

# Graduate Scholar

April 2017

## Journal of Scholarship and Recognition



Matthew Cain, 2017 Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award Winner and Dr. Melinda Mueller, Faculty Mentor and Professor of Political Science

The Graduate School



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™

# EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## GRADUATE SCHOLAR

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### Graduate Recognition

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Distinguished Graduate Student Awards and Hamand Society Scholars  
Williams Travel Grant Winners  
Research/Creative Activity Grant Winners  
Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholar  
Frances Meyer Hampton Graduate Scholar  
Mary Bear McClay Graduate Scholar  
Annie Weller Graduate Scholar  
UPI Graduate Scholar  
Plummer/HWC Labs Outstanding Research Award Winner  
Graduate Alumni Fund Outstanding Research/Creative Activity Award Winner  
King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Awards  
Award of Excellence- College of Arts and Humanities  
Award of Excellence- Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences  
Award of Excellence- College of Education and Professional Studies  
Award of Excellence- College of Sciences  
Distinguished Research Creative/Activity Award Winner

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

Graduate School Leadership Award  
Graduate School Award of Excellence  
Graduate Faculty Recognition  
Rodney S. Ranes Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award

### Graduate Scholarship

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

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

Research/Creative Activity Grants  
Williams Travel Grants  
Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholarship  
Frances Meyer Hampton Graduate Scholarship  
Mary Bear McClay Graduate Scholarship  
Annie Weller Graduate Scholarship  
UPI Scholarship  
Plummer/HWC Labs Outstanding Research Award  
Graduate Alumni Fund Outstanding Research/Creative Activity Award  
Hamand Society Scholars  
Graduate Student Commencement Speaker

The Graduate School and the Graduate Student Advisory Council publish the Graduate Scholar annually to recognize and honor those who have achieved excellence in graduate study at Eastern Illinois University.



Eastern Illinois University Graduate Scholar  
2016-2017 Academic Year  
Editor: Lori Henderson, The Graduate School  
Studio Photography: Bev Cruse, Booth Library  
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Academic Technology Support

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Awards Ceremony | April 13, 2017

Introductions and Opening Remarks

Ms. Samantha Young, President, Graduate Student Advisory Council

Dr. David M. Glassman, President | Dr. Blair M. Lord, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Ms. Shifa Shamim, Graduate Student Dean | Dr. Ryan C. Hendrickson, Interim Dean of the Graduate School

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Distinguished Graduate Student Awards

College of Arts and Humanities

Announced by Interim Dean Anita Shelton

**Marcos Serafim Neto**- Art

Presented by Ms. Ann Coddington

**Paula Treisch** - Art Education

Presented by Dr. Patricia Belleville

**Jinsong Huang** - Community Arts

Presented by Dr. Patricia Belleville

**Kelli Halfman**- Communication Studies

Presented by Dr. Angela Jacobs

**Heather Lamb**- English

Presented by Dr. Randall Beebe

**Michael Bradley**- History

Presented by Dr. Charles Foy

**Hailey Paige**- Historical Administration

Presented by Dr. Nora Pat Small

**Jennifer Antkowiak**- Music

Presented by Dr. Anna Cromwell

College of Sciences

Announced by Interim Dean Doug Klarup

**Jordan Pesik**- Biological Sciences

Presented by Dr. Britto Nathan

**Ian Tinsley**- Chemistry

Presented by Dr. Barbara Lawrence

**Cassie Vogt**- Clinical Psychology

Presented by Dr. Wesley Allan

**Sydney Scamihorn**- Communication Disorders & Sciences

Presented by Dr. Rebecca Throneburg

**Ahmed Salim Nuhu**- Economics

Presented by Dr. Mukti Upadhyay

**Matthew Wellbrook**- Geographic Information Sciences

Presented by Dr. David Viertel

**Brianna Lytle**- Mathematics

Presented by Dr. Alejandra Alvarado

**Lee Walk**- Math Education Option

Presented by Dr. Peter Wiles

**Valida Azamatova**- Political Science

Presented by Dr. Melinda Mueller

**Shelby Beschta** - School Psychology

Presented by Dr. Assege HaileMariam

Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences

Announced by Dean Mahyar Izadi

**Samantha Rawlings**- Aging Studies

Presented by Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke

**Amanda Patterson**- Business Administration (On-Campus)

Presented by Dr. Melody Wollan

**Sarah Wilds**- Business Administration (Off-Campus)

Presented by Dr. Melody Wollan

**Grace Campbell**- Nutrition and Dietetics

Presented by Dr. Melanie Burns

**Hannah Miller**- Family & Consumer Sciences

Presented by Dr. Linda Simpson

**Noah Przygoda**- Sustainable Energy

Presented by Dr. Isaac Slaven

**Beluchukwu Ebede**- Technology (On-Campus)

Presented by Dr. David Melton

**Dennis Lusiana**- Technology (Off-Campus)

Presented by Dr. David Melton

College of Education and Professional Studies

Announced by Dean Diane Jackman

**Megan Corder**- College Student Affairs

Presented by Dr. Dianne Timm

**Sheldon Aaron**- Clinical Counseling

Presented by Dr. Catherine Polydore

**Jaelyn Pickowitz**- School Counseling

Presented by Dr. Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo

**Eric Helbig**- Educational Leadership (MSED)

Presented by Dr. Nick Osborne

**Jill Reedy**- Educational Leadership (Specialist's)

Presented by Dr. Nick Osborne

**Krista Lotz**- Elementary Education (Teacher Certification)

Presented by Dr. John Bickford

**Katie Silva**- Elementary Education (MSED)

Presented by Dr. John Bickford

**Kristen Dahm**- Health Promotion and Leadership

Presented by Dr. Sheila Simons

**Caitlin Wend**- Kinesiology and Sports Studies

Presented by Dr. Scott Ronspies

**Michelle Roberts**- Special Education

Presented by Dr. Melissa Jones

### **Hamand Society of Graduate Scholars**

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Announced by Dr. Rick Roberts, Chair, Hamand Board

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

*Michael Bradley*- History

*Heather Lamb*- English

*Sheldon Aaron*- Clinical Counseling

*Jaclyn Pickowitz*- School Counseling

*Ahmed Salim Nuhu*- Economics

### **Williams Travel Grants**

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Williams Travel Grants are awarded in the fall and spring. Students will be announced by their college and program affiliation. Details of their outstanding research are listed in subsequent pages of this program.

Announcing the College of Sciences- Dr. Dan Sheeran, Professor, Chemistry; Chair, Williams Travel Grants Committee

Biological Sciences- *Pabitra Aryal, Bethany Hoster, Neeta Parajulee Karki, Jordan Pesik, Daniel Roth, Rachana Shrestha, Jessica Thornton*

Chemistry- *Ian Tinsley*

Economics- *Kehinde Abiodun, William Campbell, Ahmed Salim Nuhu*

Political Science- *Valida Azamatova, Owura Kuffuor, Rafael Felipe Molina, Jonathan Williams, Miles Williams*

School Psychology- *Kaci Clark, Morgan Eldridge, Nicole Menolascino, Samantha Rushworth*

Announcing the College of Education and Professional Studies- Dr. Jeanne Okrasinski, Interim Chair, Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education; Member, Travel Grants Committee

Counseling- *Sheldon Aaron, David Ehlers, Victor Epperson, Haley Honselman, Cory Jones, Tiffany Kelly, Samantha Kledzik, Cayla Maurer, Megan McQueen, Jamie Meagher, Kendra Moultrie, Kelsey Oglesby, Jacki Pickowitz, Danielle Pincente, Laura Plummer, Brandon Smith, Tiffany Somerville, Patrick Wildman*

