

April 2022

# Graduate Scholar

## Journal of Scholarship and Recognition



Jessica Derham, 2022 Robert and Kathryn Augustine  
Distinguished Master's Thesis Award Winner  
Britto Nathan, Ph.D. and Gopal Periyannan, Ph.D., Faculty Mentors

The Graduate School

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™





# EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## GRADUATE SCHOLAR

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### Graduate Recognition Ceremony

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Distinguished Graduate Student Awards  
Williams Travel Grant Winners  
Research/Creative Activity Grant Winners  
Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholar  
Frances Meyer Hampton Graduate Scholar  
Annie Weller Graduate Scholar  
GSAC Scholars  
Graduate Alumni Fund Outstanding Research/Creative Activity Award Winner  
King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Awards  
Awards of Excellence- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Award of Excellence- College of Education  
Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award Winner  
Thesis Awards  
Award of Excellence- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Award of Excellence- Lumpkin College of Business and Technology  
Award of Excellence- College of Education  
Award of Excellence- College of Health and Human Services  
Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award Winner  
Rodney S. Ranes Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award  
Graduate School Leadership Award  
Graduate School Award of Excellence

### Graduate Scholarship

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Thesis Awards  
Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award  
Award of Excellence- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Award of Excellence- College of Education  
Award of Excellence- College of Health and Human Services  
King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Awards  
Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award  
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Research/Creative Activity Grants  
Williams Travel Grants  
Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholarship  
Frances Meyer Hampton Graduate Scholarship  
Annie Weller Graduate Scholarship  
GSAC Scholarships  
Graduate Alumni Fund Outstanding Research/Creative Activity Award  
Hamand Society Scholars  
Distinguished Graduate Students  
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  
2021-2022 Academic Year  
Editor: Lori Henderson, Graduate School  
Photography: Jay Grabiec, School of Technology

Introductions and Opening Remarks- Dr. Ryan C. Hendrickson, L.M. Hamand Dean of the Graduate School  
Dr. David M. Glassman, President | Dr. Jay Gatrell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Ms. Brooke Gibson, President, Graduate Student Advisory Council

Distinguished Graduate Student Awards

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Announced by Dean Barbara Bonnekessen

**Molly Markley-** Art  
Presented by Mr. Matt Boonstra  
**Desiree Arps-** Art Education  
Presented by Mr. Chris Kahler  
**Josh Grube-** Communication Studies  
Presented by Dr. Angela Jacobs  
**Bryan Wysopal-** English  
Presented by Dr. Jad Smith  
**James Kowalski-** History  
Presented by Dr. Lee Patterson  
**Sarah Loisch-** Music  
Presented by Dr. Jamie Ryan  
**Christina Wilkie-** Music Education  
Presented by Dr. Liza Meyers  
**Megan Wooten-** Biological Sciences (Online)  
Presented by Dr. Britto Nathan  
**Roberto Sotelo-** Biological Sciences (NonThesis Option)  
Presented by Dr. Britto Nathan  
**Dahlia Martinez-** Biological Sciences (Thesis Option)  
Presented by Dr. Rob Colombo  
**Balamani Guduru-** Chemistry  
Presented by Dr. Radu Semenuic  
**Clayton Crozier-** Clinical Psychology  
Presented by Dr. Wesley Allan  
**Carol Bruce -Tagoe-** Economics  
Presented by Dr. Ali Moshtagh  
**Farouk Olaitan-** Geographic Information Sciences  
Presented by Dr. David Viertel  
**Guy Bates-** Math Education  
Presented by Dr. Peter Wiles  
**Noelle Chubb-** Political Science  
Presented by Dr. Ryan Burge  
**Rebecca Gieskes-** Public Policy/Public Admin  
Presented by Dr. Ryan Burge  
**Dominique Starling-** School Psychology  
Presented by Dr. Margaret Floress

Lumpkin College of Business and Technology  
Announced by Dean Austin Cheney

**Kacey Woelber-** Business Administration (On-Campus)  
Presented by Dr. David Boggs  
**Subrata Majumder-** Business Administration (Online)  
Presented by Dr. David Boggs  
**Nawaraj Chaulagain-** Cybersecurity  
Presented by Dr. Rigoberto Chinchilla  
**Arwa Ibrahim-** Sustainability  
Presented by Dr. Nichole Hugo  
**Samantha Kelton-** Talent Development  
Presented by Dr. David Melton  
**Katherine Ferrarelli-** Technology (On-Campus)  
Presented by Dr. David Melton  
**Nicholas Kirkton-** Technology (Off-Campus)  
Presented by Dr. David Melton

College of Education  
Announced by Dean Laretta Henderson

**Brooke Gibson-** College Student Affairs  
Presented by Dr. Dianne Timm  
**Faisal Tariq-** Higher Education and Community College  
Presented by Dr. Dianne Timm  
**Austin Eichhorn-** Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Presented by Dr. Angela Yoder  
**Karis Lee-** School Counseling  
Presented by Dr. Heidi Larson  
**Ashlee Robinson-** Curriculum and Instruction  
Presented by Dr. Amy Davis  
**Brian Deadmond-** Educational Leadership  
Presented by Dr. Aaron Mattox  
**Alicia Henning-** Special Education  
Presented by Dr. Christina Edmonds-Behrend

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOLAR

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Distinguished Students cont.

College of Health and Human Services  
Announced by Associate Dean Tony Oliver

**Jayme Higgins**- Aging Studies  
Presented by Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke  
**Shelby Freeman**- Communication Disorders & Sciences  
Presented by Dr. Nichole Mulvey  
**Itxaso Agüero Campanon**- Exercise Physiology  
Presented by Dr. Andrew Kerins  
**Bryce Bonin**- Sports Administration  
Presented by Dr. Andrew Kerins  
**Angelique Elser**- Human Services  
Presented by Dr. Jill Bowers  
**Ambrosia Roberts**- Health Promotion  
Presented by Dr. Julie Dietz  
**Cameron Annis**- Nutrition and Dietetics Education Option  
Presented by Dr. Krystal Lynch  
**Lindsey Carlson**- Nutrition and Dietetics  
Presented by Dr. Krystal Lynch

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**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.

