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)

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.

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)

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.

Skyler Hedden 
Received the Otto Tiemeier/Frank Cross Graduate Student Scholarship award 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)

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 Esmaeily)

Entomology

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

Michael “Jamie” Aikins 
Received the Entomological Society of America President’s Prize second-place award for his research poster. (Dr. Tom Phillips)
Ryan Schmid

Awardees: The Outstanding M.S. Award at the annual meeting of the Neotenic Region Section of the International Organization for Biological Control; a part of the Entomological Society of America in November 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 $300 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

Won the Best Theoretical Research Award for his dissertation work, “Reasoning the assessment of comprehensive financial risk evaluation and grade-based wealth management.” Co-authors included Cliff Rohl, Sonya Britt and Kristy Archibald from the personal financial planning facility in the College of Human Ecology. (Dr. Cliff Rohl, Sonya Britt and Kristy Archibald)

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 Assebedo, Cherie Stueve and Cametra Thompson. (Dr. Martin Seay)

Kinesiology

Angela Glik

Named a finalist for the 2015-2016 Finklight U.S. Student Program. The Finklight 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. Glik aspire to perform public health research in Qatar, Ecuador, where she studied abroad in a Gilman Scholarship in summer 2013.

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 Dobrzański.

Plant Pathology

Trevor Rite

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. Jose Poland)

Veterinary Medicine

Michelle Parlick

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 Mazer)

Family Studies and Human Services

Sarah Assebedo

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)

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 Assebedo, Cherie Stueve and Rick Russi. (Dr. Martin Seay)

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 Assebedo, Cametra Thompson and Rick Russi. (Dr. Martin Seay)

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, assistant professor of family studies and human services, and fellow doctoral students Sarah Assebedo, Cherie Stueve and Cametra Thompson. (Dr. Martin Seay)

Hospitability and Management

Bethany Belanger

Received, with Dr. Jennifer 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 intake of non-trainee army dining facility patrons.” Belanger’s research project is related to the military dining and soldiers’ nutrition initiatives. (Dr. Jennifer Kwon)

Human Nutrition

Karthika Puranagouda

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 with the top presenters from each university receiving scholarships.

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 Dobrzański.

Kinesiology

Angela Glik

Named a finalist for the 2015-2016 Finklight U.S. Student Program. The Finklight 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. Glik aspire to perform public health research in Qatar, Ecuador, where she studied abroad in a Gilman Scholarship in summer 2013.

Family Studies and Human Services

Sarah Assebedo

Received the Best Theoretical Research Award in the 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 Dobrzański.

Doctoral Students

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 Dobrzański.

Family Studies and Human Services

Sarah Assebedo

Received the Best Theoretical Research Award in the 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 Dobrzański.

Family Studies and Human Services

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Sarah Assebedo

Received the Best Theoretical Research Award in the 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 Dobrzański.
Agricultural Economics

Andrew Carr

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)

Civil Engineering

Xinglong Wu

Received the $3,000 Robert I-Jen and Sophia Shui-Kang Graduate Scholarship in Engineering.

(Dr. Donja Petr)

Computing and Information Sciences

Richard Walser

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)

Educational Leadership

Maire Bevce

Received the Maxine Allison O'Bannon Memorial Scholarship, which provides $1,000 to undergraduate 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 Maxine Allison O'Bannon.

(Maleah Lundeen)

Architectural Engineering

Alex Pint

Received the $1,000 American Council of Engineering Companies Scholarship. (Dr. Russell Mundock)

Biological and Agricultural Engineering

Luke Snyder

Received the $1,000 American Council of Engineering Companies Scholarship. (Dr. Lisa Willen)

Biological Engineering

Nadabah Ahipra-Nkash

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 advance a student's professional development. (Dr. Douglas Wang)

Electrical and Computer Engineering

S.M. Shafiu Alam

Received the IEEEEta Kappa Nu, or HKN, Student Leadership Conference 2015 Travel Grant of $210, 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, Berkeley. (Dr. David Solman)

Genetics

Cameron Hunter

Received the Fungal Genetics Conference Financial Aid Award to attend the 26th Fungal Genetics Conference, March 17-22, in Pacific Grove, California. (Dr. Richard Todd)

Damian Dowmes

Received the Fungal Genetics Conference Financial Aid Award to attend the 26th 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 Korten)

Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering

Christopher Dram

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)

Heather Mor

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)

Xiaoming Ye

Received the $6,000 Robert I-Jen and Sophia Shui-Kang Scholarship in Engineering.

(Dr. Shuting Lee)

Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering

Carlos Banera

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.

(Cornell Sneed)

Wenkai Fu

Received the $6,000 Robert I-Jen and Sophia Shui-Kang Scholarship in Engineering.

(Dr. Jeremy Roberts)

Pierun Li

Received the $6,000 Robert I-Jen and Sophia Shui-Kang Scholarship in Engineering.

(Dr. Steve Ekelo)

Special Education Counseling and Student Affairs

Daniel Alfred

Earned the Maxine 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 Maxine Allison O'Bannon.

(Maleah Lundeen)

COMPETITION AWARDEES

Graduate students who received awards at conference poster competitions, or 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 $400 award.

(Dr. Jim Nelssen)

Parasha Primate

Awarded the College of Education Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to 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. (Malaksh Londem)

Diksho Westanasooyi

Earned second place in the K-State Research Forum's interdisciplinary oral presentation session and a $250 award.

(Kyle Cole)

Animal Sciences and Industry

Ilshyn Finndre

Earned third place in the Graduate Student Ph.D. Poster Competition at the Midwestern Section of the American Society of Animal Science meetings.

Cobe 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)

Student Ph.D. Poster Competition at the Midwestern Section of the American Society of Animal Science meetings.

