

Notable Scholarly Graduate Students

ACHIEVEMENTS

Presented by Kansas State University's Graduate Student Council Volume 6, Issue 1, May 2015

Kansas State University's Graduate Student Council would like to recognize several graduate students who have earned notable scholarly recognition. 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 inclusive of all the graduate student accomplishments across the university but is a representative return from the faculty. The students who have been recommended have been grouped based on the type of achievement and by academic unit. The major professor or advisor of each student or the professor submitting the achievement is recognized in parentheses after each student's name and award, if available. The Graduate Student Council acknowledges the production assistance of the K-State Division of Communications and Marketing.

EXCELLENCE AWARDEES

Several students have received outstanding student awards, achievement awards and teaching awards and are listed below. Students who have performed an exceptional leadership role are also listed below.

Agronomy

Ammar B. Bhandari

Received the Governor's Award for outstanding graduate poster at the 2014 Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, Nov. 12-13, 2014, in Manhattan. The title of his poster was "What is the right rate and timing for poultry litter application in Southeast Kansas?" (Dr. Nathan Nelson)

Kimberly O'Keefe

Received a research award from the K-State chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society for her project "The ecological significance of nocturnal transpiration."

John Kraft

Received the Best Student Presentation Award, sponsored by the Kansas chapter of The Wildlife Society, at the 2015 Kansas Natural Resources Conference in Wichita.

Andrew Dillon

Received the first-place award in the graduate student oral presentation competition at the North Central Weed Science Society annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in early December 2014.

Casey Pennock

Awarded the best student paper honor at the 2015 Kansas Natural Resource Conference in Wichita.

Civil Engineering

Nassim Sabahfar

Named the 2014 Mid-America Transportation Center Student of the Year and was honored at the Council of University Transportation Center Awards Banquet in January 2015 in Washington, D.C. The award includes a \$1,000 scholarship. (Dr. Mustaque Hossain)

Matti Kuykendall

Initiated into the Eta chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the honor society for agriculture. Gamma Sigma Delta focuses on scholarship, research and service to challenge those engaged in agriculture and related sciences to advance the agricultural industry. (Dr. Dirk Maier)

Fatemeh Shirmohammadi

Named the civil engineering department's Fall 2014 Outstanding Ph.D. Student for her performance as a researcher, including a large number of papers published in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at highly ranked conferences and for conducting quality research and graduate work. (Dr. Asad Esmaily)

Biology

Anna Zahner

Received the 2014 Konza Prairie Docent Trainee of the Year award. Zahner began training as a new Konza Prairie docent in March 2014 and completed her training in September 2014. She provided more than 50 hours of volunteer time by leading nature trail hikes, bison loop tours and hands-on science activities.

Entomology

Barbara Amoah

Received the Entomological Society of America President's Prize second-place award for her research poster. (Dr. Tom Phillips)

Skyler Hedden

Received the Otto Tiemeier/Frank Cross Graduate Student Scholarship award at the 2015 Kansas Natural Resource Conference in Wichita.

Michael "Jamie" Aikins

Received the Entomological Society of America President's Prize second-place award for his research poster. (Dr. Tom Phillips)

