

SUMMER 2017

gradmatters

NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UIC GRADUATE COLLEGE



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DEAN'S WELCOME



provide stipend and research support, as well as professional development courses, workshops, and now internship awards to build skills for success both in graduate school and in postgraduate careers.

In this issue of *GradMatters*, I am happy to celebrate our strengths and to appeal to our alumni and friends to help us to sustain these worthy initiatives in the face of difficult budgetary times.

Celebrations

A key function of the Graduate College is to help students financially negotiate the costs of graduate school. We have several outstanding graduate students who win our competitive stipend and research awards. I invite you to enjoy the profiles of a rising epidemiologist (page 3) and a former winner of both the Provost and the Chancellor's Award (page 4).

We help students to successfully negotiate graduate school and to prepare them for their future careers, in and outside academia. Theresa Christenson-Caballero provides useful networking tips (page 5) and we successfully piloted a new internship program (page 8).

Farewell

Days ago we said good-bye to Marie Khan, who served faithfully as External Fellowship Coordinator and then took on most of the internal awards and fellowships, as circumstances forced job consolidation. We wish her well in her new endeavors in New York City.

Concerns

As you are well aware, the Illinois state budget crisis has left public universities with tremendous shortfalls. Without funding for two years, UIC continues to weather the crisis better than many of our other colleagues in the state; however, the Graduate College and UIC graduate students have already felt the impact with the elimination of one fellowship program and uncertainty about the funding of others.

Fortunately, the Graduate College has been able to continue to support graduate student stipends and research, but honestly, our ability to support students has never matched our peers, especially in Chicago. Those students who win our awards are amazing, but there are many more incredible students that deserve funding.

Final Request

With the state budget crisis and likely cuts to any future funding to the university, our graduate students need your help more than ever to fund their education and research. Please consider donating to the Graduate College at <http://grad.uic.edu/giving> to support graduate student fellowships and our other initiatives. Your donations can help to diversify the future faculty of America, fund internships, and support tomorrow's innovators and scholars.

Karen J. Colley

Dean and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics

Summer! A time to recharge the intellectual batteries, spend an afternoon at the beach, indulge in pleasure reading, travel... and to congratulate our new graduates!

UIC is the city's only public research university and it is tied for third in the nation for student diversity, even as our student body grows. We are committed to excellence in research and scholarship, service to our local and global communities, and embrace the diversity of all our students as essential to our intellectual framework. With these core values in mind, the mission of the Graduate College is to support the next generation of innovators, scholars, and world changers. To do this, we



2017 Student Research Forum

Faculty and alumni judges assessed 300 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students' research from all disciplines at the Forum on April 3rd.

Kayleigh Tovar, PhD student in Microbiology & Immunology under the mentorship of Michael Federle, took second place in the Graduate/Professional Life Sciences division with her poster entitled "Elucidating Rgg-mediated quorum sensing networks in *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and testing their contributions in pathogenesis," and **Vineeth Kumar Gattu**, PhD student in Civil and Materials Engineering under the mentorship of J. Ernesto Indacochea and president of the Graduate Student Council, took first place in the Business/Computer Science/Mathematics+Engineering/Physical Sciences Division with a poster entitled "Long-Term Electrochemical Corrosion of a HT9 Based Alloyed Nuclear Waste Form." Brava!

(Photo courtesy of the OVCA)

Images throughout the publication are, unless otherwise noted, from the 2016 Image of Research competition, which is a collaboration between the Graduate College and the University Library. Past winners can be found at <https://grad.uic.edu/image-research-exhibit>.

Images on page one, from top to bottom-right: "Cosmopolitan Space in Kathmandu," by Benjamin Linder, Anthropology; Aberrations," by Cecilia Villarruel, English; and "SpiderSense," by Viktor A. Mateevitsi, Computer Science. These images placed third, second, and first respectively. In their own words: Linder "captures the dynamic energy of Thamel" (in Kathmandu, Nepal), a "strikingly global neighborhood," on a Friday night; Villarruel is the subject of this abstract portrait by the artist DADA obscura whose struggle with addictions led him to view "the world through a distorted lens"; Mateevitsi's research "explores how technologies can augment and enhance human and human interactions"; here, he is assembling "a wearable haptic jacket."