College Student Affairs- *Megan Corder, Rachel Lindhart, Kwame Patterson, Stephen Roach, Kathryn Sikora*

Kinesiology and Sports Studies- *Doo Jae Park*

Announcing the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences- Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke, Graduate Coordinator, Aging Studies

Business Administration- *Achira Sedari Mudiyansele*

Nutrition and Dietetics- *Grace Campbell, Kaitlyn Rzasa, Victoria Sandercock, Carol Wong*

Sustainable Energy/Technology Dual Degree Option- *Haizhou Li*

Technology- *Beluchukwu Ebede*

Sustainable Energy- *Jeffrey Chandler, Ayaz Khamisani, Chirag Pansuriya*

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

English- *Alexandra Dean, Heather Lamb, Chelsea Picken, Fabian Rempfer*

History- *Michael Bradley*

## 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. David Boggs, Assistant Chair of Management, School of Business; Chair, Research/Creative Activity Grants Committee; Member, Council of Graduate Studies

College of Sciences

Biological Sciences- **Samuel Gradle, Bethany Hoster, Israt Jahan, Neeta Parajulee Karki, Jordan Pesik, Shannon Regan, Daniel Roth, Jessica Thornton** Chemistry- **Ian Tinsley**

College of Education and Professional Studies

Counseling- **Sheldon Aaron**

Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences

Family and Consumer Sciences- **Sha Wilbern** Sustainable Energy- **Erika Murray**

College of Arts and Humanities

Communication Studies- **Brandon Goodman, Allison Grussing** Historical Administration- **Amanda Roberts**

History- **Daniel Hays**

## Graduate Scholarships

Announced by Dr. Edmund Wehrle, Vice Chair, Council on Graduate Studies

Presented by Dr. Chris Laingen, Chair, Council on Graduate Studies

2017 Mary Bear McClay Scholar

**Kathryn English**, Mathematics Education  
Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Peter Wiles

2017 Betty Wright Downing Scholar

**Diana Burns**, Nutrition and Dietetics  
Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Melanie Burns

2017 Frances Meyer Hampton Scholar

**Owura Kuffuor**, Political Science  
Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Melinda Mueller

2017 Annie Weller Scholar

**Moses Awinsong**, History  
Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Sace Elder

2017 University Professionals of Illinois Scholar

**Lata Udari**, Biological Sciences  
Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Britto Nathan

## Plummer/HWC Labs Outstanding Research Award

Presented by Norm Plummer, '71, '72, Member, Graduate Alumni Advisory Board; Award Founder

**Beluchukwu Ebede**, Technology

**Ashleigh Cable**, Biological Sciences

## Graduate Alumni Fund Outstanding Research/Creative Activity Award

**Jamol Abdiev**, MBA

### **Thesis Award Winners**

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Announced by Dr. Suzie Park, Dean's Appointment Council on Graduate Studies

Presented by Dr. Kiran Padmaraju, Member, Council on Graduate Studies

Award of Excellence for the College of Arts and Humanities

*Alyssa Peterson*, History

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Charles Foy

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

*Resa Ware*, Family and Consumer Sciences

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Michelle Sherwood

Award of Excellence for the College of Education and Professional Studies

*Jena Borah*, Elementary Education

Faculty Mentor, Dr. John Bickford

Award of Excellence for the College of Sciences

*Asela Samee Dikkumbura*, Chemistry

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Rebecca Peebles

Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award

*Matthew Cain*, Political Science

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Melinda Mueller

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

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Announced by Dr. Melinda Mueller, Chair, Council on Graduate Studies Thesis Committee; Graduate Coordinator, Political Science

Presented by Nancie King Mertz, '79, Member, Graduate Alumni Advisory Board, and Award Founder

Award of Excellence for the College of Arts and Humanities

*Erin Harrington*, History

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Charles Foy

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

*Elyse Podwojski*, MBA

Faculty Mentor, Dr. David Boggs

Award of Excellence for the College of Education and Professional Studies

*Jessica Hanna*, Elementary Education

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Sham'ah Md-Yunus

Award of Excellence for the College of Sciences

*Kehinde Abiodun*, Economics

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Noel Brodsky

King Mertz Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award

*Ahmed Salim Nuhu*, Economics

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Mukti Upadhyay

### **2017 Rodney S. Raney Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award**

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Announced by Dr. Charles Foy, 2016 Raney Award Recipient; Member, Raney Award Committee

Presented by Ms. Shifa Shamim, Student Dean, Graduate School; Master's Candidate in Business Administration

*Dr. Rebecca Throneburg*, Professor of Communication Disorders and Sciences

### **Graduate School Leadership Award**

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Announced by Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Interim Dean, Graduate School

Presented by Ms. Samantha Young, President, Graduate Student Advisory Council; Master's Candidate in Aging Studies

#### ***Booth Library***

Steve Brantley, Associate Professor and Head, Reference and Instruction Services

Ellen Corrigan, Associate Professor, Library Services

Kirstin Duffin, Reference Librarian

The Graduate School Leadership Award recognizes outstanding contribution to graduate education. Booth Library is being recognized for their support and enhancement of graduate thesis research, and mentoring of graduate students.

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

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Announced by Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Interim Dean, Graduate School

Presented by Ms. Samantha Young, President, Graduate Student Advisory Council; Master's Candidate in Aging Studies

#### ***Blair M. Lord, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs***

In recognition of his outstanding legacy to graduate education during his tenure as provost and vice president of academic affairs at Eastern Illinois University.

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

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



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

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**Matthew Cain**, Master of Arts in Political Science

Melinda Mueller, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Faculty Mentor

***Political Intolerance in the 21st Century: The Role of Ideology and Emotion in Determining Intolerant Judgements***

Decades of research in Social Psychology have demonstrated that political intolerance is not displayed equally with respect to ideology. In particular, conservatives and those with right-wing beliefs are much more likely to display intolerant judgments than those with liberal or left-wing beliefs. This “prejudice gap” has been found to be so ubiquitous that it is now the conventional wisdom regarding the relationship between ideology and intolerance. However, a small but growing literature challenges this presumed ideological asymmetry and has instead found that liberals and conservatives display intolerance under certain circumstances. Synthesizing the recent research showing ideological symmetry in intolerance judgments, the Ideological-Conflict Hypothesis (ICH) was developed. This thesis attempts to expand the literature on the ICH by integrating it with multidimensional models of ideology and the growing literature on negative emotions. The findings of this analysis support the general assertion made by the ICH, but also challenges its utility when predicted by multidimensional models of ideology. Additionally, the analysis shows the crucial role of an understudied emotion in determining political intolerance: hatred. The analysis thus challenges scholars to better integrate the findings of the ICH with more complete models of ideology, while expanding the research of emotional effects on intolerance to include hatred.



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

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***Alyssa Peterson***, Master of Arts in History  
Charles Foy, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Faculty Mentor



***“We live in the midst of death”:  
Medical Theory, Public Health, and the 1793 Yellow Fever Epidemic***

Much has been written on the history of disease in early America. The stories of the men and women who lived through and were affected by the 1793 Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic, including the physicians who treated the victims, have been thoroughly covered by historians. What has yet to be analyzed is the medical context in which the epidemic existed. Medical education, scientific thought, and particularly past experiences came together during this outbreak to influence both the medical establishment and governments' decisions regarding appropriate responses. Doctors' medical education shaped their beliefs and predisposed them to certain courses of treatment, including their understanding of disease. But it was doctors' prior experience with tropical diseases that primarily shaped doctors' response to this epidemic. Those, such as Philadelphian Benjamin Rush, who had little or no contact with yellow fever were less likely to accept new theories. In contrast, physicians such as Frenchman Jean Devèze, a physician in Haiti, who had clinical experience with the disease were open to different methods of treatment based on their prior experiences. For example, Devèze's use of autopsy and empirical medicine came as a result of his background, something Rush did not have exposure to. Using the 1793 epidemic and these two prominent doctors, this thesis demonstrates that a physician's formal education played a small part to their approach to treatment. Instead, it was physicians' prior experience throughout the Atlantic that played the critical role in the epidemic. By focusing on physicians' prior medical experiences, this thesis will demonstrate an important Atlantic context to the 1793 epidemic and expand the history on the epidemic beyond the standard social history by placing the event in the larger context of medical history. In doing so, it makes an important contribution to the medical and public health history of early America.

