

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOLAR

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

Annie Weller Graduate Scholar

UPI Graduate Scholar

GSAC Scholar

Norm and Maria Plummer Outstanding Research Award Winner

Graduate Alumni Fund Outstanding Research/Creative Activity Award Winner

King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Awards

Award of Excellence-College of Arts and Humanities

Award of Excellence-Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences

Award of Excellence-College of Education and Professional Studies

Award of Excellence-College of Sciences

Distinguished Research Creative/Activity Award Winner

Thesis Awards

Award of Excellence-College of Arts and Humanities

Award of Excellence- Lumpkin 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

Rodney S. Ranes Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award

Graduate School Leadership Award Graduate School Award of Excellence

Graduate Scholarship

Thesis Awards

Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award

Award of Excellence-College of Arts and Humanities

Award of Excellence- Lumpkin 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

Norm and Maria Plummer Outstanding Research Award

Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholarship

Frances Meyer Hampton Graduate Scholarship

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UPI Scholarship

GSAC Scholarship

Teaching Award of Excellence for Graduate Assistants

Graduate Alumni Fund Outstanding Research/Creative Activity Award

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.







Eastern Illinois University Graduate Scholar 2017-2018 Academic Year Editor: Lori Henderson, Graduate School Studio Photography: Bev Cruse, Booth Library Campus Photography: Jay Grabiec, Center for Academic Technology Support Awards Ceremony | April 4, 2018

Introductions and Opening Remarks

Dr. Ryan C. Hendrickson, Dean of the Graduate School

Dr. David M. Glassman, President | Dr. Jay Gatrell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Ms. Charity Huwe, President, Graduate Student Advisory Council

Distinguished Graduate Student Awards

College of Arts and Humanities Announced by Dean Anita Shelton

Jade Phillips- Art

Presented by Ms. Ann Coddington

Mary Ann Carlson - Art Education

Presented by Dr. Patricia Belleville

Daniel Oropeza - Community Arts

Presented by Dr. Patricia Belleville

Raya Petty-Communication Studies

Presented by Dr. Angela Jacobs

Briana Hendrickson- English

Presented by Dr. Suzie Park

Monica Burney- History

Presented by Dr. Sace Elder

Ben Bruflat- Music

Presented by Dr. Anna Cromwell College of Sciences

Announced by Dean Doug Klarup

Lina Sallam- Biological Sciences (Thesis Option)
Presented by Dr. Britto Nathan

Paige Koester-Biological Sciences (NonThesis Option)

Presented by Dr. Britto Nathan

Elizabeth Nixon- Dual Degree Biological Sciences/

Sustainable Energy Presented by Dr. Tom Canam

Komadhie Dissanayake- Chemistry

Presented by Dr. Hongshan He

Charles Reither- Clinical Psychology

Presented by Dr. Wesley Allan

Natalie Lewis- Communication Disorders & Sciences

Presented by Dr. Rebecca Throneburg

Eiman Aiyash- Economics

Presented by Dr. Mukti Upadhyay

Ademola Adeyemo-Geographic Information Sciences

Presented by Dr. Barry Kronenfeld

Richard Koss- Mathematics

Presented by Dr. Bogdan Petrenko

Kathryn English- Math Education Option

Presented by Dr. Peter Wiles

Owura Kuffuor- Political Science (On-Campus)

Presented by Dr. Melinda Mueller

Quentin Spannagel- Political Science (On-line)

Presented by Dr. Rich Wandling

Christina Bounds - School Psychology

Presented by Dr. Margaret Floress

Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences Announced by Dean William Minnis

Melissa Spencer- Aging Studies

Presented by Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke

Tran Ngoc-Business Administration (On-Campus)

Presented by Dr. Melody Wollan

Tate McKay- Business Administration (Off-Campus)

Presented by Dr. Jay Shinde

Kayla Albrecht- Nutrition and Dietetics

Presented by Dr. Melanie Burns

Sarah Dodoo- Family & Consumer Sciences

Presented by Dr. Linda Simpson

Grace Wilken- Sustainable Energy

Presented by Dr. Nichole Hugo

Anuoluwapo Fatokun- Technology (On-Campus)

Presented by Dr. David Melton

Daniel Leipert- Technology (Off-Campus)

Presented by Dr. Jerry Cloward

Brian Murphy- Cybersecurity

Presented by Dr. Rigoberto Chinchilla

College of Education and Professional Studies Announced by Dean Doug Bower

Paul Higgerson-College Student Affairs

Presented by Dr. Dianne Timm

Sydney Menigoz- Clinical Counseling

Presented by Dr. Catherine Polydore

Jessica Kim- School Counseling

Presented by Dr. Heidi Larson

Melissa Kuhlmann- Educational Leadership (MSED)

Presented by Dr. Nick Osborne

Kimberly Norton- Educational Leadership (Specialist)

Presented by Dr. Nick Osborne

Charity Huwe- Curriculum and Instruction

Presented by Dr. John Bickford

Jarad Blanton- Health Promotion and Leadership

Presented by Dr. Sheila Simons

Tracy Raggio- Kinesiology and Sports Studies

Michael Arrigoni- Special Education

Presented by Dr. Scott Ronspies

Presented by Dr. Melissa Jones

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOLAR

Hamand Society of Graduate Scholars

Announced by Dr. Suzie Park, Chair, Hamand Board

Medallion presented by Dr. David M. Glassman, President, and Dr. Jay Gatrell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Monica Burney- History Briana Hendrickson- English

Owura Kuffuor- Political Science

Paul Higgerson- College Student Affairs

Jessica Kim- 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. Linda Ghent, Professor, Economics; Chair, Williams Travel Grants Committee

Biological Sciences- Seth Bogue, Kellie Hanser, Eric Hine, Israt Jahan, Elizabeth Nixon, Sunil Pandey, Nivedita Pareek, Jessica Rohr, Lina Sallam, Samuel Schaick, Jessica Thornton

Chemistry- Dinesh Balasooriya, Prashansa Kannangara

Geographic Information Sciences- Ademola Adeyemo

Political Science- Owura Kuffuor, Furkan Burcu Yildiz

Clinical Psychology- Emily Baker, Gianna White

Announcing the College of Education and Professional Studies- Dr. Sheila Simons, Professor, Health Promotion; Graduate Coordinator, Health Promotion and Leadership

Counseling- Hannah Crane, Francesca Ehlers, Anna Farris, Megan Haley, Bridgette Jones, Jessica Kim, Kirsten Kirkwood, Jamie Meagher, Sydney Menigoz, Kyle Ritten, Jana Roberts, Maliya Smith

College Student Affairs- Dayton Ehrlich, Abigail Frye, Alexis Garner, Paul Higgerson, Rachelle Krausen, Kiley Sturm, Amber Webb

Curriculum and Instruction- Cobi Christiansen, Razak Dwomoh, Charity Huwe

Health Promotion and Leadership- Troy McCreery, Amy Morris, Katarina Werner

Announcing the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences- Dr. David Boggs, Associate Professor, Business; Chair, Council on Graduate Studies

Business Administration- Jamol Abdiev, Asmita Bhattarai, Junnatun Naym, Joshua Wall

