

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
SPRING 2025 BALLOT SLATE**

MEMBERSHIP/STUDENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

College of Fine Arts seat (running unopposed)

Sarah Smelser

Professor of Printmaking, Wonsook Kim School of Art and Design, 2015-present; BA, University of California Santa Cruz, 1993; MA University of Iowa 1996; MFA University of Iowa, 1997. Adjunct Professor at University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, 1997-8; Lecturer at Pasadena City College, 1998-99; Assistant Professor at West Virginia University, 1999-2002. Hired at Illinois State as Assistant Professor, 2002; promoted to Associate Professor, 2005; promoted to Professor, 2015; Harold Boyd Endowed Professor 2022-24. Professional Contributions: President of Mid America Print Council (501c3), 2006-8; Wonsook Kim School of Art Associate Director, 2016-22; Wonsook Kim School of Art Interim Director, 2021; Search Advocate, 2021-present; Graduate Council, 2005-8, 2010-12, 2016-19, Solo Exhibitions (31); Invitational and Group Exhibitions (202); Juried Exhibitions (149).

College of Arts and Sciences seat (running unopposed)

Susan Chen

Professor of Economics, Illinois State University, 2019 to present; Ph.D., Kelley School of Business, Indianan University, 2005. Appointed Assistant Professor in the College of Business & Public Administration at the University of North Dakota in 2005; Assistant Professor at Illinois State University in 2008; promoted to Associate Professor in 2014 and Professor in 2019. Professional Contribution: currently serving as the Second Vice-President of the Midwest Economics Association (2024-2025), as a Director of the Chinese Economists Society (2024-2025), and as a Visiting Fellow in the Assessment program in AP Macroeconomics (2025). Professor Chen is an applied microeconomist with research interests in industrial organization, E-commerce, and economics of education. Her publications appeared in peer-reviewed academic journals (22), Book chapters (2), among others.

GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

College of Fine Arts seat (running unopposed)

Melisa Oresky

Professor of Painting and Drawing, Wonsook Kim School of Art, Illinois State University, 2019 to present; B.F.A., The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 1996; M.F.A., University of Illinois at Chicago, 2000. Additional study: Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, 2000; Awarded Illinois Arts Council Fellowship, 2005; Awarded Illinois State University Outstanding Creative Activity award, 2020; Appointed Assistant Professor at Illinois State University, 2002; promoted to Associate Professor in 2008, promoted to Professor in 2019. Professional Contribution: Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions (25), Group Exhibitions (97), Peer Reviewed Journal Publications (1), Chair of twelve MFA thesis committees and served on twenty-seven additional MFA thesis committees, Illinois State University.

College of Applied Science and Technology seat (running unopposed)

Scott Pierce

Associate Professor, School of Kinesiology and Recreation.

RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY COMMITTEE

(Vote for 2)

(Note: Graduate School Bylaws state: No more than one member of any department/school may be elected to the Research and Creative Activity Committee.)

Ryan Davis

Professor of Hispanic Studies, Dept. of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, ISU; B.A., Brigham Young University, 2001; M.A., Brigham Young University, 2003; Ph.D., Emory University, 2009; Visiting Fellow at Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Spring 2023; Director of Graduate Studies of Spanish M.A., ISU, 2017–2023; Publications: Books (1), edited volumes (2), journal articles (9), book chapters (4).

Bin Lizzo

Assistant Professor in the Recreation and Sport Management Program within the School of Kinesiology and Recreation at Illinois State University, 2020 to present. Bin earned a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 2006, a M.S. from Texas A&M University-College Station in 2013, and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana in 2019. She held a faculty position at the University of Illinois for two years while completing her Ph.D. Upon completion of her Ph.D., she held an Assistant Professor position at East Carolina University for one year before securing her current position at Illinois State University. Professional Contributions: Conference and event organizer at the professional level, college level, school level, and program level; Editor of 1 textbook; Co-author of 1 textbook chapter; Author or co-author of 5 refereed journal publications; Manuscript reviewer for 5 professional journals; Instructor of a minimum of 3 undergraduate or graduate courses per semester; Academic advisor for 2 to 6 graduate students each semester.

Ciera Lorio

Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Illinois State University, 2018 to present; B.S., University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, 2009; M.S., Bowling Green State University, 2011; Ph.D., Florida State University, 2018. Appointed Assistant Professor at Illinois State University, 2018; Associate Professor at Illinois State University in 2024. Professional Contributions: Publications in professional journals (15), Book chapters (1), Presentations at national conventions (34), Presentations at state conventions (5), Chair of thesis committees (5), Chair of graduate independent studies (26), Chair of undergraduate independent studies (57), Internal Grant Proposal Reviewer (2), External Grant Proposal Reviewer (1), Journal Editorial Review Board (1), Bridging the Word Gap Research Network Emerging Scholar (2018-2020).

Samantha McDonald

Assistant Professor of Exercise Science, School of Kinesiology and Recreation, Illinois State University, 2020 to present; B.S., Southern Oregon University, 2009; M.S., Oregon State University, 2012; Ph.D., University of South Carolina, 2017. Additional study: Postdoctoral Research Fellow at East Carolina University 2018-2020; Assistant Professor of Exercise Science at Winthrop University, 2017-2018, Instructor at Winthrop University, 2016-2017. Anticipated Tenure and Promotion at Illinois State University in May 2025, Professional Contribution: Postdoctoral Leave Fellowship funded by the American Association of University Women, 2019 - 2020, \$31,000 at East Carolina University, Co-Investigator on 2, funded OSF-CCI grants at Illinois State University, Principal Investigator on "Improving Physical Activity Programs in Pregnancy (IPAP) and Strong Moms and Health Babies". Publications in professional journals (42), Book Chapters (2), Theses committees (7, 2 as chair), Supervised student research experiences (21), CAST Outstanding Research Award at Illinois State University, 2024 and University's Research Initiative Award at Illinois State University, 2025

Justin Turner

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Illinois State University, 2023 to present; B.A., Western Kentucky University, 2009; M.S., Eastern Kentucky University, 2012; Ph.D., Old Dominion University, 2016. Professional Contribution: Division on Critical Criminology and Social Justice Graduate Student Paper Awards Chair and Book Awards Chair, Publications in professional journals (9), served on one dissertation committee and 4 thesis committees at Morehead State University, Spalding University, and Illinois State University.

Xing (Clara) Wang

PhD, ASA, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics at Illinois State University. She received her Ph.D. in Risk Management and Insurance at J. Mack Robinson College of Business from Georgia State University in 2018. She teaches courses in the Actuarial Science program and her research interests include risk quantification and risk management, extreme value theory, statistical inference, machine learning and applications in Actuarial Science and insurance. She was the SOA James C. Hickman Scholar, and her current research is funded by the National Science Foundation Information and Intelligent Systems Program. She was an SOA James Hickman scholar and a recipient of the FTC Early Career Award from the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the American Society for Quality (ASQ) e.t.c. She also won the NSF CRII award as a solo PI.