Image on page four: "Hedge House," by Alisa Penkala, Architecture.

Image on page seven: "Spatial Trend Analysis on High-rise," by Donggyu Lee, Urban Planning and Policy.

Image on page eight: "Keel-bill toucan in *Cecropia obtusifolia*. Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz, Mexico," by Jason Davlantes, Ecology.

TILLING “HALLOWED GROUND”

By Emma Boylan, PhD Candidate, Epidemiology (SPH)

It is a refrain I have heard at many talks during my time as a student here: UIC is uniquely situated to find solutions to clinical and public health problems through collaboration among our health science programs and with our urban community. Our diversity and commitment to social justice also make UIC an exciting place to be if you are concerned, as I am, about health inequities. When she visited in February to discuss her book, *Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care*, Professor Dayna Bowen Matthew movingly described our campus as “hallowed ground.”

Of course, it is easy to be moved by the kind words of an admired speaker. But by the time I attended her talk, I already had reason to believe her assessment was correct.

I came to UIC in 2014 after four years of clinical research at Lurie Children’s Hospital. At that time, my entire post-undergraduate career had been hospital based and I expected to return to hospitals after graduating with an MS in epidemiology. Attending the School of Public Health, with its close ties to the medical center and other health science schools, would play to my strengths. Furthermore, my years of interaction with patients and their families, along with my personal reading on the history of medicine in America, convinced me that addressing inequities is essential to the ethical practice of medicine and research. That progress cannot be accomplished in clinic alone.

When I arrived at UIC, I was very fortunate to become involved early in projects with a public health and health policy focus. As a research assistant at the Institute for Health Research and Policy, I worked on the evaluation teams for We Choose Health and the Illinois Prevention Research Center. Each of these projects incorporate multiple innovative public health policies and interventions, and exposed me to the type of population-level thinking that was new to me with my clinical background. They also allowed me to see a common thread in current public health thinking: a turn away from individual risk factors and behavior, and toward the policy and built environments.

In 2015, I joined the Chicago Prostate and Colorectal Cancer Survival Study under my advisor, Dr. Vincent Freeman, and started

my thesis research in earnest. The project seeks to evaluate the contributions of clinical and neighborhood factors to cancer survival disparities between African American and white Cook County residents. Its unique dataset includes the residential addresses and treatment facilities of cancer cases collected by the Illinois State Cancer Registry; linkage to the National Death Index; and detailed hospital survey data.

Thinking back to the challenges faced by my patients and their families, I decided to evaluate Chicagoans’ spatial access to health care by both driving and public transit. While spatial access to health care by car had been measured previously and, in some cases been found to be related to cancer outcomes, this relationship did not seem to hold in urban areas. Yet I knew Chicago to be a highly segregated city with an uneven distribution of health care resources. I remembered my own patients missing appointments because of transportation problems. And it seemed unreasonable to measure spatial access to resources in an urban environment without including public transit—particularly in a population burdened by serious illness and disparities that might remove the option of driving.

To do this, I needed to figure out how to measure both driving and public transit trips in a way that would be comparable and meaningful. I needed a lot of high quality public data about transportation systems, much of it from the city’s excellent open data platform. I needed to learn to use a geographic information system (GIS), too. The College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs is sometimes called “the other School of Public Health” on campus. Their courses in GIS, taught by staff from the Urban Data Visualization Lab, made my project possible. Because they encouraged us to select an independent project related to our outside work, I could build a GIS network model of the Chicago public transit system while having the structure of a class if I needed help. The courses also introduced me to other students and faculty working at the intersection of public health and planning.

My thesis project has met with success and a whole new set of questions. Among Chicagoans with colorectal cancer, only the difficulty of using public transit—not driving—



Cancer epidemiologist is committed to health and social justice.

(Photo courtesy of E. Boylan)

to reach the hospital was associated with survival. However, more burdensome trips were associated with improved survival and did not account for racial or ethnic disparities. Validating and understanding this relationship is my next task, now as a PhD student in cancer epidemiology. I am still with the Chicago Prostate and Colorectal Cancer Survival Study and the Institute for Health Research and Policy, which have supported me as a student here and kept me busy with other applications of GIS to public health.

