Graduate School Award Recipients 2020 2021
Sylvia Niehuis, an associate professor, has served on Texas Tech University's faculty in Human Development and Family Sciences since 2007. Across Dr. Niehuis’s research, teaching, mentoring, and service, her work revolves around close romantic relationships. She leads the “Studying Maturation, Interpersonal Transitions, Theory, and Emotions in Newlyweds” (SMITTEN) Research Lab, in which graduate and undergraduate students as well as faculty associates collaborate on several projects, studying changes in partners’ and spouses’ relationship functioning over time. Dr. Niehuis publishes frequently with her students in top journals, including the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. She received funding from the National Center for Family & Marriage Research, recognizing her contribution to the group’s path-breaking national marriage/cohabitation survey. Other signs of her impact include the translation of her romantic-disillusionment scale into several languages and her frequent citations in close-relationships textbooks. Dr. Niehuis’s teaching on close relationships has earned her the International Association for Relationship Research’s Teaching Award (2020) and, at TTU, membership in the Teaching Academy (2019) and the President’s Excellence in Teaching Award (2019). Her mentoring flows from SMITTEN Lab work. Her recent Ph.D. advisee Rebecca Oldham received the TTU Graduate School’s 2020 Outstanding Dissertation Award (Social Sciences). Collectively, Dr. Niehuis’s graduate and undergrad researchers have received 29 awards. She has also received awards for mentoring undergraduate researchers. Finally, Dr. Niehuis’s professional service includes extensive grant-reviewing and consultation, elected office for three organizations, and editorial-board membership for several top journals. She is also Associate Editor for IARR’s journal, Personal Relationships.
The TEACH Program is a highly competitive professional development program that helps doctoral students prepare for future careers in academia with a special focus on teaching excellence. TEACH fellows participate in videotaped classroom observations, midterm student evaluations, peer observations, and numerous teaching and learning workshops, as well as complete professional teaching portfolios and course design projects.

2020-2021 Fellows

Meghalee Das
Mallory DeChant
Carlee DeYoung
Ashley Hass
Grace Hyunjung Lee
Nguyen P. Nguyen
Sabina Pandey
Rachel E. Riggs
Justin Romney

Technical Communication and Rhetoric
Animal & Food Sciences
Psychological Sciences
Marketing
Nutritional Sciences
Psychological Sciences
Personal Financial Planning
Media & Communication
Couples, Marriage, and Family Therapy
Helen DeVitt Jones Excellence in Graduate Teaching Awards

This award for graduate part-time instructors recognizes outstanding scholarly activity and excellence in teaching.

Spring 2021 Recipients

Kelley Anderson
Derek Holyoak
Gabriela Manzo
Brook McClurg
Taleen Nalabandian
Justin Romney
Sergio Ruiz-Perez
Kaplan Sanders

Marketing
Community Family & Addiction Sciences
Psychological Sciences
English
Psychological Sciences
Community Family & Addiction Sciences
Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures
Personal Financial Planning
Three Minute Thesis Competition

The Three Minute Thesis competition or 3MT, is an annual competition held in over 200 universities worldwide. It is open to PhD students, and challenges participants to present their research in just 180 seconds, in an engaging form that can be understood by an intelligent audience with no background in the research area. This exercise develops presentation, research and academic communication skills and supports the development of research students’ capacity to explain their work effectively.

Fall 2020 Recipients

Mohammad Jodeiri Farshbaf 1st Place Biological Sciences
Exercise suppresses stress-induced memory deficit

Tiffany Murray 2nd Place and People’s Choice Award Personal Financial Planning
Collegiate Financial Wellness: The Role of Financial Literacy

Kaplan Sanders 3rd Place Personal Financial Planning
Who Bears the Greater Burden? A Study of Medical Student Debt Acquisition and Repayment
Arts & Humanities Graduate Student Research Conference

This conference provides a venue for our graduate students to showcase their work and bring a heightened awareness of and appreciation for the arts and humanities to our university, community and beyond. The conference brings together a rich array of work that displays the dynamic talent and creativity of our students.

