

Graduate Alumnus

Outstanding Graduate Alumni Awards

Class of 2018



The Graduate School



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™

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Graduate School

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Editor: Lori Henderson, Graduate School

Campus Photography: Jay Grabiec, Center for Academic Technology Support

Cover: Ike Nwosu in his classroom; courtesy of Lake Land College

April 2018

Eastern Illinois University

Outstanding Graduate Alumni Awards



Since 1951 Eastern has offered advanced study with master's programming. Since that first offering thousands of students have earned graduate degrees, and EIU graduate alumni have changed the world we live in. In 2005 EIU celebrated more than 50 years of graduate education by honoring 50 graduate alumni as Outstanding Graduate Alumni. That same year the Graduate Alumni Advisory Board was created and met for the first time. Since those initial 50 honorees, the Graduate Alumni Advisory Board, the Graduate School, and EIU's graduate programs have continued to honor the achievements and accomplishments of our graduate alumni every year.

Center photo: The first three master's degree students at Eastern Illinois State Teachers College in 1952. Pictured left to right- Dwight Baptist, Anna Butler Brown, and Don Luallen. Dwight Baptist was honored as one of the original 50 Outstanding Graduate Alumni in 2005 and continues to serve on the Graduate Alumni Advisory Board.

alumni from the
college of arts and humanities

graduate programs offered in the college

Department of Art

Master of Arts in Art

Online option in Art Education and Community Art

Department of Communication Studies

Master of Arts in Communication Studies

Option in Communication Pedagogy

Online option in Communication and Leadership

Department of English

Master of Arts in English

Online certificate in the Teaching of Writing

Department of History

Master of Arts in History

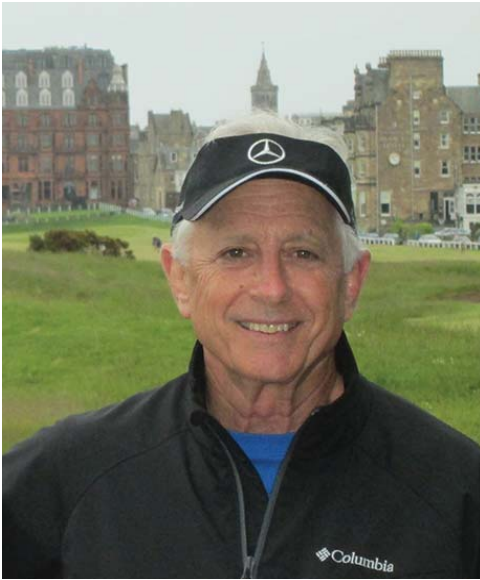
Online option in History for Teachers

Department of Music

Master of Arts in Music

Online concentration in Music Education





Jeffrey Pellaton, '78, '79

Nominated by the graduate program in Music

A native Californian and Air Force veteran, Jeffrey Pellaton retired from the Department of Defense Education Activity after 33 years of government service in 2014. His wife Shelley is a native of Illinois and the reason for his arrival at Eastern Illinois University after the Air Force and three semesters at Chabot Junior College in Hayward, California. At EIU he studied under the legendary professor, Johnny Lee Lane, and performed in Jazz Band 1, Percussion Ensemble, Percussion Jazz Rock Ensemble, Marimba Orchestra, Marching Band, and was Principal Timpanist with the Symphonic Winds and the Symphony Orchestra. After completing his bachelor's he student taught in Germany for one year before returning to EIU to earn his master's again under the direction of Professor Lane. Graduating with his master's on Friday he was at work as an assistant professor of music at Mississippi Valley State University on the following Monday. The Pellaton family left Mississippi in 1985 for Jeff to take a position with the Department of Defense School in Okinawa Japan where he helped initiate the All Far East Honor Choir and was a featured conductor at each annual concert for fifteen years. Following the last of their two daughters' graduation in 2002, Jeff transferred to Wurzburg, Germany where he assumed the position of Music Director of the Dodea All Europe Honor Jazz Seminar, a position that he held until his retirement in 2014. In this capacity Jeff worked closely with international superstar clinicians such as Jiggs Whigham, Trombone and Darmon Meader, Music Director of the New York Voices and Tenor Saxophonist extraordinaire. With a base closure looming Jeff transferred again in 2005 and spent his remaining nine years as the director of bands at Ramstein American High School on Ramstein Air Base, Germany covering three instrumental ensembles and class guitar. Still active with the Department of Defense Education Activity (Dodea) and their All Europe

