



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Graduate School™

## 2021 Texas Tech University Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Award Recipients

### Biological and Life Sciences

1st Place Dissertation	<b>Dr. Kalhara Menikdiwela</b> Major Advisor: Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa	Department of Nutritional Sciences	Mechanisms Linking the Adipocyte Renin Angiotensin System (RAS) to Obesity, Inflammation and Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress
2nd Place Dissertation	<b>Dr. Armando Elizalde-Velazquez</b> Major Advisor: Dr. Jaclyn Canas	Department of Environmental Toxicology	Sorption, Uptake, Trophic Transfer and Immunotoxicity of Microplastics and Nanoplastics in the Aquatic Environment
1st Place Thesis	<b>Kristen Heath</b> Major Advisor: Dr. Warren Conway	Department of Wildlife, Aquatic, & Wildlands Science Management	Population Trends and Connectivity of Snowy Plovers on the Southern Great Plains of Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma
1st Place Thesis	<b>Courtney Ramsey</b> Major Advisor: Dr. Warren Conway	Department of Wildlife, Aquatic, & Wildlands Science Management	Pronghorn Fawn Survival, Bed-Site Characteristics, and Adult Doe Habitat Selection in Southeastern New Mexico

### Humanities/Fine Arts

1st Place Dissertation	<b>Dr. Jonathan Verbeten</b> Major Advisor: Dr. Christopher Smith	School of Music	"Trashy Music" in the Halls: A Cultural-Geographical History of Music Making in San Francisco During the Gold Rush Years (1849-1869)
2nd Place Dissertation	<b>Dr. Leah Heilig</b> Major Advisor: Dr. Michael Faris	Department of English	Ways to Move, Ways to Map: Neurodiversity in Interaction Design
1st Place Thesis	<b>Alexander Claman</b> Major Advisor: Dr. Christopher Witmore	Department of Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures	Toward a Morphic History of Landscape