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

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***Resa Ware***, Master of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences  
Michelle Sherwood, Ph.D., Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences



***The Impact of Social Media on the Grieving Process***

In 2015 the Pew Research Center reported that 72% of adult Internet users are on Facebook and it continues to be the most used social networking site in the world (Duggan, 2015). Facebook is a source of social expression, connections, and support for others. It is becoming much easier to express feelings such as grief in an online setting. In fact, the online expression of grief has been found to empower individuals who feel that traditional grieving practices are ineffective (Carroll & Landry, 2010). The purpose of the current study was to explore the impact of social media (i.e. Facebook) on the individualized experience of grief, connections formed with other grievers online, and what motivates individuals to use social media as a grief outlet. The Ware Facebook and Loss Questionnaire was distributed through Facebook to users at least 18 years of age that had experienced a loss or interacted with a loss through Facebook. Two hundred and three participants answered demographic and Facebook use questions as well as open-ended in-depth questions. The demographic and Facebook data were analyzed using frequencies. Qualitative data analysis led to one overall theme of support. Four other themes under support emerged including: social connectedness, contact with others, information handling, and memory sharing. Further research should include the use of face-to-face interviews. In addition, future researchers could expand the analysis to other social networking sites.



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

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**Jena Borah**, Master of Science in Education in Elementary Education

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

***Analysis of LGBTQ Content***

Middle school is often the time students become aware of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and in many schools, perceived nonheteronormative behavior is penalized through bullying. One way schools can reduce bullying and increase successful learning environments is to include trade books that feature gender and sexual minorities. State and national standards set expectations for social and emotional learning as well as critical analysis of high quality reading materials. This research analyzed trade books from the 2013 and 2014 Rainbow Lists which were chosen by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Round Table of the American Library Association as the best books published with LGBTQ content the previous year for readers under the age of 18. Forty-seven books at the fourth through ninth grade levels were coded for genre, character identity, role, portrayal, reading levels, Cass (1979) Stages, bullying events, profanity, and sexual content. Profanity and sexual content were coded to anticipate community objections. Suggestions for the use of specific books in classroom situations are discussed.

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

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**Asele Samee Dikkumbura**, Master of Science in Chemistry  
Rebecca Peebles, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry, Faculty Mentor

***Structures and Nuclear Quadrupole Coupling Tensors of 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1-Chloro-2-Fluoroethane and 2,3-Dichloropropene Studied Using Microwave Spectroscopy and Computational Chemistry***



The Fourier-transform microwave (FTMW) spectroscopy technique has been used to compare structural and fundamental electrical properties three small molecules containing chlorine: 1,2-dichloroethane (12DCE, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>), 1-chloro-2-fluoroethane (1C2FE, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>ClF) and 2,3-dichloropropene (23DCP, C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). Data obtained comprise several “spectroscopic parameters” (rotational constants and nuclear quadrupole coupling constants (NQCC)). These three molecules can each have two different spatial arrangements resulting from different relative orientations of chlorine and/or fluorine atoms around the bond between carbon atoms. The most stable arrangement of 12DCE is not detectable by microwave spectroscopy, but spectra of the less stable arrangement of 12DCE, both arrangements of 1C2FE, and both arrangements of 23DCP have been measured. For each molecular arrangement measured, versions with multiple different masses of carbon and/or chlorine atoms were studied, and this extra information was key to obtaining structural details for 12DCE and 1C2FE that previous researchers were unable to determine. This was the first study of 23DCP by FTMW spectroscopy. Structural parameters for all three molecules were compared with new theoretical calculations to gauge the predictive capability of the calculations. The differences of structural parameters between molecules were small, and they can be explained by effects of large atoms avoiding getting too close to each other. The amount of electric charge transferred along the carbon-chlorine bonds was calculated according to Townes-Dailey analysis and using NQCC that were not available from previous studies. Charge equivalent to ~30% of one electron was transferred for all species studied. The experimental results also proved that the level of theoretical calculations that was used effectively predicts structures and microwave spectra, particularly for related species containing chlorine.

### King-Mertz Research /Creative Activity Awards

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



One project is selected to represent the best non-thesis project from all graduate programs and a top project from each academic college is also selected.

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

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**Ahmed Salim Nuhu**, Master of Arts in Economics

Mukti Upadhyay, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Faculty Mentor

#### ***On The Empirics of User-Fees, Maternal Health-Seeking Behavior and Child Survival in Ghana***

More than half of women in the developing world lack access to skilled attendant services at birth delivery; a proxy for measuring maternal healthcare progress. Indeed, it is estimated that 239 out of every 100,000 live births result in a mother's death. To reduce maternal mortality, women will need access to quality maternal healthcare which in turn requires effective policy interventions. Consequently, enhancing access to maternal healthcare and ensuring universal health coverage remains high on the agenda of both the United Nations' Millennium and Sustainable Development Goals (MSDGs) and individual nations.

This paper seeks to answer an important question: what happens to maternal health seeking-behavior when user fees are eliminated? We analyze this question empirically by investigating the effects of the free maternal health care (Health Insurance) policy instituted by the government of Ghana, on a variety of health utilization measures and child survival outcomes. Using robust linear and binomial logistic estimation techniques, we find evidence from over 4,000 households, that eliminating user-fees significantly increases the utilization of skilled delivery assistance whilst simultaneously reducing the number of deliveries assisted by unskilled birth attendants. Utilization of antenatal and postnatal care experience similar effects with user-fee elimination. We also find that education is more important than health insurance in influencing the number of children a woman desires to have. This paper provides empirical support for the growing calls for removal of user-fees, in order to expand healthcare access and promote inclusion, particularly for women.



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

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***Erin Harrington***, Master of Arts in History

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

***Constructing Identity in Turkish Terms: Islam in Massachusetts Bay, 1628-1686***

Islam was a significant concept in the religious, intellectual, and political life of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century English. When the Puritans embarked for the New World, they carried along particular ideas about Turks, Moors, and Ishmaelites, ideas that exerted a subtle but certain influence over the societies they constructed for themselves in New England. This essay builds upon the developing historiography of English interactions with the Islamic world in the early modern period by analyzing how English ideas about Muslims were an important component of the construction of Puritan identity in America. The sermons, diaries, narratives, and letters of the first two generations of Puritan settlers in Massachusetts Bay Colony contain frequent references to Turks and Muslims. The English were particularly concerned with the Turks, who controlled a powerful empire in the period just before English colonization of New England. This paper argues that the Ottoman Empire needs to be included in models of imperial contestation in the New World, for although actual Ottoman presence was mostly confined to the Eastern Atlantic, the Turkish Empire loomed large in the Puritan imagination. As leadership of Massachusetts Bay turned over from the first to second generation, references to Islam shifted from political to religious in nature. Particularly around the time of the Half-Way Covenant in the 1660s, Puritans increasingly employed comparison to Turks and other Muslims as a way to emphasize and differentiate their own, allegedly superior, religious beliefs. In 17th century New England, Islam might have been misunderstood, but it was hardly a foreign unknown; Puritans consistently invoked Islam and Muslims as they drew boundaries around what it meant to be Christian in America.

