Graduate Scholar

Journal of Scholarship and Recognition

April 2016

Eric Hendricks, 2016 Robert and Kathryn Augustine
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
UPI Graduate Scholar

Thesis Awards
- Award of Excellence- College of Arts and Humanities
- 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 Education and Professional Studies
- Award of Excellence- College of Sciences

Research/Creative Activity Grants
Williams Travel Grants
Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholarship
Frances Meyer Hampton Graduate Scholarship
Mary Bear McClay Graduate Scholarship
Annie Weller Graduate Scholarship
UPI Scholarship
Teaching Award of Excellence
Hamand Society Scholars
Graduate Student Commencement Speaker

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 7, 2016
Introductions and Opening Remarks
Ms. Allison Moran, President, Graduate Student Advisory Council
Dr. David M. Glassman, President | Dr. Blair M. Lord, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Samantha Young, Graduate Student Dean | Dr. Ryan C. Hendrickson, Interim Dean of the Graduate School

Distinguished Graduate Student Awards

College of Arts and Humanities
Announced by Interim Dean Glenn Hild

Lindsay Reveland- Art
Presented by Mr. Chris Kahler

Meta Thomas- Art Education
Presented by Dr. Patricia Belleville

Clinton Brown- Communication Studies
Presented by Dr. Matthew Gill

Md. Alamgir Hossain- English
Presented by Dr. Dagni Bredesen

Alyssa Peterson- History
Presented by Drs. Charles Foy and Sace Elder

Chani Jones- Historical Administration
Presented by Dr. Terry Barnhart

Rebecca Carmack- Music
Presented by Dr. Anna Cromwell

Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences
Announced by Associate Dean Jeanne Lord

Samantha Young- Aging Studies
Presented by Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke

Talia Moore- Business Administration (On-Campus)
Presented by Dr. Melody Wollan

Mike Ziegler- Business Administration (Off-Campus)
Presented by Dr. Melody Wollan

Megan Burrell- Nutrition and Dietetics
Presented by Dr. Melanie Burns

Benjamin Wilburn- Family & Consumer Sciences
Presented by Dr. Jaimee Hartenstein

Daniel Hector Flores- Sustainable Energy
Presented by Dr. Tom Canam

Adekunle Adeyemo- Technology (On-Campus)
Presented by Dr. Wafeek Wahby

Caitlin Drake- Technology (Off-Campus)
Presented by Dr. Peter Ping Liu

College of Education and Professional Studies
Announced by Dean Diane Jackman

Amanda Starwalt- College Student Affairs
Presented by Dr. Dena Kniess

Myro Cox- Clinical Counseling
Presented by Dr. Catherine Polydore

Katie Lyons- School Counseling
Presented by Dr. Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo

Brandi Karnes- Educational Leadership (MSED)
Presented by Dr. Nick Osborne

Phil Hamil- Educational Leadership (Specialist’s)
Presented by Dr. Nick Osborne

Esther Lutz- Elementary Education (Teacher Certification)
Presented by Dr. Sham’ah Md-Yunus

Kelli Wells- Elementary Education (MSED)
Presented by Dr. John Bickford

Chelsea Duncan- Kinesiology and Sports Studies
Presented by Dr. John Storsved

Michelle Roberts- Special Education
Presented by Dr. Melissa Jones
Hamand Society of Graduate Scholars

Announced by Dr. Jill Owen, Chair, Hamand Board
Medallion presented by Dr. David M. Glassman, President, and Dr. Blair M. Lord, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Clinton Brown- Communication Studies  Ryan Kalinoski- Biological Sciences/Sustainable Energy-
Myro Cox- Clinical Counseling  Dual Degree Option
Carl Favata- Biological Sciences - Thesis Option  Katie Lyons- School Counseling

Williams Travel Grants

Williams Travel Grants are awarded in the fall and spring. 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. Wesley Allan, Graduate Coordinator, Clinical Psychology;
Chair, William Travel Grants Committee
Biological Sciences- Evan Boone, Carl Favata, Bethany Hoster, Neeta Parajulee Karki, Hanna Kruckman, Sarah Manka, Zachary Mitchell, Daniel Roth, Jordan Pesik, Shannon Smith, Vaclav Sotola
Economics- Nusrat Farah, Ahmed Salim Nuhu
Political Science- Dane Ecton, Lindsey Juszcak
Psychology- Jessica Berlinghof, Rebecca Rader

Announcing the College of Education and Professional Studies- Dr. John Storsved, Graduate Coordinator, Kinesiology and Sports Studies; Member, Travel Grants Committee

Counseling- Bukunmi Adeloye, Taylor Alba, Stefani Atkinson, Lawisha Carter, Myro Cox, Meghan Damler, Kaylee Ernst, Rebecca Holkenbrink, Heather Lee, Sarah Lim, Katie Lyons, Meghan McGreevy, Brittany Morris, Jaclyn Pickowitz, Devin Putman, Brandon Smith, Kristin Spiegel, Jordan Tanner, Audrey Wartsbaugh, Melany Zwilling
College Student Affairs- Madeline Owens
Kinesiology and Sports Studies- Jordan Davis, Doo Jae Park

Announcing the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences- Dr. Jaimee Hartenstein, Graduate Coordinator, Family and Consumer Sciences; Member, Travel Grants Committee