Announced by Dr. Beth Gill, Professor, Communication Studies; Vice Chair, Council on Graduate Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Biological Sciences- **Josh Bruegge, Adam Landry, Dahlia Martinez, Mitchell Rosandich, Cassandra Shaffer, Valerie Thompson, Alexis VandenBerg**

Communication Studies- **Josh Grube**

English- **Zahin Zaima**

Political Science- **Heather Vaupel**

School Psychology- **Jade Montgomery, Bayleigh Pasley, Macey Wienstroer, Ashlyn Wingate**

College of Education

Counseling- **Emily Ballew, Emma Burdick, Abigail Bush, Jen Carleton, Samantha Carter, Amanda Casto, Bridget Cunningham, Susan Houston, Karis Lee, Megan McClure, Mariah Mims, Hailey Pick, Corben Roth, Bea Sawyer, Mercedes Tate-Bierman**

College Student Affairs- **Brooke Gibson, Ashley Jezik, Anders Voss, Meghan Wurst**

Curriculum and Instruction- **Ashlee Robinson**

Lumpkin College of Business and Technology

Sustainability- **Isra Abo Iqsaysa**



## 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. Christina Edmonds-Behrend, Professor, Special Education; Member, Council on Graduate Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Art- **Francis Akosah**

Biological Sciences- **Josh Bruegge, Allison Earl, Julia Fitch,**

**Adam Landry, Dahlia Martinez, Mitchell Rosandich,**

**Cassandra Shaffer, Ryan Shaw, Valerie Thompson,**

**Alexis VandenBerg**

Chemistry- **Brianna Haase, Samuel Knebel**

English- **Emily Oldham, Samantha Whiting**

History- **Sergio Vlahovich**

College of Education

Curriculum and Instruction- **Ashlee Robinson**

Counseling- **Abigail Bush, Karis Lee**

College of Health and Human Services

Nutrition and Dietetics- **Jeanette Swick**

## Graduate Scholarships

Announced by Dr. Toqeer Israr, Associate Professor, Technology; Chair, CGS Scholarship Committee

Presented by Mr. Faisal Tariq, Graduate Student Dean; Member, CGS and GSAC Scholarship Committees

Ms. Brooke Gibson, Graduate Student Advisory Council President; Member, GSAC Scholarship Committee

2022 Betty Wright Downing Scholar

**Hannah Spillane**, Communication Disorders and Sciences

Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Nichole Mulvey

2022 Frances Meyer Hampton Scholar

**Norriana Hayes**, Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Richard Roberts

2022 Annie Weller Scholar

**Michelle Thole**, History

Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Lee Patterson

2022 GSAC Scholar, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

**Devangi Pant**, Clinical Psychology

Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Wesley Allan

2022 GSAC Scholar, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

**Lucy Li**, Political Science

Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Ryan Burge

2022 GSAC Scholar, College of Health & Human Services

**Jayme Higgins**, Aging Studies

Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke

2022 GSAC Scholar, College of Health & Human Services

**Ruby Oboro-Offerie**, Human Services

Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Jill Bowers

2022 GSAC Scholar, College of Education

**Ashlee Robinson**, Curriculum and Instruction

Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Dan Carter

2022 GSAC Scholar, Lumpkin College of Business  
and Technology

**Joel Holison**, Sustainability

Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Nichole Hugo

### **Graduate Alumni Fund Outstanding Research/Creative Activity Award**

Announced by Dr. Nikki Hillier, Associate Professor, Health Promotion; Chair, Council on Graduate Studies

*Laura Heuermann*, School Psychology

### **Thesis Award Winners**

Announced by Dr. Jay Bickford, Professor, Curriculum and Instruction; Chair, Council on Graduate Studies Thesis Committee

Presented by Dr. Julie Campbell, Professor, English; Member, Council on Graduate Studies Thesis Committee

Award of Excellence for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

*Billy Davis*, History

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Ed Wehrle

Award of Excellence for the Lumpkin College of Business and Technology

*Allen Johanson*, Technology

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Isaac Slaven

Award of Excellence for the College of Education

*Cathleen Peno*, Curriculum and Instruction

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Sham'ah Md-Yunus

Award of Excellence for the College of Health and Human Services

*Bailey Huebner*, Kinesiology and Sports Studies

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Stacey Ruholl

Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award

*Jessica Derham*, History

Faculty Mentors, Dr. Britto Nathan and  
Dr. Gopal Periyannan

### **King Mertz Research/Creative Activity Award Winners**

Award of Excellence for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

*Tanner Skym*, History

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Sace Elder

Award of Excellence for the Lumpkin College of Business and Technology

*Arwa Ibrahim*, Sustainability, Energy Management

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Nichole Hugo

Award of Excellence for the College of Education

*Elyse Bulla*, Curriculum and Instruction

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Sham'ah Md-Yunus

Award of Excellence for the College of Health and Human Services

*Jayme Higgins*, Aging Studies

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke

King Mertz Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award

*Martin Osei*, Sustainability, Energy Management

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Nichole Hugo



### **2022 Rodney S. Ranes Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award**

Announced by Dr. Scott Meiners, 2021 Ranes Award Recipient; Member, Ranes Award Committee

Presented by Ms. Brooke Gibson, President, Graduate Student Advisory Council; Master's Candidate in College Student Affairs

*Dr. Angela Yoder*, Professor of Counseling and Higher Education

### **Graduate School Leadership Award**

Announced by Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, L.M. Hamand Dean, Graduate School

*Department of Counseling and Higher Education- Dr. Richard Roberts, Department Chair*

The Graduate School Leadership Award recognizes outstanding contributions to graduate education. The Department of Counseling and Higher Education is being recognized for their outstanding leadership in sponsoring and advocating for Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Fellows.

### **Graduate School Award of Excellence**

Announced by Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, L.M. Hamand Dean, Graduate School

*Dr. Mona Davenport, Executive Director, Office of Inclusion and Academic Engagement*

In recognition of valuable support to graduate students by advocating for and encouraging participation in the Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Fellowship program.

### Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award

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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, the Distinguished Master's Thesis Award recognizes the highest achievement in master's degree research.



### Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award

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**Jessica Derham**, Master of Science in Biological Sciences

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

Gopal Periyannan, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry, Faculty Mentor

#### *Determination of the Functional Significance of Glutamate Carboxypeptidase II in Folate Metabolism in *Caenorhabditis elegans**

Glutamate Carboxypeptidase II (GCPII) is a transmembrane metalloprotease produced in many human tissues and many other organisms. One function of GCPII is the transformation of dietary folate to allow its absorption across the intestinal membrane. Folate is a cofactor in the biosynthesis of DNA, RNA, amino acids, and in many other cellular growth and reproduction pathways. Folate cannot be synthesized in higher organisms therefore must be taken through diet and the specific roles of GCPII in this process remain under explored. The goal of this research is to characterize the functional roles of GCPII in folate metabolism and the overall effect of GCPII on the reproductive and physiological biochemistry using the model organism, *Caenorhabditis elegans*. *C. elegans* GCPII is produced as three paralogs: *gcp-2.1*, *gcp-2.2*, and *gcp-2.3*, which are similar in structure to the five paralogs of human GCPII. The main hypothesis is that each GCPII paralog has unique, tissue-specific functional role/s. Sulfamethoxazole mediated folate-limited *E. coli* OP50, the food source for *C. elegans*, was fed to the wild type, *gcp-2.1*, *gcp-2.2*, and *gcp-2.3* null mutant strains. Alternatively, the same *C. elegans* strains were fed the sulfamethoxazole treated OP50 that was supplemented with the folate derivative tetrahydrofolate. Under these conditions, both brood size and longevity were measured to assess the effect of GCPII on folate metabolism and folate mediated reproductive and physiological effects. Additionally, HPLC based folate derivative assessment of the food source was conducted to identify different folate forms. Tetrahydrofolate, dihydrofolate, and folinic acid were present in untreated OP50 but none were detected in SMX treated OP50. Altogether, the results showed that median longevity of the GCPII paralogs increased relative to the wild type and tetrahydrofolate supplementation restored reproduction in all strains at different levels.



**Master's Thesis Award of Excellence in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

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***Billy Davis***, Master of Arts in History  
Ed Wehrle, Ph.D., Professor of History, Faculty Mentor



***Debt, Deregulation, and Death: Neoliberalism, Human Rights, and  
American-Argentine Relations, 1976-1983***

Between 1976 and 1983, Argentina was governed by a military government that oversaw both a brutal campaign against communism and a process of neoliberalization. During this period, the United States provided substantial economic support to Argentina through its approval of loans that enabled Argentina's economic transformation. Early on, the United States was largely apathetic and complacent in regard to Argentina's Dirty War. During the administration of Jimmy Carter, the United States attempted to confront the Argentine military government about its human rights abuses. However, a substantial contingent within the Carter administration pushed back against this initiative and worked to protect American influence within Argentina. This led to the human rights initiative to be an institutional failure. Meanwhile, the neoliberal economic policies of the Argentine military government, which were supported by the United States, initially provided substantial success for the wealthiest Argentines at the cost of the lowest classes within Argentina. This economic success was ultimately short lived, and the Argentine economy was left in a worse state by the time democracy returned in 1983. American-Argentine relations during this period left behind a legacy of failure and complacency, if not apathy, toward human rights abuses.

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**Master's Thesis Award of Excellence in the College of Education**

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***Cathleen Peno***, Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction  
Sham'ah Md-Yunus, Ph.D., Professor of Elementary Education, Faculty Mentor



***Examination of the Integration of Augmented Reality in Technology  
in Science Curriculum***

This study examines students' success rate and level of engagement in a science classroom by using augmented reality (AR) specifically merge cube technology devices. Students' success rate is measured by their grades, which was the standard measure for students' understanding already in place. Engagement is measured by observing whether or not the students are asking questions, volunteering information, working well with others, paying attention in class, and participating actively in discussions. Two research questions guided the study: 1. Does the use of a merge cube in the science classroom improve participants' success rate (grade) in science? and 2. Does using a merge cube increase engagement between genders? Quantitative data was collected from students' grades before and after using a merge cube, while qualitative data was collected from observing how students engage in their learning when using the merge cube and when not using the merge cube. The data revealed that the total number of participants who earned a C or higher on the final chapter test was equal (31) whether the merge cube technology was implemented or not. Even though the number of participants earning an A after using the merge cube decreased, using the merge cube helped improve participants' engagement rate. Although females were more engaged in their learning when using the merge cube, males also showed improvement by having 18 more males with increased engagement. Females increased overall in their level of engagement with complete participation and attendance during class sessions.



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**Master's Thesis Award of Excellence in the College of Health and Human Services**

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**Bailey Huebner**, Master of Science in Kinesiology and Sports Studies

Stacey Ruholl, Ph.D., Professor of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation, Faculty Mentor

***Waist Circumference and the Relation to Aerobic Exercise and Perception of Illness in Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus***

The purpose of this study was to observe the relationship between waist circumference (WC), amount of aerobic exercise performed weekly and overall Health Belief Model (HBM) score in adults with diagnosed type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). Members from a local Midwest adult fitness program ( $n = 5$ ) who had been diagnosed T2DM participated in this study. Participants ranged in age from 70 to 80 years with an average age of 74 years. Four of the participants were female and one participant was male. The questions included in this study were 1.) in those with diagnosed T2DM, was a low overall HBM score correlated with a high WC? and 2.) was there a relationship between the overall HBM score and whether individuals with diagnosed T2DM met American College of Sports Medicine's (ACSM's) guidelines for aerobic exercise? WC measurements were taken by the primary researcher and the type and amount of aerobic exercise participants completed was documented as part of the demographic survey. Participants' perception of illness was analyzed using a version of the Health Belief Model, adapted from Gutierrez and Long (2011). Analysis of the data was done by first calculating Cronbach's alpha to assess internal reliability of the HBM used. Both a Pearson's Correlation Coefficient  $r$  and a  $p$ -value were then calculated to test the first hypothesis, yielding values of  $r = 0.09$  and  $p = 0.89$ , respectively. These results both showed a non-significant relationship between WC measurement and the overall HBM score in this sample of adults with diagnosed T2DM. Similarly, the second hypothesis was assessed by both a Pearson's Correlation Coefficient  $r$  and a  $p$ -value, yielding values of  $r = 0.36$  and  $p = 0.55$ , respectively. These results showed a non-significant relationship between the overall HBM score and whether participants met ACSM's guidelines for aerobic exercise. Overall, the results of this study did not support either hypothesis, indicating no observed relationship between WC measurements and overall HBM score or between overall HBM score and whether individuals met ACSM's guidelines for aerobic exercise. It is recommended that future studies use a larger population in order to obtain a larger sample size, hopefully yielding more significant results. Additionally, it is recommended that future studies sample from multiple facilities and more diverse populations in order to increase the variation in age range and duration of diagnosis among participants.