Several months later, I still think about Professor Matthew’s words often because they are true. UIC possesses a stunning collection of resources to promote health and well-being, including its many health science programs, interdisciplinary collaborations, and location in a complex and vibrant urban area. But there is one more resource of which we are acutely aware: need. Chicago’s segregation and inequities are severe but, sadly, not unique. Successful public health programs like Cure Violence have demonstrated that interventions developed among Chicagoans can be translated to help people all over the world. Through service to Chicago and Illinois, we have the opportunity to promote health and justice for all people.

**Who should the Graduate College profile? Do you have a story to tell?
To recommend an alumna, alumnus, or a current graduate student for *GradMatters*,
contact gradcoll_alumni@uic.edu.
An online “Great Grads” upload system is coming soon!**

ANDREA HICKS, PhD SEEKS SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

By Taylor Kasper, Assistant Director of Communications, OVCA

In this edition of GradMatters, the Graduate College collaborated with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Advancement to highlight a recent alumna.

An 18-year-old Andrea Hicks chose to major in Environmental Engineering at the very beginning of her academic career with only one goal in mind: she wanted to help people.

“At the time, this wasn’t a really well-formed idea,” Dr. Hicks said. “I just knew I wanted to be in a position to help people in a big way, and solve problems on a really large scale.”

Dr. Hicks began her engineering education at Michigan Technological University as an undergraduate, and took interest in the environmental aspects of engineering. This interest continued through her master’s program, and was ultimately the focus of her PhD research at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

When asked about what made UIC special for her, she said it was a multitude of things. For one, its students were like her parents, who were the first generation in their families to get college degrees—her dad went to a commuter college and her mom attend college at night.

“Andrea is a gifted engineer, an ardent environmentalist, an effective advocate for sustainable solutions to complex problems, and an articulate spokesperson for UIC.” –Prof. Thomas Theis, Director of the Institute for Environmental Science & Policy

But there was something—or someone—UIC had that other programs did not.

Dr. Hicks came to UIC after moving to Chicago to take a post-master’s position through the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) program co-managed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy. UIC had a leg up on a few other programs for one very specific reason: Hicks wanted to work under Dr. Tom Theis, Director of the Institute for Environmental Science and Policy.

“There are only a handful of people in a handful of places,” Dr. Hicks said, “and I really wanted to work with Dr. Theis.”

Dr. Theis served as her PhD advisor, a role that molded her experience at UIC. His work focused on tackling broad scale ideas, which is what he constantly challenged Dr. Hicks to do under his tutelage. “He really gave me the freedom and resources I needed to pursue the big ideas I was curious about,” Dr. Hicks said.

Andrea Hicks’ big idea came in the form of a lightbulb. Really.

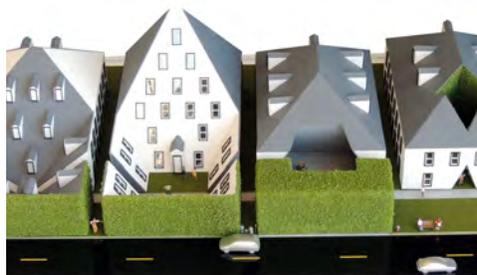
Her PhD study in civil engineering was all about how we as a society use energy-efficient lightbulbs, and by extension, how our tendency to overuse more efficient products might create a “rebound effect” on the environment. The idea is that as our society creates consumer products that are friendlier to the environment, like energy-efficient lightbulbs or hybrid cars, we may feel entitled to use them more frequently in comparison to products that are harsher on the natural world, which would render these more efficient products counter-productive in terms of energy savings.

But what Dr. Hicks found was that it would take a lot of leaving energy-efficient lightbulbs on for extended periods of time in order to have a rebound effect on the environment.

Her research on the adoption of new lighting technology managed to combine the three pillars of sustainability: social impact, environmental impact, and economic impact. “Her [UIC] research [...] was quite interdisciplinary, drawing on concepts from the science of nanostructured materials,

lighting technology and applications, behavioral and environmental economics, life cycle assessment, product chain management, and industrial ecology,” wrote Dr. Theis in an email.

While attending UIC, Dr. Hicks received awards for her interdisciplinary research, including the Provost Award and the Chancellor’s Graduate Research Award, which provided the funds she needed to supplement her research and to travel overseas.



