



Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

# THE GRADUATE SCHOOL QUARTERLY

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## Graduate School 4th Annual Interdisciplinary Research Symposium

The Graduate School hosted its 4th Annual Interdisciplinary Research Symposium on Sunday, April 17, 2011. The Graduate Research Symposium was part of the University's Weekend of Excellence, with a variety of graduate and undergraduate events occurring all throughout the weekend.

The theme for the graduate symposium was "Breaking Boundaries: Bold Approaches to Global Questions." Graduate students from various disciplines interpreted the theme in the following sessions: Trans-Global Latino Perspectives; Bold Approaches to Global Poverty; New Understandings in Medicine; Economics, Ethics and Politics in the Global Village; Local Reflections on Global Issues; Breaking Boundaries: Philosophy and Pluralism; Subaltern Voices; Innovations in Patient Care; and New Technologies, New Challenges. The symposium included a poster session with 22 presenters, doubling last year's entries.

The event closed with an awards ceremony recognizing the best paper presentation of each session, the top three poster presentations and the outstanding diversity contribution.



### Paper presentation winners:

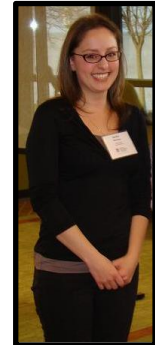
James Mastaler, Theology/Christian Ethics; Timothy Weidel, Philosophy; Victoria Bolf, English; Phillip Hoffman, Developmental Psychology; Jennie Johnson, Nursing; Nathan A. Jung, Criminal Justice; Sara M. Locatelli, Social Psychology; William Myatt, Theology; Trent Rogers, Theology; Rui Wu, Biochemistry



### Poster presentation winners:

Kelly Haas, Psychology, 1st  
Eileen Rollerson, Sociology, 2nd  
Matthew Reichert, Chemistry, 3rd

The Graduate Students of Color Alliance (GSCA) presented the Diversity Award to the graduate student whose paper or poster presentation provided the most innovative approach to addressing issues relevant to diverse populations. The GSCA Diversity Award went to Jessica Mecerlem (right), Political Science.



Congratulations to all the award winners!

The Graduate School would like to thank all the graduate students who participated in this year's symposium. We would especially like to acknowledge the Research Symposium Committee for their time devoted to planning the symposium. The program was a successful event because of your dedicated participation. Thank you!

A special note of appreciation to Dr. Samuel Attoh, Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost for Research, for his steadfast encouragement and generous financial support. †

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**Dr. Samuel Attoh**

*Dean of the Graduate School  
and Associate Provost for  
Research*

Greetings! I'd like to begin by extending heartfelt congratulations to the graduating class of 2011. Many of you will be receiving the highest honor the academy and your discipline can bestow. This is a great privilege and an extraordinary accomplishment. We celebrate it with you and your families and friends. This past year, the Graduate School had several accomplishments with respect to student scholarship, professional development and community engagement. Graduate School funding totaling over \$2,800,000 supported 350 graduate students. More than 200 students received a total of \$56,000 to support their paper presentations at local, national and international conference venues. About 40 graduate students received external funding from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, the Fulbright Program, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the American Psychological Association, the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, and the Hispanic Theological Initiative. Our Research Mentoring Program has expanded to include 12 graduate students who serve as mentors for undergraduates interested in learning more about graduate education. Our professional developments workshops continue to provide a forum for graduate students interested in broadening their skill sets, preparing for the professoriate, and learning more about life beyond the academy. The Graduate Student Advisory Council and the Graduate Students of Color teamed up to organize the 4th Annual, "Breaking Boundaries: Bold Approaches to Global Questions", which is featured in more detail in this newsletter. Our community and global stewards continue to connect their intellectual talents to the pressing social, civic, and ethical problems in our communities. Examples of their projects include: public health research in Bolivian villages, improving family literacy, and examining the health effects of chemicals and plastics in developing countries.

As you can see, there is a lot to celebrate and be thankful for. I thank my members of staff who continue to work diligently to provide students and faculty with the necessary support services. Our Graduate Program Directors have been cooperative in helping us develop assessment and diversity plans. Graduate Council continues to assist with policy formulation, innovative programming, and curricular development.

