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.

Agricultural Economics

Melissa Lynes

Received the Richard Elmore Brown Outstanding College of Agriculture Graduate Student Teaching Award for teaching an introductory undergraduate agricultural and agribusiness concepts class.
(Dr. Jeff Williams)

Biological and Agricultural Engineering

Nana Baah Appiah-Nkansah

Received Steel Ring’s award for Best in Class Graduate Student Display.
(Dr. Donghai Wang)

Biology

Emily Williams

Honored with the Robert B. Berry Conservation Award at the joint meeting of the two major national ornithology societies July 31 in Norman, Oklahoma. This award is one of four made annually by the American Ornithologists’ Union for an outstanding student presentation. Williams competed against approximately 70 other student presenters, including senior doctoral students. Her talk was “Grasshopper Sparrows on the move: What explains within-season breeding dispersal in a declining grassland songbird?”
(Dr. Alice Boyle)

Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology

Charley Cull

Received the Mark Gearhart Memorial Graduate Student Award from the Association for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine. This annual award competition recognizes graduate students who are completing, or have just completed, advanced academic or professional training in veterinary epidemiology, public health or preventive medicine. The competition is based on student research that has resulted in a scientific manuscript for which the student is the primary author. Cull is the author of “Performance and carcass characteristics of commercial feedlot cattle from a study of vaccine and direct-fed microbial effects on Escherichia coli O157:H7 fecal shedding” in the Journal of Animal Science. As the award winner, Cull will be recognized with the honor and present his paper as a featured speaker at the 2015 Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases annual meeting in Chicago.
(Dr. David Renter)

Jingjiao Ma

Presented with the 2014 National Award for Outstanding Self-financed Students Abroad. The scholarship award, founded by the China Scholarship Council and started in 2003, rewards academic excellence of self-financed Chinese students studying overseas. Only students with outstanding performance in their doctoral studies are considered by the award selection panel, and only 500 students — out of the more than 400,000 Chinese graduate students studying overseas — receive the honor each year.
(Dr. Wenjun Ma)

Educational Leadership

Art DeGroat

Received the Silver Patrick Henry Medallion for Patriotic Achievement for his post-9/11 veterans research, outreach and education initiatives.
(Dr. W. Franklin Spikes)

Electrical and Computer Engineering

S M Shafiu Alam

Named the Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant for his contributions in graduate research.
(Dr. Bala Natarajan)
Family Studies and Human Services
Sarah Asebedo

Named Teacher of the Week by the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research at Virginia Tech, where the K-State doctoral student in personal financial planning works as an assistant professor of practice in agricultural and applied economics. The Teacher of the Week program recognizes effective, engaged and dynamic teachers. Asebedo was recognized for excellence in providing undergraduate students with in-class experiential learning opportunities that prepare them for the professional work environment. (Dr. Kristy Archuleta)

Geography
Matthew Allen

Received second place in the Graduate Student Poster Competition at the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Kearney, Nebraska. The meeting was attended by more than 200 professional geographers. (Dr. John Harrington)

Thomas Larsen

Earned second place in the Graduate Student Paper Poster Competition at the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the Association of American Geographers annual meeting in Kearney, Nebraska. The meeting was attended by more than 200 professional geographers. (Dr. John Harrington)

Grain Science and Industry
Jennifer Frederick

Received the James R. Coffman Honor Council Student Member of Year Award, which annually recognizes one student member of the council whose contributions cannot go unnoticed. (Dr. Bhadriraju Subramanyam)

Deanna Scheff

Received the 2015 Kansas City section of the Institute of Food Technologists' Outstanding Doctoral Student Award and Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award. (Dr. Bhadriraju Subramanyam)

Yadhu Guragain

Named the People's Choice winner at the 2015 K-State Center for Sustainable Energy Symposium's research poster competition. (Dr. Praveen Vadlani)

Interior Architecture & Product Design
Aaron Bisch

Presented with the Tau Sigma Delta Bronze Medal, which is awarded annually to the student who has distinguished himself or herself in design in the field of architecture, landscape architecture or the allied arts. The Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society in Architecture and Allied Arts is the only national honor society for architecture and design majors that is accredited by the Association of College Honor Societies. The society recognizes intellectual achievement, effort and initiative as well as leadership and character.

Kinesiology
Jesse Craig

Received the American Kinesiology Association Master's Scholar Award as an outstanding master's student from a U.S. kinesiology program. (Dr. Tom Barstow)

Joshua Smith

Named the K-State kinesiology department's outstanding doctoral student for the academic year. (Dr. Craig Harms)

Landscape Architecture and Regional & Community Planning
Katherine Leise

Received the Architectural Research Centers Consortium's King Medal from the landscape architecture program. To be considered for the honor, a student must be nominated by his or her major professor and selected by a jury of K-State research experts. The recipient's work represents the highest-quality research completed within the program. (Howard Hahn)

Mathematics
Niles Armstrong

Appointed a master graduate teaching assistant by the mathematics department. This leadership award brings increased responsibilities. Armstrong also was selected to serve as an assistant at the department’s Summer Undergraduate Mathematics Research Program, or SUMaR Math REU. (Dr. Marianne Korten)

Alex Kramer

Received the Outstanding Teaching by a First- or Second-Year Graduate Student Award from the K-State physics department. (Dr. Uwe Thumm)

Raiya Ebini

Received the Outstanding Service in Teaching by a Graduate Student Award from the K-State physics department. (Dr. Chris Sorensen)

Nicoleta Ploscariu

Named Outstanding Graduate Student Researcher by the K-State physics department for her work in the department's research program in 2014-2015. She was selected for her effectiveness in the lab and her technical writing skills shown by the publications she has co-authored in the last three years in the graduate program at K-State. Four of the papers she has worked on have been published, two with her as a first author. She has been involved in interdisciplinary research and proven her ability to communicate complex scientific details of her research to various audiences in many departmental seminar presentations and conferences. (Drs. John Tomich and Bret Flanders)

