

East Carolina University
Thesis and Dissertation Award Winners



Doctoral Dissertation Award

2022

Doctoral Dissertation Award

Natalie M. Richardson

Ph.D. in Medical Family Therapy

Class of 2020

“Injuries of the Mind, Body, and Soul: An Exploration of Moral Injury Among Military Service Members and Veterans”

Department of Human Development and Family Science,
College of Health and Human Performance

Mentor: Angela Lamson

<https://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/8795>

Erica Bell

Ph.D. in Bioenergetics and Exercise Science

Class of 2019

“Stiffness of Intrinsic Foot Structures in Diabetic Individuals and the Effect of Stiffness on Plantar Pressures During Gait”

Department of Kinesiology, College of Health and Human Performance

Mentor: Zachary J. Domire

<https://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/7598>

2022

Master's Thesis Award

Brian Diefenbach

M.S. in Kinesiology

Class of 2020

"Gene Expression in Response to Mechanical Loading on the Anterior Cruciate Ligament"

Department of Kinesiology, College of Health and Human Performance

Mentor: Zachary Domire

<https://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/8778>

2021

Doctoral Dissertation Award

Edward Sanderlin

Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Biological Sciences

Class of 2018

“The Functional Roles of pH-Sensing G Protein-Coupled Receptors in Intestinal Inflammation”

Department of Kinesiology, College of Health and Human Performance

Mentor: Li Yang

<https://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/7079>

Temptaous T. McKoy

Ph.D. in Rhetoric, Writing, and Professional Communication

Class of 2019

“Y’all Call it Technical Professional Communication, We Call it #ForTheCulture: The Use of Amplification Rhetorics in Black Communities and their Implications for Technical and Professional Communication Studies”

Department of Kinesiology, College of Health and Human Performance

Mentor: Michelle F. Eble

<https://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/7421>

2021

Master's Thesis Award

Jordan W. Barbee

M.S. in Kinesiology

Class of 2020

“Associations of Coach, Peer, and Parent-Initiated Motivational Climate with Burnout and Engagement.”

Department of Kinesiology, College of Health and Human Performance

Mentor: Tom Raedeke

<https://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/8563>

2020

Doctoral Dissertation Award

Melissa Decker

Ph.D., Health Psychology

Class of 2019

“Minority Stress, Risky Behaviors, and Sexual Scripting Among Transgender College Students: A Mixed Methods Study”

Department of Psychology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Heather Littleton

<https://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/7426>

Brenton Laing

Ph.D., Kinesiology

Class of 2019

“Adaptations of the Hypothalamic Arcuate Nucleus in Response to Exercise and Hunger”

Department of Kinesiology, College of Health and Human Performance

Mentor: Hu Huang

<https://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/6770>

2020

Master's Thesis Award

Alec Powers

M.M., Music Theory, Composition, and Musicology

Class of 2018

"Symphony No. 2 "Symphony of Chorales" by Lukas Foss, A Study in Collage and Musical Borrowing"

Department of Music Theory, Composition, and Musicology, School of Music,
College of Fine Arts and Communications

Mentor: Mark Richardson

<https://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/6927>

Michael Twarog

M.S., Geology

Class of 2018

"Holocene Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction of Depositional Environments on the Sunda Shelf, Southwest South China Sea, Using a Multidisciplinary Approach"

Department of Geological Sciences, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentors: Eduardo Leorri and Stephen Culver

<https://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/7017>

2019

Doctoral Dissertation Award

Alana Baker

Ph.D., Rhetoric, Writing, and Profession Communication

Class of 2017

“Pragmatic Feminist Empiricism: An Original Framework for Technical Communication”

Department of English, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Erin Frost

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/6196>

Molly Albecker

Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Biological Sciences

Class of 2018

“Adaptation in a Changing World: Evolutionary Mechanisms of Salt Tolerance in a Coastal Amphibian”

Department of Biology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Michael McCoy

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/6979>

2019

Master's Thesis Award

Akacia Propst

M.A., Anthropology

Class of 2017

"A Paleodemographic Study of Morality in 1st Century BC/AD Perta, Jordan"

Department of Anthropology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Megan Perry