Ryan Schmid	Awarded the Outstanding M.S. Award at the annual meeting of the Nearctic Region Section of the International Organization for Biological Control, a part of the Entomological Society of America national meeting Nov. 16-19, 2014, in Portland, Oregon. The national award is presented to an outstanding master's degree student working in biological control. Schmid also received a \$500 scholarship from the K-State Graduate School at the 12th Capitol Graduate Research Summit in Topeka, which features current research by students from K-State State University, the University of Kansas, the University of Kansas Medical Center, Wichita State University, Fort Hays State University and Pittsburg State University. University professors and industry representatives judged the students' posters and presentations, with the top presenters from each university receiving scholarships. (Dr. Brian McCornack)	Nick Carr	assistant professor of family studies and human services, and fellow doctoral students Sarah Asebedo, Cherie Stueve and Cametra Thompson. (Dr. Martin Seay)	Plant Pathology	Trevor Rife	Recognized with the 2015 Future Leaders in Science Award from the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America for his interest and engagement in science advocacy. One of 18 graduate students earning the honor, he received a trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in the annual Congressional Visits Day in March, where he met with members of Congress and advocated for agricultural and environmental research. (Dr. Jesse Poland)	Veterinary Medicine	Michelle Pavlick	Initiated into the Eta chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta in November 2014. The honor society in agriculture focuses on scholarship, research and service to challenge those engaged in agriculture and related sciences to advance the agricultural industry. (Dr. Dirk Maier)	
Philip Freda Jr.	Received a research award from the K-State chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, for his project "Tests for genetic constraints across ontogeny in the thermal physiology of <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> ."			FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT AWARDEES						
Family Studies and Human Services		Hospitality Management and Dietetics		<i>Significant fellowships or grants were awarded to the following students. A brief description of the award is included, if available.</i>						
Sarah Asebedo	Won the Best Applied Research Paper Award for "To leverage or not to leverage: Psychological implications of mortgage debt in retirement" at the 2014 Financial Planning Association Conference in Seattle. The paper was co-written by Martin Seay, assistant professor of family studies and human services, and fellow doctoral students Cametra Thompson, Cherie Stueve and Rick Russi. (Dr. Martin Seay)	Bethany Belanger	Received, with Dr. Junehee Kwon, the Margaret D. Simko Memorial Award for Excellence at the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo in October 2014 for the top poster presentation at the conference, the largest in nutrition and dietetics. Their winning poster, for which they received a \$300 cash prize, was "Factors influencing food selection and nutrient intakes of non-trainee army dining facility patrons." Belanger's research project is related to the military dining and soldiers' nutrition initiative. (Dr. Junehee Kwon)	Family Studies and Human Services	Keondria McClish	Received Kappa Omicron Nu's Betty Jeanne Root Fellowship, which is given in support of the doctoral program of a student member of the honor society. Students must display excellence in or potential for excellence in scholarship as they progress through their graduate program. (Dr. Kimmery Newsom)	Sooyoung Choi	Received an Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences Small Grant, which is awarded to support research expenses for master's and doctoral students in their final year. Funding is to support direct cost for their research, scholarly or creative work. (Dr. Rebecca Gould)		
Cametra Thompson	Won the Best Applied Research Paper Award for "To leverage or not to leverage: Psychological implications of mortgage debt in retirement" at the 2014 Financial Planning Association Conference in Seattle. The paper was co-written by Martin Seay, assistant professor of family studies and human services, and fellow doctoral students Sarah Asebedo, Cherie Stueve and Rick Russi. (Dr. Martin Seay)	Human Nutrition	Kavitha Penugonda	Received a \$500 scholarship from the K-State Graduate School and a \$500 scholarship from BioKansas as a top presenter at the 12th Capitol Graduate Research Summit in Topeka in February. The summit is a statewide event that features current research of graduate students at K-State, the University of Kansas, the University of Kansas Medical Center, Wichita State University, Fort Hays State University and Pittsburg State University. University professors and industry representatives judged the students' posters and presentations. The top presenters from each university received scholarships.	Hospitality Management and Dietetics	Seunghyun Park	Received an Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences Small Grant, which is awarded to support research expenses for master's and doctoral students in their final year. Funding is to support direct cost for their research, scholarly or creative work. (Dr. Rebecca Gould)	Han Wen	Received an Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences Small Grant, which is awarded to support research expenses for master's and doctoral students in their final year. Funding is to support direct cost for their research, scholarly or creative work. (Dr. Junehee Kwon)	
Cherie Stueve	Won the Best Applied Research Paper Award for "To leverage or not to leverage: Psychological implications of mortgage debt in retirement" at the 2014 Financial Planning Association Conference in Seattle. The paper was co-written by Martin Seay, assistant professor of family studies and human services, and fellow doctoral students Sarah Asebedo, Cametra Thompson and Rick Russi. (Dr. Martin Seay)	Kinesiology	Angela Glean	Named a finalist for the 2015-2016 Fulbright U.S. Student Program. The Fulbright Program provides grants for individually designed research projects or for English teaching assistant programs in a country outside U.S. with objectives of engaging in the community and exchanging cultures. Glean aspires to perform public health research in Quito, Ecuador, where she studied abroad on a Gilman Scholarship in summer 2013.	Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics	Prashant Wani	Received a K-State Graduate Student Council Travel Award to attend Experimental Biology 2015, which is organized by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. (Dr. Jeroen Roelofs)			
Rick Russi	Won the Best Applied Research Paper Award for "To leverage or not to leverage: Psychological implications of mortgage debt in retirement" at the 2014 Financial Planning Association Conference in Seattle. The paper was co-written by Martin Seay,	Music	Ye Hua	Received honorable mention in the graduate category at the Kansas Music Teachers Association College Competition at Washburn University in Topeka. Hua is a student in the piano studio of Dr. Slawomir Dobrzanski.	TRAVEL GRANT AWARDEES					
				<i>Travel grants were awarded to students with opportunities to advance their research, network and enhance the graduate student experience at K-State as well as the visibility of the university. Funds are distributed on a competitive basis through a formal application process.</i>						
				TRAVEL AWARDEES						
				<i>An external travel grant was awarded to the students listed below. A brief description of the travel grant is included, if available.</i>						
				Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics	Prashant Wani	Received the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology 2015 Grad/Postdoc Travel Award. The competitive honor is awarded to assist		graduate students or postdoctoral fellows presenting research as first author at the society's 2015 annual meeting, which is in conjunction with Experimental Biology 2015. Awards are up to \$1,000. (Dr. Jeroen Roelofs)		