Psychological Sciences
Amanda Martens

Named the Psychological Sciences Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor as the best graduate student course instructor of the past academic year in the psychological sciences department. Award criteria include the nominees’ teaching philosophy, experience, evaluations and efforts to increase the teaching effectiveness of others. (Dr. Don Saucier)
**SCHOLARSHIP Awardees**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Scholarship Details</th>
<th>Committee Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Economics</td>
<td>Clair Doan</td>
<td>Awarded the Canadian Nuffield Farming Scholarship, which is offered to agricultural leaders to expand their knowledge, network with individuals around the world and to promote advancement and leadership in agriculture. Doan will travel to Ireland in February 2016 to meet with other scholars from around the world for one week of tours, workshops, speakers and networking. He will also travel for an additional 10-plus weeks to other countries to continue studying. (Dr. Vincent Amanor-Boadu)</td>
<td>Committee of the institute's scientific staff selects the recipients of the award. Funding for the scholar award program is provided through support of the institute's member companies. (Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agronomy</td>
<td>Dilooshi Weerasooriya</td>
<td>Received the Don C. Warren Genetic Scholarship, which is given to a graduate student enrolled in K-State's College of Agriculture who is conducting research that furthers the understanding of genetics. Weerasooriya was named the recipient of the Konza and Manhattan Rotary clubs' International Graduate Student Scholarship, given to outstanding international students engaged in graduate studies at K-State. Selection is based on academic accomplishment, financial need and the benefit of graduate training to the recipient's home country. She received the Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America Registration Scholarship, which covers registration expenses to the organization's conference, and the International Coordinating Council Scholarship, which provides financial assistance to underrepresented international populations. Weerasooriya also earned the John H. Parker Scholarship, which is awarded to an agronomy graduate student who has a research emphasis in plant breeding. (Dr. Tesfaye Tesso)</td>
<td>Committee of the institute's scientific staff selects the recipients of the award. Funding for the scholar award program is provided through support of the institute's member companies. (Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Research</td>
<td></td>
<td>Awarded the Robert I-Jen and Sophia Sui-Kan Jung Graduate Scholarship in Engineering, which is given to doctoral students in K-State's College of Engineering who are from the People's Republic of China or the Republic of China for demonstrating outstanding interest and dedication to education and research in their doctoral studies at the university. (Dr. Keith Hohn)</td>
<td>Committee of the institute's scientific staff selects the recipients of the award. Funding for the scholar award program is provided through support of the institute's member companies. (Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>Fan Zeng</td>
<td>Presented with the Robert I-Jen and Sophia Sui-Kan Jung Graduate Scholarship in Engineering, which is given to doctoral students in K-State's College of Engineering who are from the People's Republic of China or the Republic of China for demonstrating outstanding interest and dedication to education and research in their doctoral studies at the university. (Dr. Keith Hohn)</td>
<td>Committee of the institute's scientific staff selects the recipients of the award. Funding for the scholar award program is provided through support of the institute's member companies. (Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Engineering</td>
<td>Syeda Rubaiyat Aziz</td>
<td>Earned the John A. Angold Graduate Engineering Scholarship, which is awarded to a graduate student in good standing at K-State who is majoring in any curriculum in the College of Engineering and whose area of study relates to the railroad industry, transit or transportation engineering. It is a supplemental scholarship with an award level of $1,000 per year. (Dr. Sunanda Dissanayake)</td>
<td>Committee of the institute's scientific staff selects the recipients of the award. Funding for the scholar award program is provided through support of the institute's member companies. (Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum and Instruction</td>
<td>Jessica Bauerle</td>
<td>Earned the $1,000 K-State Global Campus Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to distance education students admitted and properly enrolled in a university distance education degree program through K-State Global Campus. (Maleah Lundeen)</td>
<td>Committee of the institute's scientific staff selects the recipients of the award. Funding for the scholar award program is provided through support of the institute's member companies. (Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entomology</td>
<td>Erick Cordeiro</td>
<td>Received the Sonny and Gita Ramaswamy Scholarship from the K-State entomology department. (Dr. Jim Campbell)</td>
<td>Committee of the institute's scientific staff selects the recipients of the award. Funding for the scholar award program is provided through support of the institute's member companies. (Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ryan Schmid</td>
<td>Was one of two K-State students to receive the Capitol Graduate Research Summit Scholarship at the Capitol Graduate Research Summit in Topeka. His $500 scholarship is from the K-State Graduate School. (Dr. Brian McCormack)</td>
<td>Committee of the institute's scientific staff selects the recipients of the award. Funding for the scholar award program is provided through support of the institute's member companies. (Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Scholarship Description</td>
<td>Contact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Heerman</td>
<td>Received the Don C. Warren Genetics Scholarship for doctoral students.</td>
<td>Laura Schachtner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krissana Ruang-Rit</td>
<td>Received the K-State Alumni Association International Student Scholarship, a new program from the K-State Alumni Association that awards $1,000 scholarships to worthy international students. (Dr. Yoonseong Park)</td>
<td>Zenova Williams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Amoah</td>
<td>Awarded the Fred Clute Scholarship, a K-State Department of Entomology scholarship. She also earned the International Coordinating Council Scholarship from the K-State Office of International Programs. (Dr. Tom Phillips)</td>
<td>Chandra Lasley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin Afful</td>
<td>Received the K-State Alumni Association International Student Scholarship, a new program from the K-State Alumni Association that awards $1,000 scholarships to worthy international students. (Dr. Tom Phillips)</td>
<td>Austin Beck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anastasia Cooper</td>
<td>Earned the Joe Pankaskie Scholarship from the K-State Department of Entomology, and the Robert Nunemacher Scholarship from the K-State College of Agriculture. (Dr. Kun Yan Zhu)</td>
<td>Aimee Hubbard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Burke</td>
<td>Awarded the Roger C. Smith Ph.D. Scholarship from the K-State Department of Entomology.</td>
<td>CHERIE STUEVE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey Hall</td>
<td>Presented with the Maurine Allison O'Bannon Memorial Scholarship, created to perpetuate the memory of O'Bannon at Kansas State University. This legacy provides $1,000 to degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in K-State Global Campus courses. (Maleah Lundeen)</td>
<td>Kate Mielitz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin West</td>
<td>Received the Maurine Allison O'Bannon Memorial Scholarship, created to perpetuate the memory of O'Bannon at Kansas State University. This legacy provides $1,000 to degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in K-State Global Campus courses. (Maleah Lundeen)</td>
<td>Patrice Lyon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charity Clifford</td>
<td>Earned the Anton E. Bartolic Memorial Scholarship and K-State's Donoghue Scholarship.</td>
<td>Edward C. Stith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Mallory</td>
<td>Received K-State's Donoghue Scholarship. (Dr. Sandra Stith)</td>
<td>Chelsea Spencer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Van</td>
<td>Awarded K-State's Donoghue Scholarship. (Dr. Sandra Stith)</td>
<td>CHERIE STUEVE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea Spencer</td>
<td>Earned K-State's Donoghue Scholarship. (Dr. Sandra Stith)</td>
<td>Patrice Lyon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Oseland</td>
<td>Awarded K-State's Donoghue Scholarship. (Dr. Sandra Stith)</td>
<td>ROAD WILDHORN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Kimmes</td>
<td>Awarded K-State's Donoghue Scholarship. (Dr. Jared Durtschi)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Brittany Hollerbach received the $1,500 Allan D. Sicat Scholarship. Hollerbach is pursuing a master’s degree in the strength and conditioning field. She also received the $900 College of Agriculture Graduate Student Stipend Enhancement Award for 2015.

Brian Huck received the $1,500 Allan D. Sicat Scholarship. Huck is pursuing a doctorate in the strength and conditioning field and is working toward an undergraduate or graduate degree in the strength and conditioning field. He also received the $2,500 Doctoral Scholarship, which was created to recruit top doctoral students whose research will be in one of the research strength areas at K-State and involve collaboration among faculty and graduate student colleagues.