Fall 2020 Recipients
First Place Recipients by Panel

Bazaid Rana  Design Considerations
Meghalee Das  Digital Communications
Mirai Nagasawa  Instruction & Learning
Tiffany Murray  Financial Concerns
Jacquelyne Romero  History
Zachary Brandner  Literary Analysis
Kerry Chavez  Political Issues
Liz McNaughtan  Sociocultural Issues
William Sinclair  Visual & Performing Arts
Bryce Real  One-Act Play
Alice Bryant  One-Act Play
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design Considerations</td>
<td>Atina Kia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Communications</td>
<td>Austin Shurtliff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instruction &amp; Learning</td>
<td>Joseph Martis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Concerns</td>
<td>Gary Curnutt</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Megan Miner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literary Analysis</td>
<td>Bethany Pitchford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Issues</td>
<td>Pablo Hernandez Borges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociocultural Issues</td>
<td>Julie Grandjean</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-Act Play</td>
<td>Cory Lawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-Act Play</td>
<td>Garret Milton</td>
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Graduate Student Research Poster Competition

The research poster competition provides a venue where participating students can demonstrate their engagement in high quality research; with an ability to present this research professionally. Student abstracts are written for a non-specialized audience due to the interdisciplinary nature of the competition.

Spring 2021 Recipients
First Place Recipients by Category

Madelin Siedler  
Kinesiology & Sports Management

Elizabeth Briones  
Psychology

Kyle Russell  
Plant & Soil Sciences

David Vargas  
Animal & Food Science

Md Nayeem Hasan Kashem  
Chemical Engineering

Mahsa Yavari  
Nutritional Science

Caroline Schuster  
Biological Sciences

Navkiran Kaur Juneja  
Chemistry & Biochemistry

Samuel Seay  
Forensic Sciences

Bradley Cawyer  
Music

Stacy Chavez  
Business Administration

Thaddeus Mantaro  
Higher Education Administration
Second Place Recipients by Category

Cayla Clark  
Kinesiology & Sports Management
Anthony Foster  
Psychology
Ubaldo Torres  
Plant & Soil Sciences
Tara Durboraw  
Natural Resource Management
Rahul Gupta  
Engineering
Shadi Nejat  
Nutritional Science
Komal Attri  
Biological Sciences
Jiahe Xu  
Chemistry & Biochemistry
Satyanarayana Kachiraju  
Physics
Rana Bazaid  
Design
Qi Sun  
Personal Financial Planning
Katy Wheeler  
Educational Psychology & Leadership

Third Place Recipients by Category

Jake Boykin  
Kinesiology & Sports Management
Samantha Lack  
Psychology
Shaida Rumi  
Plant & Soil Sciences
Kaue Tonelli Nardi  
Natural Resource Management
Zohreh Safari  
Engineering
Mawufemor Amuzu  
Nutritional Science
Minal Engavale  
Biological Sciences
Mohammad Shahidul Islam  
Chemistry & Biochemistry
Kirsten Nettles  
Physics
Victoria Tamez  
Design
Thilini Mahanama  
Personal Financial Planning
Chelsea Zawadzki  
Educational Psychology & Leadership
Horn Professors Graduate Achievement Award

The Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished Professors at Texas Tech University are proud to announce two recipients of the 2021 Horn Professors Graduate Research Award. Both prizewinners already have engaged in significant research in their respective disciplines, and are notable examples of the excellent scholars being cultivated at Texas Tech. We are excited to recognize their outstanding work.

Spring 2021 Recipients

Faith Scanlon

A doctoral student that is pursuing her PhD in Counseling Psychology in the Department of Psychological Sciences. She was nominated by Dr. Robert Morgan. Faith is involved in state-of-the-art counseling research and delivers professional services to individuals in the justice system, including those with mental illness and substance abuse issues. She has ten publications, many in the top research journals in her field, a book chapter (in print, Oxford University Press), and eight manuscripts in preparation, most as first author. She has given numerous presentation at national and international conferences and is actively pursing federal funding for her research.

Iroro Tanshi

A doctoral student that is pursuing her PhD in Biology in the Department of Biological Sciences. She was nominated by Dr. Tigga Kingston. Iroro’s international award-winning research focuses on tropical bat research and conservation, with focus on Nigeria and Cameroon. She is an emerging leader in African biodiversity conservation and has secured her own research funding. She published several original papers in scholarly journals as well as a book chapter. Iroro has presented her work at multiple international conferences and has won the Woman in Conservation award (2017), the Karl Koopman Award (2019), and the Future For Nature Award (2020). The stellar external letters of recommendations from the UK and Nigeria confirm her standing as an international scholar.
Outstanding Thesis & Dissertation Awards

Texas Tech University's Graduate School recognized work displayed in students’ thesis and dissertations for the annual 2020 awards. The first-place dissertation award winners were submitted to the Council of Graduate School's annual CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award competition, which honors the dissertations that represent original work and significant contributions to the discipline being considered for the year. Students were nominated by their faculty representatives.

Summer 2020 Dissertation Recipients

Md Jasim Uddin, Ph.D. 1st Place - Doctoral Dissertation Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering
Allergen-free Pollen Shell as a Novel Biomaterial for Oral Vaccine Delivery: Development, Characterization, In Vivo Efficacy, and Mechanistic Insight
Nominator: Harvinder Gill, Ph.D.