Finally, I'd like to thank President Garanzini and Provost Pelissero for their unyielding support and encouragement throughout the years as we move forward in implementing key components of our strategic plan. Have a great and enjoyable summer everyone! ✦

**Student-to-Student Mentoring**

**Sociology Mentors Undergraduate and Graduate Researchers One Presentation at a Time**

For at least the past ten years, graduate students in the Sociology department have gathered together to produce and participate in an annual department



symposium. Originally dubbed "mini-conference", these gatherings allowed graduate students to present their own work to their graduate and faculty peers, as well as receive suggestions and constructive criticism.

As it became apparent that undergraduates were also engaging in rigorous and presentable research, the department shifted its emphasis from graduate students only to a department-wide event that included and welcomed the undergraduate population. Using the format most common for academic presentations at professional conferences, the Sociology Symposium allows each student 15 minutes for presentation and then a brief period for Q & A. Nowadays, the symposium is held a few weeks in advance of the annual Midwest Sociology meeting, allowing the many Loyola students who present there to practice their presentations on their 'home turf' in front of those who are familiar with their work and who can offer insights for improvement for their upcoming presentations.



The symposium is entirely student led with support from staff in the sociology department. Financial support is received by the Student Activity Fund, the Graduate Association of Sociologists, and the undergraduate Sociology Club. (Cont'd page 3)

## Student-to-Student Mentoring, cont'd

This year, Jennifer Cossyleon, first year Ph.D. student, served as the liaison between the undergraduate Sociology Club and the graduate program. Asked why she took on such a major role as a first year student, Jennifer replied, "I visited Loyola as a prospective student last year and was thoroughly impressed by the overall atmosphere of the symposium. It was definitely a selling point at attend Loyola in the fall."

Ultimately, the Sociology Symposium has become a significant example of the overall departmental philosophy of the Sociology department, nicely paired with the most recent Loyola Strategic plan that promotes the inextricable link between undergraduate and graduate programs and education. The Sociology Symposium continues to be an excellent way for graduate students in sociology to mentor undergraduate students about the process of academic research that cumulates in the academic presentation. Undergraduates are given insight into the value of their own research and gain the confidence to present their own work, take themselves seriously as academics, and possibly open the door for them to graduate education. ✦



### The Chicago 'Loup'

*A chronicle of the experiences of Master's student and Hawaiian native, Lourena 'Loup' Yco, as she negotiates her first year of graduate school.*

It is a universal truth that the amount of work one needs to finish is directly proportional to the amount of time spent getting distracted from that work. This not to say that none of us graduate students gets any work done, but I am referring to the process of distraction that takes us to that finishing point. Who among us won't sheepishly admit that while writing papers, we are watching videos on YouTube or perpetually logged on Facebook playing online Scrabble? I very am guilty of both, and I'm not ashamed of it. In fact, I propose that distraction is imperative in the graduate school lifestyle; otherwise, we'll see a rise of graduate students walking zombie-like inside the Information Commons. So if you are tired of Facebook-stalking your high-school friend who is bragging how well she's doing in New York City or watching that kitten inside a sock over and over again, I have some suggestions for distracting Internet sites which cater to all disciplinary interest.

Since the Internet is teeming with entertaining blogs and sites, I have selected several sites that I myself spend a considerable amount of time with and some that

come recommended by friends. Two of my current favorites are recently recommended by a friend and a fellow tutor at the Writing Center. For our literary- and grammatically-minded friends in the humanities, I highly recommend a tumbler site called "Slaughterhouse 90210." This site mixes two of my favorite things: television and literature; it features television screencaps paired with literary quotes. But I won't say more, you'll just have to see and enjoy for yourself. My other new favorite site is a blog called "Damn you, Auto Correct!", and it features hilarious autocorrect moments on people's iPhone messaging. It's similar to the Fail blog except it's about iPhones. Word of advice: Don't read them while you're in the IC, because you'll receive strange looks when you laugh out loud by yourself.

For those in the anthropology, sociology, and the social sciences, I recommend my all-time favorite the "Fail Blog." It posts the many quirks and interesting behaviors of human beings. I think you might even find something in there to write a dissertation on. For those in the disciplines of zoology and other natural sciences, the website called "Cute Roulette" will prove to peak your interest. This website will give you randomly selected YouTube videos of various animals (not only puppies and kittens) performing acts of cuteness. Trust me when I say that you can press that "Next Cuteness" button about a hundred times before you realize you have just wasted three hours.