Assistant Professor Andrea Hicks

(Photo courtesy of the Dr. Hicks)

“I got to go to Switzerland and present a poster at the Gordon Research Conference on Industrial Ecology,” Dr. Hicks said. “I wouldn’t have had that experience without the financial support from these Graduate College awards.”

Traveling around the world is something Dr. Hicks hopes all people working in STEM get to experience, especially women. The STEM world tends to be male-dominated, she noted, as evidenced by her undergraduate college’s student body consisting of 75 percent men.

Dr. Hicks is now an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is in a perfect position to fulfill the goal she set for herself as a teenager. She hopes that she can continue to engage students and help them understand the intricacies of how technology can have major implications on the natural environment, as well as empower more women to enter the world of STEM.

“STEM is interesting in that it’s kind of its own little microcosm,” Dr. Hicks said. “Working in a STEM field has taken me places I never thought were possible. I’ve had the opportunity to work on really exciting research with all sorts of people in all sorts of places and institutions. There is so much potential to be on the forefront of science. I hope that I can be a role model for younger women looking to go into a STEM profession.”

TEN TIPS FOR BUILDING YOUR PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Like anything other skill, networking improves with practice, so here are some easy tips to consider as you build your professional network:

1. Ask questions and listen: Most people love to talk about themselves. Becoming an excellent networker requires asking good questions and active listening. Asking a lot of questions, being genuinely interested, and curiosity will help you build your network.

2. Be intentional: When you go to a conference, read the agenda ahead of time and view the list of attendees. Think about who you would like to meet and be intentional about connecting with them. Who are the 2-5 people you want to talk to at this conference? Go to their presentations and ask well-crafted questions during discussion periods.

3. Share your passion: Are you a sports fan, a music enthusiast, a foodie? Love volunteering, photography, travel? Be enthusiastic and leave an impression. Tell a story about why you enjoy your work, hobbies, etc. Talking about something you are excited about can be contagious. When people share their passion, it makes for a more memorable and dynamic conversation.

4. Avoid your friends: Instinctually, the first thing we want to do while enjoying complimentary drinks at an event is to talk with people we already know. While comfortable, you will not get much networking done.

5. Slow your roll: Sometimes when people get nervous they overcompensate by talking too much. No one likes the person who commandeers the discussion and leaves everyone silently nodding. Take a breath and remember tip #1. The most successful networkers are good at making other people feel heard and important.

6. Body language: When it comes to networking, body language is very important yet often overlooked. Smile, keep good eye contact, be conscious of your arm movements. Smiling when entering a room or conversation puts others at ease and will attract others to you. Make good eye contact during conversations and avoid standing with your arms folded or behind your back.

7. One hand open: If you have the conference agenda, a plate of food, and a glass in your hands, it will be hard to meet people. Try to have only one item in your hand at a time.

8. Online presence: Increasingly, people are using social media to connect professionally, instead of exchanging business cards. To be prepared, consider what social networking tools work best for your career field and keep your profile up-to-date. LinkedIn and Academia.edu are popular sites for professional social networking.

9. Clear goals: Networking is not random; it is strategic. Walking out of an event with 25 business cards and no memory about any of the people you met is a waste of time. Set a measurable goal. A good goal to start is meeting three people and following up with them within 48 hours.

10. Following up: One of the most important keys to networking is the follow up. The connection is only the beginning; ask your contact the best way to stay in touch (email, phone, social media). Contact the person within 48 hours to continue the conversation. Reference one of the things that you talked about. Think about how you can add value for this person. Send them articles, information, let them know about events, programs or anything that will help them with their career or network.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

The Graduate College offers a number of fellowships and awards to students. Fellowships carry a stipend (currently \$22,000, except where noted) with a tuition and partial fee waiver, and are used for both recruitment and retention. Recruitment fellowships provide up to two years of stipend and two years of "topping off" of the home department's funding. Smaller awards promote research and/or highlight achievements in mentoring or scholarship. Complete information on the Graduate College's funding mechanisms can be at <http://grad.uic.edu/funding-your-education>.