Nutrition and Dietetics- Tracy Dennis, Amanda Ghighi, Shannon Gray, Jackie Jones

Sustainable Energy/Technology Dual Degree Option- Tajdar Ahmed, Tanmay Pant

Announcing the College of Arts and Humanities- Dr. Nora Pat Small, Interim Chair, History; Member, Council on Graduate Studies

Communication Studies- Raya Petty

English- Briana Hendrickson

History- Monica Burney, Kyle Cody, Brittany Dixon, Nima Lane, Nicholas Waller

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. Gopal Periyannan, Graduate Coordinator, Chemistry; Chair, Research/Creative Activity Grants Committee; Member, Council of Graduate Studies

College of Sciences

Biological Sciences- Seth Bogue, Ashleigh Cable, Taylor Fagin, Hashni EpaVidana Gamage, Kellie Hanser, Eric Hine, Israt Jahan, Nivedita Pareek, Jessica Rohr, Lina Sallam, Samuel Schaick, Jessica Thornton
Biochemistry/Biotechnology- Theresa O'Connor Chemistry - Dinesh Balasooriya, Prashansa Kannangara

College of Education and Professional Studies

Curriculum and Instruction- Cobi Christiansen, Razak Dwomoh Counseling- Jessica Kim, Kyle Ritten

Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences Family and Consumer Sciences- *Sarah Dodoo*

College of Arts and Humanities

Communication Studies- Jaccari Brown, Raya Petty History- Monica Burney, Nima Lane

Graduate Scholarships

Announced by Dr. Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel, Vice Chair, Council on Graduate Studies; Chair, CGS Scholarship Committee Presented by Dr. John Cabage, Member, CGS Scholarship Committee

2018 Betty Wright Downing Scholar

Sarah Dodoo, Family and Consumer Sciences

Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Linda Simpson

2018 University Professionals of Illinois Scholar *Idiahi Okosun*, Biochemistry/Biotechnology Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Tom Canam

2018 Frances Meyer Hampton Scholar *Hashni Epa Vidana Gamage,* Biological Sciences Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Britto Nathan

2018 Annie Weller Scholar

Owura Kuffuor, Political Science

Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Melinda Mueller

2018 GSAC Scholarship *Hanna Hobson,* Clinical Psychology
Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Wesley Allan

Norm and Maria Plummer Outstanding Research Award

Presented by Norm Plummer, '71, '72, Member, Graduate Alumni Advisory Board; Award Founder *Tajdar Ahmed,* Sustainable Energy/Technology *Grace Wilken*, Sustainable Energy

Graduate Alumni Fund Outstanding Research/Creative Activity Award

Presented by Norm Plummer, '71, '72, Member, Graduate Alumni Advisory Board *Grace Wilken*, Sustainable Energy

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOLAR

Thesis Award Winners

Announced by Dr. Angela Jacobs, Graduate Coordinator, Communication Studies; Member, Council on Graduate Studies Presented by Dr. Amy Rosenstein, Member, CGS Thesis Committee

Award of Excellence for the College of Arts and Humanities

Michael Bradley, History

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Charles Foy

Award of Excellence for the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences

Samantha Young, Aging Studies

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke

Award of Excellence for the College of Education and Professional Studies

Lauren Covington, Elementary Education

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Jay Bickford

Award of Excellence for the College of Sciences

Shannon Smith, Biological Sciences

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Scott Meiners

Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award

Miles Williams, Political Science

Faculty Mentor, Dr. David Carwell

King Mertz Research/Creative Activity Award Winners

Announced by Dr. Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, Member, CGS Thesis Committee Presented by Nancie King Mertz, '77, Member, Graduate Alumni Advisory Board, and Award Founder

Award of Excellence for the College of Arts and Humanities

Chad Hayward, Art

Faculty Mentor, Ms. Ann Coddington

Award of Excellence for the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Science

Tajdar Ahmed, Sustainable Energy/Technology Faculty Mentor, Dr. Peter Ping Liu

Award of Excellence for the College of Education and Professional Studies

Jessica Howell, Special Education

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Kathlene Shank

Award of Excellence for the College of Sciences

Courtney Sage, Political Science

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Ryan Burge

King Mertz Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award

Eiman Aiyash, Economics

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Mukti Upadhyay

Teaching Award of Excellence for Graduate Assistants

Announced and presented by Ms. Sara Dodoo, Graduate Student Dean, Master's Candidate in Family and Consumer Sciences

Raya Petty, Communication Studies

Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Angela Jacobs

2018 Rodney S. Ranes Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award

Announced by Dr. Rebecca Throneburg, 2017 Ranes Award Recipient; Member, Ranes Award Committee Presented by Ms. Charity Huwe, President, Graduate Student Advisory Council; Master's Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. John H. Bickford, Associate Professor of Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Level Education and Graduate Coordinator, Curriculum and Instruction

Graduate School Leadership Award

Announced by Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Dean, Graduate School

Presented by Ms. Charity Huwe, President, Graduate Student Advisory Council; Master's Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction and Ms. Sarah Dodoo, Student Dean, Graduate School; Master's Candidate in Family and Consumer Sciences

Curriculum and Instruction Graduate Program

Dr. John Bickford, Graduate Coordinator

Dr. Jeanne Okrasinski, Department Chair

The Graduate School Leadership Award recognizes outstanding contributions to graduate education. The graduate program in Curriculum and Instruction is being recognized for their outstanding leadership, program development, and program recruitment.

Graduate School Award of Excellence

Announced by Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Dean, Graduate School

Presented by Ms. Charity Huwe, President, Graduate Student Advisory Council; Master's Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction and Ms. Sarah Dodoo, Student Dean, Graduate School; Master's Candidate in Family and Consumer Sciences

Tom Grissom, Ph.D., Assistant to the Dean, College of Education and Professional Studies

In recognition of valuable contributions to the development and execution of the Graduate School's podcast series, *EIU Innovate* and his leadership in promoting online learning at EIU.

Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award

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







Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award

Miles Williams, Master of Arts in Political Science David Carwell, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Faculty Mentor

Modeling the Gravity of Foreign Aid: A Dyadic Panel Analysis on the Impact of Bilateral Aid Commitments on Bilateral Immigration from 1994 to 2011

While research shows policymakers increase bilateral foreign aid commitments in response to an increase in bilateral immigration, supposedly as a means for reducing the demand for immigration, the effectiveness of this strategy is given only passing consideration in the literature. Many doubt this approach's success, but little effort has been made to empirically justify this doubt. This paper attempts to fill this gap in the literature and proposes a novel hypothesis. It is argued here that aid, more than simply failing to promote development quickly enough to reduce the demand for immigration, functions as a signal of donor wealth. When donors increase the amount of aid they commit to a given migrant sending country, residents in said country interpret that increase in aid as an indication of greater economic opportunity in the donor, thereby influencing would-be migrants' perceptions of the balance of wealth and resources between donor and recipient, tilting the cost-benefit ratio associated with leaving versus staying in favor of leaving. Using a dyadic panel dataset for 18 donor countries and 130 aid recipient countries from 1994 to 2011, a gravity-type equation is estimated using both ordinary least squares and Tobit. The results support this hypothesis, but a number of caveats are considered. Aid's positive pull on immigration does not appear to be contingent on past colonial ties, common language, and the aid recipient's political regime. Furthermore, aid's effect does not appear to be contingent on either bilateral distance or the restrictiveness of the donor's immigration policies; however, its marginal effect does seem to slightly diminish in response to an increase in each. Further analysis reveals a potentially curvilinear relationship between aid and immigration. Implications for policymakers and future research are discussed.