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**Master's Thesis Award of Excellence in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

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**Allen Johanson**, Master of Science in Technology

Isaac Slaven, Ph.D., Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor

***Identifying Scotomata in Hazard Identification Caused by Ignorance and Overconfidence***

The manufacturing and construction industries are two of the most dangerous professions, and employees are frequently exposed to hazards and hazardous conditions which can lead to serious injury or even death. An observed phenomenon, frequently called the Dunning-Kruger Effect states that unskilled people are often unaware of their shortcomings and those with the higher-level skills often underestimate their abilities. This study examines employees' training, years of experience, and performance to gauge any correlations among these variables in the area of hazard awareness. The goal of this study is to help individuals to recognize blind spots in their knowledge to identify hazards in various situations to keep themselves and others safe.





### 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 and a Graduate Alumni Advisory Board member, 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 Rockford, IL.

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

**Martin Osei**, Master of Science in Sustainability, Energy Management  
Nichole Hugo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sustainability, Faculty Mentor

### *Phase Change Thermal Storage: Cooking with more Power and Versatility*

A 100 W solar panel directly powering an Insulated Solar Electric Cooker (ISEC) can slowly cook 5 kg of food over the course of a day. However, 0.4 kWh of the day's energy can be stored in 2.5 kg of erythritol phase change material, allowing ISEC to cook more rapidly, as well as cook after sunset. We control supercooling by forcing crystallization, making erythritol an ideal thermal storage material for cooking and other thermal-storage processes, but the erythritol degrades in quality when cycled for several months over 180 °C. The efficiency of thermal storage is comparable to that of more expensive systems using battery storage and induction cooktops. ISECs can be built in low-income communities, and the best design varies depending on availability of materials, access to building technologies, and local preferences. A Global Learning Community of researchers, funding agencies, nonprofits, student groups, and local enterprises is collaboratively developing the open source technology with partners in low income communities to optimize designs, construction, and dissemination.

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

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**Tanner Skym**, Master of Arts in History  
Sace Elder, Ph.D., Professor of History, Faculty Mentor

***Being Civil in East Berlin: Media Representation of the  
American Civil Rights Movement in the German Democratic Republic, 1963***

This paper examines newspaper coverage of the March on Washington in 1963 in the socialist German Democratic Republic (GDR, or East Germany). The paper makes a significant contribution to the literature on the history of human rights, the transnational history of the American civil rights movement, and the history of twentieth century Germany. As a history of human rights, this research expands upon studies that describe the ways in which the GDR presented itself a champion of global human rights (even as it suppressed rights at home). While other scholars have examined the GDR's public criticism of American race relations, this research explores the media's representations of the March on Washington and the events that preceded it. Research findings demonstrate how the three newspapers with the largest circulation in East Germany framed American racism in terms of the official Marxist-Leninist ideology spillover of technology and expertise.

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

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**Arwa Ibrahim**, Master of Science in Sustainability, Energy Management  
Nichole Hugo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sustainability, Faculty Mentor

***The Economic and Social Determinance of Electrification Rate;  
Empirical Evidence from Sudan***

The objective of this study is to investigate the relationship between electrification rate as the dependent variable and natural resources rent, general government final consumption expenditure, GDP, GDP per capita, population growth, and power consumption in Sudan for the period between 1990-2014. The aim of the study is to explore factors that are impacting Sudan's total electricity access. A quantitative method using the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) Regression analysis testing approach was applied to study the significance of the relationship between the dependent and independent variables. The results revealed that there is an insignificant relationship between the variables in the study. The study is indicating that variables outside the scope of the study are probably impacting the electrification rate in Sudan.



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

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***Elyse Bulla***, Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction

Sham'ah Md-Yunus, Ph.D., Professor of Elementary Education, Faculty Mentor

***The Impact of Teaching Soft Skills on the Ability Levels of 12th Grade Students***

The purpose of this study was to find out if teaching certain specific soft skills (leadership, communication, and teamwork) increase students' ability levels in those areas. The study used a mixed methods design. It was hypothesized that being specifically taught about and given chances to practice leadership, communication, and teamwork would increase students' skill levels in those areas. The research question that guided the study was as follows: Does specific teaching about certain soft skills (leadership, communication, and teamwork) increase students' ability levels in those areas? Eighteen 12th grade students from two classes, ages 17 and 18, participated in the study for six weeks. Participants rated themselves on three skills (leadership, communication, and teamwork) at the beginning and end of the study. The researcher also rated participants on those skills at the beginning and end of the study. The participants completed a pre- and post- open-ended survey about the three soft skills. In addition, the researcher also used an observation checklist to monitor behaviors of the soft skills during the six weeks of the study. Each of the three skills showed gains when post scores were compared to pre scores. The study revealed that communication in particular showed the highest gains (student rating, increase of 0.61; teacher rating, increase of 1.5; and observation, increase of 1.28), followed by teamwork and leadership.

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**King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Award of Excellence in the  
College of Health and Human Services**

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***Jayne Higgins***, Master of Arts in Aging Studies

Kathleen O'Rourke, Ph.D., Professor of Human Services, Faculty Mentor

***Life Enrichment in a Living Community for Older Adults***

During my 10-week internship, I co-planned and co-implemented a variety of life enrichment opportunities for older adults. Examples include reading the newspaper to residents with vision difficulties, interaction with games of interest, and inviting residents to teach me new activities that were nostalgic and valued to them. We engaged in music enrichment activities, brain-stimulation exercises, and social events on holiday and special occasions. The enrichment through human connection is of primary value and importance, no matter the activity. Sometimes, simply taking the time to go on a walk with a resident provides the most enriching moment of that person's day. I learned from and contributed to residents and the Carriage Crossing site in a variety of ways. First, I appreciated being able to get to know and spend time with the residents; forming these relationships solidified my career goals and enthusiasm for working with the older adult population. Second, I was able to observe firsthand the impact life enrichment has on the residents in a living community for older adults. Finally, this internship opportunity allowed me to learn the interdependencies and holistic connectedness of all departments in a residential setting for older adults. These learning experiences allowed me to apply research and best practices from my graduate coursework. The many reviews of the literature, written research papers, and course presentations completed for my courses came to life in the form of professional and person-centered care, interactions, and contributions during my internship experience at Carriage Crossing.