STAR Fellowship

Outstanding student applicants for University and Abraham Lincoln Recruitment Fellowships (see below) are considered for Star Fellowships that provide three years of funding at \$28,000 per annum plus tuition and partial fee waivers (including the tuition differential, if applicable). In addition, a Star Fellow will receive one year of a \$10,000 top-off to a teaching or research assistantship provided by the department. Up to five of these fellowships will be awarded each year, based on the recommendations of the awards committees, and at the final discretion of the Dean of the Graduate College. Fellowship winners for AY2017-2018:

- **Avash Bhandari**, History
- **Raquel Flecha**, Art History
- **Khalin Nisbett**, Neuroscience

- **Ashley Vance**, Anthropology
- **Joshua Williams**, Philosophy

Abraham Lincoln Fellowship

The goal of the Abraham Lincoln Fellowship program is to increase the excellence and diversity of the graduate student body by attracting applicants who have overcome obstacles to achieve academic success, like President Lincoln himself, who by his words and actions forged the framework for America's pursuit of freedom, equality, and justice. All applicants must be nominated by their departments. Selection criteria include academic achievement, promise, and alignment with the goals of the fellowship. Fellowship winners for AY2017-18:

- **Jesbaniris Bas Concepción**, Chemistry
- **Ivan Guzman**, Museum & Exhibition Studies
- **Antonio Perez**, Physics
- **Luna White**, Sociology

Winners of 2017-2018 Retention Awards:

- **Alanna Condren**, Medicinal Chemistry
- **Rowena Crabbe**, Sociology
- **Erin Grant**, Museum & Exhibition Studies
- **Ramona Meza**, Policy Studies in Urban Education
- **Melissa Pergande**, Chemistry

Dean's Scholar Fellowship

The Dean's Scholar Fellowship is a one-year, non-renewable award in recognition of a student's scholarly achievement. The

fellowship is intended to provide the most distinguished, advanced-level students with time dedicated solely to the completion of their degree. The Dean's Scholars are nominated by their program. Fellowship Winners for AY2017-18:

- **Aritra Ghosh**, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
- **Janet Page**, MSCS
- **Subbulakshmi Karthikeyan**, Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy
- **Dulari Jayawardena**, Biopharmaceutical Sciences
- **Shan Xing**, PSOP
- **Mohammad Reza Karim Hadisi**, Philosophy
- **Lisa James**, Hispanic and Italian Studies
- **Mary Hale**, English
- **Marissa Baker**, Art History
- **Caitlyn Yantis**, Psychology
- **Alexandra DeLeon**, Anthropology
- **Tünde Cserpes**, Sociology

University/W.C. Deiss Fellowship

University Fellowships aim to recruit outstanding students newly admitted to graduate programs at UIC. PhD recipients are eligible for an additional year of support when they begin their dissertation research. In the second year (for a master's recipient) and the second and third years (for a doctoral recipient), the student's academic program must provide a 50% FTE nine-month appointment or equivalent. University Fellow-

RECENT AWARD WINNERS

ship recipients receive tuition and partial fee waivers. Research in the area of clinical or basic medical sciences receive funding from the W.C. and May Preble Deiss Fund. Fellowship Winners for AY2017-18:

- **Stella Brown**, Art
- **Stacie Merz**, Architecture
- **Niranjana Warriar**, Philosophy
- **Alexa Lee-Hassan**, Learning Sciences
- **Zoey Martin-Lockhart**, Anthropology
- **Billy Mzenga**, Sociology
- **Erin O'Callaghan**, Criminology, Law, & Justice
- **Warren Lange**, Chemistry
- **Milena Radoman**, Neuroscience
- **Ali Movahedi**, Civil Engineering
- **Leticia Bernaus**, Art
- **Joseph Lombardo**, Neuroscience
- **Mikayla Mitchell**, Sociology
- **Cathryn Ryan**, Disability and Human Development/Disability Studies (deferred)

Chancellor's Graduate Internship Award

This new initiative incentivizes graduate students to independently identify internship opportunities that might lead to employment following graduation. (See separate article on page 8.)