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

Michael Bradley, Master of Arts in History Charles Foy, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Faculty Mentor

Incarcerated Transported and Bound: Deference, Resistance, and Assimilation, Constructing Community among Transported Convicts from London to the Chesapeake 1739-1776



"Incarcerated, Transported, and Bound: Constructing Community among Convicts Transported from London to the Chesapeake, 1739-1776" explores the movement, migration, the malleability of identities, and development of communal ties among transported convicts. This thesis utilizes information on more than 3000 convicts brought to the colonial Chesapeake region. Precise details are currently available for more than two hundred transported convicts. In many cases the convicts can be followed from their birthplace to London to their trial and imprisonment, continuing to their transportation to the Americas, their new lives in the Chesapeake, and, in some cases, their flight and return to Great Britain. Doing so illuminates the communal connections among these people as their lives converged together and were torn apart across the Atlantic and within colonial society. Convict transport paralleled slave ship transport in significant ways. Throughout their fluid and changing circumstance criminals created networks which were furthered through imprisonment in Britain, captivity on convict hulks, transportation on convict ships, servitude in the Chesapeake, and freedom in North America—the convicts created, maintained and kept ever-shifting communal bonds that enabled them to adapt to a variety of highly stressful circumstances and choose resistance or assimilation. In demonstrating the elasticity and duration of transported convicts' community ties, this thesis challenges prior scholarly understandings of convicts' lives both during continued resistance during their sentences of servitude and post-servitude as they lived free lives in colonial America.



Master's Thesis Award of Excellence in the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences

Samantha Young, Master of Arts in Aging Studies Kathleen O'Rourke, Ph.D., Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences

Sandwich Generation Caregivers

The Sandwich Generation caregiver is responsible for caring for their children and parents simultaneously (Miller, 1981). In this study, stressors, burdens, and strains were analyzed

in relation to caregiver demographics and the following variables: caregiving relationship quality, caregiving roles, communication, and resources (time and finances). The purpose of this study is to investigate the factors that contribute to perceived strains in Sandwich Generation caregivers. The Sandwich Generation Caregiver Survey was distributed through social media, email, listservs, and word of mouth through a nonprobability snowball approach (Creswell, 2012). The researcher used frequency counts, percentages, and mean scores to analyze descriptive data through the use of path analysis (charts and graphs). Caregiving relationship quality displayed high levels of interconnection among caregiving roles, communication, and resources (time and finances). For caregiving roles, caregiver participants indicated feeling a low level of support from their siblings. Moderate levels of strain were perceived by caregivers in their communication patterns with siblings. Caregiver participants' perceptions of resources (time and finances) ranged from moderate to high levels of lacking resource availability and stress related to resources. Future research on caregiver strain will improve programs and support networks that provide resources, as well as self-care techniques, for Sandwich Generation caregivers.

Master's Thesis Award of Excellence in the College of Education and Professional Studies

Lauren Covington, Master of Science in Education in Elementary EducationJohn Bickford, III, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle LevelEducation, Faculty Mentor

Analyzing Source Preferences in Student Writing When Integrating Diverse Texts

The purpose of this study was to examine the source preferences utilized by students when looking

at multiple sources pertaining to a historical topic. A total of 46 students participated in the study which extended over eight class periods of approximately 50 minutes each. During these class periods students constructed knowledge about historical figure, Rosa Parks, and the events of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Students were presented with a variety of resources including primary sources, excerpts from trade books, and excerpts from informational texts. Through close reading, teacher-guided notes, and whole class discussion students were able to gain an understanding of this time period. At the end of this unit students completed a Venn diagram to showcase what they had learned about this particular historical content. From the Venn diagrams, conclusions were drawn about student source preferences. Rather than relying on trade books or historical documents, students most frequently cited sources that are in the informational text genre. There was evidence of source corroboration and some instances of multifaceted corroboration by students. Therefore, students were successful not only in making meaning from multiple texts, but were able to cite information indicating a preference to cite informational texts.

Master's Thesis Award of Excellence in the College of Sciences

Shannon Smith, Master of Science in Biological Sciences Scott Meiners, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Low-Head Dam Impacts on Habitat, Fish Functional Guilds and Genetic Structuring in a Midwestern River System

The natural flow regime of the majority of rivers in the United States has been altered by anthropogenic structures. This loss of connectivity plays a strong role in shaping river ecosystems by altering physical habitat characteristics and shaping fish community assemblages. Although the



impacts of large dams on river systems are well documented and often easy to observe, there are fewer studies on the effects of low-head dams. Additionally, the influences of low-head dams on the genetic structuring of small-bodied riverine fishes have yet to be fully explored. I assessed the effects of two low-head dams on the Vermilion and North Fork Vermilion Rivers in east-central Illinois to determine differences in river habitat quality in the vicinity of these dams and to investigate fish community assemblages driven by the presence of these structures. I also assessed how these structures affected genetic diversity and differentiation in two fish species using microsatellites. I used the environmental guild concept to aggregate fishes into habitat and reproductive guilds in order to ascertain dams' effects on groups of fishes that respond similarly to environmental variation. I found that habitat quality was significantly poorer in the artificial pools created above the dams compared to all other sampling sites. Fishes aggregated into habitat guilds reflected local habitat quality and habitat guild structure was associated with habitat type and location respective to the dams. Reproductive guilds were significantly driven by flow and also were associated with habitat characteristics. Genetic diversity and 2 differentiation were estimated from 10 microsatellite loci for longear sunfish and 11 microsatellite loci for bluntnose minnow. Measures of genetic diversity suggested that there was no loss of genetic diversity in either species above the impoundments, nor did data reveal patterns in genetic diversity or FST values along a longitudinal river gradient. Data revealed that there is one relatively homogenous population of longear sunfish in the study area. In contrast, there were two genetically distinct populations of bluntnose minnow in the study area separated by one of the two low-head dams in the river system. Overall, these low-head dams play a substantial role in shaping habitat, which appears to then shape fish community structure in the context of environmental guilds.

King-Mertz Research / Creative Activity Awards

Nancie King Mertz, '77 graduate alumna from the program in Art, established the King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Awards in 2010 to recognize 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 Art De 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.

King-Mertz Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award

Eiman Aiyash, Master of Arts in Economics Mukti Upadhyay, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Faculty Mentor

Political Instability in Middle East and North African (MENA) Countries and Its Effect on Remittance Inflows in MENA Region

International remittances constitute one of the main sources of external capital flows to Middle East and North African countries (MENA). This paper explores whether political instability influences the volume of remittance inflows in the MENA region based on a panel dataset of seven developing countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Yemen) observed from 2005 to 2014. While GOP per capita, exchange rate, and inflation rate do not have much impact on remittances, political stability is highly significant in explaining the variation in the remittance inflows. The greater the political instability, the larger will be the need for remittance money to be sent by migrant workers in the MENA countries.