Family and Consumer Sciences- Brittany William
Business Administration- Kim Hoyoung, Md. Shariful Islam, Elyse Podwojski
Sustainable Energy/Technology Dual Degree Option- Sailesh Adhikari, Arif Ali Jlabani
Technology- Rishank Chandra Puram
Sustainable Energy- Ernest Echefu, Stephany Fonseca

Announcing the College of Arts and Humanities- Dr. Randall Beebe, Graduate Coordinator, English

Communication Studies- Jamie Alexander, Clinton Brown, Bianca Tomlin
English- McKenzie Dial, Rachel Eversole-Jones, Tara Peck
History- Michael Bradley, Alyssa Peterson
Research/Creative Activity Grants

Research/Creative Activity Grants are awarded in the fall and spring. 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. Kiran Padmaraju, Interim Chair, Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Level Education; Graduate Coordinator, Elementary Education; Member, Council of Graduate Studies

College of Education and Professional Studies-
   Counseling- *Meghan Damler, Heather Lee, Sarah Lim, Devin Putman, Audrey Wartsbaugh*

College of Sciences -
   Biological Sciences- *Carl Favata, Bethany Hoster, Brett Janis, Hanna Kruckman, Zachary Mitchell, Jordan Pesik, Daniel Roth, Shannon Smith, Vaclav Sotola*

   Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences-
   Nutrition and Dietetics- *Caroline Weber*

Graduate Scholarships

Announced by Dr. Melody Wollan, Chair, Scholarship Committee; Graduate Coordinator, MBA
Presented by Dr. Melissa Jones, Vice Chair, Council on Graduate Studies; Graduate Co-Coordinator, Special Education

2016 Mary Bear McClay Scholar
   *Renee Fietsam*, Mathematics Education
   Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Peter Wiles

2016 Betty Wright Downing Scholar
   *Clinton Belott*, Biological Sciences
   Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Britto Nathan

2016 Frances Meyer Hampton Scholar
   *Joseph Boise*, Biological Sciences
   Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Britto Nathan

2016 Annie Weller Scholar
   *Freda Opoku-Agyemang*, Economics
   Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Mukti Upadhyay

2016 University Professionals of Illinois Scholar
   *Amanda Bailey*, Technology
   Graduate Coordinator, Dr. David Melton

2016 Teaching Award of Excellence for Graduate Assistants
Announced by Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Interim Dean, Graduate School
Presented by Dr. Matt Gill, Graduate Coordinator, Communication Studies; Chair, Council on Graduate Studies

   *Anna Percival*, Masters Candidate in Communication Studies
Thesis Award Winners
Announced by Dr. Britto Nathan, Chair, Council on Graduate Studies Thesis Committee; Graduate Coordinator, Biological Sciences
Presented by Dr. Isaac Slaven, Dean’s Appointment, Council on Graduate Studies

Award of Excellence for the College of Arts and Humanities

*Steven Nathaniel*, English
  Faculty Mentor, Dr. Suzie Park

*Mark Rheaume*, Music
  Faculty Mentor, Dr. Brad Decker

Award of Excellence for the College of Education and Professional Studies

*Steven Sakowicz*, Elementary Education
  Faculty Mentor, Dr. John Bickford

Award of Excellence for the College of Sciences

*Samantha Sarich*, Political Science
  Faculty Mentor, Dr. Melinda Mueller

Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award

*Eric Hendricks*, Biological Sciences
  Faculty Mentors, Dr. Britto Nathan and Dr. Michael Menze

2016 Rodney S. Ranes Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award
Announced by Dr. Suzie Park, 2015 Ranes Award Recipient; Member, Ranes Award Committee
Presented by Ms. Samantha Young, Student Dean, Graduate School; Master’s Candidate in Aging Studies

*Dr. Charles Foy*, Associate Professor of History

Graduate School Award of Excellence
Announced by Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Interim Dean, Graduate School
Presented by Ms. Allison Moran, President, Graduate Student Advisory Council; Master’s Candidate in College Student Affairs

*Regis Gilman, Ed.D., Dean, School of Continuing Education*
  In recognition of valuable contributions to graduate education in support of the development and promotion of online programming.

Graduate School Leadership Award
Announced by Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Interim Dean, Graduate School
Presented by Ms. Allison Moran, President, Graduate Student Advisory Council; Master’s Candidate in College Student Affairs

*Technology Graduate Program*
  Dr. Austin Cheney, Department Chair
  Dr. David Melton, Graduate Coordinator

The Graduate School Leadership Award recognizes academic programs for outstanding leadership in graduate education.
Mitochondrial dysfunction is a recognized pathological symptom of Alzheimer’s disease (AD). One of the known risk factors for the development of AD is the inheritance of a specific genotype a lipid transporting protein, apolipoprotein E (apoE). How apoE contributes to the development and progression of AD is poorly understood. The purpose of this study was to determine if a relationship exists between mitochondrial dysfunction and genetic predisposition to AD via apoE. Mitochondrial bioenergetics was evaluated by measuring oxygen consumption using the OROBOROS Oxygraph-2k in nerve cell terminals (synaptosomes) isolated from WT (C57BL/6J) and apoE KO (Apoetn1Unc) mice. Enzymatic activity of succinate dehydrogenase (SDH) and citrate synthase (CS) activity was also assayed to help elucidate the bioenergetic profile of isolated synaptosomes. Since AD develops with age, mitochondrial function was studied in both young (4-6 months old) and old (12-22 months old) mice. Additionally, estrogen therapy was utilized as a possible therapeutic to prevent mitochondrial dysfunction. Our results revealed a dramatic increase in oxygen consumption from young estrogen treated apoE KO for all respiration parameters, whereas, a minimal effect was observed in WT mice. In addition, old Sham mice had significantly higher oxygen consumption rates compared to young Sham mice for most all permeabilized parameters in both WT and apoE KO mice. Estrogen had no effect on oxygen consumption in old mice, but estrogen treated old apoE KO mice had significantly higher SDH activity compared to its Sham. We speculate that increases in mitochondrial quantity in young apoE KO mice and old Sham mice were due to estrogen and reactive oxygen species induced mitochondrial biogenesis, respectively. Our data suggests that predisposition of AD via apoE is not an underlying source of mitochondrial abnormalities; however, the effectiveness of estrogen as a neuro-therapeutic may be dependent upon an individual’s age and apoE genotype.
The Lyric and the Lathe: Dreams of Perfect Poetic Efficiency (1800-1917)