Christopher Dean received the $1,000 K-State College of Engineering Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to undergraduate and graduate students admitted and enrolled in College of Engineering distance education degree programs. (Maleah Lundeen)

Colby Teeman received the $1,500 Allan D. Sicat Scholarship. He is working toward an undergraduate or graduate degree through a distance education program at Kansas State University. (Maleah Lundeen)

Kelsey Steward received one of three American Society of Landscape Architects’ Fellows Scholarships. She is pursuing a master’s degree in landscape architecture and a minor in horticulture. She plans to apply this education in a career focusing on sustainable development, water use and social issues.

Andres Reyes Gaige received the Roger Krueger Memorial Scholarship, a national award from the American Seed Trade Association. It was presented in recognition of Gaige’s outstanding research, integrity and professionalism during his pursuit of his doctorate. He received the honor at the association's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Gaige also received the Don C. Warren Genetic Scholarship, which recognizes graduate students in K-State's College of Agriculture for support of molecular research. His research applies current molecular technologies to study the life history of the seed-borne toxigenic fungus Fusarium proliferatum.

Ananda Bandara received the Don C. Warren Genetics Scholarship, which is given for outstanding research in genetics or a related-discipline.

Rodrigo Pedrozo received the William L. Richter International Student Scholarship, established to honor Richter, associate provost emeritus for international programs at K-State. The scholarship provides financial assistance to international students enrolled in any curriculum at K-State. Preference is given to international students with financial need and show academic potential.

Tucker Jones received the K-State’s Donoghue Scholarship for the fall 2015 semester.

Jenna Gannon received the $1,000 K-State Global Campus Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to distance education students admitted and properly enrolled in a university distance education degree program through K-State Global Campus.
Beth Elkin - Awarded the $1,000 K-State 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. (Maleah Lundeen)

Erica Grant - Received the $1,000 K-State 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. (Maleah Lundeen)

Cornell Sneed - Received the $1,000 K-State 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. (Maleah Lundeen)

Stephen Watts - Awarded the $1,000 K-State 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. (Maleah Lundeen)

Rachel Blanset - Awarded the $1,000 K-State Global Campus Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to distance education students admitted and properly enrolled in a university distance education degree program through K-State Global Campus. (Maleah Lundeen)

Christopher Boxberger - Earned the $1,000 K-State Global Campus Scholarship for Distance Education Students, which provides financial assistance to distance education students admitted and properly enrolled in a university distance education degree program through K-State Global Campus. (Maleah Lundeen)

FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT AWARDEES

Significant fellowships or grants were awarded to the following students. A brief description of the award is included, if available.

**Agronomy**

Dilooshi Weerasooriya - Received a Travel Fellowship from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, which is awarded to graduate students to assist with funding for their travel to the University of Alabama to participate in the Certificate Course in Statistical Genetics and Genomics. (Dr. Tesfaye Tesso)

**Biology**

Matthew Galliart - Awarded a 2015 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Fellowship. His selection was based on his demonstrated potential to contribute to strengthening the vitality of the U.S. science and engineering enterprise. (Dr. Loretta Johnson)

Ryan Greenway - Named a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master’s and doctoral degrees at accredited U.S. institutions. (Dr. Michael Tobler)

**Communication Studies**

Emily Ruder - Received the Timothy Donoghue Graduate Scholarship, designed to recruit top graduate students from the United States to K-State. (Dr. Colene Lind)

**Entomology**

Anastasia Cooper - Received a $500 Research Mini-Grant from the K-State entomology department. She also was awarded a $3,750 Global Food Systems Mini-Grant for her proposal “Tapping the Potential of RNA Interference for Agriculture.” (Dr. Kun Yan Zhu)

Ryan Schmid - Received a $500 Research Mini-Grant from the K-State entomology department. (Dr. Brian McCormack)

Donghun Kim - Earned a Monsanto Research Grant Award, a national award through the Entomological Society of America. Kim is one of five recipients of the honor. (Dr. Yoonseong Park)

Barbara Amoah - Received a $1,000 Literacy Grant from Phi Kappa Phi to support a literacy project in her hometown, Akim Achiase, in southern Ghana. (Dr. Tom Phillips)

Shelly Wiggam - Awarded one of five J.E. Weaver Research Grant grants for $1,000 from the Nature Conservancy. The recipients were selected from a national, competitive pool of applicants seeking support for biodiversity and conservation research. The grants are administered by the Nature Conservancy through the Nebraska chapter’s J.E. Weaver Competitive Grant Program. Wiggam also served as a Making our CASE science policy
Family Studies and Human Services

Chandra Lasley
- Named a fellow of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy’s Minority Fellowship Program. (Dr. Joyce Baptist)

Jon Kimmis
- Named a fellow of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy’s Minority Fellowship Program. (Dr. Jared Durschi)

Allen Mallory
- Named a fellow of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy’s Minority Fellowship Program. (Dr. Sandra Stith)

Kim Van
- Named a fellow of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy’s Minority Fellowship Program. (Dr. Sandra Stith)

Chelsea Spencer
- Named a fellow of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy’s Minority Fellowship Program. (Dr. Sandra Stith)

James Bridges
- Named a fellow of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy’s Minority Fellowship Program. (Nancy O’Conner)

Derek Tharp
- Received the Cary M. Maguire Fellowship in Applied Ethics from the Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics at The American College. The fellowship supports an individual working on meaningful research focused solely on the financial services industry with the intention of raising the level of ethical behavior. Tharp also received the Frédéric Bastiat Fellowship, a one-year, competitive fellowship that introduces students to the Austrian, Virginian and Bloomington schools of political economy as academic foundations for policy analysis. He will visit George Mason University four times throughout 2016 for the fellowship. (Dr. Kristy Archuleta)

Genetics

Damien Downes
- Received the 2015 Alvin and RosaLee Saracheck Predoctoral Honors Fellowship in Molecular Biology, which provides $17,000 to a doctoral candidate whose dissertation research uses contemporary molecular biological techniques. Downes will use the fellowship to relocate to Oxford, United Kingdom, to pursue postdoctoral work in the field of transcriptional gene regulation and to attend conferences and workshops to further his research contributions. (Dr. Richard Todd)

Kinesiology

Chelsey Schlechter
- Received the Timothy Donoghue Graduate Scholarship, designed to recruit top graduate students from the United States to K-State. (Dr. David Dzewaltowski)

Kaylin Didier
- Received the Timothy Donoghue Graduate Scholarship, designed to recruit top graduate students from the United States to K-State. (Dr. Tom Barstow)