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOLAR



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

Chad Hayward, Master of Arts in Art Ann Coddington, Ph.D., Professor of Art, Faculty Mentor

Scintilla

Scintilla is a ceramic sculpture that explores the phenomenon of repetition in both a formal and psychological manner. Materiality is a crucial part of my practice and the dot or circle functions as a vehicle for an exploration into material. In this sculpture I utilize repetition in the three-dimensional form with repeating protrusions in the structure reminiscent of an organic circular growth. In addition to the form itself containing repeated protrusions, the surface of the sculpture has sections with a carved circular pattern exploring that same shape but in a reductive manner at a different scale. Finally, the dot pattern engages in another mode of repetition using a brush and glaze. The painted surface creates a bridge to my other two-dimensional body of work. This relationship questions formal qualities of the perception of patterned mark-making as it engages on a two-dimensional pictorial structure or in this case, acts as a skin of a three-dimensional sculpture.

The process of creating the work using varied modes of repetition that occur both on the surface and in the form allow for a state of flow or meditation during the making of the work. The flow state characterized by the psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi is that of "optimal experience". This is a state in which intense concentration, loss of perceived time, loss of self-consciousness, merging of action and awareness, personal agency, and intrinsic enjoyment occur. The studio provides an arena in which this state can exist and it acts as a type of meditation, this in turn is a cornerstone to the psychological side of my artistic practice and drives the work.

King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Award of Excellence in the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences

Tajdar Ahmed, Master of Science in Sustainable Energy/Technology Peter Ping Liu, Ph.D., Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor



Smart Home Technologies Enabled by the Grid

In this era where every device is turning smart, the concept of "Smart Homes" has also come into inception. Smart Home is an integration of several systems and devices. As a customer, it becomes tedious to search for different options especially when you are not aware of the latest technologies. There are so many variety of devices which varying features. This research aimed to identify several Home Energy Management devices (HEM) that can be used in a smart home by doing a thorough market analysis. The devices selected can potentially be connected to the smart meter and work in symbiosis with the energy saving programs given by the utility company. A smart home was realized by the connecting the selected devices together at Center for Clean Energy Research and Education (CENCERE). The smart home lab for this project had devices that could monitor the energy usage and give the information to the consumer through various channels. The outcome of the research i.e. the integrated smart home was further used in another research project which was a joint research that involved several departments across the school and few external agencies. This research was aimed to investigate the usability of the chosen devices by older adults and disabled people. I was responsible in making detailed instructions for using the devices, helping to educate different focus groups, and making software models that demonstrate the working of devices. Based on the responses of the focus groups several recommendations were made to the manufacturers for their product development. Similarly, the feedback from the focus groups also served as the basis for improvement in the awareness programs for the utilities as well.

King-Mertz Award of Excellence in the College of Education and Professional Studies

Jessica Howell, Master of Science in Education in Special Education Kathlene Shank, Ph.D., Professor of Special Education, Faculty Mentor

Social Emotional Standards and Curricula in Special Education

A systematic evaluation rubric was created to evaluate social emotional learning curriculum, based on the Castle Curriculum Evaluation resources. Other consideration was taken from curriculum



development class discussions and projects. Within the rubric the various aspects of social emotional curricula are set into three ranks of quality, each having a qualitative description. Quality of instruction, content, assessment, materials, and research were incorporated into the evaluation. This rubric was then used to evaluate four different social emotional curricula. Each curriculum was critically examined. Three peer reviewed research studies were chosen for each curriculum that showed the effects of the curriculum to evaluate their effectiveness and to inform the evaluation rubric. A summary of each research article used is included to show evidence of research ratings on the rubric. The four curricula were chosen because they were designed to work on the three different intervention tiers. The programs target different numbers of students ranging from individual to whole class implementation. Social emotional learning has become more important in schools and there are more and more programs that schools can use that range in quality. This work allows for a consistent and comparative evaluation process for choosing social emotional curricula. This evaluation rubric provides a way to quantify qualitative data. With this evaluation rubric, curriculum evaluation teams would be able to more efficiently compare curricula. There are a few guides available for social emotional curricula evaluation but none that break down each curricula aspect. This rubric would be a vehicle to help classroom teachers, administrators, curriculum coordinators, technical assistants, and curriculum selection committees to choose a sound and appropriate social and emotional curriculum.



King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Award of Excellence in the College of Sciences

Courtney Sage, Master of Arts in Political Science Ryan Burge, Ph.D., Instructor, Political Science, Faculty Mentor

Does Party Polarization Reach the Local Level?: Voter Share Comparison with County Board Candidates and Presidential Candidates 2016.

Party polarization has become one of the most important trends in the American political landscape. While federal political polarization has been studied in depth, very little work has considered the possibility that polarization may have emerged at the local level. This project strives to explore local political polarization by comparing the average voter share between the presidential candidates and their respective county board members from 2008 to 2016 in the state of Illinois. Through this analysis, the paper questions if county boards are more diverse than presidential elections and if shifting power at the federal level trickles down to elections for county board. The analysis throughout this paper takes aim at understanding the relationship between federal and local elections while also generating a discussion regarding how local elections should be viewed and also considers the possibility that local elections may be impacted by factors that are completely distinct from those that shape federal elections.

Graduate School Research / Creative Activity Grants

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Dinesh Balasooriya, Masters Candidate in Chemistry Synthesis toward a Molecular Container based on p-tert-butylcalix[4]arene with Gating Features Zhiqing Yan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research / Creative Activity Grant
Seth Bogue, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Investigating Fin Elongation and Abnormalities of Fish in the Sangamon River
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Sanitary District of Decatur, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Jaccari Brown, Masters Candidate in Communication Studies
Rhetoric of the "Nice Guy": A Critique
Marita Gronnvoll, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research / Creative Activity Grant

Monica Burney, Masters Candidate in History Statelessness as a Women's Issue: the WILPF and the League of Nations Sace Elder, Ph.D., Professor of History, Faculty Mentor



A State-wide Habitat Suitability Model (HSM) for a Federally Endangered Bat Species in Illinois Using

Historical and Current Presence-only Occurrence Data

Jill Deppe, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

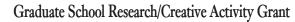
Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois, and Illinois Dept. of

Natural Resources, Research Partners





Cobi Christiansen, Masters Candidate in Elementary Education
Examining Undergraduate Students' Perceptions of Diversity When Taught by Caucasian Faculty
Compared to Faculty of Color
Kiran Padmaraju, Ph.D., Professor of Education, Faculty Mentor



Sarah Dodoo, Masters Candidate in Family and Consumer Sciences "Am I Too 'Little' For A 'Big' Impact?" A Study On The Impact Of 'Littles' On 'Bigs' In Big Brothers Big Sisters Program Mentoring Relationships Kathleen O'Rourke, Ph.D., Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, Faculty Mentor Mid-Illinois Big Brothers Big Sisters, Research Partner





Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Razak Dwomoh, Masters Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction The Development and Implications of Social Studies/History Curricula in Ghana John Bickford, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Education, Faculty Mentor

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant
Taylor Fagin, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Waste Water Effluent Effects on Mussel Growth
and Glochidia on Freshwater Drum (Aplodinotus grunniens)
Jeffrey Laursen, Ph.D., Instructor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Natural History Survey, Research Partner



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Kellie Hanser, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences Larval Abundance of Catostomidae in Tributaries of the Illinois and Wabash River Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor Illinois Department of Natural Survey, Research Partner