Biological and Agricultural Engineering		Genetics	
Nanabaah Appiah-Nkansah	Received the North Central Region SARE Professional Development Program's Kansas Travel Scholarship, which is worth up to \$1,000. It supports a K-State student's travel for conference presentations or meetings on sustainable agriculture that enhance a student's professional development. (Dr. Donghai Wang)	Cameron Hunter	Received the Fungal Genetics Conference Financial Aid Award to attend the 28th Fungal Genetics Conference, March 17-22, in Pacific Grove, California. (Dr. Richard Todd)
Electrical and Computer Engineering			
S.M. Shafiul Alam	Received the IEEE Eta Kappa Nu, or HKN, Student Leadership Conference 2015 Travel Grant of \$250, which was awarded to officers of the honorary to attend the three-day HKN Student Leadership Conference, March 20-22, at the University of California, Berkley. (Dr. David Soldan)	Damien Downes	Received the Fungal Genetics Conference Financial Aid Award to attend the 28th Fungal Genetics Conference, March 17-22, in Pacific Grove, California. (Dr. Richard Todd)
		Mathematics	
		Niles Armstrong	Received the Shanks Workshop on Mathematical Aspects of Fluid Dynamics travel award. The \$800 award covered travel, lodging and meal expenses while attending the conference at Vanderbilt University. (Dr. Marianne Kortzen)

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

Those students who were awarded notable scholarships are listed below, with a brief description of the scholarship, if available.

Agricultural Economics			
Andrew Garr	Received the College of Agriculture Scholarship for Distance Education, which provides financial assistance to undergraduate and graduate students admitted and enrolled in College of Agriculture distance education degree programs. Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$900 for graduate students. (Maleah Lundeen)		of the day offering opportunities to meet informally with the Nobel Laureates and student participants. (Dr. Michael Tobler)
Apparel, Textiles, and Interior Design		Civil Engineering	
Katherine Elks	Awarded the Maurine Allison O'Bannon Memorial Scholarship, which provides \$1,000 to undergraduates and graduate students seeking degrees at K-State and enrolled in K-State Global Campus courses. The scholarship was created to perpetuate the memory of Maurine Allison O'Bannon. (Maleah Lundeen)	Xingdong Wu	Received the \$3,000 Robert I-Jen and Sophia Shui-Kan Jung Graduate Scholarship in Engineering. (Dr. Dunja Peric)
Architectural Engineering and Construction Sciences		Computing and Information Sciences	
Alex Pint	Received the \$1,000 American Council of Engineering Companies Scholarship. (Dr. Russell Murdock)	Richard Waliser	Earned the College of Engineering Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to graduate students admitted and enrolled in College of Engineering distance education degree programs. Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$1,000 for graduate students. (Maleah Lundeen)
Biological and Agricultural Engineering		Educational Leadership	
Luke Snider	Received the \$1,000 American Council of Engineering Companies Scholarship. (Dr. Lisa Wilken)	Marie Bovee	Received the Maurine Allison O'Bannon Memorial Scholarship, which provides \$1,000 to undergraduates and graduate students seeking degrees at K-State and enrolled in K-State Global Campus courses. The scholarship was created to perpetuate the memory of Maurine Allison O'Bannon. (Maleah Lundeen)
Biology		Electrical and Computer Engineering	
Courtney Passow	Awarded a scholarship to attend the 65th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Lindau, Germany. Passow is one of 672 young scientists in chemistry, physics, or physiology and medicine selected worldwide to attend the meeting. Called the "world's best and brightest graduate students," they will attend the weeklong meeting in June 2015 with Nobel Prize winners. The meeting offers formal lectures in the morning, with the rest	Kan Chen	Received the \$6,0000 Robert I-Jen and Sophia Shui-Kan Jung Graduate Scholarship in Engineering. (Dr. Bala Natarajan)
		Food Science	
		Patrice Lyon	Earned the College of Agriculture Scholarship for Distance Education, which provides financial assistance to undergraduate and graduate students admitted and enrolled in College of Agriculture distance education degree programs. Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$900 for graduate students. (Maleah Lundeen)

Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering			
Christopher Dean	Received the College of Engineering Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to graduate students admitted and enrolled in College of Engineering distance education degree programs. Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$1,000 for graduate students. (Maleah Lundeen)	Jenna Gannon	Awarded the College of Education Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to undergraduate and graduate students admitted and enrolled in College of Education distance education degree programs. Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$1,000 for graduate students. (Maleah Lundeen)
Heather Moe	Awarded the College of Engineering Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to graduate students admitted and enrolled in College of Engineering distance education degree programs. Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$1,000 for graduate students. (Maleah Lundeen)	Diana Lovendino	Received the College of Education Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to undergraduate and graduate students admitted and enrolled in College of Education distance education degree programs. Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$1,000 for graduate students. (Maleah Lundeen)
Xiaoming Yu	Received the \$6,000 Robert I-Jen and Sophia Shui-Kan Jung Scholarship in Engineering. (Dr. Shuting Lei)		
Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering			
Carlos Bauza	Received the College of Engineering Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to graduate students admitted and enrolled in College of Engineering distance education degree programs. Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$1,000 for graduate students. (Maleah Lundeen)	Cornell Sneed	Received the College of Education Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to undergraduate and graduate students admitted and enrolled in College of Education distance education degree programs. Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$1,000 for graduate students. (Maleah Lundeen)
Wenkai Fu	Received the \$6,000 Robert I-Jen and Sophia Shui-Kan Jung Scholarship in Engineering. (Dr. Jeremy Roberts)	Sarah Warren	Received the College of Education Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to undergraduate and graduate students admitted and enrolled in College of Education distance education degree programs. Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$1,000 for graduate students. (Maleah Lundeen)
Puxuan Li	Received the \$6,000 Robert I-Jen and Sophia Shui-Kan Jung Scholarship in Engineering. (Dr. Steve Eckels)		
Special Education, Counseling and Student Affairs			
Daniel Allred	Earned the Maurine Allison O'Bannon Memorial Scholarship, which provides		

COMPETITION AWARDEES

Graduate students who 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 the entry/award, if available.

Agronomy			
Ammar Bhandari	Won first place in the K-State Research Forum's agricultural sciences poster session and a \$500 award.		Student Ph.D. Poster Competition at the Midwestern Section of the American Society of Animal Science meetings. Frobose competed with students from across the United States who were judged on quality of research, abstract, presentation and ability to answer questions. (Dr. Jim Nelssen)
Pavithra Pitumpe Arachchige	Received second place in the K-State Research Forum's interdisciplinary poster session and a \$250 award.	Kyle Coble	Awarded first place in the Graduate Student Ph.D. Poster Competition at the Midwestern Section of the American Society of Animal Science meetings. Coble competed with students from across the United States who were judged on quality of research, abstract, presentation and ability
Dilooshi Weerasooriya	Earned second place in the K-State Research Forum's interdisciplinary oral presentation session and a \$250 award.		
Animal Sciences and Industry			
Hyatt Frobose	Earned third place in the Graduate		