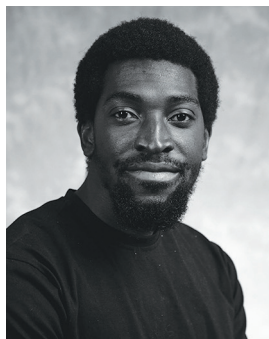




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Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grants

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Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Francis Akosah**, Masters Candidate in Art  
*Trellis for Wisteria Tree*

Matthew Boonstra, M.F.A., Associate Professor of Art, Faculty Mentor

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Josh Bruegge**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

*Impacts of Dam Removals on Fish Assemblages in an Illinois River and  
Restoring Aquatic Connectivity in an Illinois River: Changes in Functional Groups of Fishes*  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Abigail Bush**, Masters Candidate in Counseling and Higher Education  
*Freshman Connection Mentorship Program*

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

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Allison Earl**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

*Effects of Prescribed Fire on Oak Growth and Survival*  
Scott Meiners, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Julia Fitch**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

*Impacts of Three Wastewater Effluents on Larval Fathead Minnow Growth and Survival*  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Brianna Haase**, Masters Candidate in Chemistry

*Investigation of Antibacterial Properties of Ferulic and Glucuronic Acids*  
Gopal Periyannan, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research /Creative Activity Grant

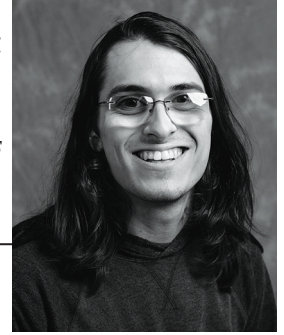
**Samuel Knebel**, Masters Candidate in Chemistry

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

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

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Adam Landry**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Investigating Bigheaded Carp Reproductive Success in Small Rivers*  
Eden Effert-Fanta, Ph.D., Instructor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Karis Lee**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*B.I.O.N.I.C.: Empowering Young Leaders to Create a Positive School Climate*  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Dahlia Martinez**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Diurnal and Seasonal Habitat Use and Movement of Bigheaded Carp in the Wabash and White River and Using Acoustic Telemetry to Assess the Diurnal & Seasonal Habitat Use of Silver Carp in the Wabash and White River*  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Emily Oldham**, Masters Candidate in English  
*Walking in the Light of the Crystal: COVID-19 and the Digital Community of "Final Fantasy XIV Online"*  
Melissa Ames, Ph.D., Professor of English, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Ashlee Robinson**, Masters Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction  
*Making the Most of Preservice Teacher Read-Alouds*  
Amy Davis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Elementary Literacy, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Mitchell Rosandich**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Establishing a Standardized Sampling Method for Channel Catfish in Medium to Small Illinois Impoundments*  
Eden Effert-Fanta, Ph.D., Instructor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Cassandra Shaffer**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Investigation of the Efficacy of Electrified Benthic Trawl on Young of Year Ictalurids in Varying Wabash River Habitat*  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor







Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Ryan Shaw**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Species Identification of Heterogenous Larval Fish Samples via DNA Metabarcoding*  
Eden Effert-Fanta, Ph.D., Instructor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Jeannette Swick**, Masters Candidate in Nutrition and Dietetics  
*Rural Illiopolis Free Outdoor Gym*

Melissa Maulding, M.S., R.D.N., Instructor of Nutrition and Dietetics, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Valerie Thompson**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Population Demographics of Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) in the Wabash River*  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Alexis VandenBerg**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Long-term Effects of Stream Restoration on Fish Communities in a Small Midwestern Stream*  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Sergio Vlahovich**, Masters Candidate in History  
*The International Works of the League High Commission for Refugees from Germany after 1935*  
Sace Elder, Ph.D., Professor of History, Faculty Mentor

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

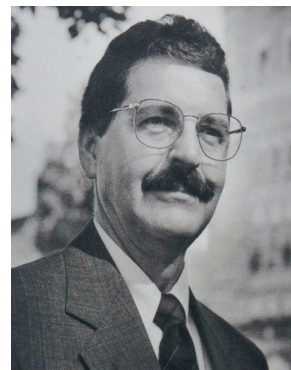
**Samantha Whiting**, Masters Candidate in English  
*Career Development Through Literary Submission*  
Colleen Abel, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English, Faculty Mentor





## 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

**Isra Abo Iqsaysa**, Masters Candidate in Sustainability  
*An Android App to Retrieve the Optimal Time and Distance Between Stations for a Non-Profit Organization*

The Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) | Orlando, Florida  
Toqeer Israr, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor

### Williams Travel Grant

**Emily Ballew**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
*Treating Addiction Through a Pandemic and Beyond*  
Illinois Counseling Association's Annual Fall Conference | Lisle, Illinois  
Danessa Carter, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



### Williams Travel Grant

**Josh Bruegge**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Impacts of Dam Removals on Fish Assemblages in an Illinois River and Restoring Aquatic Connectivity in an Illinois River: Changes in Functional Groups of Fishes*  
National American Fisheries Society Annual Conference | Baltimore, Maryland  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

### Williams Travel Grant

**Emma Burdick**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
*Child-Teacher Relationship Training*  
Illinois Counseling Association Annual Southern Conference | Virtual  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



### Williams Travel Grant

**Abigail Bush**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*Freshmen Connection Mentorship Program*  
Illinois School Counselor Association Annual Conference | Tinley Park, Illinois  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
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**Williams Travel Grant**

**Jen Carleton**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling

*Freshmen Connection Mentorship Program*

Illinois School Counselor Association Annual Conference | Tinley Park, Illinois

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

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Samantha Carter**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling

*The Benefits of Music Therapy in Schools*

Illinois Counseling Association Annual Southern Conference | Virtual

Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Amanda Casto**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

*Creative Expression in Groups*

Illinois Counseling Association Annual Southern Conference | Virtual

Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Bridget Cunningham**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

*Connecting Counselors-in-Training Through Online Experiential Group Class*

Illinois Counseling Association Annual Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois

Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Brooke Gibson**, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs

*Sense of Belonging: Moving Beyond the Asterisk Year and*

*Quarantine and Isolation Experiences in College Students*

National Conference on First Year Experience and Students in Transition | Virtual

Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling and Higher Ed, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Josh Grube**, Masters Candidate in Communication Studies

*"The Medium is the Message": Especially When Breaking Up With Someone*

Central States Communication Association Annual Conference | Madison, Wisconsin

S.M. Walus, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Susan Houston**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling