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Eric Hine, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences An Assessment of Night Time Electrofishing in the Lower Wabash River Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Israt Jahan, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Effects of Increased Temperature on Muscle Mechanics and Energetics of Fish
Anabela Maia, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant Prashansa Kannangara, Masters Candidate in Chemistry Studying CO2 Solvent Properties by Microwave Spectroscopy: Development of Analytical

Techniques to Decode Patterns in Large Data Sets Rebecca Peebles, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry, Faculty Mentor University of Virginia, Research Partner



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Jessica Kim, Masters Candidate in School Counseling B.I.O.N.I.C. (Believe It Or Not I Care): Empowering young leaders of compassionate outreach to students, families, and the community Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor Mattoon High School, Research Partner

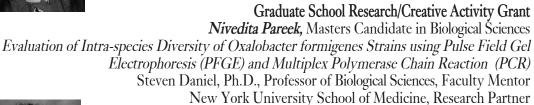
Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Nima Lane Masters Candidate in History Hermann Rauschning and the Right Sace Elder, Ph.D., Professor of History, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Theresa O'Connor, Masters Candidate in Biochemistry/Biotechnology Aromatic Hydrocarbon Degradation and Metabolism in the Model Organism Caulobacter crescentus Gopal Periyannan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry, Faculty Mentor





Graduate School Research / Creative Activity Grant

Raya Petty, Masters Candidate in Communication Studies
Race, Identity, and Communication: Experiences of College Students from Underrepresented Groups
Richard Jones, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant Kyle Ritten, Masters Candidate in School Counseling B.I.O.N.I.C. (Believe It Or Not I Care): Empowering young leaders to mentor and lead students, families, and members of their community Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor Mattoon High School, Research Partners



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Jessica Rohr, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Recovery of Riverine Fish Assemblage after Fish Kill in Kickapoo Creek, IL
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Research Partner



Lina Sallam, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Conversion of 12-Ketolithocholate to Deoxycholate by Clostridium scindens, Clostridium hylemonae,
and Clostridium hiranonis, Major Bile Acid-Metabolizing Anaerobes in the Human Gut
Steven Daniel, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
University of Illinois, Research Partner





Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Samuel Schaick, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Larval Asian Carp Production in Illinois and Wabash River Tributaries
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor
Illinois Natural History Survey, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Jessica Thornton, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences Demographics and Reproductive Ecology of Shovelnose Sturgeon in the Wabash River Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Research Partner





Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

Hashni EpaVidana Gamage, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

Investigation of the Functional Roles of Glutamate Carboxypeptidase II in Caenorhabditis elegans and

Investigation of the Folic Acid Metabolic Functions of

Glutamate Carboxypeptidase II in Caenorhabditis elegans

Gopal Periyannan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry, Faculty Mentor

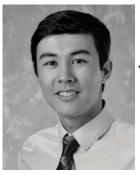
Britto Nathan, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Paris High School, Research Partner

Williams Travel Grants

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's retirement in 1999. The grants are awarded in the fall and the spring.





Williams Travel Grant

Jamol Abdiev, Masters Candidate in MBA
A Close Look into Supplier Policy Changes in Response to Their Buyers' Financial Stress and
The Impact of Related and Unrelated Diversification on Earnings Management
Midwest Decision Science Conference | Indianapolis, Indiana
North American Accounting Society | Chicago, Illinois
Gurkan Akalin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Business, Faculty Mentor
Mukti Upadhyay, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Faculty Mentor

Ademola Adeyemo, Masters Candidate in Geographic Information Sciences

NBA Finals on Twitter: Visualizing the Spatial Pattern of Geo-Located Tweets using Three Keywords

Annual Illinois GIS Association Conference | Bloomington, Illinois

Barry Kronenfeld, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Geology/Geography, Faculty Mentor





Williams Travel Grant

Tajdar Ahmed, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy
Smart Home Technologies Enabled by Smart Grid
Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering | Cincinnati, Ohio
Peter Ping Liu, Ph.D., Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Emily Baker, Masters Candidate in Clinical Psychology Negative and Positive Evaluation across Social Situations Midwestern Psychological Association | Chicago, Illinois Wesley Allan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Faculty Mentor





Williams Travel Grant

Dinesh Balasooriya, Masters Candidate in Chemistry
Synthesis Toward a Molecular Container Based on p-tert-butylcalix[4]arene with Gating Features
American Chemical Society National Meeting | New Orleans, Louisiana
Zhiqing Yan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Asmita Bhattarai, Masters Candidate in Business Administration
Millennial Recruitment and Retention: The Impact of Designed Work Environments
Academy of Business Research | New Orleans, Louisiana
David Boggs, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Business, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Seth Bogue, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

Differences in Catostomid Fin Morphology Between Two Illinois Rivers

Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Conference | Grafton, Illinois Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Monica Burney, Masters Candidate in History Gertrud Baer: A Case Study in Internationalism in the 20th Century International Graduate Historical Studies Conference | Mt. Pleasant, Michigan Sace Elder, Ph.D., Professor of History, Faculty Mentor





Williams Travel Grant

Cobi Christiansen, Masters Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction

Examining Undergraduate Students' Perceptions of Diversity When Taught by Caucasian Faculty

Compared to Faculty of Color

IAFOR International Conference on Education | Honolulu, Hawaii

Kiran Padmaraju, Ph.D., Professor of Education, Faculty Mentor

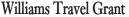
Williams Travel Grant

Kyle Cody, Masters Candidate in History Impact of German Medical Exchange on Japan's Racialized National Discourse Midwest Conference on Asian Studies | South Bend, Indiana Jinhee Lee, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Hannah Crane, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
Be a Champion for All Students
Illinois School Counselor Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling and Student Development,
Faculty Mentor



Tracy Dennis, Masters Candidate in Nutrition and Dietetics
Eat the Rainbow: Improving Fruit and Vegetable Acceptability of Girl Scouts
Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics | Oakbrook, Illinois
Melanie Burns, Ph.D., Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Brittany Dixon, Masters Candidate in History
Gender, Race, and Class in American Mission School Policies in the Japanese Empire
Midwest Conference on Asian Studies | South Bend, Indiana
Jinhee Lee, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Faculty Mentor



Razak Dwomoh, Masters Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction
The Development and Implications of Social Studies/History Curricula in Ghana
Illinois Council for the Social Studies | Charleston, Illinois
John Bickford, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Education, Faculty Mentor



Francesca Ehlers, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
A Champion's Guide: Effective Interventions for All Students
Illinois School Counselor Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor





Dayton Ehrlich, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs

Assistantship Diversity Panel

Student Affairs 101 | Normal, Illinois

Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor





Williams Travel Grant

Anna Farris, Masters Candidate in Clincal Mental Health Counseling

The Effect of a Creative Expression Group Intervention on Stress Levels
of Females in a University Setting

Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois

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

Williams Travel Grant

Abigail Frye, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
Assistantship Diversity Panel
Student Affairs 101 | Normal, Illinois

Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor





Williams Travel Grant

Alexis Garner, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs
What I Wish I Knew about Graduate School: SA Edition
Student Affairs 101 | Normal, Illinois
Diagne Timm, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Counseling and St

Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Amanda Ghighi, Masters Candidate in Nutrition and Dietetics
The Sugar Shakedown: Promotion of Lowering Added Sugar Intake in College Students
Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics | Oakbrook, Illinois
Melanie Burns, Ph.D., Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant
Shannon Gray, Masters Candidate in Nutrition and Dietetics
Eat the Rainbow: Improving Fruit and Vegetable Acceptability of Girl Scouts
Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics | Oakbrook, Illinois
Melanie Burns, Ph.D., Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences,
Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Megan Haley, Masters Candidate in School Counseling A Champion's Guide: Effective Interventions for All Students
Illinois School Counselor Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor





Williams Travel Grant

Kellie Hanser, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Assessing Presence of Catostomid Larvae in Tributaries of the Illinois and Wabash River
Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society | Grafton, Illinois
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Briana Hendrickson, Masters Candidate in English Teaching Shakespeare at the Secondary Level: A Culturally Relevant Approach Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference | Chicago, Illinois Julie Campbell, Ph.D., Professor of English, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Paul Higgerson, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs
Student Veterans and Their Transition to Becoming a College Student
Mid-Western Educational Research Annual Conference | Evanston, Illinois
Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Eric Hine, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
A Diel Comparison of Pulsed-DC Electrofishing Methods in the Lower Wabash River
American Fisheries Society | Tampa, Florida
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Charity Huwe, Masters Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction
Using Diverse History-Based Curricula and a Growth Assessment to Study the Titanic
Illinois Council for the Social Studies | Palatine, Illinois
John Bickford, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Education, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Israt Jahan, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Impact of Temperature on Freshwater Fish Species: Energetics and
Muscle Mechanics of Two Centrarchids
Midwest Regional Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology | Akron, Ohio
Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society | Grafton, Illinois
Annual Meeting of the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology | San Francisco, California
Anabela Maia, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Bridgette Jones, Masters Candidate in School Counseling A Champion's Guide: Effective Interventions for All Students and Play Therapy and African American Males Illinois School Counselor Association | Springfield, Illinois Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois

Heidi Larson, Ph.D. Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Jackie Jones, Masters Candidate in Nutrition and Dietetics

The Sugar Shakedown: Promotion of Lowering Added Sugar Intake in College Students
Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics | Oakbrook, Illinois

Melanie Burns, Ph.D., Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences,
Faculty Mentor

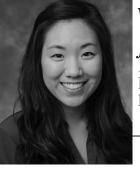


Prashansa Kannangara, Masters Candidate in Chemistry
Studying CO2 Solvent Properties by Microwave Spectroscopic Investigation
of Vinyl Fluoride...CO2...CO2 trimers
American Chemical Society | New Orleans, Louisiana
Rebecca Peebles, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Jessica Kim, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
Be a Champion for All Students
Illinois School Counselor Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Kirsten Kirkwood, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
Be a Champion for All Students
Illinois School Counselor Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Rachelle Krausen, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs What I Wish I Knew about Graduate School: SA Edition Student Affairs 101 | Normal, Illinois Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Owura Kuffuor, Masters Candidate in Political Science
Assessing the Impact of State Factors on the Success or Failure of Revolutions:
The Case of the Arab Spring: Substantive Representation in State Immigration Policy
International Studies Association Midwest Conference | St. Louis, Missouri
Midwest Political Science Association | Chicago, Illinois
Ryan Burge, Ph.D., Instructor, Political Science, Faculty Mentor
Rich Wandling, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Nima Lane, Masters Candidate in History Anti-Fascist Committees in Occupied Germany Illinois Political Science Association | Chicago, Illinois Sace Elder, Ph.D., Professor of History, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Troy McCreery, Masters Candidate in Health Promotion and Leadership Knowing Today I Will Be Gone Tomorrow: A Case Study Concerning Terminal Cancer Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance | St. Charles, Illinois Misty Rhoads, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Health Studies, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Jamie Meagher, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
A Champion's Guide: Effective Interventions for All Students
Illinois School Counselor Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Sydney Menigoz, Masters Candidate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
The Effect of a Creative Expression Group Intervention on Stress Levels
of Females in a University Setting

Illinois Association for Play Therapy Itasca, Illinois

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



Williams Travel Grant

Amy Morris, Masters Candidate in Health Promotion and Leadership
The Healing Process of Music Therapy When Working with Abuse: An Autoethnography
Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance | St. Charles, Illinois
Misty Rhoads, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Health Studies, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Junnatun Naym, Masters Candidate in Business Administration
Using New Technologies to Achieve Competitive Advantage in International Markets
Academy of International Business- U.S. Midwest Chapter | Chicago, Illinois
David Boggs, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Business, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Elizabeth Nixon, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy and Biological Sciences Determining the Co-Product Potential of Microalgae Cake
European Biomass Conference & Exhibition | Copenhagen, Denmark
Tom Canam, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Sunil Pandey, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Detection of Beta-lactamase Loci in Municipal Wastewater Samples
Illinois State Academy of Sciences | Decatur, Illinois
Kai Hung, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor





Williams Travel Grant

Tanmay Pant, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy
Building a Solar Charged Electric Go-Kart
Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering | Cincinnati, Ohio
Peter Ping Liu, Ph.D., Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Nivedita Pareek, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Evaluation of Intra-species Diversity of Oxalobacter Formigenes Strains using
Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) and Multiplex Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
Indiana Branch of the American Society for Microbiology | Indianapolis, Indiana
Steven Daniel, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Raya Petty, Masters Candidate in Communication Studies
Finishing Strong: Developing Classroom Resilience and Motivation at the End of the Semester
Illinois Communication and Theater Association | Peoria, Illinois
Richard Jones, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

Kyle Ritten, Masters Candidate in School Counseling
Be a Champion for All Students

Illinois School Counselor Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor





Williams Travel Grant

Jana Roberts, Masters Candidate in School Counseling

Be a Champion for All Students

Illinois School Counselor Association Annual Conference | Springfield, Illinois

Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling and Student Development,

Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Jessica Rohr, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences Recovery of Riverine Fish Assemblage after Fish Kill in Kickapoo Creek, IL Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Milwaukee, Wisconsin Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor





Lina Sallam, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences
Biotransformation of Bile Acids by Human Gut Bacteria
Illinois State Academy of Sciences | Decatur, Illinois
Steven Daniel, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Samuel Schaick, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences Characteristics of Larval Asian Carp Production in Illinois and Wabash River Tributaries Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society | Grafton, Illinois Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor





Williams Travel Grant

Maliya Smith, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs Child Centered Play Therapy and African American Boys Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois

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



Kiley Sturm, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs

Assistantship Diversity Panel

Student Affairs 101 | Normal, Illinois

Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor





Williams Travel Grant

Jessica Thornton, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

Shifting Population Dynamics of the Commercially Exploited Shovelnose Sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus platorynchus) in the Wabash River

Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Milwaukee, Wisconsin

International Symposium on Sturgeon | Vienna, Austria

Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Joshua Wall, Masters Candidate in Business Administration "Part-time, On-campus Employees' Perception of Onboarding Effectiveness" Academy of International Business- U.S. Midwest Chapter | Chicago, Illinois Melody Wollan, Ph.D., Professor of Management, Faculty Mentor





Williams Travel Grant

Nicholas Waller, Masters Candidate in History
A Strong Achaemenid Empire
Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Conference | Blacksburg, Virginia
Lee Patterson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Faculty Mentor

Amber Webb, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs What I Wish I Knew About Graduate School: SA Edition Student Affairs 101 | Normal, Illinois

Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor





Williams Travel Grant

Katarina Werner, Masters Candidate in Health Promotion and Leadership Knowledge & Perceptions of Mental Health Resources on a Midwestern College Campus Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance | St. Charles, Illinois Misty Rhoads, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Health Studies, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

Gianna White, Masters Candidate in Clinical Psychology
The Effect of Olfactory Cues on Audiovisual Recall
Midwestern Psychological Association | Chicago, Illinois
Joe Williams, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Faculty Mentor



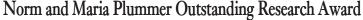


Williams Travel Grant

Furkan Burcu Yildiz, Masters Candidate in Political Science
Ways Through to Authoritativeness
Midwest Political Science Association | Chicago, Illinois
Ryan Burge, Ph.D., Instructor, Political Science, Faculty Mentor

Norm and Maria Plummer Outstanding Research Awards

Established by graduate alumnus, Norm Plummer, '71, '72, and his wife Maria to recognize outstanding research projects.



