

Notable Scholarly Graduate Student Achievements

Presented by K-State's Graduate Student Council

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K-State's Graduate Student Council would like to recognize several graduate students who have had notable scholarly achievements during the end of the Spring 2011 semester. All recommendations were made by K-State faculty who have worked with the students and feel the student should be recognized. This list is by no means meant to be all-inclusive of the graduate student accomplishments across campus, but hopefully is a representative return from the faculty. The students that have been recommended have been grouped based on the type of achievement and by academic unit. The professor submitting the recognition is noted in parenthesis after each student's name and award.

Excellence Awardees

Several students were recipients of Outstanding Student awards, Achievement Award, Teaching Awards, etc and are listed below for recognition.

Agricultural Economics

Elizabeth Yeager – awarded the 2011 Richard Elmore Brown Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, from College of Agriculture (Dr. John Crespi)

Craig Smith - Graduate Research Assistant of the Year, from Golden Key International Honour Society of Kansas State University (Dr. John Crespi)

Jena Silva – awarded the Gamma Sigma Delta Award for Best MS Thesis of 2010 (Dr. John Crespi)

Chemical Engineering

Nihar Ranjan Mohanty – awarded the Kansas State Alumni Association Graduate Award for Outstanding Academics (Dr. Carol Shanklin)

Economics

Bebonchu Atems – awarded the Best Graduate Paper Award (Dr. Dong Li)

Vladimir Bejan – awarded a Graduate Student Teaching Award (Dr. Dong Li)

Laura Chen – awarded a Graduate Student Teaching Award (Dr. Dong Li)

Education

Bette Grauer – awarded the College of Education – Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award (Dr. Ann Knackendoffel)

Geography

Melissa Belz – awarded the 2011 Chimborazo Student Research Award from the Mountain Geography Specialty Group (MGSG) of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) at the AAG Annual meeting in Seattle and selected by the K-State Geography faculty to receive the 2011 Department Leadership Award (Dr. Richard Marston)

Katie Costigan - selected to receive the 2011 Reds Wolman Graduate Student Research Award by the Association of American Geographers, a national distinction (Dr. Richard Marston)

Jedidiah Riley – selected by the K-State Geography faculty to receive the 2011 Mary Dobbs Outstanding Department Citizen Award, to recognize the geography student(s) whose actions during the past year best exemplify the spirit of the department and a willingness “to give 110%” (Dr. Richard Marston)

Jeremy Arber – selected by the K-State Geography faculty to receive the 2011 Mary Dobbs Outstanding Department Citizen Award, to recognize the geography student(s) whose actions during the past year best exemplify the spirit of the department and a willingness “to give 110%” (Dr. Richard Marston)

Ryan Bergstrom – presented with the Lambda Chi Alpha Kansas State University Distinguished Faculty Award, and selected by the K-State Geography faculty to receive the 2011 White Graduate Teaching Assistant Excellence Award for his excellent performance in teaching large enrollment sections (Dr. Richard Marston)

Grain Science and Industry

Yanjie Bai – awarded the Corn Products, International Outstanding PhD Graduate Student Award (Dr. Yong Cheng Shi)

Navneet Grewal – awarded the Corn Products, International Outstanding MS Graduate Student Award (Dr. Yong Cheng Shi)

Lauren Brewer – awarded the Ming-Long Liao/Paul Seib Graduate Achievement Award (Dr. Yong Cheng Shi)

Hyma Gajula – awarded the Majel M. MacMasters Memorial Achievement Student Award (Dr. Hulya Dogan)

Kinesiology

Sarah Fieger – awarded the Gatorade Predoctoral Research Award from the Exercise and Environmental Physiology Section of the American Physiological Society (Dr. Brett Wong)

Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering

Steven Bellinger – awarded the Kansas State Alumni

Association Graduate Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service (Dr. Carol Shanklin)

Plant Pathology

Martha Giraldo – awarded the Innovative ETD Award by the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations and award was presented in South Africa, which Martha prepared a video acceptance message for (Dr. Carol Shanklin)

Veterinary Medicine

Raghavendra Amachawadi – awarded the A. S. R. Ganta Memorial Graduate Student Award (Dr. H. Morgan Scott)