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

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***Elyse Podwojski***, Master of Business Administration

David Boggs, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Business, Faculty Mentor

***Using Geographic Information Systems to  
Improve Recruiting and Diversity Management of a Government Agency***



This paper explores the use of geographic information systems (GIS) for employee recruitment and diversity management. A problem was quickly identified when approached by an agency to find alternative techniques to recruit diverse talent. Using GIS and its associated easily-readable mapping technologies, potential applicants can be quickly and economically identified through maps. Recruitment is an important activity for organizations, and is especially critical for those that prioritize diverse, talented employees. This paper proposes that GIS assists recruiters identify diverse potential applicants more easily. It also presents a sample application of GIS technologies to the recruitment of diverse employees for a US government agency, and argues that GIS can assist with organizations' corresponding diversity management strategies and efforts to recruit from a diverse applicant pool. A federal government agency is the primary focus of this study, but it is argued that GIS can also help business and not-for-profit organizations with recruitment and diversity efforts.

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

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**Jessica Hanna**, Master of Science in Education in Elementary Education  
John Bickford, III, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Early Childhood,  
Elementary, Middle Level Education, Faculty Mentor



***Examining the Impact of Frustration Levels on Multiplication Automaticity***

The purpose of this action research was to examine the effectiveness of the Rocket Math program when working to develop multiplication automaticity with third grade students. Additionally, the study also examined which intervention, the Rocket Math app or paper and pencil, produced greater gains and how student frustration levels correlate to performance. A total of 18 third grade students were participants in this four-week study. A pretest and post test was used to establish a baseline and measure student growth during the study. Participants used the Rocket Math app and Rocket Math practice sheets throughout the study to practice multiplication facts. A student questionnaire was also used to measure and monitor student frustration levels. It was concluded that Rocket Math does help students to improve multiplication automaticity. The study also determined that 89% of participants who used the Rocket Math app produced greater gains and experienced fewer frustrations than students who used paper and pencil to develop multiplication automaticity.

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

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**Kehinde Abiodun**, Master of Arts in Economics  
Noel Brodsky, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics, Faculty Mentor



***The Contribution of International Trade to Economic Growth in Nigeria***

Views differ on the impact of international trade on economic growth in developing countries. Whilst some scholars on the subject uphold the view that international trade leads to economic growth based on empirical evidence, others, albeit, in the minority, express a dissenting opinion. This paper looks at the contribution of international trade to economic growth in Nigeria, a developing country, and establishes a nexus between international trade and economic growth. The variables considered are real GDP, a proxy for economic growth, export volumes, import volumes, trade openness, gross capital formation and exchange rate as independent variables. Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test was used for the unit root test and the variables were found to be stationary at levels. Granger Causality was also deployed to test the causality between the dependent and independent variables and a unidirectional relationship was established for some of the variables. The results reveal that there is, overall, a positive relationship between economic growth and international trade.

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Norm Plummer /HWC Labs Outstanding Research Awards

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**Beluchukwu Ebede**, Masters Candidate in Technology  
*Deep Network Packet Analysis for Security Using Wireshark*  
Jerry Cloward, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor



**Ashleigh Cable**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Quantifying Roosting Ecology of Little Brown Bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) and Tricolored Bats (*Perimyotis subflavus*) on Multiple Scales in Fragmented Illinois*  
Jill Deppe, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



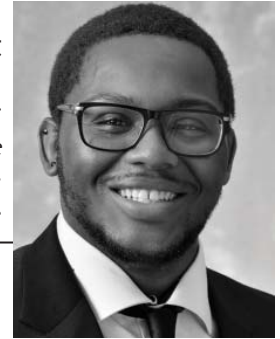
Graduate School Research /Creative Activity Grants

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Sheldon Aaron**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling

*B.I.O.N.I.C.: Empowering Young Leaders to Create a Positive School Climate*

Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor  
Mattoon High School, Research Partner



Graduate School Research /Creative Activity Grant

**Brandon Goodman**, Masters Candidate in Communication Studies

*Support for Friends and Family Members of Incarcerated Individuals: A Communication Resource Guide*

Richard Jones, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Samuel Gradle**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

*Assessing Macroinvertebrate Assemblages: Gauging the Importance of Microhabitat in Qualitative Sampling through the Analysis of Five Commonly Sampled Microhabitat Types*

Jeffrey Laursen, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor  
Sanitary District of Decatur, Research Partner



Graduate School Research /Creative Activity Grant

**Allison Grussing**, Masters Candidate in Communication Studies

*Steven Avery, A Case Study: Making a Murderer or Making an Identity?*

Elizabeth Gill, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Daniel Alexander Hays**, Masters Candidate in History

*"A Babe in the Woods?": Billy Graham, the Presidency, and Vietnam*

Edmund Wehrle, Ph.D., Professor of History, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Bethany Hoster**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

*Feminization and Condition of Three Catostomidae Species Downstream of a Sangamon River Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent*

Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor  
Sanitary District of Decatur, Research Partner



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Jahan Israt**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences

*Effects of Temperature on Fish Muscle Mechanics*

Anabela Maia, Ph.D., Instructor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor





**Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant**

**Erika Murray**, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy  
*Harvesting Electromagnetic Radiation as Renewable Energy Source*  
John Cabage, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor

**Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant**

**Neeta Parajulee Karki**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Effects of 17 $\beta$  estradiol on the Metabolism and Morphology of Sunfish Species*  
Anabela Maia, Ph.D., Instructor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



**Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant**

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

**Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant**

**Shannon Regan**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Genetic and Vocal Variation within a Contact Zone in Central Illinois*  
Eric Bollinger, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



**Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant**

**Amanda Roberts**, Masters Candidate in Historical Administration  
*A Question of History: Public History in Illinois*  
Terry Barnhart, Ph.D., Professor of History Sciences, Faculty Mentor  
EIU Booth Library, Research Partner

**Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant**

**Daniel Roth**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Bigheaded Carp Reproduction and Recruitment in Tributaries of Large Rivers*  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor  
Illinois Natural History Survey, Research Partner



**Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant**

**Jessica Thornton**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Monitoring a Commercially Exploited Population of Shovelnose Sturgeon*  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Research Partner

Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Ian Tinsley**, Masters Candidate in Chemistry  
*Molecular Recognition Boundaries of Diarylamide Quasiracemates*  
Kraig Wheeler, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry, Faculty Mentor



Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant

**Sha Wilbern**, Masters Candidate in Family and Consumer Sciences  
*The Experiences of Parents who Adopt a Transracial Child*  
Axton Betz-Hamilton, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, Faculty Mentor

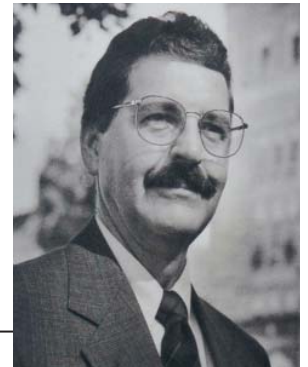


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**Williams Travel Grants**

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Named for **Larry Williams**, Ph.D., dean of the Graduate School from 1978 to 1995, the Travel Grants provide support for students to present their research at regional, state, national or international conferences. These awards have been supporting graduate student travel since Dean Williams' retirement in 1999. The grants are awarded in the fall and the spring.