	to answer questions. Coble was also selected for the Young Scholar Award at the same meeting. The award is presented to graduate students with sustained excellence in their research program. Winning students give an invited presentation at Midwestern Section meetings. (Dr. Joel DeRouchey)		of the Institute of Biological Engineers in St. Louis, Missouri, March 5-8. The students worked with Donghai Wang, professor of biological and agricultural engineering at K-State, and collaborator William Rooney, professor in the department of soil and crop sciences at Texas A&M University, for the poster “Incorporation of Sweet Sorghum Juice into Current Dry-Grind Ethanol Process for Improved Ethanol Yields.” (Drs. Donghai Wang and William Rooney)		He also was awarded a \$500 scholarship from the K-State Graduate School for his presentation at the Capitol Graduate Research Summit.	Kavitha Penugonda	Received a \$500 scholarship from the K-State Graduate School and a \$500 scholarship from BioKansas for her presentation at the Capitol Graduate Research Summit.
Ethan Stephenson	Received second place in the Graduate Student M.S. Oral Paper Competition at the Midwestern Section of the American Society of Animal Science meetings. Stephenson competed with students from across the United States, who were judged on quality of research, abstract, presentation and ability to answer questions. (Dr. Mike Tokach)	Lara Soto Sierra	Received first place, with Chelsea Dixon, in the graduate student competition for the poster “Aqueous Enzymatic Extraction of Oil and Protein from Chlamydomonas reinhardtii” at the 2015 annual conference of the Institute of Biological Engineers in St. Louis, Missouri, March 5-8. (Dr. Lisa Wilken)		Won third place in the K-State Research Forum’s social sciences, humanities and education oral presentation session and a \$125 award.	Trias Mahmudiono	Won first place in the K-State Research Forum’s social sciences, humanities and education oral presentation and a \$500 award.
Jon De Jong	Earned third place in the Graduate Student Ph.D. Oral Paper Competition at the Midwestern Section of the American Society of Animal Science meetings. De Jong competed with students from across the United States, who were judged on quality of research, abstract, presentation and ability to answer questions. (Dr. Joel DeRouchey)	Chelsea Dixon	Received first place, with Lara Soto Sierra, in the graduate student competition for the poster “Aqueous Enzymatic Extraction of Oil and Protein from Chlamydomonas reinhardtii” at the 2015 annual conference of the Institute of Biological Engineers in St. Louis, Missouri, March 5-8. Dixon also won first place in the K-State Research Forum’s Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences poster session and a \$500 award. (Dr. Lisa Wilken)		Participated in the National Industry Issues competition at the Foundation for Financial Service Professionals’ Arizona Institute in Phoenix. Rao and the K-State team submitted a paper on “Rapid rise: Growth potential and changing business practices of U.S. financial services professions.” For the paper, the students researched and analyzed three professional career paths, the skills needed to be successful in those careers and the value of peer relationships. (Drs. Stuart Heckman and Martin Seay)		
Benjamin Voelz	Won third place in the K-State Research Forum’s biological sciences oral presentation session and a \$125 award.						
Apparel, Textiles, and Interior Design		Biology					
Sarah Al-zahrani	Received second place in the K-State Research Forum’s social sciences, humanities and education poster session and a \$250 award.	Corin White	Earned first place in the K-State Research Forum’s interdisciplinary oral presentation session and a \$500 award.		Won first place in the K-State Research Forum’s social sciences, humanities and education poster session and a \$500 award.		
Md. Imranul Islam	Won first place in the K-State Research Forum’s social sciences, humanities and education oral presentation session and a \$500 award.	Kimberly O’Keefe	Won second place in the K-State Research Forum’s agricultural sciences oral presentation session and a \$250 award.		Received third place in the K-State Research Forum’s social sciences, humanities and education poster session and a \$125 award.		
Lauren Reiter	Earned second place in the K-State Research Forum’s social sciences, humanities and education oral presentation session and a \$250 award.	Chemistry					
		Kathleen Sellens	Received first place in the K-State Research Forum’s engineering, mathematics and physical sciences oral presentation session and a \$500 award.		Won first place in the K-State Research Forum’s interdisciplinary poster session and a \$500 award.		
Biological and Agricultural Engineering		Amendra Fernando Hewa Dewage	Won second place in the K-State Research Forum’s engineering, mathematics and physical sciences oral presentation session and a \$250 award.		Awarded second place in the K-State Research Forum’s agricultural sciences oral presentation session and a \$250 award.		
Nanabaah Appiah-Nkansah	Won second place, with Kaelin Saul, in the graduate student competition as part of the 2015 annual conference of the Institute of Biological Engineers in St. Louis, Missouri, March 5-8. The students worked with Donghai Wang, professor of biological and agricultural engineering at K-State, and collaborator William Rooney, professor in the department of soil and crop sciences at Texas A&M University, for the poster “Incorporation of Sweet Sorghum Juice into Current Dry-Grind Ethanol Process for Improved Ethanol Yields.” Appiah-Nkansah also won first place in the K-State Research Forum’s engineering, mathematics and physical sciences oral presentation session and a \$500 award. (Dr. Donghai Wang)	Entomology					
		Shelly Wiggam	Won first place in the doctoral-level poster competition at the 68th annual meeting of the Society for Range Management, Jan. 31 to Feb. 6, in Sacramento, California. Her poster was “Patch-Burn Grazing Promotes Pollinator Diversity Through Spatially Explicit Habitat Heterogeneity.” The award is sponsored by the Society for Range Management and Dow AgroSciences. She also won first place in the K-State Research Forum’s agricultural sciences oral presentation session and a \$500 award. (Drs. Greg Zolnerowich and Brian McCornack)		Won second place in the K-State Research Forum’s agricultural sciences poster session and a \$250 award.		
Kaelin Saul	Won second place, with Nanabaah Appiah-Nkansah, in the graduate student competition at the 2015 annual conference	Ryan Schmid	Won first place in the K-State Research Forum’s agricultural sciences oral presentation session and a \$500 award.		Received third place in the K-State Research Forum’s agricultural sciences oral presentation session and a \$125 award.		
					Won first place in the K-State Research Forum’s social sciences, humanities and education poster session and a \$500 award.		
					Earned third place in the K-State Research Forum’s social sciences, humanities and education poster session and a \$125 award.		
						Kinesiology	
						Trenton Colburn	Received first place in the K-State Research Forum’s biological sciences poster session and a \$500 award.
						Tammi Paolilli	Won second place in the K-State Research Forum’s social sciences, humanities and education poster session and a \$250 award.
						Landscape Architecture	
						Betsy Haddox	Earned first place as a member of K-State’s On The Spot improv team at the Heartland Regional College Improv Tournament, Nov. 8, 2014, in Kansas City. The team also competed at the National College Improv Tournament, March 14, in Chicago. Eleven teams from Midwest universities competed in the tournament.
						Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering	
						Benjamin Montag	Received, as part of a K-State SMART Laboratory research team, an Research and Development 100 Award, which is given to the 100 best commercialized technologies of the year. Montag was on a team recognized for its work on developing lithium foil-based multiwire proportional counters for neutron detection. These neutron detectors are the first of their kind and use suspended lithium foil sheets, like those in Li-ion batteries, as the neutron interaction medium. Traditional neutron detectors, for example, rely on helium-3 gas, which has suffered from interruptions in supply in recent years. Fortunately, this lithium foil technology has progressed rapidly thanks to the battery industry, and these detectors are a low-cost, rugged alternative. (Dr. Kyle Nelson)
						Microbiology	
						Chen Peng	Earned second place in the K-State Research Forum’s biological sciences oral presentation and a \$250 award.
						Physics	
						Nicoleta Ploscariu	Won second place in the K-State Research Forum’s engineering, mathematics and physical sciences poster session and a \$250 award.
						Plant Pathology	
						Ananda Bandara	Earned first place in the Diversity Student Poster Competition for underrepresented students, a part of the Graduate Student Poster Awards Program sponsored by the Diversity in Agronomy, Crops, Soils and Environmental Sciences Committee of the American Soil Society, Crop Science Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America. Bandara won for the originality and impact of his study, content and clarity