The profound technological advancements during the early 19th and 20th centuries led both Romantic and Modernist poets to re-imagine their environments, societies, and selves. Despite expressing considerable anxiety about technology, even William Wordsworth manifests the mechanical. Examining this compelling counter-narrative, I address poetic efficiency, a concept often mistakenly conflated with brevity. Drawing on technological analogies such as the lathe, I clarify efficiency’s poetic manifestations: efficient poetry narrates the sequestration and isolation of an ideal message. Mimicking the patterns of a lathe, Wordsworth’s poetry begins with circumlocutory poetic cycles but contracts into terse repetitions. Putting Wordsworth into conversation with poets as diverse as Gertrude Stein and Hilda Doolittle, I formulate a genealogy of efficient poetry that begins with its origins in the Enlightenment’s optimism and ends with the strictures of Fascism. To address twentieth century poetry I begin with Gertrude Stein’s notion of a “Portrait,” which is an aesthetic closed system that nonetheless multiplies meaning through repetition. I then examine Ezra Pound, who led the Vorticists to implement a symbol of perfect efficiency, and, I discover that, just as vigorous and destructive vibrations arise in an energetic engine, Vorticism collapsed into chaos—not in spite of but because of its advocates’ vehement assertions of order. Pound also showcases H.D.’s poetry as a triumph of the efficient Image, which is like an objectified emotion. As with Wordsworth and Stein, I identify H.D.’s repetitions, which diverge from Pound’s authoritarian inclinations and offer a prescient indictment of efficiency’s imminent employment through Fascism. I conclude by considering the complications of contemporary global ecology, which demand a form of efficiency that is both expansive and rigorous. Considering both the hazard and necessity of efficiency, this research forges a critical link between science and literature, past and present.
Research both asserts that there is a particular path through careers in either business or law that many political candidates take to Congress, and that female candidates do not always follow these standard paths. Political science research posits that female candidates emerge from a wider array of experiences, including backgrounds in education and community activism because of the structural barriers they face in the traditionally deemed paths. Their experiences in these areas have been argued to shape the way in which female candidates are recruited for and run for office. Differences in the pathways male and female candidates take to public office, including the careers they hold before running and how they are recruited, have been widely studied, yet little attention has been focused specifically on whether or not female candidates having experience serving on the board of non-profit organizations can be a part of a viable alternate pathway to public office. This study seeks to determine if men and women experience different paths to public office as a result of having differences in their occupations, educations, and experiences, including membership on a non-profit organization's board. Specifically, the backgrounds of a sampling of men and women of 112th U.S. House of Representatives are analyzed to determine if the women and men served on the boards of any non-profit organizations, and if women are found to have served on non-profit boards at higher rates than their male counterparts. This study fills a gap and extends the research pertaining to gender differences in politics and pathways to public office by specifically focusing on the non-profit board membership of members of Congress.

**Characteristics of Modern Ballet: The Adoption of Sonic Vocabulary and Textual Treatment in “The Earth without Water”**

The modern ballet, as an orchestral genre, owes much of its status and value to composers of the early 20th century. Claude Debussy and Igor Stravinsky’s groundbreaking works, Prélude à l’après-midi d’un faune and Le Sacre du Printemps respectively, revolutionized the sonic landscape of ballet and expanded the ideas of interaction with texts and scenarios. This paper demonstrates the continued use of these innovations in the author’s composition, The Earth Without Water. This analysis identifies three categories—harmonic vocabulary, rhythmic and formal organization, and textual treatment—by which The Earth derives content or technique from Prélude and Le Sacre. In addition, the document serves as a narrative of the compositional process, and outlines an analytical approach to composition which can be replicated by other students.
Graduate School Research /Creative Activity Grants

**Meghan Damler**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*B.I.O.N.I.C.: Empowering Young Leaders to Create a Positive School Climate*
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Mattoon High School, Research Partner

**Carl Favata**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Effects of Habitat Alteration on Biotic Assemblages and Ecomorphology of Fish in a Restored Stream*
Anabela Maia, Ph.D., Instructor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
United States Geological Survey, Research Partner

**Bethany Hoster**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Feminization of Male Fish Downstream of a Sangamon River Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent*
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Sanitary District of Decatur, Research Partner

**Brett Janis**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Viewing Anhydrobiosis: An Observational study of LEA Protein Function Via Scanning Electron Microscopy and Atomic Force Microscopy*
Michael Menze, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
University of Wisconsin Whitewater, Research Partner

**Hanna Kruckman**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Assessing Bonefish Movement and Predation Risk throughout the Island of Eleuthera, The Bahamas using Acoustic Telemetry*
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Cape Eleuthera Institute, Research Partner