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/6362>

Katie Clements

M.S., Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

Class of 2017

*"The Effects of Social Status on Dopaminergic Regulation on Neural Circuit
Activation and Behavior"*

Department of Biology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Fadi Issa

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/6394>

2018

Doctoral Dissertation Award

Amelia Muse

Ph.D Medical Family Therapy

Class of 2017

“A Three World View Meta-Evaluation of Integrated Behavioral Health Care”
Department of Human Development and Family Science, College of Health and
Human Performance

Mentor: Angela Lamson

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/6197>

2018

Master's Thesis Award

Cameron Cook

M.A. in Mathematics

Class of 2015

"Modeling Tsunami Waves Using Q-Advanced Waves in 2-D"

Department of Mathematics, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentors: Michael J. Spurr and David Pravica

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/5146>

Justin Anthony Mann

M.A. in Anthropology

Class of 2016

"The Power of Porcelain: Authority and Landscape in Early Modern Cyprus"

Department of Anthropology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Benjamin Saidel

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/5885>

2017

Doctoral Dissertation Award

Kristen Dreyfus

Ph.D., Medical Family Therapy

Class of 2014

“Adult Attachment Theory and Diabetes Mellitus: An Examination of Healthcare Urbanization and Biopsychosocial Health”

Department of Human Development and Family Science, College of Health and Human Performance

Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Hodgson <http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/4542>

Daniel Lark

Ph.D., Bioenergetics and Cell Science

Class of 2015

“Novel Mechanism Governing Skeletal Muscle Mitochondrial Bioenergetics: Oxphos Efficiency and cAMP/PKA Signaling”

Department of Physiology, Brody School of Medicine

Mentor: Darrell Neuffer

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/4694>

2017

Master's Thesis Award

Morgan P. Kain

M.S., Biology

Class of 2015

"The Effects of Environmental Variation on Individual Variation"

Department of Biology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Dr. Michael McCoy

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/5016>

Paige A. Ford

M.A., Anthropology

Class of 2016

*"A Spatial Analysis of Bounded Cemeteries at the Town Creek Site (AD 1150-1400)
in the Southern Piedmont of North Carolina"*

Department of Anthology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentors: Edmond Bourdeaux and I. Randolph Daniel

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/5924>

2016

Doctoral Dissertation Award

Jonathan Burton

Wilson Ph.D., Medical Family Therapy

Class of 2014

*“Healthcare Provider’s Experiences with Screening for Intimate Partner
Violence Among Migrant and Seasonal Farmworking Women:
A Phenomenological Study”*

Department of Human Development and Family Science,
College of Health and Human Performance

Mentors: Dr. Damon L. Rappleyea and Dr. Jennifer L. Hodgson
<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/4440>

2016

Master's Thesis Award

Apil Tamang

M.S, Software Engineering

Class of 2015

"A Constraint-Based Method for Flow-Sensitive Static Type Analysis of PHP Using the Rascal Meta-Programming Platform"

Department of Computer Science, College of Engineering and Technology Mentor:
Mark Hills

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/5037>

Katherine K. Hobbs

M.F.A., Textile Design

Class of 2014

"The Phenomenology of Impairment"

School of Art and Design, College of Fine Arts and Communication

Mentor: Christine Zoller <http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/4372>

2015

Doctoral Dissertation Award

Amy Friesland

Ph.D., Anatomy and Cell Biology

Class of 2014

“The Therapeutic Potential of Rho GTPase Intervention”

Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Brody School of Medicine

Mentor: Dr. Qun Lu

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/4239>

2015

Master's Thesis Award

Calvin Justus

M.S., Biomedical Sciences

Class of 2013

"Activation of the Proton Sensing G-Protein Coupled Receptor, GPR4, Regulates Focal Adhesion Dynamics and Delays Cell Spreading Due to Increased Cytoskeletal Tension"

Department of Engineering, College of Engineering and Technology

Mentor: Dr. Li Yang

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/4246>

Jessica Handloff

M.A., Anthropology

Class of 2013

"Exploring Cultural Influences and Moral Experiences Behind Mental Illness Stigma in the U.S. Army"

Department of Anthropology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Dr. Christine Acenarius

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/4240>

2014

(Nominations for the Doctoral Dissertation Award were not received by the deadline)

Master's Thesis Award

Frank R. Brown, Jr.