Williams Travel Grant

**Sheldon Aaron**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling  
*The Power of Small Group Leadership Enhancement Teams for High School Students and Cinematherapy: E-Motion Picture Therapy*  
Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Bloomington, Illinois  
Southern Illinois Counseling Association Annual Conference | Collinsville, Illinois  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Kehinde Abiodun**, Masters Candidate in Economics  
*The Contribution of International Trade to Economic Growth in Nigeria*  
Missouri Valley Economic Association | St. Louis, Missouri  
Noel Brodsky, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Pabitra Aryal**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Evaluation of Mycorrhizae as a Determinant of Chestnut Success*  
Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference | Champaign, Illinois  
Scott Meiners, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor







**Williams Travel Grant**

**Valida Azamatova**, Masters Candidate in Political Science  
*Rawls and the Concept of Desert in Justice*  
Illinois Political Science Association Conference | Chicago, Illinois  
Kevin Anderson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Michael Bradley**, Masters Candidate in History  
*Incarcerated, Transported and Bound: Deference, Resistance, and Assimilation in Constructing Community among Transported Convicts from London to the Chesapeake 1739-1776*  
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies | Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Charles Foy, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**William Campbell**, Masters Candidate in Economics  
*Evidence of Manipulation in the Primary Market for US Treasury Notes and Bonds*  
Missouri Valley Economics Association Annual Meeting | St. Louis, Missouri  
Ali Moshtagh, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Grace Campbell**, Masters Candidate in Nutrition and Dietetics  
*My Plate My Way*  
Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics | Oakbrook, Illinois  
Melanie Burns, Ph.D., Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Jeffrey Chandler**, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy  
*GIS Application for Sustainable Energy*  
Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering | Orlando, Florida  
Wutthigrai Boonsuk, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Kaci Clark**, Specialist Candidate in School Psychology  
*Examining the Effect of Caffeine and Technology on Adolescent Sleep*  
National Association of School Psychologists | San Antonio, Texas  
Margaret Floress, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Megan Corder**, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs  
*Do Student Impressions of Community College Presidents Matter?*  
American College Personnel Association Conference | Columbus, Ohio  
Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Alexandra Dean**, Masters Candidate in English  
*Digital Literacy: Expanding Students' Literary Toolkits with Manga*  
AX Anime and Manga Studies Symposium | Los Angeles, California  
Olga Abella, Ph.D., Professor of English, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Beluchukwu Ebede**, Masters Candidate in Technology  
*Network Packet Analysis for Security and Performance using Wireshark*  
Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering | Orlando, Florida  
David Melton, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**David Ehlers**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling  
*The Effect of a School-based Creative Expression Therapy Group on the Self-concept of Female Adolescents and Utilizing Game Play Therapy with Children and Adolescents*  
Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois  
Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Morgan Eldridge**, Masters Candidate in School Psychology  
*Teacher Characteristics and Influence with the Bystander Intervention Model*  
National Association of School Psychologists Annual Conference | San Antonio, Texas  
Lyndsay Jenkins, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Victor Epperson**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*The Power of Small Group Leadership Enhancement Teams for High School Students*  
Illinois School Counselor Association | Bloomington, Illinois  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Haley Honselman**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*School Counselor Connections: Innovative Ways that a School Counselor can Collaborate and Impact the School Community at Large*  
Illinois School Counselor Association | Bloomington, Illinois  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Bethany Hoster**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Effects of Wastewater Treatment Effluent on Fish Communities in an Illinois River Tributary and Morphological Differences in Three Catostomid Species Between Two Midwestern Rivers*  
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Lincoln, Nebraska  
American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting | Kansas City, Missouri  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor





**Williams Travel Grant**

**Cory Jones**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*The Power of Small Group Leadership Enhancement Teams for High School Students*  
Illinois School Counselor Association | Bloomington, Illinois  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Tiffany Kelly**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*The Power of Small Group Leadership Enhancement Teams for High School Students*  
Illinois School Counselor Association | Bloomington, Illinois  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Ayaz Khamisani**, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy  
*Weather Impact on the Surface of Energy Production Solar Photovoltaic Solar Arrays*  
Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering | Orlando, Florida  
Peter Ping Liu, Ph.D., Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Samantha Kledzik**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling  
*The Effect of a School-based Creative Expression Therapy Group on the Self-concept of Female Adolescents and Experiential Activities in Groups and Play Therapy for Children with Behavioral Disorders*  
Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois  
Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Owura Kuffuor**, Masters Candidate in Political Science  
*Regional Organizations and Response to Political Threat: A Review of the Role of ECOWAS in Ebola and Boko Haram Crises and Arab Spring in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Close Shave or a Beckoning Crisis?*  
Illinois Political Science Association and Midwest Political Science Association | Chicago, Illinois  
Kevin Anderson, Ph.D. and David Carwell, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor of Political Science, Faculty Mentors

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Heather Lamb**, Masters Candidate in English  
*The Shadow is Revived: Constructing Narratives in Victorian Literature and Science Fiction with non-euclidean Mathematics and Mummies of Sentiment: How Unwrapping the Dead Reanimates Romantics*  
Victorians Institute Conference | Raleigh, North Carolina  
Central Illinois Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference | Bloomington, Illinois  
Randall Beebe, Ph.D., Professor of English, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Haizhou Li**, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy and Technology  
*Biomass Go-Kart: An Alternative Energy Vehicle Manufacturing and Testing*  
Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering | Orlando, Florida  
Jerry Cloward, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Rachel Lindhart**, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs  
*Transforming the Gender Gap in Education Abroad:  
The Motivation behind Male Participation in a Study Abroad Program*  
American College Personnel Association Conference | Columbus, Ohio  
Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Cayla Maurer**, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs  
*The Invisibles: Homeless College Students*  
NASPA- Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Ed | St. Louis, Missouri  
Dena Kneiss, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Megan McQueen**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*The Effect of Music Therapy to Modify Behavior in Autistic Children*  
Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Jamie Meagher**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*Application of Music Therapy to the Treatment of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*  
Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Nicole Menolascino**, Masters Candidate in School Psychology  
*Predicting Bystander Intervention Among Middle School Students*  
National Association of School Psychologists Annual Conference |  
San Antonio, Texas  
Lyndsay Jenkins, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Rafael Felipe Molina**, Masters Candidate in Political Science  
*The Ground Game: Democratic and Republican Personal Contact Mobilization Efforts and Their  
Impact on Voter Turnout in the 2008 and 2012 Presidential Elections*  
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference | Chicago, Illinois  
Ryan Burge, Ph.D., Instructor, Political Science, Faculty Mentor





**Williams Travel Grant**

**Kendra Moultrie**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling  
*Cinematography: E-Motion Picture Therapy*  
Southern Illinois Counseling Association Annual Conference | Collinsville, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Ahmed Salim Nuhu**, Masters Candidate in Economics  
*Fractionalization and Educational Attainments*  
Missouri Valley Economics Association | St. Louis, Missouri  
Mukti Upadhyay, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Faculty Mentor