**Heather Lee**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*B.I.O.N.I.C: Empowering Young Leaders to Create a Positive School Climate*
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Mattoon High School, Research Partner

**Sarah Lim**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*B.I.O.N.I.C: Empowering Young Leaders to Create a Positive School Climate*
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Mattoon High School, Research Partner
Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Zachary Mitchell, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Demographics and Gear Efficiency of Blue and Channel Catfish in the Wabash River
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Jordan Pesik, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Graduated Systems Comparison of Larval Fishes for Moran Effect in Tributaries of Two Large Rivers
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Natural History Survey, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Devin Putman, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
B.I.O.N.I.C: Empowering Young Leaders to Create a Positive School Climate
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Mattoon High School, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Daniel Roth, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Factors Leading to Successful Reproduction of Invasive Fish Species in Large Rivers
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Natural History Survey, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Zachary Mitchell, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Demographics and Gear Efficiency of Blue and Channel Catfish in the Wabash River
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Jordan Pesik, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Graduated Systems Comparison of Larval Fishes for Moran Effect in Tributaries of Two Large Rivers
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Natural History Survey, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Devin Putman, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
B.I.O.N.I.C: Empowering Young Leaders to Create a Positive School Climate
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Mattoon High School, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Daniel Roth, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Factors Leading to Successful Reproduction of Invasive Fish Species in Large Rivers
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Natural History Survey, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Shannon Smith, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Investigating the Impacts of Low-Head Dams on the Genetic Structuring of Fish Populations
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Le Moyne College, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Vaclav Sotola, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Genetic Population Structure and Diversity of Channel and Blue Catfish in Three Large Midwestern Rivers
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Armstrong State University, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Audrey Wartsbaugh, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling
Addressing Self-Esteem and Self-Harm in Creative Ways
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Moultrie County Counseling Center, Research Partner
Named for Larry Williams, Ph.D., dean of the Graduate School from 1978 to 1995, 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.

**Bukunni Adeloye,** Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*Creative Ways to Utilize School Data for Innovative Solutions*
Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

**Sailesh Adhikari,** Masters Candidate in Technology and Sustainable Energy
*Life Cycle Assessment for Renewable Energy Center at EIU: Energy Production and Environmental Impacts*
2015 ATMAE Annual Conference: Technology - Building Bridges | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Peter Liu, Ph.D., Professor of Technology and Chao Wen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Business, Faculty Mentors

**Taylor Alba,** Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*Creative Ways to Utilize School Data for Innovative Solutions*
Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

**Jamie Alexander,** Masters Candidate in Communication Studies
*Women in the Military: An Auto-ethnographic Study of Muted Group Theory*
Southwest Popular/American Culture Association (SWPACA) Conference | Albuquerque, New Mexico
Elizabeth Gill, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor

**Stefani Atkinson,** Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*Creative Ways to Utilize School Data for Innovative Solutions*
Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
**Williams Travel Grant**

*Lawisha Carter,* Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling  
*The Benefits of Music Therapy*  
*Fostering Leadership and Reflection: Group Counseling Course Experiential Activities*  
*Fostering Relevance and Reflection: Experiential Activities in Teaching Group*  
Illinois Counseling Association Conference | Skokie, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., and Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo, Assistant Professors of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentors

**Williams Travel Grant**

*Evan Boone,* Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Population Characteristics and Parasite Burdens of Spotted Bass in the Wabash River, Illinois*  
*White Grub in Centrarchidae from the Ohio River Drainage*  
Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society | Portland, Oregon  
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Jeff Laursen, Ph.D., Professor and Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentors

**Williams Travel Grant**

*Michael Bradley,* Masters Candidate in History  
*Incarcerated Transported and Bound: Deference, Resistance, and Assimilation in Constructing Community among Transported Convicts from London to the Virginian Chesapeake 1718-1776*  
The 2016 Virginia Forum | Williamsburg, Virginia  
Charles Foy, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

*Clinton Brown,* Masters Candidate in Communication Studies  
*Interpreting Sexual Orientation in Social Interaction*  
Central States Communication Association | Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Richard Jones, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

*Myro Cox,* Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling  
*Courageous Masters-Level Supervision*  
Illinois Counseling Association Conference | Skokie, Illinois  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Williams Travel Grant

Meghan Damler, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
B.I.O.N.I.C (Believe It Or Not I Care)
Creative Ways to Utilize School Data for Innovative Solutions
Illinois Counseling Association Conference | Skokie, Illinois
Illinois School Counselor Association | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Jordan Davis, Masters Candidate in Kinesiology and Sports Studies
The Effects of Static and Dynamic Stretching on Vertical Jump and Broad Jump Performance in Collegiate Division I Men’s Soccer Players
International Science and Football Conference | Doha, Qatar
Hasan F. Mavi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Sports Studies, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

McKenzie Dial, Masters Candidate in English
Bodies in Motion: Where the Humanities and Engineering Intersect
Radical Writes: Composition, Creative Writing, and New Media | Cape Girardeau, Missouri
Charlotte Pence, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Ernest Echefu, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy
Application of Online Gas Analyzer to Monitor Quality and Quantity of Syngas Production for Renewable Energy
2015 ATMAE Annual Conference: Technology - Building Bridges | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Jerry Cloward, Ph.D. and Peter Liu, Ph.D. Professors of Technology, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Dane Ecton, Masters Candidate in Political Science
Desperate Schools and Political Backlash: The Illinois County School Facility Occupation Tax
Indiana Academy of the Social Sciences Conference | Evansville, Indiana
Rich Wandling, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Kaylee Ernst, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling
Group Play Therapy
Illinois Counseling Association Conference | Skokie, Illinois
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Rachel Eversole-Jones, Masters Candidate in English
Integrate and Inspire: Harmonizing Reading and Writing in a Composition Classroom
Allerton English Articulation Conference | Monticello, Illinois
Tim Taylor, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English, Faculty Mentor
Williams Travel Grant