*The Benefits of Music Therapy in Schools*

Illinois Counseling Association Annual Southern Conference | Virtual

Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor





Williams Travel Grant

**Ashley Jezik**, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs  
*Mindfulness in College Student Affairs*

Student Affairs 101 Conference | Dekalb, Illinois

Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Professor of College Student Affairs, Faculty Mentor



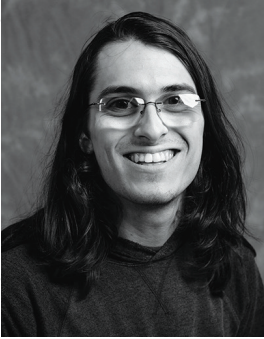
Williams Travel Grant

**Adam Landry**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

*Exploring Invasive Carp Reproduction in Tributaries of Illinois Rivers and  
Investigating Bigheaded Carp Ichthyoplankton Presence in Tributaries of the Illinois River*

National American Fisheries Society Annual Conference | Baltimore, Maryland

Eden Effert-Fanta, Ph.D., Instructor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Karis Lee**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*Freshmen Connection Mentorship Program*

Illinois School Counselor Association Annual Conference | Tinley Park, Illinois

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



Williams Travel Grant

**Dahlia Martinez**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

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

Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference | Des Moines, Iowa

National American Fisheries Society Annual Conference | Baltimore, Maryland

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



Williams Travel Grant

**Megan McClure**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
*Helping Teachers Identify the Needs of Their Students: How Counselors Can Provide Teachers with Interventions*

Illinois Counseling Association Annual Southern Conference | Virtual

Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Mariah Mims**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

*African Americans and Mental Health: Stigma, Treatment Accessibility, and  
African American Counselors*

Illinois Counseling Association Annual Southern Conference | Virtual

Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Jade Montgomery**, Specialist Candidate in School Psychology  
*Praise in Middle and High School: A Systematic Review*

National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention | Boston, Massachusetts

Margaret Floress, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Faculty Mentor





EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
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**Williams Travel Grant**

**Bayleigh Pasley**, Specialist Candidate in School Psychology  
*Social Media and Student Ethical Behavior: Guidelines for Supervisors*  
National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention | Boston, Massachusetts  
Margaret Floress, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Hailey Pick**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*Freshmen Connection Mentorship Program*  
Illinois School Counselor Association Annual Conference | Tinley Park, Illinois  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Ashlee Robinson**, Masters Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction  
*Making the Most of Preservice Teacher Read-Alouds*  
Association of Teacher Educators' 2022 Annual Meeting | Chicago, Illinois  
Amy Davis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Elementary Literacy, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Mitchell Rosandich**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Establishing a Standardized Sampling Method for Channel Catfish in Medium to Small Illinois Impoundments*  
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Des Moines, Iowa  
Eden Effert-Fanta, Ph.D., Instructor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Corben Roth**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*Tabletop Role Play Therapy*  
Illinois Counseling Association Annual Southern Conference | Virtual  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Bea Sawyer**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*The Benefit of Music Therapy in Schools*  
Illinois Counseling Association Annual Southern Conference | Virtual  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Cassandra Shaffer**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Investigation of the Efficacy of Electrified Benthic Trawl on Young of Year Ictalurids in Varying Wabash River Habitat*  
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Des Moines, Iowa  
National American Fisheries Society Annual Conference | Baltimore, Maryland  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Mercedes Tate-Bierman**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
*Helping Teachers Identify the Needs of Their Students:  
How Counselors Can Provide Teachers with Interventions*  
Illinois Counseling Association Annual Southern Conference | Virtual  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Valerie Thompson**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Population trends of Channel Catfish *Ictalurus punctatus* in the Wabash River  
Observed Through Standardized Long-term Monitoring*  
Illinois American Fisheries Society Conference | Champaign, Illinois  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Heather Vaupel**, Masters Candidate in Political Science  
*Why Underprivileged Students do not Intend to Study Abroad*  
Midwest Political Science Association | Chicago, Illinois  
Erin Carlin, Ph.D., Instructor of Political Science, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Alexis VandenBerg**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Long-term Effects of Stream Restoration on Fish Communities in a Small Midwestern Stream*  
National American Fisheries Society Annual Conference | Baltimore, Maryland  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Anders Voss**, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs  
*Mindfulness in College Student Affairs*  
Student Affairs 101 Conference | Dekalb, Illinois  
Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling and Higher Ed, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Macey Wienstroer**, Specialist Candidate in School Psychology  
*Praise Research in Middle and High School: A Systematic Review of the Literature*  
National Association of School Psychologists 2022 Annual Convention | Boston, Massachusetts  
Margaret Floress, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Ashlyn Wingate**, Specialist Candidate in School Psychology  
*Praise Research in Middle and High School: A Systematic Review of the Literature*  
National Association of School Psychologists 2022 Annual Convention | Boston, Massachusetts  
Margaret Floress, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Faculty Mentor







**Williams Travel Grant**

**Meghan Wurst**, Masters Candidate in Special Education

*Adapting Made Simple*

Illinois Conference of Exceptional Children | Virtual

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

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Zahin Zaima**, Masters Candidate in English

*Allusion of the West in the South Asian Women's Beauty Ideals*

South Asian Literary Association's Annual Conference | Virtual

Umme Al-wazedi, Ph.D, Associate Professor of English, Alumni Mentor



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**Scholarships**

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**2022 Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholar**

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

**Hannah Spillane**, Masters Candidate in Communication Disorders and Sciences

**2022 Frances Meyer Hampton Graduate Scholar**

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

**Norriana Hayes**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling



**2022 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.

**Michelle Thole**, Masters Candidate in History

**2022 Graduate Alumni Advisory Board Scholar**

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

**Laura Heuermann**, Masters Candidate in School Psychology



**2022 GSAC Scholar in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

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

**Devangi Pant**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Psychology



**2022 GSAC Online Scholar in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

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

**Lucy Li**, Masters Candidate in Political Science-Public Admin/Public Policy



**2022 GSAC Online Scholar in the College of Health and Human Services**

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

**Jayme Higgins**, Masters Candidate in Aging Studies



**2022 GSAC Scholar in the Lumpkin College of Health and Human Services**

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

**Ruby Oboro-Offerie**, Masters Candidate in Human Services



**2022 GSAC Scholar in the Lumpkin College of Business and Technology**

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

**Joel Holison**, Masters Candidate in Sustainability



**2022 GSAC Online Scholar in the College of Education**

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

**Ashlee Robinson**, Masters Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction



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**2022 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.