Jazz Seminar as a guest section leader, Jeff added to his profile his association as a staff member for the Association of Music in International Schools (AMIS) Jazz Festival and he has functioned as guest conductor, combo conductor, guest performer, and Jazz Skills workshop instructor. The AMIS festival has taken him to places far and wide such as Beijing, China, Singapore, The Netherlands, Belgium and this year, Frankfurt Germany. He is also rediscovering his percussion roots as a performer with the Mesa Community College Night Band and the Mesa Community College Orchestra where he is currently the Principal Timpanist. He also works with the Chandler Gilbert Community College Big Band and is a frequent guest clinician and volunteer at local schools and at MCC. Jeff has received numerous awards for outstanding achievement in Music Education. His honors have come from the Dodea Okinawa District, the Dodea Bavarian District, the Dodea Rhineland Pfalz District, Dodea Europe Regional Office and he was selected as Phi Delta Kappa Educator of the Year in 2005. Jeff writes of his time at EIU, "I was advised wisely that getting my MA in performance would allow me to finally focus on being the best musician I could be. Because of my education and experience at EIU, I have always felt that I had the tools to tackle any assignment. Tackling and succeeding at such a variety of musical experiences has also given me



an intense pride in my alma mater. I would especially like to thank (and remember) Dr Kreihbel, Dr. Alabaugh, Dr Brinkman, and of course Dr. Horney and Professor Lane." Living now in Arizona and married 43 years, Jeff and Shelley have two daughters and four grandchildren.

alumni from the
**lumpkin college of business
and applied sciences**

graduate programs offered in the college

School of Business

Master of Business Administration

Online Master of Business Administration

School of Family and Consumer Sciences

Master of Science in

Family and Consumer Sciences

Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics

Master of Arts in Aging Studies

School of Technology

Master of Science in Sustainable Energy

Master of Science in Cybersecurity

Master of Science in Talent Development

Master of Science in Technology

Certificate Programs in:

Computer Technology

Technology Security

Training and Development

Quality Systems

Work Performance Improvement





Adam Bange, '92, '93

Nominated by the graduate program in Nutrition and Dietetics

Adam developed a passion for the culinary arts and nutrition early in life, realizing the correlation of nutrition and excellence in athletics. Two years of cooking classes in high school sparked an even greater interest in the nutrition and food service field. Upon graduating from high school, Adam enlisted in the U.S. Army, becoming a Hospital Food Service Specialist. During this period, he also worked as a caterer in the Washington, DC area, having served numerous events, including the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His military unit also won a national food service competition, resulting in his being a recipient of the Army Achievement Medal. Upon completion of his military service, he worked in hospital food service, progressing from a culinary specialist to a food service supervisor at a community hospital while completing his associate of science degree at Parkland College and undergraduate and graduate studies in dietetics at EIU. During this period his family also operated a restaurant and catering business. Being a non-traditional student, Adam intended on seeking employment after receiving his bachelor's degree, however, he credits Dr. Ruth Dow and Dr. Carol Ries for seeing more in him than he saw in himself. They encouraged him to apply for and he was accepted to graduate school where he also worked as a teaching assistant. He indicates that this choice was invaluable, opening many more career opportunities due to the graduate school education, experiences of being a teaching assistant, and completion of the Dietetic Internship Program, enabling him to meet the standards to take and pass the exam to become a Registered Dietitian. After completion of his graduate studies, Adam worked as a clinical dietitian at a community hospital, before joining the staff at VA Illiana Health Care System in Danville, Illinois in 1994.

As the Chief of Nutrition and Food Service, Adam oversees the daily operations of Nutrition and Food Service and has participated in the development of a new meal delivery system and four new ten-resident veteran homes. Being a veteran, Adam takes immense pride "Serving Those Who Served." He also has a strong belief in giving back, along with the team of dietitians, supervisors, and food service staff supporting a robust EIU Dietetic Internship Program, mentoring over 50 students in their pursuit of becoming registered dietitians.

Adam and his wife of thirty-two years, Julie, also a veteran, met and married while in the service. They are currently raising their children, twenty-year-old, Rebecca and seventeen-year-old, Brianna on their Haflinger horse farm in rural Brocton, Illinois. Adam has also served as a volunteer firefighter, President of the Vermilion Chapter of the American Diabetes Association, and Boy Scout leader and enjoys boating, swimming, biking, weight training, and horseback riding.