**Carl Favata**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Ecomorphology and Swimming Energetics of Longear Sunfish Lepomis megalotis in Turbulent Flow*
Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society | Portland, Oregon
Anabela Maia, Ph.D., Instructor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Nusrat Farah**, Masters Candidate in Economics
*Trends and Determinants of Contraceptive Method Choices: Evidence from an Emerging Economy*
Business and Health Administration Association Conference | Chicago, Illinois
Mukti Upadhyay, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Stephany Fonseca**, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy
*Monitoring UV Exposure in Synthetic Life-Safety Equipment*
2015 ATMAE Annual Conference: Technology - Building Bridges | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Isaac Slaven, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Rebecca Holkenbrink**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling
*Group Play Therapy*
Illinois Counseling Association Conference | Skokie, Illinois
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Bethany Hoster**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Effects of Wastewater Effluent on Fish Communities in the Sangamon River*
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Grand Rapids, Michigan
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Md. Shariful Islam**, Masters Candidate in Business Administration
*Impact of Accounting Policy Choice on Audit Fees*
MBAA International Conference | Chicago, Illinois
Waresul Karim, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Business, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Arif Ali Jalbani**, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy and Technology
*A Study of Effect of Surface Condition on Energy Production of Photovoltaic Solar Arrays*
2015 ATMAE Annual Conference: Technology - Building Bridges | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Isaac Slaven, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor
Lindsey Juszczak, Masters Candidate in Political Science
*Age is Just a Number: Using Economic and Social Models in the Millennial Generation to Predict Policy Support and Political Beliefs*
Annual Indiana Academy of Social Sciences Conference | Evansville, Indiana
Andrew McNitt, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Faculty Mentor

Hoyoung Kim, Masters Candidate in Business Administration
*The Role of Product Market Dynamics on Cost Behavior*
MBAA International Conference | Chicago, Illinois
Menghistu (Stu) Sallehu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Business, Faculty Mentor

Hanna Kruckman, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Habitat Use and Movement of Channel Catfish in a Midwestern River Using Acoustic Telemetry*
Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society | Portland, Oregon
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Grand Rapids, Michigan
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Heather Lee, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*B.I.O.N.I.C. (Believe It Or Not I Care)*
Creative Ways to Utilize School Data for Innovative Solutions
Illinois Counseling Association Conference | Skokie, Illinois
Illinois School Counselor Association | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor

Sarah Lim, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*B.I.O.N.I.C. (Believe It Or Not I Care)*
Creative Ways to Utilize School Data for Innovative Solutions
Illinois Counseling Association Conference | Skokie, Illinois
Illinois School Counselor Association | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor

Katie Lyons, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*Fostering Leadership and Reflection: Group Counseling Course Experiential Activities*
*Fostering Relevance and Reflection: Experiential Activities in Teaching Group*
Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor

Meghan McGreavy, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*Group Expressive Arts Therapy with Adolescents: Benefits and Implementation in Schools*
Creative Ways to Utilize School Data for Innovative Solutions
Illinois Counseling Association Conference | Skokie, Illinois
Illinois School Counselor Association | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., and Angela Yoder, Ph.D, Associate and Assistant Professors of Counseling, Faculty Mentors
Williams Travel Grant

**Sarah Manka**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*The Effectiveness of the Hose-bridge as a Road Crossing Structure for Snakes*  
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Stephen Mullin, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

**Zachary Mitchell**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Effects of DC Electrofishing Pulse Frequency on Collection of Fish in the Wabash River*  
Demographics and Harvest of Three Commercially Exploited Species of Catfish in the Wabash River  
Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society | Portland, Oregon  
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

**Brittany Morris**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*Cultural Competency in Play Therapy*  
Illinois Association for Play Therapy Annual Conference | Itasca, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

**Ahmed Salim Nuhu**, Masters Candidate in Economics  
*Intrahousehold Bargaining, Domestic Violence Laws and Child Health Outcomes*  
Midwest Economics Association Meetings | Chicago, Illinois  
Mukti Upadhyay, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Faculty Mentor

**Madeline Owens**, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs  
*Students’ Perceptions of Academic Advisor Effectiveness and its Relationship to Academic Outcomes*  
Mid-Western Educational Research Association Annual Meeting | Evanston, Illinois  
Catherine Polydore, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor

**Neeta Parajulee Karki**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Effects of 17ß Estradiol in the Metabolism of Sunfish Species*  
Anabela Miai, Ph.D., Instructor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

**Doo Jae Park**, Masters Candidate in Kinesiology and Sports Studies  
*Reaching out to Diverse Ethnic Communities: Perceived Organizational Culture of the LA Dodgers and its Impact on Korean Fans*  
The North American Society for Sports Management | Orlando, Florida  
John Storsved, H.S.D., Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Sports Studies, Faculty Mentor
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOLAR

Williams Travel Grant

**Tara Peck**, Masters Candidate in English
“Food and Composition: Blurring Boundaries through Analysis of a Non-Traditional Text”
“Genre Awareness’ in Developmental Reading: A Tool to Unpack Hidden Ideologies and Beliefs”
“Revelation & Conversation: Tutor to Instructor and Back”
Radical Writes: Composition, Creative Writing, and New Media | Cape Girardeau, Missouri
Allerton English Articulation Conference | Monticello, Illinois
Tim Taylor, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Jordan Pesik**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Larval Fish Assemblages Above and Below a Major Tributary Confluence Differ Spatially and Temporally on a Large River*
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Grand Rapids, Michigan
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Alyssa Peterson**, Masters Candidate in History
“Water, Earth, and Air Infected:” How Movement, Quarantines, and Geographical Limitations Shaped the Movement of Yellow Fever in 1793
NIU History Graduate Student Association Annual Conference | Dekalb, Illinois
Charles Foy, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Jaclyn Pickowitz**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*Canine Assisted Play Therapy*
Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Elyse Podwojski**, Masters Candidate in Business Administration
Socialization Efficiency: Decreasing Time Allocated to Socialization Processes through Effective Orientation
Annual Conference of the North American Management Society | Chicago, Illinois
David Boggs, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Management, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Rishank Chandra Puram**, Masters Candidate in Technology
*Arduino Board and Arduino Integrated Development Environment*
2015 ATMAE Annual Conference: Technology - Building Bridges | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Peter Liu, Ph.D., Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Devin Putman**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*B.I.O.N.I.C. (Believe It Or Not I Care)*
Creative Ways to Utilize School Data for Innovative Solutions
Illinois Counseling Association Conference | Skokie, Illinois
Illinois School Counselor Association | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Williams Travel Grant

Rebecca Rader, Masters Candidate in School Psychology
*Examination of Externalizing Behaviors within General Education, At-Risk, and Special Education Preschool-Aged Classrooms*
National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention | New Orleans, Louisiana
Margaret Floress, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology, Faculty Mentor

Daniel Roth, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Larval Fish Assemblages of Three Major Tributaries of the Illinois River*
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Grand Rapids, Michigan
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Brandon Smith, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*Canine Assisted Play Therapy*
Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

Shannon Smith, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Impacts of Low-head Dams on Fish Assemblages and Habitat in Two Illinois Rivers*
Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society | Portland, Oregon
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Vaclav Sotola, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
*Genetic Stock Structure of Age-0 Channel and Blue Catfish in a Large Unimpounded River*
Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society | Portland, Oregon
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Kristin Spiegel, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling
*Positive Effects of Utilizing Game Play*
Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

Jordan Tanner, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
*Creative Ways to Utilize School Data for Innovative Solutions*
Illinois School Counselor Association | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Williams Travel Grant

Bianca Tomlin, Masters Candidate in Communication Studies
What’s their Expiration Date: Age Discrimination in the Workplace
Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Annual Conference | Seattle, Washington
Samantha Szczur, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Audrey Wartsbaugh, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling
Using Art for Creative Expression with Teen Girls in a School-based Group Setting
Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Brittany William, Masters Candidate in Family and Consumer Sciences
Social Fashionistas: The Role of Social Shopping Communities on the Consumer’s Sense of Self
Marketing Management Association Spring 2016 Conference | Chicago, Illinois
Katherine Shaw, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, and Kesha Coker, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Business, Faculty Mentors

Williams Travel Grant

Melany Zwilling, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling
Using Music Therapy in Counseling Settings
Illinois Counseling Association Conference | Skokie, Illinois
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor
Scholarships

2016 Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholar
Established by Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Wright in memory of Betty Wright Downing.

Clinton Belott, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

2016 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.

Joseph Boise, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

2016 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.

Renee Fietsam, Masters Candidate in Mathematics Education

2016 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.

Freda Opoku-Agyemang, Masters Candidate in Economics

2016 UPI Scholar
Established by Dr. John Allison, President of the EIU University Professionals of Illinois in 2012 to provide financial support for a full-time graduate student accepted into any degree program at EIU.

Amanda Bailey, Masters Candidate in Technology

Teaching Awards

2016 Teaching Award of Excellence for Graduate Assistants
The graduate assistant selected from EIU is nominated at the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools. This year Anna received an Honorable Mention at MAGS.

Anna Percival, Masters Candidate in Communication Studies

2016 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.

Charles Foy, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History
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.

2016 Hamand Scholar

Clinton Brown, Masters Candidate in Communication Studies

As a researcher of interpersonal communication and sexual orientation, Communication Studies graduate student Clinton Brown has rapidly immersed himself into his scholarly community. Clinton currently has two articles under review at highly-regarded journals, the *Journal of Homosexuality* and *Communication Studies*. In addition, Clinton has presented his research at the annual meetings of the Popular Culture Association and the American Culture Association, and has served as a panelist at five additional conferences. His research skills, both quantitative and qualitative, have allowed him to speak with an array of scholarly and practitioner audiences. Professor Elizabeth Gill, Clinton’s professor and thesis advisor, noted that in her time at EIU teaching and mentoring students, “Clinton is by far the best student I have worked with.” Clinton has also contributed broadly to Eastern Illinois University through his participation on the Graduate Student Advisory Council, as the student representative for the Graduate School’s Williams Travel Grant selection committee, and has served as a board member for the Illinois Communication and Theatre Organization. His community service extends through his work as a teacher at the local homeless shelter in Mattoon PADS. Clinton will continue with his studies in the Ph.D. program at Purdue University in the fall of 2016.