**Angela Yoder, Ph.D.**, Professor, Counseling and Higher Education



## Hamand Society of Graduate Scholars

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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 1961 to 1974. Before her passing in 2011, his wife Martha provided support for the Society, which was created in 2010. Daughters, Drs. Carol Stephens and Wendy Venet, continue their parent's legacy in supporting graduate education at EIU.



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### 2022 Hamand Scholar

***Lindsey Carlson***, Masters Candidate in Nutrition and Dietetics

Health and wellness dominate Lindsey Carlson's life and her academic studies. An accomplished and award-winning student athlete, she applies her passion for healthy living in her research and in her graduate assistantship. As a GA for the Health Education Resource Center, Lindsey served as the Health Communication and Marketing Coordinator. In addition to her duties for that role she accepted the offer to mentor students in a professional writing course where she assisted them in producing health-related posters, blog posts, and other health education and writing related tasks. She also volunteered to mentor undergraduate students interested in pursuing graduate studies in nutrition and dietetics through the Graduate Network for Undergraduates. Lindsey's research

includes the effect of nutrition education on adolescent consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and cooling methods for athletes in hot temperatures. She partnered with a fellow nutrition and dietetics student to develop a program about proper hydration that incorporates goal setting, monitoring, follow up, and evaluation for the track and field athletes. Along with her excellence in scholarship, during her graduate studies she has also distinguished herself as one of the most outstanding student athletes in the history of Eastern Illinois University. She is the 2021 Ohio Valley Conference's Women's Cross Country champion and was named the OVC Athlete of the Year; she is a member of the NCAA All-Midwest Cross Country Region, and is a two-time school record holder in track and field. Her accomplishments in Track and Cross Country are so impressive given that she is a relative newcomer to competitive running. As an EIU undergraduate student, she competed on the women's soccer team, and was named to the 2017 All-OVC team. She has been recognized by the USA NCAA Track and Field Association as well. Lindsey is a member of the Graduate Student Advisory Council, the Collegiate and Professional Sports Dietetic Association, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.



### 2022 Hamand Scholar

***Austin Eichhorn***, Masters Candidate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Using her skills gained as a graduate student clinician, Austin Eichhorn incorporates her passion for mental health awareness into her leadership positions on campus. In her service as president of Chi Sigma Iota, the discipline's honors organization, she provided advocacy for her fellow students and delivered high quality programming such as a self-care workshop. Her support of the Graduate Student Advisory Council included researching the purchase of an online app to assist graduate students in meditation and relaxation techniques. Beyond campus, Austin worked to make an impact on the community where she serves her internship, developing a curriculum for an adolescent group to use within the school system. Initially designed to work with adolescent girls, after meeting with the school social worker and principal she determined a need for a coed group and adjusted her curriculum to execute an effective group where adolescents learned communication and coping strategies to improve overall mental health. This group was such a success, it is being continued into the spring semesters with an increased number of participants to gain maximum benefit. Austin's graduate research involves the practice of self-care as a protective factor against vicarious trauma and burnout among counselors-in-training, for which she and her faculty mentor, Dr. Angela Yoder, received a College of Education grant. She is a member of the executive board of the Graduate Student Advisory Council, president of Chi Sigma Iota, and a Paul Ward Scholar.

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### 2022 Hamand Scholar

***Angelique Elser***, Masters Candidate in Human Services

Combining her scholarship with her community service, Angelique Elser works to promote social services to the local community. In her capacity as president of the Charleston Carnegie Library board of directors she is launching a project to connect library patrons to community resources, such as mental health counseling, public assistance, and drug and alcohol counseling. She served as an executive assistant to the Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce. As an advisory member for CCAR Industries in Charleston, she also teamed with a fellow Human Services student to organize a fundraiser for the group. Angelique has also served international populations; she served at a British nursery school in Alexandria, Egypt and as a host for a foreign exchange student from Brazil through the Rotary Club. In addition to her volunteer service in the Charleston and International communities, she has provided service in the EIU community as she serves as an advisor with TRIO and works for the tutoring center at Gregg Technology through her graduate assistant role with the Office of Inclusion and Academic Engagement.



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### 2022 Hamand Scholar

***Shelby Freeman***, Masters Candidate in Communication Disorders and Sciences

Transitioning her undergraduate departmental honor's thesis research to her graduate studies earned Shelby Freeman the opportunity to present at national conference. She and her faculty mentors developed a survey exploring foster parents' knowledge and experiences related to developmental trauma for which she was invited to present at the American Speech-Language Hearing Association annual convention in Washington D.C. Shelby volunteers as a mentor in the Students with Autism Transitional Education Program (STEP), working with groups of students on the Autism spectrum to support their study skills. She provided individualized mentorship on a weekly basis to one specific student, helping the client to stabilize emotions and create an environment in which the client was able to successfully learn the communication skills needed to fully participate in academic and social environments. Shelby is a member of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA), a student chapter of the national professional organization for speech language pathology and audiology and has served as the chapter's vice president. She is a recipient of the Frances Meyer Hampton graduate scholarship.





**2022 Hamand Scholar**

***Brooke Gibson***, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs

Brooke Gibson's graduate assistantship duties for the Office of Student Accountability and Support included addressing student needs within the EIU COVID-19 pandemic support system. Her work helped to inform her thesis research on the experience of isolation and quarantine among graduate students. Her research has led to opportunities to present her findings regarding the sense of belonging that students have had toward the institution during this historic time period. She presented at the Midwest First Year Conference, the National Conference on First Year Experience and Students in Transition, and was invited to present at the International American College Personnel Association Convention. She earned two Williams Travel Grants in support of her research presentations.

As president of the Graduate Student Advisory Council, an elected position, she worked to bring professional development opportunities to graduate students and focused on building community among graduate students with events and activities. Brooke is a member of the National Orientation Directors Association, the American College Personnel Association, and serves as a committee member on EIU's Comprehensive Tutoring Center and the Housing Training Initiative. She also co-taught EIU 1111, the university's freshman foundations course.