Tajdar Ahmed, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy/Technology Smart Home Technologies Enabled by Smart Grid Peter Ping Liu, Ph.D., Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor





Norm and Maria Plummer Outstanding Research Award

Grace Wilken, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy Solar Powered Compost Golf Cart Peter Ping Liu, Ph.D., Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor



Scholarships

2018 Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholar
Established by Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Wright in memory

Established by Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Wright in memory of Betty Wright Downing. *Sarah Dodoo*, Masters Candidate in Family and Consumer Sciences



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. *Hashni Epa Vidana Gamage*, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences



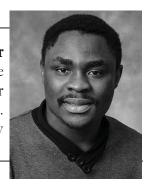


2018 Annie Weller Graduate Scholar

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. *Owura Kuffuor*, Masters Candidate in Political Science



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. *Idiahi Okosun,* Masters Candidate in Biochemistry/Biotechnology





2018 Graduate Alumni Fund Scholar

Established by the Graduate Alumni Advisory Board to recognize outstanding graduate research, creative activity, and scholarship.

Grace Wilken, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy



Established by the Graduate Student Advisory Council to recognize exceptional service and scholarship by a graduate student. *Hanna Hobson*, Masters Candidate in Clinical Psychology



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.





2018 Hamand Scholar

Monica Burney, Masters Candidate in History

Monica Burney's graduate research promises to make an important contribution to the scholarship on internationalism and feminism in the interwar period. Examining the role of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in the League of Nations' policies regarding displaced, deported, and stateless persons, hers will be the first work to examine the WILPF's work in advocating for those who were displaced as a result of the post-World War I peace settlements and subsequent interwar conflicts. She presented her work at the James Jones Symposium on the History of War here at EIU, and will present another version at the International Graduate Historical Studies Conference at Central Michigan University. An unusual accomplishment for a graduate student in the field of history, she has co-authored with Dr. Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz an entry in the NAWSA Suffrage Database and published an article in the study journal Historia. As a presidential graduate assistant Monica assisted in the development of a role-playing game,

Reacting to the Past (RTTP), for use in world history classes. Her deep understanding of RTTP pedagogy led to an invitation to co-present the games she and her mentor, Dr. Sace Elder had developed, at the EIU Making Excellence Inclusive Conference. An active member of EIU's Making Excellence Inclusive committee, Monica has participated in the committee's First Generation campaign by attending open houses and other events as a first-generation university student. She also co-organized a session at the EIUnity conference in which students shared how gender and race discrimination, stereotype threats, disability, economic adversity, and the like affect their experiences in the classroom. Monica plans to pursue another graduate degree in library science with aspirations to work in an academic library.

2018 Hamand Scholar

Briana Hendrickson, Masters Candidate in English

A successful high school English teacher, Briana Hendrickson brings her professional expertise to EIU's Writing Center. As a tutor in the Writing Center, Briana has provided effective individualized guidance to dozens of undergraduate and graduate students at every stage of the writing process. She has taken on additional responsibilities to serve her students like developing handouts to guide students using the updated MLA citation system. She and a partner also designed and facilitated four hour-long presentations for the graduate program in Technology, covering topics ranging from plagiarism to revision and editing to APA citation. In her work with the Eastern Illinois Writing project she attended a national workshop for scholars and teachers of young adult literature and gave a well-received paper on literature pedagogy at the Newberry Library. Her thesis project – a sophisticated look at representations of mental health issues in young adult literature – brings together literary scholarship, social justice theory, and pedagogy in an original and productive way. One of



Briana's faculty mentors, Dr. Fern Kory, a professor of English with a long career in young adult literature states, "I must say that it is deeply comforting to know that the future of this field is in such good hands." Briana plans to enter a Ph.D. program in Teacher Education.



2018 Hamand Scholar

Jessica Kim, Masters Candidate in School Counseling

With a passion for serving her community, Jessi Kim volunteers as an advisor at the Covenant Fellowship Church, is an active member of the Korean American Youth Ministry, and is a volunteer for the International Student Connections (ISC) program at the University of Illinois. Jessi's research project titled, "B.I.O.N.I.C. (Believe it or not I care): Empowering Young Leaders to Compassionately Reach Students, Families, and the Community" has been accepted for presentation at Illinois' state conference as well as two colleges. She has an intricate role in the mentoring program that has been implemented at Mattoon High School and has co-led leadership enrichment groups, overseen the entire Grief Team and has helped out with the freshman mentoring program during lunch and assisted in data collection. Jessi won a College of Education and Professional Studies research student grant and the graduate student research and creative activity grant to assist in presenting and disseminating her research findings at several conferences during her graduate work.

She has also been the recipient of the Paul Ward Scholarship and the Dean Diane Jackman Scholarship for Certificate of Achievement. One of Jessi's faculty mentors, Dr. Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo, writes, "Jessi faces challenges head-on with confidence and assurance that she can continue to make a difference in the world of others."

2018 Hamand Scholar

Paul Higgerson, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs

Paul Higgerson's graduate research and service has focused on the student veteran experience of transitioning to college, an issue he can identify with being a student veteran himself. To conduct his research he worked with directors of Veteran Support Services at two different Midwest institutions. He was invited to present this research at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) and was also invited to present at NASPA's Symposium on Military Connected Students . Additionally, he presented at the MidWestern Educational Research Conference and the Midwest First Year Conference. His research has been submitted to an open-reviewed international journal, *Directions*, under the American College Personnel Association. Paul shares his expertise with EIU's Military Student Assistant Center initially as an intern and continues to assist that office under an independent study. His faculty mentor, Dr. Dianne Timm, writes,



"what Paul has created for this office at EIU is something that a full-time professional would normally need a year or two to accomplish, but because of his passion for working with this population he has already made it a place students go to seek resources." As vice president of the Student Personnel Association (COSPA), he often led his fellow group members in service projects. As a member of the Veterans organization he is often found volunteering with various agencies to coordinate programs like the Veteran's Day and 9/11 programs. Paul's supervisor for his graduate assistantship in the Student Success Center, Cindy Boyer, writes, "It has been a privilege to have been afforded the opportunity to work closely with such an exceptional man. He is truly what is best in our profession."