Chancellor's Graduate Research Award

Since its creation in 2009, the Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship Program has supported interdisciplinary scholarship opportunities and exposure to varied research and creative fields for graduate and professional students who show exceptional promise for future multidisciplinary research and creative activity. Restructured for the Fall 2016 competition, each \$5,000 award acts as seed money for with the goal of students using the results to secure larger, external funding sources. The L.J. and M. Allen Cancer Research Fellowship Fund and the Dorothea Fleming Student Research Fund permit the selection of additional winners who are working in areas of cancer; the Deiss Fund underwrites clinical research. Fall 2016 winners:

Graduate Faculty Mentoring Award

The Graduate Mentoring Awards are designed to encourage and award excellence and innovation in all aspects of graduate mentoring. Awards are given annually. This year's winners are:

- **Colleen Corte**, Associate Professor, Health Systems Science
- **Lisa Cushing**, Associate Professor, Special Education
- **Ying Liu**, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering
- **Dianna Niebylski**, Professor, Hispanic and Italian Studies

Honors College and Graduate College Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring

Now in its fifth year and co-sponsored by the Honors College, the Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring highlights the most outstanding, creative, and hardworking graduate students who mentor undergraduates. The 2017 winners:

- **Elsa Anderson**, Biological Sciences
- **Kimberley Garza**, Anthropology
- **Sarah Hernandez**, Psychology
- **Negar Kamali Zonouzi**, Civil Engineering
- **Laura Manning**, Biological Sciences
- **Beenish Manzoor**, Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes, & Policy
- **Lain Mathers**, Sociology
- **Jill Quarles**, Hispanic Studies
- **Hillary Rowe**, Psychology
- **Michal Wilczewski**, History

Honorable Mention:

Rebecca Clendenen, Political Science; **William Dalessandro**, Philosophy; **Timothy George**, Psychology; **Ramin Anbarani**, Civil Engineering; **Ashley Ulm**, Biomedical Visualization.

Image of Research (Fall 2016)

Static image category: **Viktor A. Mateevitsi** (Computer Science), "SpiderSense" (first place); **Cecilia Villarruel** (English), "Aberrations" (second place); **Benjamin Linder** (Anthropology), "Cosmopolitan Space in Kathmandu" (third place).

Honorable mentions: **Jillian Aurisano** (Computer Science), "Into the (virtual) jungle"; **Melanie Conrad** (Biomedical Visualization), "Oncolytic Adenovirus"; **Sebnem Ece Eksi** (Biological Sciences), "Uncovering gene regulatory network in limb development."

Moving image category: **Mao Miyamoto** (Biomedical Visualization), "X Inactivation - Genetics of Calico Cats" (first place); **Ada Terman** (Occupational Therapy), "ScreenABLE: Knowledge Translation Collaboratives to Promote Cancer Health Equity among Women with Disabilities" (second place).

Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the Arts and Humanities (ICAH) Award

Created in 2014, the ICAH foster projects in the arts and humanities. Each collaboration between one graduate student and one junior (untenured) faculty collaborator receives an award of \$5,000 for travel, research, etc. Co-sponsored this year by the Digital Humanities Working Group (Institute for the Humanities), the 2017 winning collaboration is **Kaveh Mohammad Rafie**, PhD student in Art History, and **Atef Said**, visiting assistant professor of sociology for "Arts of Dissent: The Fate of Unfinished Revolutions from Green Movement to Occupy Movement."

Outstanding Dissertation Award

This annual award honors the most outstanding doctoral dissertations in the College's four divisions, while also acknowledging the research advisor. The 2017 winners are:

- **Thomas Alter** (History), *Dirt Farmer Internationalists: The Meitzen Family, Three Generations of Farmer-Labor Radicals, 1848-1932*. Advisor: Robert Johnston.
- **Aleksander Antanasijevic** (Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics), *Biophysical Studies of the Interactions Between Small Molecule Inhibitors and Viral Target Proteins*. Advisor: Michael S. Caffrey
- **Rebecca Seifried** (Anthropology), *Community Organizations and Imperial Expansion in a Rural Landscape: The Mani Peninsula (AD 1000-1831)*. Advisor: William Parkinson.
- **Yogambigai Velmurugu** (Physics), *Dynamics and Mechanism of DNA-Bending Proteins in Binding Site Recognition*. Advisor: Anjum Ansari.