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**2022 Hamand Scholar**

***Ashlee Robinson***, Masters Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction

As a research assistant Ashlee Robinson collected and analyzed data for the case study, Making the Most of Preservice Teacher Read-Alouds. She wrote the abstract for the paper, which has been submitted to the peer-reviewed journal, "Action in Teacher Education." Presenting the research at the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) annual conference earned her a Williams Travel Grant and a Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant. Ashlee serves on her academic department's curriculum committee and on the Graduate Student Advisory Council. She has been a special friend for Special Olympic athletes for the past three years, and was a ministry leader for Immanuel Lutheran Campus Ministry. Ashlee is also a GSAC scholarship recipient.



## Class of 2022 Distinguished Graduate Students



Cameron Annis  
Nutrition and Dietetics Education



Desiree Arps  
Art Education



Guy Bates  
Math Education



Bryce Bonin  
Sports Administration



Itxaso Aguero Campanon  
Exercise Physiology



Lindsey Carlson  
Nutrition and Dietetics



Nawaraj Chaulagain  
Cybersecurity



Noelle Chubb  
Political Science



Clayton Crozier  
Clinical Psychology

## Class of 2022 Distinguished Graduate Students



Brian Deadmond  
Educational Leadership



Austin Eichhorn  
Clinical Mental Health Counseling



Angelique Elser  
Human Services



Katherine Ferrarelli  
Technology  
(On Campus)



Shelby Freeman  
Communication Disorders & Sciences



Brooke Gibson  
College Student Affairs



Rebecca Gieskes  
Public Administration/Public Policy



Josh Grube  
Communication Studies



Balamani Guduru  
Chemistry



## Class of 2022 Distinguished Graduate Students



Alicia Henning  
Special Education



Jayme Higgins  
Aging Studies



Arwa Ibrahim  
Sustainability



Samantha Kelton  
Talent Development



Nicholas Kirkton  
Technology  
(Off Campus)



James Kowalski  
History



Karis Lee  
School Counseling



Sarah Loisch  
Music



Subrata Majumder  
Business Administration  
(Online)

## Class of 2022 Distinguished Graduate Students



Molly Markley  
Art



Dahlia Martinez  
Biological Sciences (Thesis Option)



Farouk Olaitan  
Geographic Information Sciences



Ambrosia Roberts  
Health Promotion



Ashlee Robinson  
Curriculum and Instruction



Robert Sotelo  
Biological Sciences  
(Non Thesis Option)



Dominique Starling  
School Psychology



Carol Bruce-Tagoe  
Economics



Faisal Tariq  
Higher Education  
and Community College

## Class of 2022 Distinguished Graduate Students



Christina Wilkie  
Music Education



Kacey Woelber  
Business Administration (Off-campus)



Megan Wooten  
Biological Sciences (Online)



Bryan Wysopal  
English

## 2021 Commencement Speaker

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 speaker representing the Graduate School was selected on the basis of a submitted competitive essay and featured during the Fall 2021 ceremony on Saturday, December 11, 2021.



**Kiyla DeVoss**  
Master of Science in Education, Curriculum and Instruction  
Featured Speaker



2022 Graduate Student Advisory Council  
Executive Board



Brooke Gibson  
President



Faisal Tariq  
Student Dean



Anders Voss  
Vice President for Programming



Natalie Roberson  
Vice President for  
Administrative Activities



Dahlia Martinez  
Vice President for  
Diversity and Inclusion



Justin Richards  
Vice President for  
Public Relations



Austin Eichhorn  
Graduate School  
Student Adviser

2021-2022 Council on Graduate Studies

Nikki Hillier, Ph.D., Chair  
Beth Gill, Ph.D., Vice Chair  
Kevin Anderson, Ph.D.  
Jim Bruehler, Ph.D.  
Christina Edmonds-Behrend, Ph.D.  
Nichole Hugo, Ph.D.  
Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, Ph.D.  
Devin DeBoth, Student Representative

2021-2022 Graduate Student Advisory Council

Brooke Gibson, President  
Austin Eichhorn, Graduate School Student Adviser  
Dahlia Martinez, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion  
Justin Richards, Vice President for Public Relations  
Natalie Roberson, Vice President for Administrative Activities  
Faisal Tariq, Student Dean  
Anders Voss, Vice President for Programming  
Lori Henderson, Staff Adviser  
Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Faculty Adviser

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Programs

Matt Boonstra, M.F.A.- Art, Coordinator  
Chris Kahler, M.F.A.- Art Education and Community Arts, Chair and Coordinator  
Britto Nathan, Ph.D.- Biological Sciences, Coordinator  
Radu Semenuic, Ph.D.- Chemistry, Coordinator  
Wesley Allan, Ph.D.- Clinical Psychology, Coordinator  
Angela Jacobs, Ph.D.- Communication Studies, Coordinator  
Ali Moshtagh, Ph.D.- Economics, Coordinator  
Randy Beebe, Ph.D.- English, Coordinator  
Lee Patterson, Ph.D.- History, Coordinator  
David Viertel, Ph.D.- Geographic Information Sciences, Coordinator  
Jamie Ryan, D.M.A.- Music, Coordinator  
Peter Wiles, Ph.D.- Mathematics Education, Coordinator  
Ryan Burge, Ph.D.- Political Science, Coordinator  
Margaret Floress, Ph.D.- School Psychology, Coordinator

Graduate School Alumni Advisory Board

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

The Graduate School

Ryan C. Hendrickson, Ph.D., L.M. Hamand Dean  
Lana Beasley, Administrative Aide  
Lori Henderson, Publicity/Promotions Specialist and Director, Integrative Graduate Studies Institute  
Tracey Hutchison, Admissions/Records Officer  
Cathy Gordon, Office Manager

College of Education Graduate Programs

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

College of Health and Human Services Graduate Programs

Kathleen O'Rourke, Ph.D.- Aging Studies, Coordinator  
Nichole Mulvey, Ph.D.- Communication Disorders & Sciences, Coordinator  
Jill Bowers, Ph.D.- Human Services, Coordinator  
Julie Dietz, Ph.D.- Health Promotion, Chair and Coordinator  
Andrew Kerins, Ph.D.- Exercise Physiology, Sports Administration, Coordinator  
Krystal Lynch, Ph.D.- Nutrition and Dietetics, Coordinator

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









The Graduate School  
600 Lincoln Avenue  
Charleston, Illinois 61920  
217.581.2220  
[www.eiu.edu/graduate](http://www.eiu.edu/graduate)