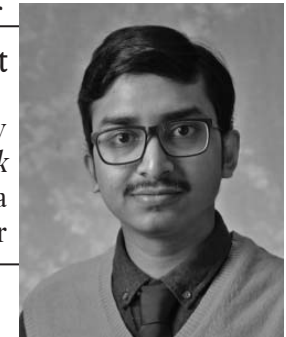


**Williams Travel Grant**

**Kelsey Oglesby**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
*The Effect of Creative Expression Therapy Group on the Self-concept of Female Adolescents and Igniting Passion and Illuminating Learning*  
Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Chicago, Illinois  
Southern Illinois Counseling Association Annual Conference | Collinsville, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor  
Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Chirag Pansuriya**, Masters Candidate in Sustainable Energy  
*Assessment of Syngas Production from Various Biomass Feedstock*  
Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering | Orlando, Florida  
Jerry Cloward, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Technology, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Neeta Parajulee Karki**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Effects of 17 $\beta$  estradiol on the Metabolism and Morphology of Sunfish Species and Effects of 17 Beta Estradiol on Sunfish Metabolism and Body Shape*  
Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology | New Orleans, Louisiana  
Illinois Chapter of American Fisheries Society | Moline, Illinois  
Anabela Maia, Ph.D., Instructor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Doo Jae Park**, Masters Candidate in Kinesiology and Sports Studies  
*Exploring the Athletic Identity Perception of Korean Ice Hockey Players*  
North American Society for Sociology of Sports | Tampa, Florida  
Kristin Brown, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Sports Studies, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Kwame Patterson**, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs  
*Creating Transformational Experiences for Graduate Students through Internships Abroad*  
American College Personnel Association Conference | Columbus, Ohio  
Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

Williams Travel Grant

**Jordan Pesik**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Larval Fish Assemblages Differ Spatially and Temporally on a Large River*  
American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting | Kansas City, Missouri  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Chelsea Picken**, Masters Candidate in English  
*“Ready for an Extended Life?”: Releasing Suppressed Violence in the Georgian Novel*  
Central Illinois Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference | Bloomington, Illinois  
Suzie Park, Ph.D., Professor of English, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Jaclyn Pickowitz**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*The Effect of School-based Creative Expression Group Therapy on the Self-concept of Female Adolescents and The Power of Small Group Leadership Enhancement Teams for High School Students*  
Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois  
Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Bloomington, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Danielle Pincente**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
*The Effect of a School-based Creative Expression Therapy Group on the Self-concept of Female Adolescents and Utilizing Game Play Therapy with Children and Adolescents*  
Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois  
Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Laura Plummer**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*School Counselor Connections: Innovative Ways that a School Counselor can Collaborate and Impact the School Community at Large*  
Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Bloomington, Illinois  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Fabian Rempfer**, Masters Candidate in English  
*Shadowy Objects in Test Tubes: Ishiguro’s “Never Let Me Go” as an Example of Freud’s “Uncanny” and Agamben’s “Bare Life”*  
Central Illinois Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference | Bloomington, Illinois  
Angela Vietto, Ph.D., Professor of English, Faculty Mentor



Williams Travel Grant

**Stephen Roach**, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs  
*Summer Bridge Program Impact: Measures of Student Efficacy a Mixed Methods Approach*  
Focus on Illinois Education Research Symposium | Bloomington, Illinois  
Catherine Polydore, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor





**Williams Travel Grant**

**Daniel Roth**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Temporal and River Discharge Effects on Silver Carp Abundance and Size in the Wabash River*  
The 146th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society | Kansas City, Missouri  
Robert Colombo, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Samantha Rushworth**, Masters Candidate in School Psychology  
*Disparity in Treatment of Internalizing Disorders in Ethnic Minority Groups*  
Illinois School Psychologists Association | Springfield, Illinois  
Gary Canivez, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Kaitlyn Rzasa**, Masters Candidate in Nutrition and Dietetics  
*School Based Technology Interventions and the Impact on Dietary Behaviors Among Elementary-Aged Children*  
Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics | Oakbrook, Illinois  
Jeanette Andrade, Ph.D., Instructor, Nutrition and Dietetics, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Victoria Sandercock**, Masters Candidate in Nutrition and Dietetics  
*My Plate My Way*  
Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics | Oakbrook, Illinois  
Melanie Burns, Ph.D., Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Achira Sedari Mudiyansele**, Masters Candidate in Business Administration  
*Driven to Innovate: Motivations of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Context of Strategic Orientation*  
Society for Marketing Advances | Atlanta, Georgia  
Richard Flight, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Marketing, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Rachana Shrestha**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Resolution of the Amino Acid Requirements for Clostridium Scindens ATCC 35704, a Major Bile Acid-dehydroxylating Anaerobe in the Human Gut*  
Congress on Gastrointestinal Function | Chicago, Illinois  
Steven Daniel, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Kathryn Sikora**, Masters Candidate in College Student Affairs  
*Creating Transformational Experiences for Graduate Students through Internships Abroad*  
American College Personnel Association Conference | Columbus, Ohio  
Dianne Timm, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling and Student Development, Faculty Mentor

**Williams Travel Grant**

**Brandon Smith**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*School Counselor Connections:*

*Innovative Ways that a School Counselor can Collaborate and Impact the School Community at Large*  
Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Bloomington, Illinois  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Tiffany Somerville**, Masters Candidate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
*The Effect of a School-based Creative Expression Therapy Group on the Self-concept of Female*

*Adolescents and Play Therapy for Children with Behavioral Disorders*  
Illinois Association for Play Therapy | Itasca, Illinois  
Illinois Counseling Association Southern Conference | Collinsville, Illinois  
Angela Yoder, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Jessica Thornton**, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences  
*Population demographics of Shovelnose Sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus) in the Wabash River*  
*and Monitoring an exploited population of Shovelnose Sturgeon in the Wabash River*

Illinois Chapter of American Fisheries Society | Moline, Illinois  
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference | Lincoln, Nebraska

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



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Ian Tinsley**, Masters Candidate in Chemistry  
*Molecular Recognition Boundaries of Diarylamide Quasiracemates*

American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition | San Francisco, California  
Kraig Wheeler, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Patrick Wildman**, Masters Candidate in School Counseling  
*School Counselor Connections:*

*Innovative Ways that a School Counselor can Collaborate and Impact the School Community at Large*  
Illinois School Counseling Association Annual Conference | Bloomington, Illinois  
Heidi Larson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Jonathan Williams**, Masters Candidate in Political Science  
*The Effect of Public Approval Upon Presidential-Congressional Relations:*

*A Comparative Case Study of the Carter and Reagan Years: 1977-1984*  
Illinois Political Science Association | Chicago, Illinois  
Ryan Burge, Ph.D., Instructor, Political Science, Faculty Mentor



**Williams Travel Grant**

**Miles Williams**, Masters Candidate in Political Science  
*Divided We Stand: The Connection between Social Media Use and Deepening Partisan Divisions*

Indiana Academy of the Social Sciences | Westville, Indiana  
Melinda Mueller, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Faculty Mentor





**Williams Travel Grant**

*Carol Wong*, Masters Candidate in Nutrition and Dietetics  
*Spilling the Beans on WIC-Approved Foods! A Nutrition Program to Increase Awareness of Different Ways to Use Beans*  
Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics | Oakbrook, Illinois  
Jeanette Andrade, Ph.D., Instructor, Nutrition and Dietetics, Faculty Mentor



**Scholarships**

**2017 Betty Wright Downing Graduate Scholar**

Established by Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Wright in memory of Betty Wright Downing.  
*Diana Burns*, Masters Candidate in Political Science



**2017 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.  
*Owura Kuffuor*, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences



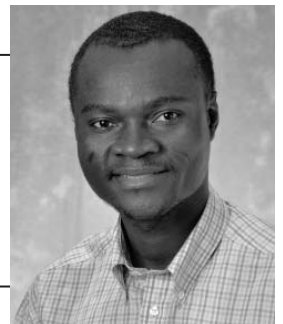
**2017 Mary Bear McClay Graduate Scholar**

A graduate assistantship established in 2004 by siblings Wilfred (Bill) McClay and Susan Foote, in memory of their mother, Mary Bear McClay.  
*Kathryn English*, Masters Candidate in Mathematics Education



