breadth of knowledge including plant- and animal-based disciplines, and has one manuscript submitted and more in preparation. A member of professional and honor societies, he has mastered the field skills in fisheries and has held both teaching and research assistantships in the Department of Biological Sciences. Vaskar regularly provides mentoring to other students and has assisted in six other student research projects apart from his own interest in fisheries. He volunteers with district biologists in fisheries sampling, and provides service to the department in managing the web sites for the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Association and other research sites. Working to restore the student chapter of the American Fisheries Society, he coordinated seminars in fisheries.

2014 Hamand Scholar

Alyssa Swan, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling

Alyssa epitomizes the engaged student, serving her community and the campus through service, teaching, scholarship, and volunteerism. Alyssa has published one research article as first-author and two others as co-author, and has four others under consideration. She presented her research 14 times in the past year and half, has been awarded multiple grants, and is a member of three graduate research teams. Alyssa assists with teaching Basic Skills of Counseling, Practicum, and Individual and Group Intervention courses for College Student Affairs, School and Clinical Counseling students. She regularly volunteers with at-risk populations providing free counseling services to a variety of groups including those with serious mental illness at St. Mary’s Hospital in Decatur, physically and sexually abused children at Cunningham Children’s Home in Urbana, and culturally diverse students at the U of I Counseling Center where she is a member of two treatment teams. She serves on three departmental committees, volunteers at the state level for the Illinois Counseling Association and the national level for the National Eating Disorders Association, provides student mentoring for GN4U and Epsilon Iota Upsilon, and volunteers locally for Soup Stop in Charleston and the Moultrie County Counseling Center.
Class of 2014 Distinguished Graduate Students

Kelsey Brandt
College Student Affairs

Barbara Catron
Gerontology

George Cernetig
Geographic Information Sciences

Alex Cudone
Sustainable Energy

Luke Eastin
Political Science

Amanda Feder
Communication Studies

Hannah Freeman
Art

Amanda Gentry
Special Education

Sarah Harley
Mathematics
Class of 2014 Distinguished Graduate Students

Katherine Henry
Music

Cyndia Hinton
Technology (Off-Campus)

Fran Hirschfelder
Natural Sciences

Nicole Kozeny
Communication Disorders and Sciences

Matthew Maher
Technology (On-Campus)

Jeff Marlo
Educational Leadership (MSED)

Rachel Maxwell
Clinical Psychology

Jill Moody
School Counseling

Vaskar Nepal KC
Biological Sciences

Dean Pappas
School Psychology

Aaron Psujek
History

Nana Quaicoe
Economics
Class of 2014 Distinguished Graduate Students

Desiree Ramirez
Historical Administration

Nathan Schwartzkopf
Kinesiology and Sports Studies

Tom Siegler
Educational Leadership
(Specialist)

Brittnie Simpson
Elementary Education

Stephany Slutsky
Mathematics Education

Ashley Sorrentino
Dietetics

Alyssa Swan
Clinical Counseling

Allison Tharp
Business Administration
(On-Campus)

Carolyn Thomas
Business Administration
(Off-Campus)

Resa Ware
Family and Consumer Sciences

Aaron White
English

Xiao Xiao
Chemistry
Graduate programs achieving the distinction of “First Choice” have applied and been subjected to rigorous review from EIU’s Council on Graduate Studies, with oversight from the Graduate School, to ensure they meet the highest standards of scholarly excellence as evidenced through sustained achievement of criteria developed and adopted by the Council in 2006.

College of Arts and Humanities Graduate Programs
Christopher Kahler, M.F.A.- Art, Coordinator
Ruth Hoherman, Ph.D.- English, Coordinator
Edmund Wehrle, Ph.D.- History, Coordinator
Nora Pat Small, Ph.D.- Historical Administration, Coordinator
Marilyn Coles, Ph.D.- Music, Coordinator
Matthew Gill, Ph.D.- Communication Studies, Coordinator

College of Education and Professional Studies Graduate Programs
Chad Carlson, Ph.D.- Kinesiology and Sports Studies, Coordinator
Marleis Trover, Ed.D.- Educational Leadership, Master’s & Specialist’s Programs, Chair and Coordinator
Richard Roberts, Ph.D.- College Student Affairs & Counseling Programs, Chair and Coordinator
Linda Reven, Ph.D.- Elementary Education, Coordinator
Stephen Lucas, Ph.D.- Master Teacher, Coordinator
Kathlene Shank, Ph.D.- Special Education, Chair and Coordinator

Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences Graduate Programs
Melody Wollan, Ph.D.- Business Administration and Accounting Certificate Program, Coordinator
Lisa Moyer, Ph.D.- Family and Consumer Sciences, Coordinator
Karla Kennedy-Hagan, Ph.D.- Dietetics, Coordinator
Jacquelyn Frank, Ph.D.- Gerontology, Coordinator
Peter Ping Liu, Ph.D.- Technology and Certificate Programs, Sustainable Energy, Coordinator

College of Sciences Graduate Programs
Andrew Methven, Ph.D.- Natural Sciences, Biological Sciences, Coordinator
Jeff Laursen, Ph.D.- Biological Sciences, Coordinator
Brenda Lawrence, Ph.D.- Chemistry, Coordinator
Rebecca Throneburg, Ph.D.- Communication Disorders and Sciences, Coordinator
Mukti Upadhyay, Ph.D.- Economics, Coordinator
Michael Cornebise, Ph.D.- Geographic Information Sciences, Chair and Coordinator
Karen Gaines, Ph.D.- Geographic Information Sciences, Chair and Coordinator
Charles Delman, Ph.D.- Mathematics and Computer Science, Coordinator
Peter Wiles, Ph.D.- Mathematics Education Option, Coordinator
Steven Daniels, Ph.D.- Natural Sciences, Physics, Chair and Coordinator
Ryan Hendrickson, Ph.D.- Political Science, Coordinator
Wesley Allan, Ph.D.- Clinical Psychology, Coordinator
Assege HaileMariam, Ph.D.- School Psychology, Coordinator

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2009-2013:
School Psychology

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2009-2018:
History and Historical Administration; English; Communication Disorders and Sciences; College Student Affairs

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2010-2014:
Gerontology, Political Science

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2011-2015:
Biological Sciences

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2012-2014:
Counseling

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2012-2016:
Clinical Psychology

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2014-2018:
MBA
2013-2014 Council on Graduate Studies
Wesley Allan, Ph.D., Chair
Michael Menze, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Linda Reven, Ph.D.
Newton Key, Ph.D.
Chad Carlson, Ph.D.
Matthew Gill, Ph.D.
Jacquelyn Frank, Ph.D.
David Boggs, Ph.D.
Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo, Ph.D.
Kayla Napue, Student Representative

2013-2014 Graduate Student Advisory Council
Valerie Penn, President
Sally Adams, Vice President of Administrative Activities
Jennifer Monkman, Vice President of Public Relations
Kevin Savage, Student Dean

Graduate School Alumni Advisory Board
Jerry Boyd, Chair
Dwight Baptist
Chris Carron
Marilyn Holt
Nancie King Mertz
Walter Knollenberg
Linda Komes
Norm Plummer

The Graduate School
Robert M. Augustine, Ph.D., Dean
Bill Elliott, Assistant Dean of Graduate and International Admissions
Patti Bailey, Assistant to the Dean for Certification
Lana Beasley, Administrative Aide
Debbie Black, Clerk
Lori Henderson, Publicity/Promotions Specialist and Director of the Integrative Graduate Studies Institute
JoAnn Ingle, Admissions/Records Officer
Ben Rienbolt, Staff Clerk