	of information, as well as the quality of his presentation. (Dr. Chris Little)
Psychological Sciences	
Taylor Wadian	Received second place in the K-State Research Forum's social sciences, humanities and education oral presentation session and a \$250 award.

Veterinary Pathobiology	
Lance Noll	Won first place in the K-State Research Forum's biological sciences oral presentation session and a \$500 award.

Family Studies and Human Services	
Bryan Cafferky	

Hospitality Management and Dietetics	
Ju Won Choi	Presented the poster “Food variety seeking behavior in uncertainty: Moderating roles of information.” (Dr. Chihyung Ok)

CONFERENCE AND COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS

Graduate students who were selected to give oral or poster presentations at professional conferences are listed below with a brief description of the conference, if available. Students who attended a prestigious conference or had their work included in an exhibition are also listed below.

Civil Engineering	
Fatemeh Shirmohammadi	Presented her research work on performance of atypical columns at the American Concrete Institute fall 2014 convention in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Asad Esmaeily)

AlaaEldin Abouelleil	Had his research presented by a co-author in a session on design and construction challenges of atypical RC columns at the American Concrete Institute fall 2014 convention in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Hayder Rasheed)
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Ahmed Al-Rahmani	Presented his research in a session on design and construction challenges of atypical RC columns at the American Concrete Institute fall 2014 convention in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Hayder Rasheed)
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Ishani Dias	Presented a paper at the 94th annual Transportation Research Board meeting in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Sunanda Dissanayake)
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Syeda Aziz	Presented a paper at the 94th annual Transportation Research Board meeting in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Sunanda Dissanayake)
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Communication Studies	
Sara Norval	Presented a poster at the 2015 K-State Research Forum. (Dr. Sarah Riforgiate)

Brock Ingmire	Presented “The great divide: Understanding hard and soft genres in political interviews,” a paper co-authored with Soo-Hye Han, assistant professor of communication studies, at the 2015 Western States Communication Association annual conference in Spokane, Washington. At that same conference, he also presented “Narrative use in communal identity construction: The reflection ballot.” In addition, he presented “Talking in deliberation: A road map of deliberative dialogue” at the National Communication Association annual conference in Chicago, Illinois. (Drs. Tim Steffensmeier and Soo-Hye Han)
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Katrina Hanna	Wrote the paper “The sartorial situation: Women’s professional dress as tactical response,” co-authored with C. Duerringer, that was accepted for the Popular Culture Association in the South meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. At the same conference,
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she also presented the paper “Battling purity: An auto-archaeological approach.” In addition, she presented “Reference group theory and emerging adults’ sexual behaviors” at the 2015 K-State Research Forum. (Drs. Colene Lind and Greg Paul)