2016 Hamand Scholar

Myro Cox, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling

Much like an outstanding faculty member, Myro has an impressive and expansive record of achievement in the areas of teaching, research and service. Myro’s research interests focus primarily on Basic Counseling Skills and alleviating test anxiety in children and adolescents. Her various research interests have resulted in an impressive research record, which includes seven different conference presentations. As a graduate assistant in the Department of Counseling and Student Development, Myro also is a course instructor for an undergraduate Educational Psychology course. Her teaching evaluations are uniformly impressive, which demonstrates her skills as both a burgeoning scholar and instructor. As a member of the university community, Myro’s contributions are similarly vast. She serves as the student representative to the Council on Graduate Studies, where she also served on the Research Grants Award Committee. She is a recipient of the Williams Travel Grant, the Mary Cralley Vaupel Memorial Award, the Paul Ward Memorial Scholarship, and the College of Education and Professional Studies Development Grant. In addition, she has provided advocacy on behalf of the Children’s Advocacy Center.
2016 Hamand Scholar

**Carl Favata**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

With research focusing on anthropogenic impacts and the restoration efforts of Kickapoo Creek and the physiology of fish, Carl has accumulated an impressive record in the graduate program in Biological Sciences. As a member of the Fisheries and Aquatic Research Team, Carl’s research skills and advanced technical skills have added significantly to the Team’s research efforts. He has presented his research in a number of professional venues, including the Illinois Association of American Fisheries, the national meeting of the Association of American Fisheries, and at the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting. He has also received the Graduate School’s Williams Travel Grant and the Graduate School’s Research and Creative Activity Grant. Carl’s nominators for this distinction also consistently noted that he interacts well and extensively with undergraduate students, both as a teaching assistant and as a mentor. In addition, Carl has been an active participant in his department through his membership in the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Association.

2016 Hamand Scholar

**Ryan Kalinoski**, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy and Biological Sciences

As a dual-degree master’s candidate in Biological Sciences and Sustainable Energy, Ryan’s research is demonstrating great breadth and promise. His research focuses on the efficacy of white rot fungus on plant biomass, with findings that have important implications in the fields of bioenergy and bioproject energy. His co-authored research papers have been published in the journals *Oecologia* and *Ecosphere*. Most recently he and his co-authors have had a manuscript accepted for publication in the *Journal of Visualized Experiments*. Along with his research abilities, Ryan has demonstrated leadership skills as the project leader for the People, Plan and Prosperity Student Design Competition, which is a grant funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. Ryan has also served as a teaching assistant in Biological Sciences Department, and received the distinguished Graduate Research Assistantship for this academic year. Moreover, he has presented five different professional research presentations, including most recently at the European Biomass Conference and Exhibition in Vienna, Austria.

2016 Hamand Scholar

**Katie Lyons**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling

Described as “action research” by Professor Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo, Katie’s research is aimed at improving the quality of high school students’ lives. Among her scholarly ambitions as a graduate student in School Counseling, Katie is interested in the experiences of high school students. Through her research, she has helped implement a number of new counseling programs at Arcola High School. Her research has led her to write and win a grant, which has been utilized in this school. She has presented her research on four different occasions, including at state and local conferences, as well as at her field’s national conference, the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision. Professor Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo notes that “Katie is by far the strongest quantitate student-researcher with whom I have worked.” Professor Catherine Polydore adds that Katie has “a brilliant mind, and personal and professional integrity.” Her research skills have resulted in a co-authored publication in the *Journal of Family Therapy*, with another manuscript currently under review. She is the recipient of a Williams Travel Grant, and the Paul Ward Memorial Scholarship. Apart from her research achievements, Katie is also active in Sigma Chi Ota, Counseling’s honor society, and is a student representative on the Council on Teacher Education (COTE). On campus, she has been a strong advocate of the American Disabilities Act.
Class of 2016 Distinguished Graduate Students

Adekunle Adeyemo  
Technology (on-campus)

Ali Akbarimoghaddam  
Geographic Information Sciences

Sarada Bandara  
Mathematics

Clinton Brown  
Communication Studies

Megan Burrell  
Nutrition and Dietetics

Rebecca Carmack  
Music

Myro Cox  
Clinical Counseling

Asela “Samee” Dikkumbura  
Chemistry

Caitlin Drake  
Technology (off-campus)
Class of 2016 Distinguished Graduate Students

Chelsea Duncan  
Kinesiology and Sports Studies

Nusrat Farah  
Economics

Carl Favata  
Biological Sciences

Daniel Hector Flores  
Sustainable Energy

David Forbes  
Mathematics Education

Phil Hamil  
Educational Leadership (Specialist)

Jacob Hamilton  
Political Science

Md. Alamgir Hossain  
English

Chani Jones  
Historical Administration
Class of 2016 Distinguished Graduate Students

Ryan Kalinoski
Biological Sciences & Sustainable Energy

Brandi Karnes
Educational Leadership (MSED)

Esther Lutz
Elementary Education (Teacher Certification)

Katie Lyons
School Counseling

Taylor McMillan
Clinical Psychology

Talia Moore
Business Administration (on-campus)

Alyssa Peterson
History

Lyndsay Reveland
Art

Michelle Roberts
Special Education
Class of 2016 Distinguished Graduate Students

Mandi Starwalt
College Student Affairs

Meta Thomas
Art Education

Kelli Wells
Elementary Education
(MSED)

Jordan Wenger
School Psychology

Benjamin Wilburn
Family and Consumer Sciences

Mary Beth Xenakis
Communication Disorders & Sciences

Samantha Young
Aging Studies

Mike Ziegler
Business Administration
(off-campus)
2015 Commencement Speakers

To promote EIU’s commitment to strengthening the academic and personal experience for our students and to showcase examples of exemplary writing and speaking, Eastern Illinois University introduced the Student Commencement Speaker Series in 2013 replacing the former student and faculty speaker traditions at Eastern. The student speakers representing the Graduate School were selected on the basis of a submitted competitive essay and featured during the Fall 2015 ceremony on Saturday, December 18, 2015.

