

# Marston Muddy Boots Fund

## *TO SUPPORT FIELD WORK IN PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY*

### **Background**

The Marston Muddy Boots Fund was established to support graduate students in Geography at Kansas State University who are pursuing theses or dissertations centered in physical/environmental geography. The scholarship honors the memory of R.B. Marston, a lifelong educator, who attributed his achievements to hard work, a positive outlook and effective mentoring.

### **Application for the Marston Muddy Boots Fund**

*Available to:* graduate students in Geography at Kansas State University who are pursuing a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation that utilizes concepts and techniques in physical/environmental geography. The thesis/dissertation project must involve a significant level of well-conceived fieldwork. Preferably, the project should explore one of the following two themes: 1) separate human effects on the environment from changes that would have occurred without human interference; and/or 2) explain the integration between geomorphology, hydrology and other biophysical processes. The lack of other sources of direct financial support for the student's thesis/dissertation should also be considered. A thesis/dissertation proposal, approved by the student's committee, shall be the basis for judging applications along with a letter of application from the student. Guidelines for preparing a proposal are attached. These guidelines will be used by the Graduate Committee to rank applications. Recipients receive a cash award (the amount varies from year-to-year), a framed certificate, and have their names engraved on a plaque that is displayed in the department.

*Deadline:* **April 4, 2021** (submit your proposal to the Graduate Program Director)

*Number of awards each year:* variable

*Value:* variable, normally awarded in the Spring Semester, prior to the onset of fieldwork

*Selected by:* KSU Geography Graduate Program Committee

*Criteria for Judging Proposals:* see attached "Guidelines for Preparing a Thesis/Dissertation Proposal"

*Information from:* Dr. Douglas G. Goodin, dgoodin@ksu.edu

Past recipients of the RBM Scholarship are listed below.

Nicholas McCarroll (2020)  
Michael Stumpff: 2019  
Barrie Chileen: 2018 (No award in 2017)  
Emily Mellicant: 2016  
Emily Mellicant and Nick Patch: 2015  
Bryce Marston: 2014  
Kyleen Kelly: 2013  
Claire Ruffing: 2012  
Katie Costigan: 2011  
Kabita Ghimire and Brandon Weihs: 2010 (no award in 2009)  
Ben Meade, Kansas State University: 2008  
Nick Graf, Kansas State University: 2007  
No award made in 2006  
Ranbir Kang, Oklahoma State University: 2005  
Chris Adcock, Oklahoma State University: 2004  
Dale Splinter, Oklahoma State University: 2003  
Chris Neel, Oklahoma State University: 2002  
Barbara Pickup and Jerrod Smith, Oklahoma State University: 2001  
Randa Hope, Oklahoma State University: 2000  
Robin Gray and Andy Massey, University of Wyoming: 1999  
Jon Ferree, University of Wyoming: 1998  
Doug Norsby, University of Wyoming: 1997  
Sarah Marshall, University of Wyoming: 1996  
Kevin Bayer, University of Wyoming: 1995  
Kevin McNamara, University of Wyoming: 1994  
Jay Newton, University of Wyoming: 1993  
David Wick, University of Wyoming: 1992  
Dave Clarendon, University of Wyoming: 1991  
Jack Mills, University of Wyoming: 1990  
Marjorie Varuska, University of Wyoming: 1989  
Larry Dolan, University of Wyoming: 1988  
Allen Miller, University of Wyoming: 1987  
Marc Gillespie, University of Wyoming: 1986

# Guidelines for Preparing a Thesis/Dissertation Proposal

## Marston Muddy Boots Scholarship

### I. Introduction

- A. Problem Statement (one concise sentence) & significance (who would potentially be interested in your study?)(place your study in the context of bigger problems)
- B. Purpose (one sentence) and Objectives (itemize the major research questions)
- C. Study Area (location and description; justify your choice of study area...is it just convenient or especially well-suited to achieve purpose & objectives?)

### II. Literature Review (sub-sections for each major research objective)

- ◆ Demonstrate that you are familiar with the literature on this topic
- ◆ Summarize what is already understood and what is still NOT well understood
- ◆ Do competing schools of thought exist?
- ◆ Has the topic been studied anywhere? If so, what was found? What remains to be understood?
- ◆ Has it been studied in your study area? If so, previous findings? If not, what might be different about your study area?

### III. Methodology (sub-sections for each major research objective)

- ◆ Justify why each procedure is needed and why that particular method is best suited
- ◆ Techniques of data acquisition: what, how many, where, how often...field, lab, remote sensing, map interpretation
- ◆ Techniques of data analysis: lab work, statistics, computer analyses, etc.

### *Additional Material for Proposals*

- ◆ Expected form of the results (text, figures, maps, computer model, etc.)
- ◆ Timetable (list of tasks for each objective and when that work will be undertaken)
- ◆ Budget (outline the expected costs and sources of funding)
- ◆ Where will findings be reported: thesis, journal publication, professional meeting