"We are EIU!" Not only is Adam a graduate of EIU, but Julie is as well. Rebecca is completing her junior year at EIU and Brianna has aspirations of attending EIU. Adam writes, "My education at EIU, the campus, faculty, staff, and students have created a legacy that we hope to continue through generations of our family. EIU has given me the necessary tools to follow my passion and provide for the future of my family."

Tammi Clancy, '00, '03

Nominated by the graduate program in Family and Consumer Sciences

Learning the story of another's life and giving voice to joys and challenges of our journeys are powerful means of human connectedness and authenticity. Tammi Clancy, like all of us, has a story and it is one of inspiration and hope. A high school dropout, a recovering drug user, and a single mother are part of Tammi's story but certainly not the end of her story. Dropping out of high school at the age of sixteen, Tammi fought drug addiction for the next nine years, a battle that nearly killed her. During this time, she became a single mother and struggled to provide even the basics for herself and her children. In 1986 Tammi changed her life and circumstances by completing her GED and achieving sobriety.

Facing many obstacles as a single mother of four children, Tammi overcame and began her academic journey at Lake Land Community College in Mattoon, earning an associate's degree in 1989. Transferring to EIU Tammi earned her bachelor's in 2000, and continued with a master's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences graduating with a 4.0 in 2003. Tammi's educational journey serves as an example of determination and perseverance as she overcame those obstacles and reached what seemed like unattainable goals just a few years earlier.

For the past 25 years Tammi has been employed by Central East Alcoholism and Drug Council (CEAD), serving in various positions including, monitor technician, counselor, group facilitator, and more. Currently, she serves in an administrative position as the Adult Services Coordinator. In this position, she

oversees adult residential services, women's halfway house services, men's three-quarter

house services. In addition to her integral role at CEAD, she also coordinates the federal probation files and serves as a liaison on the Drug Court Committee in Coles County. A program that facilitates rehabilitation for people and thus avoiding incarceration; Tammi has served on the Drug Court Committee for the past seven years and was instrumental in its development.

Tammi believes her greatest accomplishments to be her sobriety, relationship with God, education, and her four children, and grandchildren. She prides herself on being a "family and faith woman" enjoying the time

spent with her family and time spent as an active member of her church. Tammi continues to mentor countless individuals and their loved ones whose lives have been impacted by the struggles of alcohol and drug addiction. "Miss Clancy" - as her clients often call her - is a modern day superhero to many and true role model

to those whose lives have been touched by her as she brings hope to the hopeless. Tammi shows others that lives can be turned around and our journeys can be navigated with new and strengthened resiliency.



alumni from the

college of sciences

graduate programs offered in the college

Department of Biological Sciences

Master of Science in Biological Sciences

Department of Chemistry

Master of Science in Chemistry

Master of Science in Biochemistry/Biotechnology

Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences

Master of Science in Communication Disorders
and Sciences

Department of Economics

Master of Arts in Economics

Department of Geology/Geography

Professional Science Master's in

Geographic Information Sciences

Certificate in Geographic Information
Sciences

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

Master of Arts in Mathematics

Option Elementary/Middle School

Mathematics Education

Option Secondary Mathematics Education

Department of Political Science

Master of Arts in Political Science

Online option in Public Administration/
Public Planning

Certificate in Public Planning

Department of Psychology

Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology

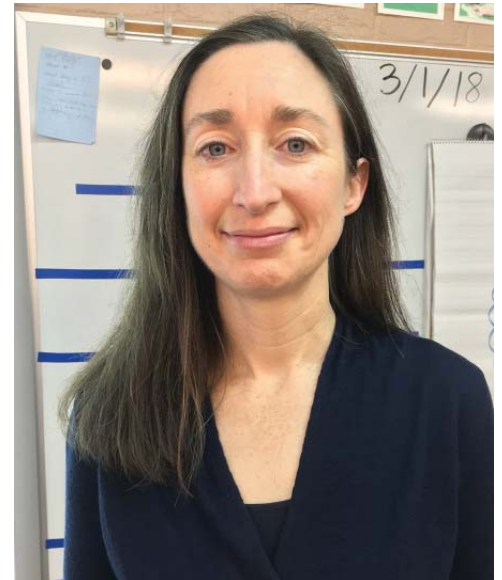
Master of Science in School Psychology

Specialist in School Psychology



Mercy Davison, '97

Nominated by the graduate program in Political Science



Mercy Davison brings her commitment to environmental sustainability to her position as Town Planner for the Town of Normal. When Mercy started in her position in 2004, the Town Council had already adopted the Uptown Renewal Plan and she's been a key player in all aspects of redevelopment since then with procedurally and financially complex projects. While primarily working

way that leads to positive economic development.