Plant Pathology

Ananda Bandara
- Received the Tillman Family Agriculture Graduate Student Award, which honors the memory of Marcia Edythe Tillman and immediate family members to include her father, Benjamin W. Tillman, her mother, Marcia Ella Goddard Tillman, and brother, Benjamin A. Tillman. It also provides financial assistance to graduate students in the College of Agriculture at K-State. (Dr. Chris Little)

Agricultural Economics

John Sachse
- Participating in the Kansas Livestock Association Young Stockmen’s Academy, a class for association members in their 20s. It is designed to develop these young members through industry exposure, education and communication. This program consists of a series of four seminars over the course of a year designed to expose them to leaders from all segments of the industry, including purebred/commercial cow-calf, back-grounding, dairy, feeding, processing, retail, food service, animal health, marketing, agriculture policy and finance. (Dr. Allen Featherstone)
Apparel, Textiles, and Interior Design

Md. Imranul Islam
Presented with Kim Hiller Connell, associate professor of apparel, textiles, and marketing, the poster "Underlying behavioral factors of acquiring reused jeans: The collective effect of PCE, self-efficacy and ego-defensiveness" at the fifth International Fiber Recycling Symposium at San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California, in June 2015. (Dr. Kim Hiller Connell)

Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics

Nicoleta Ploscariu
Made two presentations at the American Physical Society Meeting in March 2015 in San Antonio. Her first talk was in the section of dynamically bonded soft matter, where she presented “Adhesion of D. discoideum on hydrophobic substrate.” The second presentation, in the conformations and dynamics of biopolymers section, was “AFM Studies of Conformational Changes in Proteins and Peptides.” (Dr. John Tomich)

Biological and Agricultural Engineering

Nana Baah Appiah-Nkansah
Won the graduate poster competition at the 2015 annual conference of the Institute of Biological Engineers. (Dr. Donghai Wang)

Biology

Emily Williams
Received the Robert B. Berry Conservation Award, which is presented for the best student presentation at the national ornithology meetings on a topic related to conservation of birds. The title of Williams’ talk was “Grasshopper Sparrows on the move: What explains variation in within-season dispersal in a declining songbird?” (Dr. Alice Boyle)

Communication Studies

Katrina Hanna
Presented her paper “Which Lives Matter?: An Investigation of the Discourse of a Collegiate Black Counterpublic” at the annual convention of the National Communication Association in Las Vegas. (Dr. Soo-Hye Han)

Kelsey Abele
Participated in the panel discussion “The Taking a Seat: The Evolution from Forensics Competitor to Coach” at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, Nov. 19-22, in Las Vegas. (Craig Brown)

William Lucio
Participated in the panel discussion “CRAFT: How to embrace the opportunities to stay in touch with your alumni” at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, Nov. 19-22, in Las Vegas. (Craig Brown)

Levi Smith
Presented his paper “Further Understanding the Nature of Deception: The Differences between Lying to Best Friends versus Acquaintances” at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, Nov. 19-22, in Las Vegas. (Dr. Greg Paul)

English

Jesse Lobbs
Accepted to present the paper “Savannas of the Mind: American Topologies that Defy Translation” before the “Lost in Translation: Unmappable Geography in the Atlantic World” panel at the Translation and Transmission in the Early Americas Conference at the University of Maryland and in Washington D.C., June 2-5, 2016. The conference is co-sponsored by the Society of Early Americanists, the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, the Kislak Family Foundation, the Early Americas Working Group, the Mexican Cultural Institute, the National Museum of the American Indian and the University of Maryland. (Dr. Steffi Dippold)

Family Studies and Human Services

Teran Frick
Presented the poster “Using the socio-cultural historical perspective as the framework for culturally appropriate practices,” by Frick, T., Fees, B., DeLuccie, M., July 2015, to the World Organization for Early Childhood Education in Washington, D.C. (Dr. Bronwyn Fees)

Haley Anderson
Presented a crossdisciplinary poster, “Teaching children with disabilities in Tanzania: The teacher, child and family with special education,” with K-State special education, counseling and student affairs faculty for the Kansas Division of Early Childhood. (Dr. Bronwyn Fees)

Emilee Morris
Presented the poster “Accomplishing something important: Exploring how parents of 2-year-old children perceive the transition between classrooms,” by Morris, E., Fees, B., Myers-Bowman, K., and DeLuccie, M., in March 2015 for the Kansas Division of Early Childhood in Wichita. (Dr. Bronwyn Fees)

Allen Mallory
Earned the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy's Cutting-Edge Research award for his research poster. (Nancy O’Conner)

Jessica High
Received the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy's Cutting-Edge Research award for her research poster. (Dr. Sandra Stith)

Chelsea Spencer
Earned the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy's Cutting-Edge Research award for her research poster. (Dr. Sandra Stith)

Kim Van
Received the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy's Cutting-Edge Research award for her research poster. (Dr. Sandra Stith)