Other – Phi Kappa Phi Spring 2011 Initiation

Adeyayo Adeyanju, Todd Ballard, Sarah Beach, Elisabeth Beam, Gregory Beck, Roger Bost, Sally Broadaway, Karen Buyle, Nicholas Carr, Arka Chattopadhyay, Ada Cino-Ozuna, Karen Clark, Brett Coffman, Svetlana Cotelea, Julie Cumbie, Mark Davis, Nicole De Roche, Lauren DiMartino, Angela Do, Brenda Eubanks, Michael Fisher, Bill Gilbreath, Jr., Deanna Gooch, Bette Grauer, Emilie Guidez, Caroline Hagen, Nels Hanson, Ashley Harms, Justin Henegar, Casey Hillgren, Erika Huber, Sharon Huckaby, Zachary Isenhower, Bhanu Kalia, William Kuchinski, Alfred Ledgin, Krystal Link, Balaji Lolla, Marianne Martin, LaKrystal McKnight, Aimee McLendon, Rebekah Meitler, Nathan Mueller, Robert Mulligan, Jr., Margaret Murtha, Felecia Norris, Megan Oliver, Paul Owings, Matthew Plamer, Laxman Pokhrel, Christy Pottroff, Keshar Prasain, Susanne Prindall, Pat Proctor, Kimberly Raddatz, Cheryl Rauh, Hugo Remaury, Teri Renner, Leah Rodriguez, Tawnya Roenbaugh, Jennifer Ruffley, Ronald Sages, Mohammad Sahtout, Lindsay Schwend, John Selman Jr., Brandan Smith, Thomas Stork, Laxman Subedi, Thuy Tran, Amanda Tusing, Rachael Verhayden, Ronald Walker, Laura Weiss-Cook, Tyler Wiegert, Wei Wu (Dr. Carol Shanklin)

Recognition of Significant Contributions to Knowledge Base

In some cases, a recommendation for recognition was provided by the student's professor purely on the basis of the graduate student's outstanding performance and achievement in their area of research. These students are listed below, with a brief description of their contribution as described by their professor.

Public Health

Svetlana Cotelea – was the first Edmund Muskie Graduate Fellow to study public health, and was also the first physician in the K-State Master of Public Health program (Dr. Mary Meck Higgins)

Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering

Weilong Cong, Na Qin, Xiaoxu Song, Meng Zhang, Pengfei Zhang, and Qi Zhang – collectively have authored 4 journal papers (1 published and 3 accepted) and 12 conference papers (3 published and 9 accepted) (Dr. Bradley Kramer)

Fellowship and Grant Awardees

During the Spring 2011 semester significant fellowships or grants were awarded to the following students. A brief description of the award is included (if available).

Agronomy

Angela Tran – recipient of a 2011 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Dr. Michel Ransom)

Grain Science

Byung-Jun Ahn – awarded a Anheuser-Busch Company Fellowship (Dr. Susan Sun)

Yixing Zhang – awarded a Anheuser-Busch Company Fellowship (Dr. Praveen Vadlani)

Moses Khamis – received the Dr. C.E. Walker International Graduate Student Fellowship (Dr. Hulya Dogan)

Geography

Melissa Belz – selected by the Society of Women Geographers to receive the 2011 Evelyn Pruitt National Fellowship for Dissertation Research, which carries a cash value of \$10,000 and selected by the K-State Geography Graduate Program Committee to received the inaugural Geography Graduate Research Grants awarded to provide funding to graduate students in the department who have a well-conceived thesis or dissertation research proposal (Dr. Richard Marston)

Katie Costigan – selected by the K-State Geography Graduate Program Committee to receive the inaugural Geography Graduate Research Grants awarded to provide funding to graduate students in the department who have a well-conceived thesis or dissertation research proposal (Dr. Richard Marston)

Ryan Bergstron – selected by the K-State Geography Graduate Program Committee to receive the inaugural Geography Graduate Research Grants awarded to provide funding to graduate students in the department who have a well-conceived thesis or dissertation research proposal (Dr. Richard Marston)

Music

Staci Horton – performing research in connection with a National Endowment for the Humanities grant (Dr. Frederick Burrack)

Public Administration

Brigitte Brecheisen (Ms. Huss) – selected to the prestigious Presidential Management Fellowship; as a Fellow she will be serving with one of the departments of the federal government for two years, then may choose to continue as a career civil servant; nationwide 876 were selected (Dr. Krishna Tunnala)

Veterinary Medicine

Raghavendra Amachawadi – serving as co-PI for a proposal that received funding from the National Pork Board (Dr. H. Morgan Scott)

Travel Awardees

External travel grants were awarded to several students and are listed below. A brief description of each travel grant is included (where available) as well.