**2017 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.  
*Moses Awinsong*, Masters Candidate in History



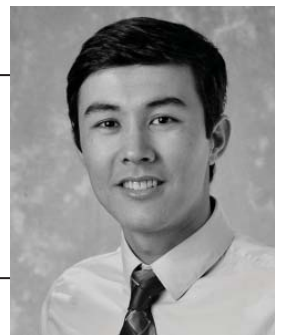
**2017 UPI Scholar**

Established by Dr. John Allison, President of the EIU University Professionals of Illinois in 2012 to provide financial support for a full-time graduate student accepted into any degree program at EIU.  
*Lata Udari*, Masters Candidate in Biological Sciences



**2017 Graduate Alumni Fund Scholar**

Established by the Graduate Alumni Advisory Board to recognize outstanding graduate research, creative activity, and scholarship.  
*Jamol Abdiev*, Masters Candidate in Business Administration



**2017 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 mentoring.

*Rebecca Throneburg, Ph.D.*, Professor of Communication Disorders and Sciences



## 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 1967 to 1974. Before her passing in 2011, his widow Martha provided support for the Society, which was created in 2010. Daughters, Carol Stephens and Wendy Venet, continue their parent's legacy in supporting graduate education at EIU.



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### 2017 Hamand Scholar

#### **Michael Bradley**, Masters Candidate in History

Presentation and publication of his research dominates Michael Bradley's graduate career. Michael has published an article on 18th-century transported convicts in *Historia*, is co-authoring a paper on African American migration with Dr. Charles Foy for submission to the *Illinois State Historical Society*, wrote an entry for the *Encyclopedia of the Atlantic World*, and has begun to outline an article for the *Maryland Historical Magazine*. Michael has presented at leading conferences including the North American Conference of British Studies and the 2016 Virginia Forum. The only graduate student to ever be selected to present at the EIU History Department Colloquium, he co-presented with Dr. Foy on African Americans in Coles County. His research of the local community has garnered invitations to present at the Coles County Historical Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and at EIU's own History Career Day and the History and Social Science Teaching Conference. Dr. Sace Elder writes of his thesis research, "Michael's research demonstrates

that in the 18th century, transported convicts developed lasting communities in the regions to which they were transported, a highly original finding that holds significance for early US historians as well as experts in penology." His mentor, Dr. Foy writes, "Michael's project smartly fills a hole in the historiography of coerced labor and migration to British American colonies and the social history of criminality across the Atlantic." Michael is also pursuing teacher certification at EIU in preparation for his doctoral studies, all while holding full-time employment as a police officer for Villa Grove.

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### 2017 Hamand Scholar

#### **Heather Lamb**, Masters Candidate in English

Described as a "gifted researcher" and "inveterate reader", Heather Lamb shares her knowledge and skills in her duties as a writing consultant in the EIU Writing Center. Heather's research exploring the intersection of science and mathematics with literature has led to presentations at the English Graduate Student Research Colloquium, an honor that goes to only one student per year, the Victorians Institute Conference, and at the Central Illinois Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference. Dr. Jad Smith writes about Heather's presentation, "Her well-attended presentation offered a new avenue for reading Hawthorne's *House of the Seven Gables*." Her research earned a Booth Library Award for Excellence in Student Research, an English Studies Writing Award, and a Williams Travel Grant. Working with another graduate assistant in the Writing Center, Heather helped create content for a graduate course in the School of Technology at their request. Dr. Randall Beebe, graduate coordinator for the English program writes, "Heather has the intellectual acumen, the focus, and polish not just to succeed in her goal of pursuing a Ph.D. in English, but to be an outstanding scholar and contributor to the humanities."





**2017 Hamand Scholar**

***Sheldon Aaron*, Masters Candidate in Clinical Counseling**

Service and outreach define Sheldon Aaron's graduate career at EIU. Sheldon volunteers as an adviser at Unity Gospel Ministry, is chapter president for Chi Sigma Iota, a graduate honors society, and participated in the CSI Charleston Community Fundraiser, and EIU MLK, Jr. Day of Service. Sheldon joined Dr. Heidi Larson's research team and played a vital role in implementing and successfully completing a project titled, B.I.O.N.I.C. : The Effects of Peer Mentoring in a Midwestern High School. In that role he co-lead leadership enrichment groups, oversaw the lunch mentoring program, and assisted in data collection. He has written up the findings of that data and co-authored an article submitted to the *Journal of Counseling in Illinois*. His mentor, Dr. Heidi Larson writes, "Sheldon has accumulated a significant and varied number of academic,

clinical, research and professional experiences, for which he has acquired a very high level of proficiency and maturity for a young professional." Sheldon's committee service at EIU includes Admission and New Student Interview Committee, Selection and Interview Committee, and the department's New Student Orientation Committee. He is the recipient of the Paul Ward Scholarship, a Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant, and a Williams Travel Grant.

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**2017 Hamand Scholar**

***Jaclyn Pickowitz*, Masters Candidate in School Counseling**



Social justice and a passion for advocacy drive Jaclyn Pickowitz's graduate research and scholarship. Her community outreach includes volunteering with Effingham Momentum, CASA of Effingham County, and the Effingham Mentoring Program. Jacki's research in play therapy has resulted in presentations at the Illinois Association for Play Therapy and the Illinois School Counseling Association, and has produced a manuscript under review for publication. Her work as the coordinator for the freshman mentoring program at Mattoon High School contributed to increased leadership skills and retention for those students. Her mentor Dr. Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo writes, "Jacki is an individual who conceptualizes a need and seeks to fill that void, be it in society, in academia, on campus, or with her peers." She is the recipient of the Paul Ward Scholarship, a Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Grant, and a Williams Travel Grant.

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**2017 Hamand Scholar**

***Ahmed Salim Nuhu*, Masters Candidate in Economics**



Improving socioeconomic conditions serves as motivation for Salim Nuhu's research. His research on maternal healthcare in Ghana required analyzing a sample of over 4,000 households and examined the effects of enrollment in the National Health Insurance Scheme on utilization of maternal health services and the likelihood of survival for newborns. His subsequent paper is under review for publication with the *Development Journal of the South*, a professional journal on economic and social development. He also has articles published in the *Journal of Sustainable Finance and Investment* and the *Journal of Economic and Social Thought*. His mentor, Dr. Mukti Upadhyay, writes of Salim's research, "His paper was as highly rigorous in analysis of data as it was meticulous in modelling or research design." Salim's work resulted in an invitation to WIDER, a United

Nations institute in Finland. His presentation at the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs in 2016 received the Best Paper on South Asia Award. Salim applies his skills to benefit the EIU community by working with Dr. Eric Davidson as the lead author of the *2016 Illinois CORE Report on Alcohol and Drug Use among College Students*. As the Student Affairs Assessment Coordinator for EIU, he consults with the vice president for student affairs' staff on data collection as well as report writing. In 2016 he mentored high school and middle school students by providing an international perspective on leadership issues for the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. Salim earned the College of Sciences Graduate Student Investigator Award, a Booth Library Award Excellent in Student Research and Creativity Activity, the Karbassioon Graduate Scholarship for Economics, a Williams Travel Grant, and the King-Mertz Award of Excellence for the College of Sciences.