Outstanding Thesis Award

This new annual award honors the most outstanding research master's theses in the College's four divisions, while also acknowledging the research advisor. The 2017 winners:

- **Timothy George** (Psychology), *Forgetting the Literal: The Role of Inhibition in Metaphor Comprehension*. Advisor: Jennifer Wiley. (Continued on page 8.)



GIVING BACK TO GIVE FORWARD

What role does the Graduate College play in the life of a graduate student? It is more than a compliance office: its programs support student success during the entire graduate career. In line with this mission, the Graduate College is the engine for a growing number of programs and activities, including:

- fellowships and awards recognizing outstanding academic promise, pioneering research, and mentoring;
- programs, workshops, and internships to encourage professional, academic, and personal development;
- individualized assistance in seeking external funding;
- campus-wide orientations for new graduate students and teaching assistants;
- the Image of Research, an annual exhibit co-sponsored by the UIC Library that showcases graduate research and fosters interdisciplinary dialog;
- the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) that has been introducing underrepresented undergraduates to academic research for over thirty years;
- a growing number of courses to train graduate students, including international teaching assistants, to teach, write, and speak effectively.

With continuing budgetary instability, however, the Graduate College has been forced to reduce the number of fellowships and awards that it offers each year. Whenever possible, it utilizes gift funds to augment or create new learning opportunities. Here are a few examples:

- The W.C. and May Preble Deiss Fund provides grant support to graduate students performing clinical or basic medical science research.

- The Dorothea Fleming Student Research Fund and L.J. and M. Allen Cancer Research Fellowship Fund both support cancer-related research projects.
- In 2014, the Graduate College used gift funds from a local bank to create the new Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the Arts and Humanities (ICAH) Award to facilitate innovations in two-person teams (one graduate student and one untenured faculty member). Completed projects have included a documentary film, a seminar at an international conference, and books.
- The pledged UIC Kevin G. Barnhurst and Richard Doherty Graduate Student Award Fund will provide supplemental travel awards for graduate students presenting original work reflecting LGBTQ studies.



Financial investment by alumni and friends would allow us to sustain and grow our initiatives. Here are examples of how your Annual Fund or estate gift could be allocated:

- **\$100:** Student Presenter Award--Defray the cost of travel for a graduate student presenting research at an academic conference.
- **\$500:** Emergency Grants--Help a student who experiences an acute and unexpected short-term hardship.

- **\$1,000-\$3,000:** Graduate Research Awards--Sponsor a student in one of two annual competitions.
- **\$5,000:** Fund a collaboration between a graduate student in the arts or humanities and a junior faculty member; or fund an off-campus internship.
- **\$25,000:** Provide current use monies to sponsor a matriculating student or offer a year of writing support; or, fund five summer internships.
- **\$50,000:** Endow a travel or research award; underwrite a workshop series; or sponsor the Image of Research for three years.
- **\$250,000+ :** Endow and name a fellowship that enables graduate students to focus on their scholarship for a year instead of juggling research and a part-time job.

If you would like more information on how to support the College, please contact Benn Williams, Assistant Director for Interdisciplinary Programs and Development, at (312) 413-2389 or bwilli7@uic.edu. To give online, please visit <http://grad.uic.edu/giving> and give to:

- The **Dean's Fund** - donations will be used in the area of greatest need, as determined by the Dean of the Graduate College, or,
- The **Graduate Fellowship Fund** - to support fellowships through the Graduate College.

Consider giving back to UIC's Graduate College to give forward: help to diversify future faculty, fund internships, and support tomorrow's innovators and scholars. Thank you for your support!

In Memorium: Dr. David E. Feathstone, PhD

It is with great sadness that the Graduate College reports the passing of a tremendous friend and ally. Dave's warmth and loyalty will be missed. He had a unique viewpoint on nearly every topic and was not shy about sharing it. His commitment to his graduate students was well known. Dave was broadly trained. A neuroscientist who studied genes that control glutamate receptor abundance, he began his career as an artist before pursuing science (zoology, toxicology, and neuroscience). After a postdoc at the University of Utah, Dave and his wife, Janet Richmond, joined the Department of Biological Sciences.