Cary R. Oldham, Ph.D. 1st Place - Doctoral Dissertation Social Sciences
A Longitudinal Study of the Timing of First Sex in Romantic Relationships and Subsequent Relationship Quality
Nominator: Sylvia Niehuis, Ph.D.

Ye Qin Wang, Ph.D. 2nd Place - Doctoral Dissertation Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering
Control of Power Electronic Converters for Microgrids
Nominator: Beibei Ren, Ph.D.

Cara R Lawson, Ph.D. 2nd Place - Doctoral Dissertation Social Sciences
The Media's Influence on Public Perceptions and Attitudes Toward the Rural Opioid Epidemic
Nominator: Courtney Meyers, Ph.D.
Yves Tchatchoua 1st Place - Master's Thesis Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering

*Software Defined Radio (SDR) based Non-Contact Vital Signs (NCVS) Sensor System*
Nominator: Yu-Chun Donald Lie, Ph.D.

Ethan M Sabala 1st Place - Master's Thesis Social Sciences

*Essays in Trade Policy Analysis: Chinese Tariffs on US Agricultural Markets*
Nominator: Stephen Devadoss, Ph.D.
Graduate Student Research Support Awards

This program is for Texas Tech University graduate students who are in need of funds to successfully complete their research (thesis/dissertation or non-thesis based) by providing for expenses such as supplies, software, and research-related training, etc.

Fall 2020 Recipients

Elham Abaie
Courtney Baker
Shubhra Bhattacharjee
Travis Brace
Cari Carter
Amanda Emert
Amin Ferdous
Owen George
Ashutosh Ghuli
Tre Gissandaner
Lucas Hess
Elizabeth Hobbs
Danielle Husband
Temitope Ibiyemi
Ahmad Khayyat Jafari
Brittany Lancaster

Environmental Engineering
Agricultural and Applied Economics
Environmental Engineering
Counseling Psychology
Curriculum and Instruction
Environmental Toxicology
Biology
Wildlife, Aquatic, and Wildlands Science and Management
Mechanical Engineering
Clinical Psychology
Experimental Psychology
Curriculum and Instruction
Biology
Nutritional Sciences
Physics
Clinical Psychology
Fall 2020 Recipients Continued

Xinying Ling
Ali Luempert
Tiffany Lui
Cat Mahaffey
Swarupa Nanda Mandal
Andrea Norton
Fouzia Hasan Nowrin
Antonio Pagan-Silberman
Sophia Sagala
Kruuttika Satbhai
Jessica Spott
Joseph Sugar
Sujoy Talukder
Milton Wabyona

Geosciences
Human Development and Family Studies
Experimental Psychology
Technical Communication & Rhetoric
Plant and Soil Science
Wildlife, Aquatic, and Wildlands Science and Management
Chemical Engineering
Clinical Psychology
Chemistry
Environmental Toxicology
Educational Leadership
Interdisciplinary Studies
Mechanical Engineering
Music Education

Spring 2021 Recipients

Mohammad Alimohammadirokni
Mawufemor Yayra Amuzu
Homa Choubtarash Abardeh
Amanda Csipak
Amanda de Oliveira Barros
Gabriel Dominguez Partida

Hospitality Administration
Hospitality Administration
Hospitality Administration
Environmental Toxicology
Mechanical Engineering
Communication Studies
Spring 2021 Recipients Continued

Jon'Ayo Farquharson  
Kevin Finch  
Shipra Garg  
Isabella Gonzales  
Gema Gonzalez Vela  
Jacob Gossner  
Connad Higgins  
Saman Jamshidi  
Satyanarayana Kachiraju  
Erdi Kara  
Mallika Kumar  
An Le  
Hyunjung Lee  
Brittany Love  
Hafij Al Mahmud  
Sufia Akter Neha  
Nhi Nguyen  
Millicent Oyugi  
Lindsay Rigney  
Sergio Ruiz-Perez  
AliAnn Rushing Attilio  
Md Ashraf Ul Hasan  
Yongli Wang  
Heqi Xu  
Mahsa Yavari  

Environmental Toxicology  
Chemistry  
Chemistry  
Fine Arts  
Romance Languages  
Marriage & Family Therapy  
Human Development & Family Studies  
Interior and Environmental Design  
Physics  
Mathematics  
Chemistry  
Psychology  
Nutritional Sciences  
Bioengineering  
Microbiology  
Arid Land Studies  
Computer Science  
Agricultural Communications and Education  
Theatre Arts  
Spanish  
Art  
Biology  
Environmental Engineering  
Industrial Engineering  
Nutritional Sciences