M.S., Mathematics

Class of 2013

"Financial Market Analysis Using a Kinetics Model"

Department of Mathematics, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Dr. David Pravica

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/1762>

Joanna Pepple

M.M., Music Theory, Composition, and Musicology

Class of 2012

"The Language of Johannes Brahms's Theme and Variation: A Study of his Chamber Works for Strings"

School of Music, College of Fine Arts and Communication

Mentor: Dr. Amy Carr-Richardson

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/4010>

2013

Doctoral Dissertation Award

Michael Scott Brewer, II

Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Biological Sciences

Class of 2012

*“Higher-Level Systematics of Millipedes {Arthropoda: Myriapoda: Diplopoda}
Evaluated Using Transcriptions Data, Mitochondrial Genomics, and Classifications
Analyses”*

Department of Chemistry, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Dr. Jason E. Bond

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/3866>

2013

Master's Thesis Award

Margaret Ann Garner

M.S. in Recreation and Park Administration

Class of 2012

"Connecting with Nature: The Effects of Organized Camp Experiences and Early-Life Outdoor Experience on Children's Environmental Consciousness"

Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies,

College of Health and Human Performance

Mentor: Dr. Cheryl A. Stevens

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/3890>

Jennifer Elizabeth Satterwhite

M.S. in Chemistry

Class of 2011

"Electrochemical Detection of Benzo[A]Pyrene Metabolite DNA Damage: Implications of Nucleobase Sequence and Adduct Stereochemistry"

Department of Chemistry, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Dr. Eli G. Hvastkovs

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/3663>

2012

Doctoral Dissertation Award

Jon M. Davenport

Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Biological Sciences

Class of 2011

“Multiple Factors Influence the Strength of Intraguild Interactions”

Department of Biology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Dr. David Chalcraft

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/1049>

Hercules T. Maguma

Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology

Class of 2010

“Comparison of Tolerance Characteristics in the Guinea Pig Following Chronic In-Vivo Exposure to Opioid Versus Cannaboid Receptor Agonists”

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Brody School of Medicine

Mentor: Dr. David A. Taylor

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/2956>

2012

Master's Thesis Award

Michelle L. Vuchenich

M.S. in Exercise Sport Science

Class of 2010

"Effects of a Before School Physical Activity Program on Physical Activity and On-Task Behavior in Elementary School-Aged Children"

Department of Exercise and Sport Science,

College of Health and Human Performance

Mentor: Dr. Matthew T. Mahar

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/2941>

Boya Xie

M.S. in Computer Science

Class of 2010

"miRCancer: a microRNA-Cancer Association Database and Toolkit Based on Text Mining"

Department of Computer Science, College of Engineering and Technology

Mentor: Dr. Qin Ding

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/3195>

2011

Doctoral Dissertation Award

Daniel A. Kane

Ph.D., Biogenetics and Exercise Science

Class of 2010

“Effects of Insulin Sensitivity Modulators on the Mitochondrial Fate of Oxygen in Skeletal Muscle”

Department of Kinesiology, Brody School of Medicine

Mentors: Dr. Ronald N. Cortright and Dr. P. Darrell Neuffer

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/2812>

Carolyn Kusbit Dunn

Ph.D., English, Concentration in Technical and Professional Communication

Class of 2010

“Power and Place; A Case Study Approach to Rethinking Crisis Communication”

Department of English, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Dr. Michelle Eble

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/2742>

2011

Master's Thesis Award

Bonnie R. Jackson

M.M., Theory/Composition

Class of 2010

"The Analysis of Donald Grantham's Baron Cimetière's Mambo and Baron Samedi's Sarabande"

School of Music, College of Fine Arts and Communication

Mentor: Dr. Amy Carr-Richardson

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/2950>

Jennifer L. Apper

M.S., Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

Class of 2010

"Interaction and Functional Analysis of Drosophila Mcm10"

Department of Biology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor: Dr. Tim Christenson

<http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/2873>