Laura Schachtner
Earned the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy's Cutting-Edge Research award for her research poster. (Dr. Jared Dutschke)
| Zenova Williams | Received the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy's Cutting-Edge Research award for her research poster. (Dr. Joyce Baptist) |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
| Genetics      | **Damien Downes**
|               | Presented two first-author posters and was co-author of an additional poster at the 12th International Aspergillus Meeting, or Asperfest 12, March 16–17, 2015, and at the 28th Fungal Genetics Conference, March 17–22, 2015, both in Pacific Grove, California. (Dr. Richard Todd) |
| Cameron Hunter | Presented a first-author poster and co-authored a second poster at the 12th International Aspergillus Meeting, or Asperfest 12, March 16–17, 2015, and at the 28th Fungal Genetics Conference, March 17–22, 2015, both in Pacific Grove, California. Hunter also gave the invited talk “Multiple nuclear localization signals mediate nuclear localization of the GATA transcription factor Aα’ at the North Central Coordinating Committee NCCC307 Biochemistry and Genetics of Fungal-Plant Interactions Workshop of the North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Multistate Project in March 2015, also in Pacific Grove. (Dr. Richard Todd) |
| Geography     | **Lisa Tabor**
|               | Gave the conference presentation “Using Maps in Storytelling” as a science, technology, engineering and math activity linked to GIS technology. She also gave the conference presentations “Using a GIS-Based Framework to Teach Climate Change: Exploring Preliminary Processes and Findings,” “Educating for the Future: Workshops for Teachers in Using GIS in the Classroom,” “Managing a Successful Geography Awareness Week” and “An Exploration of Climate Change in the K-12 Classroom.” (Dr. Jacqueline Spears) |
| Grain Science and Industry | **Jennifer Frederick**
|               | Won first place in the Ten-Minute Student Paper Competition for doctoral students at the 2015 Entomology Society of America North Central Branch Meeting. The title of her talk was “Diatomaceous earth efficacy against Tribolium castaneum adults is influenced by dosage and exposure temperature.” (Dr. Bhadriraju Subramanyam) |
| Human Nutrition | **Kelsey Casey**
|               | Presented “Reducing Sedentary Behavior in the Workplace: Implications for the Health of all Kansans” at the 2015 Kansas Public Health Association Conference in Manhattan. (Dr. Sara Rosenkranz) |
|               | **Colby Teeman**
|               | Was lead author on the paper, co-authored with Cull, B.J., Kurti, S.P., Emerson, S.R., Haub M.D., and Rosenkranz S.K., “Does VO2peak Moderate the Association Between Dietary Fat Intake and Post-Prandial Fat Oxidation?” that was accepted for presentation at the 2015 K-State Graduate Research Forum in Manhattan and at the American College of Sports Medicine Conference in San Diego. (Dr. Sara Rosenkranz) |
| Brooke Cull   | Had paper, co-authored with Rosenkranz, R.R., Haub M.D., and Rosenkranz, S.K., accepted for poster presentation at the 2015 K-State Graduate Research Forum in Manhattan and at the American College of Sports Medicine annual conference in San Diego. The paper was “The Seated Inactivity Trail (S.I.T.): Health outcomes associated with eight weeks of imposed sedentary behavior.” Cull also gave the talk “Reducing Sedentary Behavior in the Workplace: Implications for the Health of all Kansans” at the 2015 Kansas Public Health Association Conference in Manhattan. (Dr. Sara Rosenkranz) |
| Interior Architecture & Product Design | **Amanda Sloup**
| Mathematics   | **Niles Armstrong**
|               | Received funding to participate in the Chicago Summer School in Analysis for two weeks and to attend the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute’s Graduate School in Geometry and Analysis summer school. He also receive funding to attend the Shanks Workshop on Mathematical Aspects of Fluid Dynamics. (Dr. Marianne Korten) |
| Wenbo Li      | Participated in the 2015 Prairie Analysis Seminar, an National Science Foundation-funded conference jointly organized by the math departments of Kansas State University and the University of Kansas. (Dr. Marianne Korten) |
| Music, Theatre, and Dance | **Travis Hale**
|               | Selected to make a peer-reviewed poster presentation at the Society for Research in Music Education Conference and at the International Research in Music Education Conference, where he presented his dissertation research on autoethnography. (Dr. Frederick Burrack) |
| Physics       | **Nandana Weliweriya**
|               | Presented the poster “Students’ Writing Reflects Varied Solution Schemata on Traditional Mechanics Problems.” (Dr. Eleanor Sayre) |
Yubaraj Malakar  
Presented the posters “Coulomb explosion imaging of bound and continuum nuclear wave packets in strong-field ionization of iodomethane,” “VUV pump — infrared probe studies of molecular dissociation following state–selective photo-excitation,” “Strong-field induced bond rearrangement and hydrogen migration in small hydrocarbons” and “Study of Nuclear Wave Packet Dynamics in Strong-Field Ionized Iodomethane and Diiodomethane.” (Dr. Artem Rudenko)

Yuli Heinson  
Presented the poster “A Light-Scattering Study of the Scattering Matrix Elements of Irregularly Shaped Particles.” (Dr. Chris Sorensen)

Jianxiong Li  
Presented the poster “Attosecond plasmonic streaking from gold nanoparticles.” (Dr. Uwe Thumm)

Erfan Saydanzad  
Presented the poster “Velocity-map imaging and streaked photoelectron emission from metallic nanostructures.” (Dr. Uwe Thumm)

Jeffrey Powell  
Presented the poster “Electron Dynamics in Nanoparticles Under Intense Laser Fields.” (Dr. Artem Rudenko)

Benjamin Berry  
Presented the poster “Formation of excited neutral D^+ fragments from D2 by a strong laser field.” (Dr. Irzik Ben-Itzhak)

Elise Agra  
Presented the posters “Visual Cueing and Outcome Feedback Influencing Transfer, Retention and Confidence” and “Influence of Visual Cueing and Outcome Feedback on Students’ Visual Attention during Problem-solving.” She also presented the talk “Investigating Problem-solving Automaticity Using Eye Movements.” (Dr. N. Sanjay Rebello)

Travis Severt  
Presented the research talk “Using Vibrational Cooper Minima to Determine Strong-field Molecular-dissociation Pathways” and the posters “Competing Parallel and Perpendicular Dissociation Pathways of CS2+ in a Strong Laser Field” and “Progress Toward Large Flux High-Order Harmonic Generation Driven by Two-Color Laser Fields.” (Dr. Irzik Ben-Itzhak)

Claudia Fracchiolla  
Presented the posters “Does the Pedagogical Learning Bicycle Promote Transfer?” and “Incorporation of social-context into the classroom to support transfer,” and the research talk “Aspects of PCK in a Physics Class for Future Teachers.” (Dr. N. Sanjay Rebello)

Bethany Jochim  
Presented the talk “Channel competition in strong-field dissociation of CS^+” and the research posters “Strong-field dissociation dynamics of molecular dications, “The importance of Rydberg orbitals in dissociative ionization of small hydrocarbon molecules in intense few-cycle laser pulses” and “Carrier-envelope phase control over fragmentation of H2^+ and D_2.” (Dr. Irzik Ben-Itzhak)

Bahar Modir  
Presented the posters “How does applying the Gestalt grouping principle on the display design influence students’ reasoning?” and “Effect of Manipulating Display Design on Students’ Reasoning.” She also presented the research talk “Effect of Visual Cues and Display Design on Problem-solving Effect of Multimedia Hints on Students’ Visual Attention.” (Dr. N. Sanjay Rebello)

Mohammad Zohrabi  
Presented a research talk on “Fragmentation of CD^+ induced by intense ultrashort laser pulses.” (Dr. Irzik Ben-Itzhak)

Xian Wu  
Presented the research talk “Effect of Multimedia Hints on Students’ Visual Attention” and the posters “How Do Multimedia Hints Affect Students’ Eye Movements in Conceptual Physics Problems?” and “How Would Multimedia Hints Affect Physics Problem-solving Performance?” (Dr. N. Sanjay Rebello)

Youliang Yu  
Presented the poster “Nuclear-Electronic Coherence in Strong-Field Dissociative Ionization.” (Dr. Brett Esry)

Pratap Timilsina  
Presented the poster “Development of flexible electron time of flight for ultrafast pulse characterization.” (Dr. Carlos Trallero)

Psychological Sciences  
Taylor Wadian  

Tucker Jones  
Presented the poster “Children’s anticipated response to hypothetical peers with an undesirable characteristic: Role of the source of effort to change,” by Wadian, T.W., Barnett, M.A., Sonnentag, T.L., Jones, T.L., and Langley, C.A., for the Association for Psychological Sciences in New York in May 2015. (Dr. Mark Barnett)
The following students have published notable works. A brief description of the written work and journal, if available, is included for each student.

**Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work**

April Terry

Presented the paper “The Economic Development Dimensions of Prison in Rural Communities: A Review of Key Issues” at the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association’s annual meetings in Chicago. (Dr. Lisa Melander)

**NOTABLE PUBLISHED WORKS**

**Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics**

Nicoleta Ploscariu

Has co-authored, since March 2015, two published papers, including “Branch Amphiphilic Cationic Oligopeptides Form Peptiplexes with DNA: A Study of Their Biophysical Properties and Transfection Efficiency” in the March 2015 issue of Molecular Pharmaceutics Journal, and “Highly oxidized graphene nanosheets via the oxidation of detonation carbon” in the August 2015 issue of Applied Physics A. She also has contributed to a paper that is currently under review. (Dr. John Tomich)

**Biology**

Alison Gerken


Courtney Passow

Published one of her dissertation chapters, “Reduction of energetic demands through modification of body size and routine metabolic rates in extremophile fish,” in a leading journal covering physiological research. (Dr. Michael Tobler)

Garrett Hopper

Published parts of his master’s research in an internationally recognized journal. (Dr. Michael Tobler)

**Chemistry**

Sahani Weerasekara

Published “Broad-spectrum protease inhibitors against 3C-like proteases of feline coronaviruses and feline caliciviruses” in the Journal of Virology. (Dr. Duy Hua)

Medha Gamaralalage

Published “Quantitative electrochemical detection of cathepsin B activity in breast cancer cell lysates using carbon nanofiber nanoelectrode arrays toward identification of cancer formation.” (Dr. Duy Hua)

**Economics**

Jules Yimga

Had research paper, “The Impact of High Microfinance Growth on Loan Portfolio,” accepted for publication in Journal of International Development. (Dr. Philip Gayle)

**Electrical and Computer Engineering**

S M Shaful Alam

Was first author on the paper “Stability of Agent based Distributed Model Predictive Control over a Lossy Network,” with Bala Natarajan, in the IEEE Transactions on Signal and Information Processing over Networks, doi: 10.1109/TSIPN.2015.2492829. (Dr. Bala Natarajan)

**Family Studies and Human Services**

Sarah Asebedo

First author of “From functioning to flourishing: Applying positive psychology to financial planning,” with Martin Seay, which is in press in the Journal of Financial Planning. (Dr. Kristy Archuleta)

**Genetics**

Damien Downes


Cameron Hunter

Co-authored the paper “Distinct roles for the p53-like transcription factor XpfG and autophagy genes in the response to starvation” with Katz, M.E., Buckland, R., and Todd, R.B., in Fungal Genetics and Biology, 2015, 83: 10–18. The paper examines regulatory cross-talk between the autolysis and autophagy cannibalistic pathways that fungi use to scavenge nutrients when environmental nutrient sources are exhausted. (Dr. Richard Todd)

**Human Nutrition**

Brooke Cull

Is the first author of the article, “The seated inactivity trial (S.I.T.): physical activity and dietary outcomes associated with eight weeks of imposed sedentary time,” with Haub, M.D., Rosenkranz, R.R., Lawler T., and Rosenkranz, S.K., to be published in the Journal of Physical Activity. (Dr. Sara Rosenkranz)

Sam Emerson

Published the article “The Potential Link between Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Consumption and Post-Exercise Airway Narrowing across Puberty: a Longitudinal Cohort Study” in the journal Public Health
Nutrition in September 2015. The paper showed that there may be a connection between consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and asthma during pubertal development. (Dr. Sara Rosenkranz)

Kinesiology

Katelyn Gilmore
Was contributing author to a published manuscript “High-intensity functional training improves functional movement and body composition among cancer survivors: a pilot study,” published online by the European Journal of Cancer Care, June 10, 2015; doi: 10.1111/ecc.12338. (Dr. Katie Heinrich)

Ainslie Kehler
Was first author for the published peer-reviewed manuscript, “A selective review of prenatal exercise guidelines since the 1950s until present: Written for women, health care professionals, and female athletes,” published online by Women and Birth, July 23, 2015, doi: 10.1016/j.wombi.2015.07.004 (Dr. Katie Heinrich)

Physics

Benjamin Berry
Published the paper “Note: Determining the detection efficiency of excited neutral atoms by a microchannel plate detector” in Review Scientific Instruments, 86, 046103. (Dr. Itzik Ben-Itzhak)

Psychological Sciences

Taylor Wadian

Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work

Michael Miller

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.

Agronomy

Dilooshi Weerasooriya
Received the K-State Graduate Student Council Travel Award to attend the international annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America, Nov. 15-18, 2015, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. (Dr. Tesfaye Tesso)

Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics

Nicoleta Ploscariu
Received a K-State Graduate Student Research Travel Award to attend the American Physical Society Meeting in March 2015 in San Antonio. (Dr. John Tomich)

Communication Studies

Katrina Hanna
Received a K-State College of Arts & Sciences Research Travel Award to attend at the National Communication Association annual convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. (Dr. Charles Griffin)

Levi Smith
Received a K-State College of Arts & Sciences Research Travel Award to present at the National Communication Association annual convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. (Dr. Sarah Riforgiate)

Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology

Yuekun Lang
Received a K-State Graduate Student Council Travel Award and a K-State College of Veterinary Medicine Graduate Student Travel Award to give the oral presentation, “Mouse model for the Rift Valley Fever virus MP12 strain infection,” at the 2015 American Society for Virology 34th annual meeting hosted by Western University, in London, Ontario, Canada. (Dr. Wenjun Ma)

Kelsey Abele
Received a K-State College of Arts & Sciences Research Travel Award to attend the National Communication Association annual convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. (Dr. Charlie Griffin)

William Lucio
Received a K-State College of Arts & Sciences Research Travel Award to present at the National Communication Association annual convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. (Dr. Sarah Riforgiate)

Christopher Auten
Received a K-State College of Arts & Sciences Research Travel Award to attend at the National Communication Association annual convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. (Colene Lind)

Psychological Sciences

Taylor Wadian

Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work

Michael Miller
TRAVEL AWARDEES

An external travel grant was awarded to the students listed below. A brief description of the travel grant is included, if available.