Entomology

Iliano Gomes – received award from the Arthropod Genomic Center to attend the 5th Annual Arthropod Genomics Symposium in Kansas City, June 9-12, 2011 (Dr. David Margolies)

Hong Geun Kim – received award from the Arthropod Genomic Center to attend the 5th Annual Arthropod Genomics Symposium in Kansas City, June 9-12, 2011 (Dr. David Margolies)

Krissana Ruang-Rit – received award from the Arthropod Genomic Center to attend the 5th Annual Arthropod Genomics Symposium in Kansas City, June 9-12, 2011 (Dr. David Margolies)

Luara Starkus – received award from the Arthropod Genomic Center to attend the 5th Annual Arthropod Genomics Symposium in Kansas City, June 9-12, 2011 (Dr. David Margolies)

Jianxu Yao – received award from the Arthropod Genomic Center to attend the 5th Annual Arthropod Genomics Symposium in Kansas City, June 9-12, 2011 (Dr. David Margolies)

Xin Zhang – received award from the Arthropod Genomic Center to attend the 5th Annual Arthropod Genomics Symposium in Kansas City, June 9-12, 2011 (Dr. David Margolies)

Family Studies and Human Services

Ron Sages – received a travel award for the ACCI conference (Dr. Maurice Mac Donald)

Grain Science

Swathi Sree Kodavali – received a Lola Lee Jackson Animal Welfare Travel Scholarship (Dr. Sajid Alavi)

Kyle Probst – received a Lola Lee Jackson Animal Welfare Travel Scholarship (Dr. Sajid Alavi)

Hyma Gajula – received a Lola Lee Jackson Animal Welfare Travel Scholarship (Dr. Hulya Dogan)

Moses Khamis – received a Lola Lee Jackson Animal Welfare Travel Scholarship (Dr. Hulya Dogan)

Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering

Weilong Cong – received student travel support grant from MSEC2011 to support a presentation at ASME 2011 International Manufacturing Science and Engineering Conference (Dr. Bradley Kramer)

Pengfei Zhang – received student travel support grant from MSEC2011 to support a presentation at ASME 2011 International Manufacturing Science and Engineering Conference (Dr. Bradley Kramer)

Veterinary Medicine

Neena Kanwar – received 3 different travel awards to support travel to 3 different conferences (Dr. H. Morgan Scott)

Raghavendra Amachawadi – received 6 different travel awards to support travel to 5 different conferences (Dr. H. Morgan Scott)

Scholarship Awardees

Those who were awarded notable scholarships in the Spring 2011 semester are listed below, with a brief description of their scholarship (if available).

Agronomy

Chammi Attanayake – awarded a 2011 International Coordinating Council Scholarship (Dr. Ganga Hettiarachchi)

Economics

Bebonchu Atems – awarded The James Ragan Memorial Scholarship (Dr. Dong Li)

Laura Chen – awarded the James Ragan Memorial Scholarship and The Carroll B. Greene Memorial Scholarship (Dr. Dong Li)

Zijun Luo – awarded the M. Jarvin Emerson Memorial Scholarship (Dr. Dong Li)

Jessie Xie – awarded the John Nordin Memorial Scholarship (Dr. Dong Li)

Ben Le – awarded the John Nordin Memorial Scholarship (Dr. Dong Li)

Jenny Wu – awarded the Carroll B. Greene Memorial Scholarship (Dr. Dong Li)

Entomology

Jianxiu Yao – awarded a Rotary Scholarship by the Manhattan Konza Rotary Club, presented to outstanding international students engaged in graduate study at Kansas State University and is based on academic accomplishment, financial need, and the benefit of the graduate's training to their home country (Dr. David Margolies)

Wendy Johnson – awarded the R.C. Smith Ph.D. Scholarship, based on overall accomplishments (Dr. David Margolies)

Predeesh Chandran – awarded the R.C. Smith Ph.D. Scholarship, based on overall accomplishments (Dr. David Margolies)

Carl Doud – awarded the O.W. "Spide" Morris Scholarship, which is made to a graduate student who has made significant contributions to the Kansas State University Department of Entomology or the profession of Entomology through extracurricular activities (Dr. David Margolies)

Leah Sigle – awarded the R.H. Painter M. S. Scholarship, which is based on evidence of scholarship potential in M.S. students in entomology at KSU (Dr. David Margolies)

Iliano Gomes – awarded the Floyd Holmes Scholarship, which is intended for students who have recently presented their research proposals (Dr. David Margolies)

Thais Albuquerque – awarded the Fred Clute Scholarship, which has preference given to those with a specific interest or research project in Integrated Pest

