**Texas Tech Graduate School Honors High-Quality Theses and Dissertations**

Texas Tech University’s Graduate School is proud to announce the 2013 awards that recognize the quality of work displayed in several theses and dissertations of graduate students.

The Graduate School also will nominate 1st place dissertation award winners to the [Council of Graduate Schools](http://www.cgsnet.org/cgsproquest-distinguished-dissertation-award) as part of its annual CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award competition to recognize an outstanding dissertation that represents original work and makes unusually significant contributions to the discipline being considered for that year.

In odd numbered years, the Graduate School recognizes work in biological life sciences and humanities and fine arts. Even years will recognize social sciences, mathematics, physical sciences and engineering.

Students are nominated by their faculty members for this cash award. Helen Jones Foundation funding contributed to make these awards possible.

This year’s winners are:

**Biological Life Sciences**

* 1st place Master’s Thesis – Rebecca Perkins in the Department of Natural Resources Management. “Anti-predatory Behavior of Northern Bobwhite in the Rolling Plains of Texas.” *Nominated by Dr. Clint Boal.*
* 2nd place Master’s Thesis – Komal Kunder in the Department of Biotechnology. “Molecular Landscape of Cotton Fibers in Early Elongation.” *Nominated by Dr. Susan Sanfrancisco.*
* 1st place Doctoral Dissertation – Dr. Song Tang in the Department of Environmental Toxicology. “Toxicity of cadmium quantum dots compared to cadmium and zinc ions in zebrafish (Danio rerio) and water flea (Daphnia pulex).” *Nominated by Dr. Greg Mayer.*
* 2nd place Doctoral Dissertation – Dr. Jose Thekkiniath in the Department of Biological Sciences. “Molecular responses of Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis following exposure to thyroid hormone.” *Nominated by Dr. Michael Sanfrancisco.*

**Humanities and Fine Arts**

* 1st place Master’s Thesis – Justin Kirkland in the Department of History. “From Rite to Right: How Holy Days Became A Natural Right in Medieval England.” *Nominated by Dr. Abigail Swingen and Dr. John Howe.*
* 1st place Doctoral Dissertation – Dr. Henrietta Goodman in the Department of English. “Hungry Moon (Poems).” *Nominated by Dr. Jacqueline Kolosov.*
* 2nd place Doctoral Dissertation – Dr. Dorothy O’Connell in the Department of English. “Them Boys Just Ain't Right: Masculinity, Myth, and Social Systemic Communication in Cormac McCarthy's Novels.” *Nominated by Dr. Sara Spurgeon.*

For more information on these awards: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/funding/grants.php>