Ainslie Kehler received the K-State Graduate Student Council Travel Award to present original research, “Pregnancy and exercise: an in-depth review of the historical and modern viewpoints on prenatal fitness,” as a poster presentation at the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity annual meeting, June 3-6, 2015, in Edinburgh, Scotland. (Dr. Katie Heinrich)

Tammi Paolilli received the K-State Graduate Student Council Travel Award to present original research at the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity annual meeting, June 3-6, 2015, in Edinburgh, Scotland. The title of her poster presentation was “Can confidence predict fitness improvements from CrossFit?” (Dr. Katie Heinrich)

Fariba Fateh received a K-State Graduate Student Council Travel Award to present a paper at the 2015 IEEE Energy Conversion Congress and Exposition, Sept. 20-24, in Montreal, Canada. (Dr. Warren White)

Travis Hale received a K-State Graduate Student Council Travel Award to present his research at the International Research Conference for Music Education. (Dr. Frederick Burrack)

Yuli Heinson received a K-State Graduate Student Council Travel Award to attend the 34th annual American Association for Aerosol Research Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. (Dr. Chris Sorensen)

Yuekun Lang received a student travel award to give the oral presentation, “Mouse model for the Rift Valley Fever virus MP12 strain infection,” at the 2015 American Society for Virology's
34th annual meeting hosted by Western University in London, Ontario, Canada.
(Dr. Wenjun Ma)

Electrical and Computer Engineering
Fariba Fateh
Received the 2015 American Control Conference Student Travel Award for the conference registration fee and hotel and/or transportation costs to present a paper she co-authored with her co-major professors.
(Dr. Warren White)

Geography
Robert Briwa
Received the Association of American Geographers/Gamma Theta Upsilon Travel Grant to present at the association's annual meeting in Chicago in April 2015.
(Dr. Kevin Blake)

COMPETITION AWARDS

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.

Agricultural Economics
Sandra Contreras
Received first place as a member of K-State's team in the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Graduate Student Case Study Competition. The event allows graduate students to test their communication skills and their ability to apply their knowledge of agricultural economics and agribusiness subjects to practical situations.
(Dr. Aleksan Shanoyan)

Ana Claudia Sant’Anna
Received first place as a member of K-State's team in the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Graduate Student Case Study Competition. The event allows graduate students to test their communication skills and their ability to apply their knowledge of agricultural economics and agribusiness subjects to practical situations.
(Dr. Aleksan Shanoyan)

Emrah Er
Received first place as a member of K-State’s team in the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Graduate Student Case Study Competition. The event allows graduate students to test their communication skills and their ability to apply their knowledge of agricultural economics and agribusiness subjects to practical situations.
(Dr. Aleksan Shanoyan)

Physics
Yuli Heinson
Received the American Association of Aerosol Research Travel Award to attend its 34th annual conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
(Dr. Chris Sorensen)

Justin Maughan
Received the American Association of Aerosol Research Travel Award to attend its 34th annual conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
(Dr. Amit Chakrabarti)

Agronomy
Bailey McHenry
Won third place in the Oral Student Competition at the 2015 Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America.
(Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti)

Jay Weeks
Earned second place in the student oral presentations competition at the 12th International Phytotechnologies Conference in September 2015. His presentation was “An Assessment of the Trace Element Exposure Risk to Urban Brownfields Gardeners via Inhalation.”
(Dr. Ganga Hettiarachchi)

Animal Sciences and Industry
Caroline Ylioja
Gave one of the 10 best presentations at K-State’s annual Research and State and will represent the university at the 13th Capitol Graduate Research Summit, Feb. 2, 2016, at the State Capitol in Topeka. Her presentation was “Spinning straw into milk: can an all-byproduct diet support milk production?”
(Dr. Barry Bradford)

Apparel, Textiles, and Interior Design
Lauren Reiter
Received second place in the social sciences, humanities and education oral presentation competition at the 2015 K-State Research Forum.
(Dr. Kim Y. Hiller Connell)
Art
Marco Hernandez
Awarded first place for one of his etchings in the America 2015: All Media Exhibition, a competitive national juried competition. For the win, Hernandez also received the Purchase Award and will have a solo exhibition of his etchings at Minot State University. Artist Richard Notkin was the competition’s juror. (Jason Scuilla)

Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics
Nicoleta Ploscariu
Received second place in the at the engineering, mathematics and physical sciences poster session at the Graduate Student Council’s 20th annual K-State Research Forum. University faculty members judge and select up to three presenters to receive scholarship awards in each session. More than 90 graduate students participated in this year’s event. The award shows her ability to communicate complex scientific details of her research in a manner that can be understood by the general public. (Dr. John Tomich)

Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Nana Baah Appiah-Nkansah
Received first place in the engineering, math and physical sciences oral presentation competition at the 2015 K-State Research Forum. (Dr. Donghai Wang)

Biology
Matthew Galliart
Gave one of the 10 best presentations at K-State’s annual Research and State and will represent the university at the 13th Capitol Graduate Research Summit, Feb. 2, 2016, at the State Capitol in Topeka. His presentation was “Adaptive ecotypic variation and genetic divergence of a widespread grass andropogon gerardii across a great plains’ climate gradient.” (Dr. Loretta Johnson)

Chemistry
Tuyen Nguyen
Gave one of the 10 best presentations at K-State’s annual Research and State and will represent the university at the 13th Capitol Graduate Research Summit, Feb. 2, 2016, at the State Capitol in Topeka. Her presentation was “Engineering biomimetic nano-absorbent for detoxification of chemotherapeutics.” (Dr. Santosh Aryal)

Soma Sekhar Sriadibhatla
Gave one of the 10 best presentations at K-State's annual Research and State and will represent the university at the 13th Capitol Graduate Research Summit, Feb. 2, 2016, at the State Capitol in Topeka. His presentation was “Bisphosphonate functionalized nanomedicine for targeting bone microenvironment.” (Dr. Santosh Aryal)

Civil Engineering
Syeda Rubaiyat Aziz
Gave one of the 10 best presentations at K-State's annual Research and State and will represent the university at the 13th Capitol Graduate Research Summit, Feb. 2, 2016, at the State Capitol in Topeka. Her presentation was “Highway safety manual calibration and crash prediction for rural multiline highways in Kansas.” (Dr. Sunanda Dissanayake)

Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology
Jingjiao Ma
Awarded first place for her basic science research presentation at Phi Zeta Research Day. The award is to recognize and promote scholarships and research pertaining to the welfare and diseases of animals. (Dr. Wenjun Ma)

Entomology
Darren Snyder
Received third place in the MUVE 10-Minute Oral Paper Competition for doctoral students at the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America meeting. (Dr. Lee Cohnstaedt)

Donghun Kim
Earned second place in the PBT 10-Minute Oral Paper Competition for doctoral students at the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America meeting. (Dr. Yoonseong Park)

Robert Ewing
Received first place in the MUVE/P-IE Research Poster Competition for master’s students at the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America meeting. (Dr. Marcelo Ortigao)

Ryan Schmid
Awarded third place in the MUVE/P-IE Oral Paper Competition for doctoral students at the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America meeting. Schmid earned first place for doctoral students in the K-State entomology department’s 3-Minute Thesis Competition for graduate students. He also took first place in agricultural sciences oral presentation, session two, at the K-State Research Forum. (Dr. Brian McCormack)

Matt Heerman
Earned second place in the MUVE 10-Minute Oral Paper Competition for doctoral students at the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America meeting. (Dr. Jeff Whitworth)

Shelly Wiggam
Awarded first place in the doctoral-level poster competition at the 68th annual meeting of the Society for Range Management, Jan. 31-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. Wiggam received first place in the MUVE/P-IE Research Oral Paper Presentations for doctoral students at the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America meeting. She also took first place in agricultural sciences oral presentation, session one, at the K-State Research Forum. (Dr. Greg Zolnerowich)

Alice Harris
Won first place in the MUVE/P-IE 10-Minute Oral Competition for doctoral students at the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America meeting.” (Dr. Donghai Wang)
students at the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America meeting. (Dr. Brian McCorrnick)

Ashley Hough Earned second place in the MUVE/P-IE Poster Competition for master’s students at the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America meeting.