Management (Dr. David Margolies)

Grain Science

Liyan Chen – awarded the Cain Land and Grain Value Added Agriculture Scholarship (Dr. Praveen Wadlani)

Adrian Martinez-Kawas – awarded the Cain Land and Grain Value Added Agriculture Scholarship (Dr. Praveen Wadlani)

Anne Rigdon – awarded the Rene Buhler Memorial Scholarship (Dr. Dirk Maier)

Geography

Katie Costigan – awarded the 2011 Rumsey Bissell Marston Scholarship to support graduate student field work in field work in physical geography (Dr. Richard Marston)

Plant Pathology

Lorena Gomez – awarded the Konza and Manhattan Rotary Club Scholarship (Dr. Karen Garrett)

Competition Awardees

The graduate students who have received awards at conference poster competitions, oral presentation competitions, research forum presentation competitions, and other similar competitions are listed below with a brief description of their entry/award.

Agricultural Economics

Jason Fewell – awarded 2nd place in the Agricultural Sciences Oral Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (GSC)

Agronomy

Kalaiyarasi Pidan – awarded 3rd place in the Agricultural Oral Sciences Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (Dr. Rob Aiken)

Angela Tran – “Strong Roots Soy Company” team for Next Big Thing competition was awarded 1st place (Dr. Carol Shanklin)

Apparel, Textiles and Interior Design

Cosette Armstrong – awarded 2nd place in the Social Sciences/Humanities/Education Oral Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (GSC)

Architecture

Kristen Van Dusen – awarded 2nd place in the Poster Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (GSC)

Biology

Vijayalakshmi Iyer – awarded 1st place in the Biological Sciences Oral Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (GSC)

Xin Zhu – awarded 3rd place in the Biological Sciences Oral Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (GSC)

Chemical Engineering

Neha Dhiman – awarded 3rd place in the Engineering/Math/Physical Sciences Oral Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (GSC)

Chemistry

Ayomi Perera – awarded 1st place in the

Engineering/Math/Physical Sciences Oral Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (GSC)

Communication Studies

Maurianna Shelbourn – “Loudspeaker” team for Next Big Thing competition was awarded 4th (Dr. Carol Shanklin)

Janet Dickey – “Loudspeaker” team for Next Big Thing competition was awarded 4th place (Dr. Carol Shanklin)

Curriculum and Instruction

Amanda Morales – awarded 1st place in the Social Sciences/Humanities/Education Oral Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (GSC)

Entomology

Alysha Soper – awarded 1st place in the Agricultural Sciences Oral Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (Dr. David Margolies and GSC)

Family Studies and Human Services

Nick Carr – awarded the outstanding ACCI conference paper award (Dr. Maurice MacDonald and Dr. John Grable)

Hospitality Management and Dietetics

Gavin Edwards – “Hybrid Hostel” for Next Big Thing competition was awarded 5th place (Dr. Carol Shanklin)

Brandon Roberts – “Ice Cube Quick Chill Containers” for Next Big Thing competition was awarded 2nd place (Dr. Carol Shanklin)

William Hastings – “Ice Cube Quick Chill Containers” for Next Big Thing competition was awarded 2nd place (Dr. Carol Shanklin)

Human Nutrition

Alex Opoku-Acheampong – awarded 2nd place in the Biological Sciences Oral Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (Dr. Brian Lindshield and GSC)

Interior Architecture and Product Design

Kimberly Mahne – “Picnic” for Next Big Thing competition was awarded 3rd place (Dr. Carol Shanklin)

Mathematics

Rachel Manspeaker – awarded 3rd place in the Poster Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (GSC)

Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering

Arka Chattopadhyay – awarded 2nd place in the Engineering/Math/Physical Sciences Oral Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (GSC)

Music

Staci Horton – awarded 3rd place in the Social Sciences/Humanities/Education Oral Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (Dr. Frederick Burrack and GSC)

Physics

Adrian Madsen – awarded 1st place in the Poster Session of the 2011 K-State Research Forum (GSC)

Veterinary Medicine

Raghendra Amachawadi – recipient of The Association of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine Award for the best oral presentation in Food and Environmental Safety section at the 91st Conference on Research Workers in Animal Diseases, Chicago, IL, and recipient of 2nd place for research poster presented at the

International Conference on Antimicrobial Use in Cattle Production, Manhattan, KS (Dr. H. Morgan Scott)

Shneg Yi – finalist for Robert Gunn Student Award, presented annually by Cell and Molecular Physiology Section of American Physiological Society; all finalists presented posters to panel of judges during a special poster session, Washington, DC (Dr. Bruce Schultz)

Qian Wang – finalist for Robert Gunn Student Award, presented annually by Cell and Molecular Physiology Section of American Physiological Society; all finalist presented posters to panel of judges during a special poster session, Washington, DC (Dr. Bruce Schultz)

Conference Participants

Graduate students who were selected to give oral or poster presentations at professional conferences are listed below with a brief description of their conference.