Charles LeGrand, Master of Arts in Gerontology
Featured Speaker

Jafar Qutob, Master’s in Business Administration
Alternate Speaker

2015-2016 Council on Graduate Studies
Matt Gill, Ph.D., Chair
Melissa Jones Ph.D., Vice Chair
Edmund Wehrle, Ph.D.
Chris Laingen, Ph.D.
Kiran Padmaraju, Ph.D.
David Boggs, Ph.D.
Isaac Slaven, Ph.D.
Mukti Upadhyay, Ph.D.
Jaimee Hartenstein, Ph.D.
Myro Cox, Student Representative

Graduate School Alumni Advisory Board
Jim Arndt
Dwight Baptist
Chris Carron
Craig Gatto, Ph.D.
Marilyn Holt
Mark Kasper, Ph.D.
Nancie King Mertz
Walter Knollenberg
Linda Komes
Kathy Pendleton, Ph.D.
Norm Plummer

2015-2016 Graduate Student Advisory Council
Allison Moran, President
Martina Karmaker, Vice President for Public Relations
Brandon Goodman, Vice President for Administrative Activities
Sam Young, Student Dean
William Elliott, Faculty Adviser
Mike Conneise, Faculty Adviser

The Graduate School
Ryan C. Hendrickson, Ph.D., Interim Dean
William Elliott, Assistant Dean of Graduate and International Admissions
Lana Beasley, Administrative Aide
Lori Henderson, Publicity/Promotions Specialist and Director, Integrative Graduate Studies Institute
JoAnn Ingle, Admissions/Records Officer
Cathy Gordon, Staff Clerk
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.

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2014-2019:
- School Psychology; Communication Disorders and Sciences;
- College Student Affairs

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2013-2018:
- History and Historical Administration; English

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2015-2020:
- Political Science

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2011-2021:
- Biological Sciences

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2011-2021:
- Counseling

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2011-2016:
- Clinical Psychology

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2013-2018:
- MBA

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2015-2020:
- Elementary Education

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2016-2021:
- Economics
**College of Arts and Humanities Graduate Programs**

- Christopher Kahler, M.F.A. - Art, Coordinator
- Patricia Belleville, Ph.D. - Art Education, Coordinator
- Randall Beebe, Ph.D. - English, Coordinator
- Sace Elder, Ph.D. - History, Coordinator
- Nora Pat Small, Ph.D. - Historical Administration, Coordinator
- Anna Cromwell, D.M.A. - Music, Coordinator
- Matthew Gill, Ph.D. - Communication Studies, Coordinator

**College of Education and Professional Studies Graduate Programs**

- John Storsved, H.S.D. - Kinesiology and Sports Studies, Coordinator
- Nick Osborne, Ph.D. - Educational Leadership, Master’s & Specialist’s Programs, Coordinator
- Richard Roberts, Ph.D. - College Student Affairs & Counseling Programs, Chair and Coordinator
- Kiran Padmaraju, Ph.D. - Elementary Education, Interim Chair and Coordinator
- Stephen Lucas, Ph.D. - Secondary Education & Foundations, Chair and Coordinator
- Kathleen Shank, Ph.D. - Special Education, Chair and Co-Coordinator
- Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel, Ph.D. - Special Education, Co-Coordinator
- Sheila Simons, Ph.D. - Health Studies, Coordinator

**Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences Graduate Programs**

- Melody Wollan, Ph.D. - Business Administration,Coordinator
- Jaimee Hartenstein, Ph.D. - Family and Consumer Sciences, Coordinator
- Melanie Burns, Ph.D. - Dietetics, Coordinator
- Kathleen O’Rourke, Ph.D. - Aging Studies, Coordinator
- Peter Ping Liu, Ph.D. - Sustainable Energy, Coordinator
- David Melton, Ph.D. - Technology, Coordinator

**College of Sciences Graduate Programs**

- Britto Nathan, Ph.D. - Biological Sciences, Coordinator
- Mary Konkle, Ph.D. - Biochemistry/Biotechnology, Coordinator
- James Novak, Ph.D. - Natural Sciences, Coordinator
- Mark McGuire, Ph.D. - Natural Sciences, Chemistry, Coordinator
- Chris Laingen, Ph.D. - Natural Sciences, Geology and Geography, Coordinator
- Barbara 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
- Alejandra Alvarado, Ph.D. - Mathematics, Coordinator
- Peter Wiles, Ph.D. - Mathematics Education Option, Coordinator
- Steven Daniels, Ph.D. - Natural Sciences, Physics, Chair and Coordinator
- Melinda Mueller, Ph.D. - Political Science, Coordinator
- Wesley Allan, Ph.D. - Clinical Psychology, Coordinator
- Assege HaileMariam, Ph.D. - School Psychology, Coordinator
Many thanks to Wave Graphics for their support in printing this publication.