She also helped to implement the Town's first on-street bike lanes, various extensions of the Constitution Trail, and ongoing activities in the Master Bicycle and

Pedestrian Master Plan. In addition, Mercy also implemented the Town's annual bike rodeo program for young children (in its 7th year), the annual winter bike movie (in its 5th year), and the annual bike light giveaway (now in its 6th year) which has seen more than 4,000 sets of lights given away. She also established the annual statewide Bike Summit, which brings together planners, engineers and bicycle advocates from across the state to discuss the latest issues in bike planning.

Mercy earned her bachelor's in journalism from the University of Montana in 1996, her master's in political science in 1999 from EIU, and her juris doctorate from Washington University School of Law in

2001. She served as Normal's Town Attorney from 2001 to 2004. For a number of years she and her husband Bill operated a five-acre organic farm supplying vegetables to local markets, restaurants, and Community-Supported Agriculture members. She holds memberships in the Illinois State Bar, American Institute of Certified Planners, Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association, and Congress for the New Urbanism. She and her husband have two sons.



on a team she has held the point position in the creation of the Uptown design ordinance, the Uptown Design Review Commission, and the designation of the Uptown Circle and adjacent buildings as LEED-ND, a national sustainable designation given by the U.S. Green Building Council. Mercy started the "Bike Share 309" program in 2017 with a national program offered by Zagster, believing that bicycling is a critical part of the future of transportation and that it adds to quality of life in a



Ikemefuna “Ike” Nwosu, ‘06

Nominated by the graduate program in Biological Sciences

Ikemefuna “Ike” Nwosu’s entire approach to his professional career has been based upon educating, by definition:

“bringing out or developing something latent or potential.” Since becoming a biosciences instructor at Lake Land College in 2006, Ike has consistently been mindful of that definition while helping students discover and strengthen their own learning styles. This has resulted in 23 graduating students publicly recognizing him as one of the “Someone who Made a Difference” over the past 10 years, through an annual survey question that Lake Land college asks its graduates. Outside the classroom, Ike serves as the Division Chair of the Math and Science Division, a position he has held since 2015. The position gives Ike the freedom to be innovative while remaining true to his root focus of developing others. Ike has supported and facilitated the implementation of innovative ideas from his outstanding faculty and colleagues, including a new math curriculum that accelerates non-STEM students through developmental math courses, while successfully passing their required college-level math classes. In one year, each of the 65 students saved an average of 2.8 semesters of math courses and \$451 in additional tuition. Ike also piloted and helped lead a college-wide roll out of Student Planning software that allows students to build their entire two-year academic plan electronically. He created

math pathway charts for students and academic advisors to visually understand how students need to navigate their math course sequences based upon their respective majors. Ike’s education has spanned two continents and five universities and colleges. He transferred from Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Nigeria to University of Zambia where he earned his bachelor’s degree in biological sciences, in 2000. In December 2001, Ike moved to Mattoon working as a science tutor while completing a year and a half of courses at Lake Land College. In 2003, he started a master’s degree in biological sciences from EIU where he spent the better part of two and half years taking care of the campus-renowned mouse colony. Ike is currently a doctoral student pursuing a degree in Community College Leadership through Ferris State University.



Ike credits his successful path to the wonderful people God has placed along it. He gives special thanks to his wife Uzoamaka, who continually supports and challenges him to grow personally and professionally and Immanuel and Somto his children, who have taught him about life in ways books cannot and also about himself as a man. He

thanks his parents who instilled the benefit of working hard, Dr. Matt Madigan, who provided Ike his first opportunity to teach and helped shape his growth as a college instructor and Dr. Britto Nathan, who Ike attributes with elevating his capacity to work hard and learn, ultimately leading to three peer reviewed publications. And of course his students past, current and future who consistently renew the inherent value of curiosity and effort.

Jennifer Roder, '93, '94

Nominated by the graduate program in Economics

As a recognized domain expert in Information Resources, Inc.'s (IRI) Consumer & Shopper Marketing Center of Excellence, Jennifer leads the Data Integrity team, which is responsible for the overall accuracy of the data provided; and for addressing any data-related questions or concerns from the company's 150+ CPG and Retail customers. In addition, Jennifer and her team serve as the group's primary interface with the company's Technology and Operations teams regarding new initiatives and process changes that affect the way the data are used or modified in customer deliverables.