Corey Reutlinger	Wrote the paper “Neo-Constructing Disability Policy: Rhetorically De-Marginalizing Environment-Frames through Internalized Ableism” that was accepted by the Western States Communication Association annual conference in Spokane, Washington. (Dr. Soo-Hye Han)
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Levi Smith	Presented the paper “Does More Rehearsal Time Lead to Less Truth-Leakage” at the National Communication Association annual conference in Chicago, Illinois. (Dr. Soo-Hye Han)
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Computing and Information Sciences	
Fengguo Wei	Presented a research paper at the 21st Association for Computing Machinery Conference on Computer and Communications Security and its associated workshops, Nov. 3-7, 2014, in Scottsdale, Arizona. (Dr. Xinming Ou)

Sathya Chandran	Presented a research paper at the 21st Association for Computing Machinery Conference on Computer and Communications Security and its associated workshops, Nov. 3-7, 2014, in Scottsdale, Arizona. (Dr. Xinming Ou)
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Alexandru Bardas	Presented a research paper at the 28th Large Installation System Administration Conference, Nov. 9-14, 2014, in Seattle, Washington. (Dr. Xinming Ou)
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Rui Zhuang	Presented a research paper at the 21st Association for Computing Machinery Conference on Computer and Communications Security and its associated workshops, Nov. 3-7, 2014, in Scottsdale, Arizona. (Dr. Scott DeLoach)
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Sam Procter	Gave a talk on the patient-specific network of medical devices, joint research with John Hatcliff, professor of computing and information sciences, for the Software Certification Consortium at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Rockville, Maryland. (Dr. John Hatcliff)
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Darin Knapp	Presented the following at the National Council on Family Relations Conference, November 2014, in Baltimore, Maryland: on a four group, multiple sample analysis of military wives’ loneliness done by Barros, P., Cafferky, B., and Smith, E.; depression as a mediator between psychological and physical aggression, by Baptist, J., Barros, P., Cafferky, B., and Thompson, D.; and “To share or not to share: Communication in National Guard families,” by Smith, E., Dominguez, M., and Cafferky, B. He also presented the following posters at the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Conference, October 2014, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin: “Risk markers for spouse abuse in the military population: A meta-analysis,” by Dominguez, M., Cafferky, B., Smith, E., Dharnidharka, P., and Stith, S.; “Childhood exposure to violence: A meta-analysis,” by Norton, A., Cafferky, B., & Lechtenberg, M., which won the Cutting Edge Research Award; “Air Force chaplains’ effect on coping and satisfaction,” by Mallory, A., Barros-Gomes, P., Luu, S., Cafferky, B., & Stith, S.; and “IPV risk factors: A collectivist and individualistic context.” (Dr. Jared Anderson)
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Darin Knapp	Presented the following: Kimmes, J., Durtschi, J.A., Clifford, C., and Knapp, D.J. “Attributions and Attachment in Relationship Satisfaction,” a poster; and with Clifford, C., Durtschi, J. A., Kimmes, J., Knapp, D.J., and Hardy, N., “Love Withdrawal and Dedication Commitment in Marriage,” a poster, both presented at the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Annual Conference, October 2014, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Knapp, D.J., Norton, A.M., and Sandberg, J.G., “Family-of-Origin, Relationship Self-Regulation, and Attachment in Marital Relationships,” a paper presented at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, November 2014, Baltimore, Maryland. (Dr. Jared Anderson)
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Han Wen	Presented the poster “Risk Communication When Serving Consumers with Food Allergies in Restaurants in the U.S.” (Dr. Junehee Kwon)
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Chen-Wei Tao	Presented the poster “Factors affecting older adults’ dining behaviors and preferences in the U.S.: An exploratory study.” (Dr. Junehee Kwon)
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Seunghyun Park	Gave the oral presentations “Destination marketing research using big data analytics: A case for Florida” and “Text mining and sentiment analysis with tweet data referring to Asian Restaurants” at the Graduate Education and Graduate Research Conference in Hospitality and Tourism. (Drs. Rebecca Gould and Chihyung Ok)
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Michelle Alcorn	Made the oral presentation “What’s after graduate school? Hospitality students’ future career goals and perception of curriculum” at the Graduate Education and Graduate Research Conference in Hospitality and Tourism. (Dr. Kevin Roberts)
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School of Music, Theatre, and Dance	
Barrett Scroggs	Presented a three-hour session on the research he is doing for his master’s project on empathy and creative drama. He also served as the K-State representative to the National Association for Drama Therapy Student Committee. Because of his work on fundraising for student scholarships to conferences, he was invited to join the board of The Drama Therapy Fund and is in charge of social media for the organization. (Professor Sally Bailey)

NOTABLE JOB PLACEMENTS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The following students have received notable job placements, were asked to serve on prestigious committees/councils, or participated in internships. A brief description of the job placement, committee assignment or internship, if available, is included for each student.