Ammar Bhandari

Won first place in the K-State Research Forum's agricultural sciences poster session and a $400 award.

Parasha Primate

Awarded the College of Education Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to 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. (Malaksh Londem)

Diksho Westanasooyi

Earned second place in the K-State Research Forum's interdisciplinary oral presentation session and a $250 award.

(Kyle Cole)

Student Ph.D. Poster Competition at the Midwestern Section of the American Society of Animal Science meetings.

Cobe 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)
to answer questions. Coble was also selected for the annual American Association of Engineering Education poster session and a $500 award.

Kathryn Penegorda Received a $500 scholarship from the K-State Graduate School for her presentation at the Capitol Graduate Research Summit.

Trais Mahmodkhodja Won first place in the K-State Research Forum's social sciences, humanities and education oral presentation and a $100 award.

Kinesiology

Trenton Colburn Received first place in the K-State Research Forum's biological sciences poster session and a $100 award.

Landscape Architecture

Betsy Haddad Earned first place at 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 midsize portable proportionals 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 Nickson)

Microbiology

Chen Peng Earned second place in the K-State Research Forum's biological sciences oral presentation and a $250 award.

Physics

Nicolecia Priscacria 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 Program sponsored by the Diversity in Agronomy, Crops, Soils and Environmental Sciences Committee of the American Society of Agronomy, 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.

Kavitha Penegorda Received a $500 scholarship from the K-State Graduate School for her presentation at the Capitol Graduate Research Summit.

He also was awarded a $500 scholarship from the K-State Graduate School for his work on developing lithium foil-based midsize portable proportionals 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 Nickson)
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 exhibiti are also listed below.

**Civil Engineering**

Fatemeh Shirmohammadi
Presented her research work on performance of arctic RC columns at the American Concrete Institute fall 2014 convention in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Azai Ebdani)

AlaaEldin Abouelleil
Had his research presented by a co-author at the American Concrete Institute fall 2014 convention in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Hayder Rashid)

Ahmed Al-Rahmani
Presented his research in a session on design and construction challenges of arctic RC columns at the American Concrete Institute fall 2014 convention in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Hayder Rashid)

Corey Reulinger
Wrote the paper "Neo-Constructing Disability Policy: Rhetorically Dr. Marginalizing Environment-Frames through Internalized Ableism" that was accepted by the Western States Communication Association annual conference in Spokane, Washington. (Dr. Sue-Hye Han)

Levi Smith
Presented the paper "Does More Rehearsed Time Lead to Less Truth- Leakage" at the National Communication Association annual conference in Chicago, Illinois. (Dr. Sue-Hye Han)

**Psychological Sciences**

Syeda Aziz
Presented a paper at the 94th annual National Communication Association annual conference in Spokane, Washington. (Dr. Sue-Hye Han)

Ishani Dias
Presented a paper at the 94th annual National Communication Association annual conference in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Hayder Rashid)

Fatimah Shahrukh
Presented a paper at the 94th annual Communication Research Board meeting in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Sunanda Dissanayake)

Leanne Neill
Wrote the paper "Battlefield purity: An auto-archaeological approach." In addition, she presented "Reference group theory and emerging adults' behavioral intentions" at the annual conference of the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Kevin Roberts)

**Veterinary Pathobiology**

AlaaEldin Abouelleil
Had his research presented by a co-author at the American Concrete Institute fall 2014 convention in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Hayder Rashid)

Ahmed Al-Rahmani
Presented his research in a session on design and construction challenges of arctic RC columns at the American Concrete Institute fall 2014 convention in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Hayder Rashid)

Corey Reulinger
Wrote the paper "Neo-Constructing Disability Policy: Rhetorically Dr. Marginalizing Environment-Frames through Internalized Ableism" that was accepted by the Western States Communication Association annual conference in Spokane, Washington. (Dr. Sue-Hye Han)

Levi Smith
Presented the paper "Does More Rehearsed Time Lead to Less Truth- Leakage" at the National Communication Association annual conference in Chicago, Illinois. (Dr. Sue-Hye Han)

**Communication Studies**

Sara Norval
Presented a poster at the 2015 K-State Research Forum (Dr. Sarah Riffgatt)

Suthaya Chundran
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)

Nan Jiang

**Family Studies and Human Services**

Bryan Cakoffsky

Taylor Wadian
Received second place in the K-State Research Forum's biological sciences oral presentation session and a $500 award.

**Hospitality Management and Services**

Bryan Cakoffsky
Accepted a two-year postdoctoral research fellowship at Northern University. (Dr. Jared Anderson)

Han Wen
Presented the poster "Risk Communication When Serving Consumers with Food Allergies." (Drs. Jared Anderson and Elizabeth Barrett)

Michelle Alger
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. Rebecca Gould and Chihyung Ok)

Darin Knapp

Michelle Alger
Presented the 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 Northern University. (Dr. Jared Anderson)

Bryan Cakoffsky
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)

**Hospitality Management and Services**

Nathan Hardy
Accepted a two-year postdoctoral research fellowship at Northern University. (Dr. Jared Anderson)

Bryan Cakoffsky
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)
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 Fathback)

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 Curti. (Dr. Bala Natarajan)

Family Studies and Human Services

Darin Knapp

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 Aspergillus nidulans by whole genome sequencing” by Downes, D.J., Chonofsky, M., Tan, K., Pfannenstiel, B.T., Rizk-Peterson, S.L., Todd, R.B. (2014) G3: Genes, Genomes, Genetics. 4(12):2483-2492. (Dr. Richard Todd)

Mathematics

Nhan Tran

ADDITIONAL HONORS AND AWARDS

School of Music, Theatre, and Dance

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)

Joanna Abillama
Had her nonfiction play “Dundis,” 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)