Jennifer has extensive experience in the management of delivery processes and support services. An experienced, industry expert with an established record of success, Jennifer plays an instrumental role in ensuring the company's core data assets are leveraged properly and to their fullest in the solutions and applications that are brought to market.

During her 20+ year career at Information Resources, Inc., Jennifer has held senior positions in the Operations, Technology and Consumer & Shopper Marketing areas. Throughout her career, she has been selected to participate in a wide range of strategic projects, frequently serving as the de facto project manager and always driving the projects forward with her contributions. She has developed and delivered many training sessions over the course of her career and is considered a 'go-to' resource in the company. Her

contributions have earned her numerous company awards, including

the prestigious President's Award (twice) and the Extraordinary Performance Award (twice).

Jennifer earned both her bachelor's and master's in economics at EIU. Since graduation, she has remained deeply committed to the EIU Graduate Economics Program. Jennifer regularly organizes and hosts the IRI program for the annual EIU Chicago Trip and built up the program internally at IRI to include a panel of various IRI experts with economics backgrounds to share their experiences with the students. She also attends the EIU Chicago Trip reunion dinners to directly engage with students and faculty, and most recently, she spent time on campus at EIU with the Research Methods graduate students to speak specifically about the methodologies used in day-to-day IRI activities.



Jennifer and her husband currently reside in Berwyn, Illinois with their two children. She enjoys reading, the outdoors, and spending time with her family and pets at the family farm in Central IL. Jennifer is very active in

her church and children's school communities, yet she still manages to find time for monthly dinners with her Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority sisters whom she met on the first day of her freshman year at EIU.



John Yost, M.D. '99, '01

Nominated by the graduate program in Biological Sciences

When Psychiatrist John Yost, MD, started his practice at Sarah Bush Lincoln in August, he felt like he was coming home.

Growing up in nearby Watson, John worked as a medical technologist at Sarah Bush Lincoln for nearly nine years working throughout graduate and medical school. “The people at Sarah Bush Lincoln are like family,” he said, touched when his former coworkers in the laboratory lined up to give him a hug on his first day as a doctor.

With high demand for more mental health services in the area, John is excited to provide a much needed service and help as many people as he can. He chose psychiatry because, “I’m fascinated by the power that words and chemicals have on our consciousness,” he said.

However psychiatry wasn’t always his career path. With a strong interest in science, John earned a bachelor’s degree in medical technology, completing two years at Lake Land College, one year at Eastern Illinois University and the final year at Good Samaritan Hospital School of Medical Technology in Vincennes, Indiana. He then earned a master’s in biological sciences at EIU while working at Sarah Bush Lincoln. With a talent for drawing, he also drew illustrations for books written by a psychologist to help pay his way through school.

A few years later, John decided to pursue medicine to

have a greater impact on people’s lives. He entered Southern Illinois University School of Medicine where he earned his medical degree in 2008. Because of his background in medical technology, he first chose to pursue pathology, completing two years of residency training at the University of Iowa before switching to psychiatry.

Desiring more interaction with people, “I realized it’s the genuine human connection that makes life meaningful. I needed that exposure to people and to life,” he said. He returned to Springfield and completed a four-year residency program in psychiatry at Southern Illinois University.

While residency was an extremely challenging time in his life, John gained vast experience caring for people with a wide array of mental health concerns from anxiety and depression to schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. “I encourage people to focus on things they can change to improve their circumstances and help them choose the reality that’s most functional,” he said. Passionate about improving people’s lives, he acknowledges, “the patients really heal themselves. I’m just the mirror.”

college of education and professional studies

graduate programs offered in the college

Department of Educational Leadership

Master of Science in Education in Educational
Leadership

Specialist in Education in Educational
Leadership

Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and
Middle Level Education

Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and
Instruction

Online Certificate Program in Reading
Instruction

Certificate Program in English as a Second
Language Instruction

Department of Counseling and Student Development

Master of Science in College Student Affairs

Master of Science in Counseling

Concentration in Clinical Counseling

Concentration in School Counseling

Department of Special Education

Master of Science in Education in Special
Education

Department of Kinesiology and Sports Studies

Master of Science in Kinesiology and Sports Studies

Department of Health Promotion

Master of Science in Health Promotion and
Leadership





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