In his 15 years at UIC, Dave became one of the most creative and successful scientists and celebrated teachers. He was so successful that his chosen faculty mentor eventually decided it might make more sense to reverse roles, or just have lunch and talk science. Caring deeply about his department, he worked creatively and thoughtfully in a variety of administrative roles at UIC. The Graduate



College remembers Dave for his tireless (and witty) work as a reviewer of awards, for training neuroscientists, and for initiating, organizing, and bettering a conversation on "alternative academic" careers that was hugely appreciated by graduate students.

To honor him, a scholarship in his name has been established. If you wish to contribute to the David E. Featherstone Memorial Scholarship Fund, make a check payable to the "University of Illinois at Chicago" and in the notes section write "DEF Scholarship Gift." Please mail or deliver the check to Thomas Lagen, Director of Finance, UIC-Biological Sciences, MC066, 845 W. Taylor St., Rm. 3370 SES, Chicago, IL 60607.

There is a memorial website to share comments, pictures and memories. (Adapted from an obituary by faculty in biological sciences and used with permission. For the original text, please visit <http://bios.uic.edu>.)

GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWS

- **Guo Lun** (Chemical Engineering), *Development of Ultrafiltration Titanium Dioxide Magnéli Phase Reactive Electrochemical Membranes*. Advisor: Brian Chaplin.
- **Marie-Agathe Simonetti** (Art History), *The École des Beaux-Arts de l'Indochine: Victor Tardieu and French Art Between the Wars*. Advisor: Nina Dubin.

Research (restricted to clinical or biomedical sciences) each provide \$1,000-\$3,000. Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 winners:

Shahid Plunkett Baca Garza
 Hsieh Christofalos Rainey Guimaraes
 Taylor-Jones Mazarati Mekonen
 Bhatt Elliott Schultz Capurro Burnett Meye
 Moulinos Elliott Scarborough Liu Schnabel
 Anderson Clark Conway
 Abugaber-Bowman Marroquin Soriano
 Cho Dye Stefanich
 Riesche Nolis
 Foroutan McCann

Prost/Deiss Research Award

The Graduate College holds bi-annual (fall and spring) competitions for graduate student research support. The Provost's Award for Graduate Research (open to all graduate students) and the W.C. and May Preble Deiss Fund for Biomedical



NEW INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

As graduate students increasingly seek employment outside of the professoriate, the Graduate College has greatly enhanced its career and professional development offerings. Designed to help graduate students consider new career options and to build translatable skills, the Chancellor's Graduate Internship (CGI) Award Program incentivizes graduate students to independently identify short (3-month) internship opportunities that might lead to employment following graduation.

This new internship program is limited to full-time students, in good academic standing, who are in a PhD or terminal master's program that does require an internship or similar experience.

The inaugural competition yielded seventeen applications from master's and doctoral students in the arts, sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. Potential host

agencies included governmental agencies (state and foreign), world-class museums, a small theater, campus units, and important educational and advocacy organizations.

Although jurors wanted to fund all of the applications, current funding levels permitted four awardees to represent the Graduate College and to receive \$5,000 each.

Jamie Goldsborough is pursuing a dual program, MArch and an MA in Design Criticism, and she will intern in the department of Architecture and Design at the Art Institute of Chicago, where she will assist three curators in preparing a landmark exhibition entitled "Past, Present, and Future: Architecture and Design from the Collection."

Pursuing a PhD in Criminology, Law, and Justice, **Anne Kirkner** will provide research assis-

tance on two projects at the Center for Victim Studies which is part of the Research and Analysis Unit of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, a state agency seeking to improve the administration of criminal justice.

A basic scientist, **Joy Peplinski**, PhD student in the Ecology & Evolution program (BioS), will have the opportunity to translate knowledge into constructive action as part of the Andes-Amazon group in the Keller Science and Action Center at the Field Museum of Natural History.

Neighborhood high schools matter! During his internship with the Chicago Community Trust, **Alexis Rosario-Moore**, PhD student in Policy Studies in Urban Education, will conduct research, analyze policy, and develop evaluation-based programs as part of the organization's Generation All initiative, which advocates for vibrant public high schools in the city.

MANAGING EDITOR

Benn Williams

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF
 ILLINOIS
 AT CHICAGO
 GRADUATE COLLEGE**

<http://grad.uic.edu>

The **Graduate College** is located on the 6th floor of University Hall. Room 606, our main office, is open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:45 p.m.

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