2018 Hamand Scholar

Owura Kuffuor, Masters Candidate in Political Science

Alongside Owura Kuffuor's academic success is his commitment to service and social justice. Owura has been very active with the Newman Center, where he serves as the president of the Students for Peace and Justice, and as the campus ambassador to Catholic Relief Services. His service to the EIU Students for Peace and Justice included his efforts in fall 2017 to promote the "Hear My Story" documentary on people coming to the United States to pursue the American dream. Owura's participation in these activities—including working on issues like homelessness and refugee resettlement—integrate well with his academic and research interests. He entered his graduate program with an established research record, with two coauthored publications in the *International Journal of Humanities and Social Studies* and *Asian Journal of Social Science and Management*. He presented his research on the role of the *Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)* at the Illinois Political Science Association annual meeting, and on the Arab Spring in Sub-Saharan Africa at the

Midwest Political Science Association and at both the Illinois Political Science Association and the ISA-Midwest. Owura has a clear research agenda on Sub-Saharan Africa, and is currently working on his thesis, which he intends to finish this summer. Owura's graduate honors at EIU include the Frances Meyer Hampton Scholarship, the Annie Weller Scholarship, and the Distinguished International Student for the Political Science department. Owura plans to continue his graduate studies and is applying to Ph.D. programs.



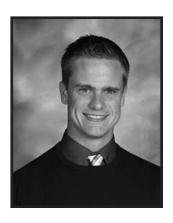
Ademola Adeyomo Geographic Information Sciences



Eiman Aiyash Economics



Kayla Albrecht Nutrition and Dietetics



Michael Arrigoni Special Education



Jarad Blanton Health Promotion and Leadership



Christina Bounds School Psychology



Ben Bruflat Music



Monica Burney History



Mary Ann Carlson Art Education



Komadhie Dissanayake Chemistry



Sarah Dodoo Family and Consumer Sciences



Kathryn English Mathematics Education



Anuoluwapo Fatokun Technology (On-Campus)



Briana Hendrickson English



Paul Higgerson College Student Affairs



Charity Huwe Curriculum and Instruction



Jessica Kim School Counseling



Paige Koester Biological Sciences (Non-Thesis)



Richard Koss Mathematics



Owura Kuffuor Political Science (On-Campus)



Melissa Kuhlman Educational Leadership (MSED)



Daniel Leipert Technology (Off-Campus)



Natalie Lewis Communication Disorders & Sciences



Tate McKay Business Administration (Off-Campus)



Sydney Menigoz Clinical Mental Health Counseling



Brian Murphy Cybersecurity



Tran Ngoc Business Administration (On-Campus)



Elizabeth Nixon Sustainable Energy/ Biological Sciences



Kimberly Norton Educational Leadership (Specialist)



Daniel Oropeza Community Arts



Raya Petty Communication Studies



Jade Phillips Art



Tracy Raggio Kinesiology and Sports Studies



Charles Reither Clinical Psychology



Lina Sallam Biological Sciences (Thesis)



Quentin Spannagel Political Science (On-Line)



Melissa Spencer Aging Studies



Grace Wilken Sustainable Energy

Teaching Awards



2018 Teaching Award of Excellence for Graduate Assistants

The graduate assistant from EIU is nominated for the competition at the Midwest Association for Graduate Schools.

Raya Petty, Masters Candidate in Commmunication Studies



2018 Rodney S. Ranes Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award

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

John H. Bickford III, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Level Education

2017-2018 Council on Graduate Studies

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Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel, Ph.D., Vice Chair

Des Adom, Ph.D.

Angela Jacobs, Ph.D.

Kiran Padmaraju, Ph.D.

Peter Ping Liu, Ph.D.

Mukti Upadhyay, Ph.D.

Nora Pat Small, Ph.D.

Suzie Park, Ph.D.

Noah Przygoda, Student Representative

2017-2018 Graduate Student Advisory Council

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Hanna Hobson, Vice President for Administrative Activities

Sydney Menigoz, Vice President for Programming

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Norm Plummer, '71, '72

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Lana Beasley, Administrative Aide

Lori Henderson, Publicity/Promotions Specialist and Director, Integrative

Graduate Studies Institute

JoAnn Ingle, Admissions/Records Officer

Cathy Gordon, Staff Clerk

2017 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 2017 ceremony on Saturday, December 16, 2017.



Fabian Rempfer English Featured Speaker



Samantha Bush Aging Studies Alternate Speaker

2018 Graduate Student Advisory Council Executive Board



Charity Huwe President



Sarah Dodoo Student Dean



Sydney Menigoz Vice President for Programming



Hanna Hobson Vice President for Administrative Activities



Amber Webb Vice President for Member Recruitment and Retention



Barbara White Graduate School Student Adviser



Kali Harris Vice President for Public Relations (spring 18)



Kristen Gisondi Vice President for Public Relations (fall 17)

College of Arts and Humanities Graduate Programs

Ann Coddington, M.F.A.- Art, Coordinator

Patricia Belleville, Ph.D.- Art Education and Community Arts, Coordinator

Suzie Park, Ph.D.- English, Coordinator

Sace Elder, Ph.D.- History, Coordinator

Anna Cromwell, D.M.A..- Music, Coordinator

Angela Jacobs, Ph.D.- Communication Studies, Coordinator

College of Education and Professional Studies Graduate Programs

Scott Ronspies, Ph.D.- Kinesiology and Sports Studies, Coordinator

Cliff Karnes, Ph.D.- Educational Leadership, Master's & Specialist's Programs, Coordinator

Richard Roberts, Ph.D.- College Student Affairs & Counseling Programs, Chair and Coordinator

John Bickford III, Ph.D.- Curriculum and Instruction, Coordinator

Kathlene Shank, Ph.D.- Special Education, Chair and Co-Coordinator

Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel, Ph.D.- Special Education, Co-Coordinator

Sheila Simons, Ph.D.- Health Promotion, Coordinator

Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences Graduate Programs

Melody Wollan, Ph.D.- Business Administration, Coordinator

Rigoberto Chinchilla, Ph.D. - Cybersecurity, Coordinator

Linda Simpson, Ph.D.- Family and Consumer Sciences, Coordinator

Melanie Burns, Ph.D.- Nutrition and Dietetics, Chair and 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

Tom Canam, Ph.D.- Biochemistry/Biotechnology, Coordinator

Gopal Perriyannan, Ph.D.- Chemistry, Coordinator

Rebecca Throneburg, Ph.D.- Communication Disorders and Sciences, Coordinator

Mukti Upadhyay, Ph.D.- Economics, Coordinator

Barry Kronenfeld, Ph.D.- Geographic Information Sciences, Coordinator

Bogdan Petrenko, Ph.D.- Mathematics, Coordinator

Peter Wiles, Ph.D.- Mathematics Education Option, Coordinator

Melinda Mueller, Ph.D.- Political Science, Coordinator

Wesley Allan, Ph.D.- Clinical Psychology, Coordinator

Margaret Floress, Ph.D.- School Psychology, Coordinator

first**choice GRADUATE**PROGRAM

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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 2013-2023: History; 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 2011-2022: 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

Programs achieving First Choice designation 2016-2021: Technology



The Graduate School 600 Lincoln Avenue Charleston, Illinois 61920 217.581.2220 www.eiu.edu/graduate