I hope I have given you enough suggestions for some valuable distraction time, but utilize them wisely. Also, if you have Internet modes of distraction of your own, let me know, my Loyola email is lyco@luc.edu. I always welcome more ways I can watch kittens doing creative, cute things. ✦

## Seventh Annual Diversity Banquet Awards

The Office of Student Diversity's Seventh Annual Diversity Banquet was held on April 15, 2011. Many undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff were recognized for their exemplary "academic, spiritual, cultural, and professional contributions to diversity at Loyola." Those affiliated with graduate education are recognized here.

### Outstanding Faculty Award

Shared by Dr. Gerald Steenken, Black World Studies and Dr. Rhys Williams, Sociology

### Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award

Daviree Velazquez, Higher Education

### Outstanding Professional Staff Award

Rabia Khan, Residential Life

# End-of-the-Year Awards

## Graduate Faculty of the Year:

Peter J. Schraeder, PhD, Political Science

## Dissertations of the Year: Humanities

Adam D. Shprintzen, History

Title: Abstinence to Consumption: The Development of American Vegetarianism, 1817-1917

## Natural and Biomedical Sciences

Laurie E. Risner, Molecular Biology

Title: The Specific Role of the MLL CXXC Domain in MLL Fusion Protein Function

## Thesis of the Year: Social Sciences

Robin Bartram, Sociology

Title: Emplacing Ideologies of Risk and the Use of the Built Environment in Two Women's Residential Clubs in Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Chicago

## Commencement Student Speaker

Desmond Ikenna Odugu, Doctoral Candidate, Cultural and Educational Policy Studies

## Schmitt Awards

Julia Barrett Daniel, English

Todd Fuist, Sociology

Jaimee Glasgow, CBNA

Daniel Hailu, Social Work

Thomas Josephsohn, Sociology

Bruno Lima, Microbiology Immunology

Bharath Mani, Molecular Pharmacy

Justin Marquis, Philosophy

Kelly O'Connor, History

Deepika Panawennage, Chemistry

Vanessa Rashke, Developmental Psychology

Stella Ress, History

Sarah Skowronski, Political Science

Jeanine Viau, Theology

Cynthia Wallace, English

Ana Weiss, Chemistry

## Community and Global Stewards Fellowship

Rachel Horton, English M.A.

Dara Lewis, Sociology Ph.D.

Elizabeth Muriuki, Masters in Public Health

Emlyn Ricketts, Comparative Education, M.A.

Cynthia Townsend, Theology M.A.

# Professional Accolades

∞ Debra Baron, PhD student in Cultural and Educational Policy Studies, was awarded the Best Graduate Paper Award at this year's American Academy of Religion Midwest Regional Conference.

∞ Elizabeth Jacobs, Doctoral Candidate in Cultural and Educational Policy Studies, has accepted an Assistant Professor position at Seton Hill University.

∞ Gihane Jeremie-Brink, Counseling Psychology PhD student, was awarded the American Psychological Association's Minority Fellowship.

∞ Dr. Robert Lombardo, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, was a featured discussant on WTTW's *Chicago Tonight* program this past April 26<sup>th</sup>. The topic for the evening was the runoff for Chicago Police Department's Superintendent position and, of the three finalists, who would be best suited for the position.

∞ Dr. Randall Renstrom, PhD Social Psychology Alumni has accepted an Assistant Professor position at Central College in Iowa.

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## Summer Deadlines:

June 1 – Theses & Dissertation Format Checks due for August 2011 Degree Conferral

June 3 – Incomplete grades due in Graduate School from Fall 2010 semester

July 1 – Theses & Dissertation Final Copies due for August 2011 Degree Conferral

August 1 – Last day to apply for December 2011 Degree conferral

## THE GRADUATE SCHOOL QUARTERLY

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*We invite you to send us information that you think should be shared. Send your submissions for the next GSQ to [gradnewsletter@luc.edu](mailto:gradnewsletter@luc.edu) by August 15, 2011.*