Class of 2017 Distinguished Graduate Students



Sheldon Aaron  
Clinical Counseling



Jennifer Antkowiak  
Music



Valida Azamatova  
Political Science



Shelby Beschta  
School Psychology



Michael Bradley  
History



Grace Campbell  
Nutrition and Dietetics



Megan Corder  
College Student Affairs



Kristen Dahm  
Health Promotion and Leadership



Beluchukwu Ebede  
Technology (on-campus)

Class of 2017 Distinguished Graduate Students



Kelli Halfman  
Communication Studies



Eric Helbig  
Educational Leadership (MSED)



Jinsong Huang  
Community Arts



Heather Lamb  
English



Krista Lotz  
Elementary Education  
(teacher certification)



Dennis Lusiana  
Technology (off-campus)



Brianna Lytle  
Mathematics



Hannah Miller  
Family and Consumer Sciences



Ahmed Salim Nuhu  
Economics

Class of 2017 Distinguished Graduate Students



Hailey Paige  
Historical Administration



Amanda Patterson  
Business Administration  
(on-campus)



Jordan Pesik  
Biological Sciences



Jaclyn Pickowitz  
School Counseling



Noah Przygoda  
Sustainable Energy



Samantha Rawlings  
Aging Studies



Jill Reedy  
Educational Leadership (Specialist)



Michelle Roberts  
Special Education



Sydney Scamihorn  
Communication Disorders & Sciences

Class of 2017 Distinguished Graduate Students



Marcos Serafim Neto  
Art



Katie Silva  
Elementary Education (MSED)



Ian Tinsley  
Chemistry



Paula Treisch  
Art Education



Cassie Vogt  
Clinical Psychology



Lee Walk  
Mathematics Education



Matthew Wellbrook  
Geographic Information Sciences



Caitlin Wend  
Kinesiology and Sports Studies



Sarah Wilds  
Business Administration  
(off-campus)

## 2016 Commencement Speakers

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To promote EIU's commitment to strengthening the academic and personal experience for our students and to showcase examples of exemplary writing and speaking, Eastern Illinois University introduced the Student Commencement Speaker Series in 2013 replacing the former student and faculty speaker traditions at Eastern. The student speakers representing the Graduate School were selected on the basis of a submitted competitive essay and featured during the Fall 2016 ceremony on Saturday, December 17, 2016.



**Amanda Patterson,**  
Master's in Business Administration  
Featured Speaker



**Elyse Podwojski,**  
Master's in Business Administration  
Alternate Speaker

### 2016-2017 Council on Graduate Studies

Chris Laingen, Ph.D., Chair  
Edmund Wehrle Ph.D., Vice Chair  
Melissa Jones, Ph.D.  
Kiran Padmaraju, Ph.D.  
David Boggs, Ph.D.  
Peter Ping Liu, Ph.D.  
Mukti Upadhyay, Ph.D.  
Nora Pat Small, Ph.D.  
Suzie Park, Ph.D.  
Kaitlynn Kessinger, Student Representative

### 2016-2017 Graduate Student Advisory Council

Samantha Young, President  
Shelby Sandefer, Vice President for Public Relations  
Candace Williams, Vice President for Administrative Activities  
Sha Wilbern, Vice President for Programming  
Katarina Werner, Vice President for Member Recruitment and Retention  
Shifa Shamim, Student Dean  
Tania Ward, Graduate School Student Adviser  
Lori Henderson, Staff Adviser  
Isaac Slaven, Ph.D., Faculty Adviser

### Graduate School Alumni Advisory Board

Jim Arndt, '01, '03  
Dwight Baptist, '51, '52  
Craig Gatto, Ph.D., '87, '89  
Marilyn Holt, '88, '94  
Mark Kasper, Ed.D., '83, '86  
Nancie King Mertz, '79  
Walter Knollenberg, '67, '72  
Linda Komes, '74  
Kathy Pendleton, Ph.D., '79, '80  
Norm Plummer, '71, '72

### The Graduate School

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



2017 Graduate Student Advisory Council  
Executive Board



Samantha Young  
President



Shifa Shamim  
Student Dean



Sha Wilbern  
Vice President for Programming



Candace Williams  
Vice President for  
Administrative Activities



Katarina Werner  
Vice President for Member  
Recruitment and Retention



Tania Ward  
Graduate School Student Adviser

Not Pictured: Shelby Sandefer,  
Vice President for Public Relations

**College of Arts and Humanities Graduate Programs**

Ann Coddington, M.F.A.- Art, Coordinator  
Patricia Belleville, Ph.D.- Art Education, Coordinator  
Randall Beebe, Ph.D.- English, Coordinator  
Sace Elder, Ph.D.- History, Coordinator  
Debra Reid, Ph.D.- Historical Administration, Coordinator  
Anna Cromwell, D.M.A.- Music, Coordinator  
Angela Jacobs, Ph.D.- Communication Studies, Coordinator

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

Scott Ronspies, Ph.D.- Kinesiology and Sports Studies, Coordinator  
Nick Osborne, Ph.D.- Educational Leadership, Master's & Specialist's Programs, Coordinator  
Richard Roberts, Ph.D.- College Student Affairs & Counseling Programs, Chair and Coordinator  
John Bickford III, Ph.D.- Elementary Education, Coordinator  
Stephen Lucas, Ph.D.- Secondary Education & Foundations, Chair and Coordinator  
Kathlene Shank, Ph.D.- Special Education, Chair and Co-Coordinator  
Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel, Ph.D.- Special Education, Co-Coordinator  
Sheila Simons, Ph.D.- Health Promotion, Coordinator

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

Melody Wollan, Ph.D.- Business Administration, Coordinator  
Rigoberto Chinchilla, Ph.D. - Cybersecurity, Coordinator  
Linda Simpson, Ph.D.- Family and Consumer Sciences, Coordinator  
Melanie Burns, Ph.D.- Dietetics, Interim Chair and Coordinator  
Kathleen O'Rourke, Ph.D.- Aging Studies, Coordinator  
Peter Ping Liu, Ph.D.- Sustainable Energy, Coordinator  
David Melton, Ph.D.- Technology, Coordinator

**College of Sciences Graduate Programs**

Britto Nathan, Ph.D.- Biological Sciences, Coordinator  
Mary Konkle, Ph.D.- Biochemistry/Biotechnology, Co-Coordinator  
Tom Canam, Ph.D.- Biochemistry/Biotechnology, Co-Coordinator  
Barbara Lawrence, Ph.D.- Chemistry, Coordinator  
Rebecca Throneburg, Ph.D.- Communication Disorders and Sciences, Coordinator  
Mukti Upadhyay, Ph.D.- Economics, Coordinator  
Barry Kronenfeld, Ph.D.- Geographic Information Sciences, Coordinator  
Alejandra Alvarado, Ph.D.- Mathematics, Coordinator  
Peter Wiles, Ph.D.- Mathematics Education Option, Coordinator  
Melinda Mueller, Ph.D.- Political Science, Coordinator  
Wesley Allan, Ph.D.- Clinical Psychology, Coordinator  
Assege HaileMariam, Ph.D.- School Psychology, Coordinator

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**GRADUATEPROGRAM**  
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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

- Programs achieving First Choice designation 2014-2019:  
School Psychology; Communication Disorders and Sciences;  
College Student Affairs
- Programs achieving First Choice designation 2013-2018:  
History and Historical Administration; English
- Programs achieving First Choice designation 2015-2020:  
Political Science
- Programs achieving First Choice designation 2011-2021:  
Biological Sciences
- Programs achieving First Choice designation 2011-2021:  
Counseling
- Programs achieving First Choice designation 2011-2016:  
Clinical Psychology
- Programs achieving First Choice designation 2013-2018:  
MBA
- Programs achieving First Choice designation 2015-2020:  
Elementary Education
- Programs achieving First Choice designation 2016-2021:  
Economics
- Programs achieving First Choice designation 2016-2021:  
Technology



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