Rukmini Puri Giri Received second place for master’s students in the K-State entomology department’s 3-Minute Thesis Competition for graduate students. (Dr. Ludek Zurek)

Chen Du Received first place for master’s students in the K-State entomology department’s 3-Minute Thesis Competition for graduate students. (Dr. Ming Chen)

Josh Urban Received second place for doctoral students in the K-State entomology department’s 3-Minute Thesis Competition for graduate students. (Dr. Yoonseong Park)

Lloyd Zimmerman Received the National Endowment for Financial Education Award as co-author of “Relationship of Objective and Subjective Knowledge with College Student Financial Behaviors” at the American Council on Consumer Interests annual conference in May 2015. (Dr. Kristy Archuleta)

Bryant Miller Gave one of the 10 best presentations at K-State’s annual Research and State and will represent the university at the 13th Capitol Graduate Research Summit, Feb. 2, 2016, at the State Capitol in Topeka. His presentation was “What can we learn about health from Kansas teens: results of the Kansas Adolescent Health Needs Assessment.” (Dr. Elaine Johannes)

Mary Hauser Placed second in the Dairy Foods Division oral competition session at the American Dairy Science Association’s 2015 annual meeting in Orlando, Florida. The association is an international organization of educators, scientists and industry representatives who are committed to advancing the dairy industry and keenly aware of the vital role the dairy sciences play in fulfilling the economic, nutritive and health requirements of the world’s population. (Dr. Jayendra Amamcharla)

Genetics

Damien Downes Won a Novozymes Student Poster Prize at the 12th International Aspergillus Meeting, Asperfest 12, March 16-17, 2015, in Pacific Grove, California. (Dr. Richard Todd)

Geography

William Wetherholt Won first-place individual honors in the GeoBowl competition at the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division of the Association of American Geographers annual meeting in Kearney, Nebraska. (Dr. Lisa Harrington)

Human Nutrition

Nicole Delimont Gave one of the 10 best presentations at K-State’s annual Research and State and will represent the university at the 13th Capitol Graduate Research Summit, Feb. 2, 2016, at the State Capitol in Topeka. Her presentation was “Protein quality and micronutrient availability of extruded corn, soy, sorghum, and cowpea fortified-blended foods.” (Dr. Brian Lindshield)

David Gomez Gave one of the 10 best presentations at K-State’s annual Research and State and will represent the university at the 13th Capitol Graduate Research Summit, Feb. 2, 2016, at the State Capitol in Topeka. His presentation was “Consumer acceptance of dry dog food visual characteristics.” (Dr. Edgar Chambers IV)

Interior Architecture & Product Design

Robyn Tank Named a finalist the international AWFS Fair Fresh Wood Competition. As a finalist, Tank’s work, “The Bijou Table,” was included in the competition’s brochure. Tanks received transportation, housing and admission to conference. (Rod Troyer)

James Dylan Howe Named a finalist in the international AWFS Fair Fresh Wood Competition. As a finalist, Howe’s work, “Eleanor Lounge Chair,” was included in the competition’s brochure. He received transportation, housing and admission to conference. (David Brown)

Date Rutvik Won the $1,000 third prize in the “What’s Next in Learning Spaces?” Video Contest, sponsored by Herman Miller Inc. and knowledge partner IIDA. (Katrina Lewis)

Emma Montgomery Won the grand prize in the National Steelcase NEXT Competition. As a competition finalist, Montgomery received an all-expense paid trip to Steelcase University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to present her design to the judges and meet with Steelcase executives. She also spent time with thought leaders to explore what’s NEXT in education, the workplace and health care environments. (Neal Hubbell)

Landscape Architecture and Regional & Community Planning

Katherine Leise Was named the 2015 Kansas State University Olmsted Scholar by the Landscape Architecture Foundation. Named for Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture, the Olmsted Scholars Program is the premier national award program for landscape architecture students. The program recognizes one outstanding student from each accredited landscape architecture program in the U.S. and Canada. Leise, a 2015 Master of Landscape Architecture graduate, attended the foundation’s annual benefit in November to accept the award. (Stephanie Rolley)
**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:

**Genetics**
- **Damien Downes**
  Accepted a postdoctoral research position in disease gene regulation at the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Oxford, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, United Kingdom. (Dr. Richard Todd)

**Modern Languages**
- **Sophia Dongilli**
  Working as an English instructor at the International Language Center in Chachapoyas, Peru. (Dr. Earl Brown)

**Entomology**
- **Barbara Amoah**
  Selected to attend, with Tom Phillips, professor of entomology, the prestigious Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security from June 7-20, 2015, at Purdue University. The event is co-sponsored by

**Genetics**
- **Chencheng Wang**
  Accepted a position as an application engineer at Thorlabs in China. (Dr. Kristan Corwin)

**Modern Languages**
- **Aihua Liu**
  Accepted a position as a postdoc at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. (Dr. Uwe Thumm)

**Physics**
- **Elise Agra**
  Accepted a position as a postdoc at the University of Chicago's psychology department. (Dr. N. Sanjay Rebello)

**ADDITIONAL HONORS AND AWARDS**

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

**Biology**
- **Matthew Galliart**
  Received the 2015 Presidential Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Student Research from Kansas State University. (Dr. Loretta Johnson)

**Educational Leadership**
- **Art DeGroat**
  Gave an invited presentation, “The U.S. Army’s paradigm toward higher education and Kerr’s Folly,” at the 2015 Midwest Academy of Management annual conference in Columbus Ohio, Oct 1-4, 2015. He also gave the invited presentation “The arts as catalyst to social change for post 9/11-era military veterans.” (Dr. W. Franklin Spikes)

**Entomology**
- **Barbara Amoah**
  Selected to attend, with Tom Phillips, professor of entomology, the prestigious Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security from June 7-20, 2015, at Purdue University. The event is co-sponsored by
Purdue University, United States Agency for International Development and CIMMYT, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center. (Dr. Tom Phillips)

Bethany Jochim Invited to present a research talk, “Strong-field dissociation dynamics of NO_2^+: a multiphoton electronic or vibrational excitation?” at MPQ, a world-leading institute for ultrafast science research.

Mohammad Zohrabi Presented an invited talk on his research, “Carrier-envelope phase control over fragmentation of H_2^+ and D_2.” He also presented the research talk “Carrier-envelope phase control over molecular dynamics in strong-field laser pulses.” (Dr. Itzik Ben-Itzhak)

Contact

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