Family Studies and Human Services	
Nathan Hardy	Accepted a two-year postdoctoral research fellowship at Northwestern University. (Dr. Jared Anderson)

Bryan Cafferky	Accepted a position as an assistant professor of marriage and family therapy in the School of Behavioral Health at Loma Linda University. (Dr. Jared Anderson)
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Hospitality Management and Dietetics	
Sarina Sungkatavat	Hired as an assistant professor in fall 2014, and was promoted to the director of the master’s program in the Tourism and Hospitality Management Division at Mahidol University International College. (Dr. Junehee Kwon)

NOTABLE PUBLISHED WORKS

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

Educational Leadership			
Paul Berg	Received the Command and General Staff College's Silver Pen award as co-author of "Followership: Exercising Discretion" in the Journal of Leadership Education. (Dr. Sarah Jane Fishback)		and Attachment in Relationship Satisfaction," a poster, and with Clifford, C., Durtschi, J. A., Kimmes, J., Knapp, D.J., and Hardy, N., "Love Withdrawal and Dedication Commitment in Marriage," a poster, both presented at the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Annual Conference, October 2014, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Knapp, D.J., Norton, A.M., and Sandberg, J.G., "Family-of-Origin, Relationship Self-Regulation, and Attachment in Marital Relationships," a paper presented at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, November 2014, Baltimore, Maryland. (Dr. Jared Anderson)
Electrical and Computer Engineering			
Kim Fowler	Published, as first author and editor, the textbook "Developing and Managing Embedded Systems and Products: Methods, Techniques, Tools, Processes, and Teamwork." (Dr. Stephen Dyer)		
S.M. Shafiul Alam	Published the paper "Agent-based State Estimation in Smart Distribution Grid" in Spanish and it appears in IEEE Latin America Transactions, Volume 13, Issue 2 on pages 496-502. The authors are S.M. Shafiul Alam, first author; Bala Natarajan; Anil Pahwa; and Sergio Curto. (Dr. Bala Natarajan)	Genetics	
		Damien Downes	Published a first-author paper, which determined the genomewide effects of a carcinogenic chemical mutagen in a genetic model fungus, titled "Characterization of the mutagenic spectrum of 4-nitroquinoline 1-oxide (4-NQO) in <i>Aspergillus nidulans</i> by whole genome sequencing" by Downes, D.J., Chonofsky, M., Tan, K., Pfannenstiel, B.T., Reck-Peterson, S.L., Todd, R.B. (2014) G3: Genes, Genomes, Genetics. 4(12):2483-2492. (Dr. Richard Todd)
Family Studies and Human Services		Mathematics	
Darin Knapp	Published the following: Knapp, D.J., Sandberg, J.G., Novak, J., and Larson, J.H. (2015), "The mediating role of attachment behaviors on the relationship between family-of-origin and couple communication: Implications for couples therapy," Journal of Couple & Relationship Therapy, 14(1), 17-38. doi: 10.1080/15332691.2014.953650. He also made the following conference presentations: Kimmes, J., Durtschi, J.A., Clifford, C., and Knapp, D.J. "Attributions	Nhan Tran	Co-authored a published paper with Alexander Ramm, professor of mathematics, "A Fast Algorithm for Solving Scalar Wave Scattering by Billions of Particles," Journal of Algorithms and Optimization, vol.3, no.1, pp. 1-13, 2015. (Dr. Alexander Ramm)

ADDITIONAL HONORS AND AWARDS

The most recent awards/nominations/initiates from the spring 2015 semester are listed below.

School of Music, Theatre, and Dance		Joanna Abillama	
Jessica Munoz	Had her original one-act play "CatCalls" produced as a staged reading in the Purple Masque Theatre on March 6-7. The play toured Fort Riley in April, where it was performed for the 4th Battalion as an educational tool for Sexual Awareness Month. (Professor Sally Bailey)		Had her nonfiction play "Dunia," based on interviews with women from the Middle East who have become ex-Muslims, presented in a staged reading at the Purple Masque Theatre on Jan. 29-31. Abillama wrote the play and was able to use the rehearsal process to workshop the play — or rewrite during rehearsals. She later served as director for "CatCalls," a one-act play about sexual harassment that was given a staged reading in the Purple Masque Theatre on March 6-7. (Professor Sally Bailey)
Jessie Greenfield	Had her nonfiction play "Shepherdless" performed in a staged reading at the Purple Masque Theatre on March 6-7. The play is based on interviews with LGBT individuals who have been rejected by their religious institution because of their sexual preference. (Professor Sally Bailey)		

Contact

If you have any questions, comments or corrections, please contact Aaron Entringer (entringer@k-state.edu), Awards and Recognitions Subcommittee chair for the Graduate Student Council (co-chair Angela Glean).

