East Carolina University

Thesis and Dissertation

Award Winners
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. Apger

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
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 Neufer
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
Master’s Thesis Award

Michelle L. Vuchcnich

Insert Degree Here, 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

Insert Degree Here, 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
2012

Doctoral Dissertation Award

Jon M. Davenport

Insert Degree Here, 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

Insert Degree Here, 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
Master’s Thesis Award

Margaret Ann Garner

M.S., in something, 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 something, 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
2013

**Doctoral Dissertation Award**

Michael Scott Brewer, II

Ph.D., in something, 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](http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/3866)
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
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
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
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
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
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
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 Neufer

http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/4694
2018

Master’s Thesis Award

Cameron Cook
M.S. in something, 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.S., in something, 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
2018

Doctoral Dissertation Award

Amelia Muse

Ph.D. in something, 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
2019

Master’s Thesis Award

Akacia Propst
M.A., Anthropology, Class of 2017
“A Paleodemographic Study of Morality in 1sr 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
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
Department of Biology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences
Mentor: Michael McCoy
http://thescholarship.ecu.edu/handle/10342/6979
2020

Master’s Thesis Award

Alec Powers

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