Agricultural Economics

Elizabeth Yeager – two paper presentations selected for 2011 AAEE & NAREA Annual Meeting (Dr. John Crespi)

Kay Albright – presented to Intervet Schering-Plough Animal Health for Agricultural Marketing (AGEC 805) class project (Dr. John Crespi)

Kristen Schulte – selected to present at Risk Management Education Conference, St. Louis, MO (Dr. John Crespi)

Curriculum and Instruction

Andrew Feyes – presented with Dr. Frederick Burrack at the 3rd International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education in Bremen, German, and paper was published in proceedings of conference (Dr. Frederick Burrack)

Family Studies and Human Services

Ronald Sages – presented a paper at the annual American Council on Consumer Interests Conference, Washington, D.C. (Dr. Maurice MacDonald)

S. Cupples – presented a poster at the annual American Council on Consumer Interest Conference, Washington, D.C. (Dr. Maurice MacDonald)

Julie Cumbie – presented a paper at the annual American Council on Consumer Interest Conference, Washington, D.C., with co-authors S. Cupples, J. Henegar, K. Schindler, K Archuleta, S. Britt and J. Grable (Dr. Maurice MacDonald)

Kinesiology

Sarah Fieger – recently presented at the Experimental Biology Conference in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Brett Wong)

Veterinary Medicine

Neena Kanwar – one oral presentation each at 2nd ASM Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance in Zoonotic Bacteria and Foodborne Pathogens in Animals, Humans, and the Environment and Conference of Research Workers in Animals Diseases (Dr. H. Morgan Scott)

Notable Job Placements and Committee Assignments

The students listed in this section have received notable job placements or were asked to serve on prestigious committees or councils. A brief description of the job placement or committee assignment is included for each student.

Public Administration

Justin Stowe – graduated in Fall 2007 and has recently been promoted as Deputy Director in the Legislative Post-Auditor Office, Government of State of Kansas, Topeka; he generously extends his support to the MPA program by announcing in May 2011 that he would from now on augment the Tummala Fellowship by doubling the amount given for a student who graduates with the best writing (Dr. Krishna Tummala)

Notable Published Works

The students listed in this section have published notable works. A brief description of the written work and journal is included for each student, if available.

Agricultural Economics

Craig Smith – published “Assessing Best Management Practice Implementation Strategies under Climate Change Scenarios,” in Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. January/February 2011. 54(1): 171-190 (Dr. John Crespi)

Elizabeth Yeager – publication “Productivity Divergence Across Kansas Farms” accepted and forthcoming in Agricultural and Resource Economics Review (Dr. John Crespi)

Entomology

Paola Sotelo, German Vargas and Poornima Viswanathan – published “Variation of Resistance in Barley Against Biotypes 1 and 2 of the Russian Wheat Aphid (Hemiptera: Aphididae),” published in Journal of Economic Entomology 103: 938-948 (Dr. David Margolies)

Kinesiology

Sarah Fieger – published in Experimental Physiology and co-author on a publication in The Journal of Physiology (Dr. Brett Wong)

Veterinary Medicine

Raghavendra Amachawadi – published two articles in Foodborne Pathogens and Disease and another article has been submitted for publication (Dr. H. Morgan Scott)

Other Recognitions

The students listed in this section did not fit directly into one of the other broad categories, but are equally deserving of recognition for their accomplishments. A

brief description of their individual achievements is included for each student.

Food Science

Carrie Highfill – elected as President of the American Meat Science Association Student Board (Dr. John Unruh)

Music

Blair Williams – conducted Manhattan's Gold Orchestra in two pieces at The Midwest Clinic in Chicago in December 2010. David Littrell founded the Gold Orchestra in 1989, and this is the second time they have appeared at Midwest. Blair not only rehearsed the Gold Orchestra for the concert, she organized most aspects of this trip that involved over 100 people (Dr. Frederick Burrack)

Contact

If you have any questions, comments, or corrections, please contact Liz Frink (enfrink@ksu.edu), Awards and Recognitions subcommittee chairperson for the Graduate Student Council (co-coordinated by Cristina Bonnelly).