

UAB Graduate School News & Events

Fall 2004



2004 UAB Graduate Student Research Day Winners

This year's Graduate Student Research Day competition, sponsored by the Graduate School, GSA, and Sigma Xi, was held on April 2 in the HUC Great Hall. There were 103 student participants and 43 faculty judges. At the Graduate Awards Luncheon, 30 of those students received cash awards in recognition of exemplary presentation of scholarly research. For more information, visit the Graduate Student Research Day web site at www.uab.edu/graduate/researchday.

Session 1 - Mathematics and Computer & Information Sciences

1st Place

Muralidharan Dhanakoti
Computer & Information Sciences

2nd Place

Francisco Hernandez
Computer & Information Sciences

3rd Place

Xidong Zheng
Computer & Information Sciences

Session 2 - Physical Sciences and Engineering

1st Place

Kipp Carlisle
Materials Science & Engineering

2nd Place

Jin Zuo
Biomedical Engineering

3rd Place

LaTisha Salaam
Biomedical Engineering

Session 3 - Life Sciences

1st Place

Valerie Meyers
Pathology

2nd Place

Erin Arnold
Pathology

3rd Place

Thomas Whisenhunt
Cell Biology

Session 4 - Life Sciences

1st Place

Jesse Max Hunter
Cell Biology

2nd Place

Alok Mulky
Microbiology

3rd Place

Craig Rowell
Toxicology

Session 5 - Arts and Humanities

1st Place

Dina Hagler
English

2nd Place

Jonathan Huffstutler
English

3rd Place

Adrian Smythies
Art History

Session 6 - Social and Behavioral Sciences

1st Place

Luke Stoeckel
Medical/Clinical Psychology

2nd Place

Maria Hopkins
Lifespan Developmental Psychology

3rd Place

Leigh Willis
Medical Sociology

Session 7 - Life Sciences

1st Place

Frank Camacho
Biology

2nd Place

Marcus Padow
Microbiology

3rd Place

Torey Combs
Pathology

Session 8 - Life Sciences

1st Place

T. Scott Isbell
Integrative Biomedical Sciences

2nd Place

Jack Crawford
Pathology

3rd Place

Patrick Erwin
Biology

Session 9 - Physical Sciences and Engineering

1st Place

Anish Anthony
Electrical and Computer Engineering

2nd Place

Brad Bingert
Materials Engineering

3rd Place

Maria Advincula
Biomedical Engineering

Session 10 - Mathematics and Computer & Information Sciences

1st Place

Zhijie Guan
Computer and Information Sciences

2nd Place

Suman Roychoudhury
Computer and Information Sciences

3rd Place

Vijay Velusamy
Computer and Information Sciences

www.uab.edu/graduate

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Fall Offerings: *Professional Development Program*

Fall Term (August 19 - December 15)

GRD 700-2S: Culture and Speaking in the U.S. (Second language English speakers). Sat., 9:30am - 12:00pm. Questions to Ms. Abney 934-8129. (3 hr)

GRD 702-2S: Writing up Research. (Second language English speakers). Sat., 9:30am - 12:00pm. Questions to Dr. Austin 975-6539. (3 hr)

GRD 704-00: Specialized Instruction. Individualized Instruction. For questions or call numbers, call Ms. Baird 975-6511, Ms. Abney 934-8129, or Dr. Austin 975-6539. (1-9 hr)

GRD 706-C1: Grants and Fellowships 101. One-day workshop. Sat., 9:00am - 5:00pm, CH 205, Sept. 11, 2004. Lunch provided. Questions to Dr. Austin 975-6539 or Ms. Baird 975-6511. (1 hr)

GRD 715-C1: Preparing TAs to be Effective Teachers. (*Department recommendation required*). Class meetings: Saturday, August 14 (9:00am - 5:00pm), Monday, August 16 (3:00pm - 7:00pm), Friday, Sept. 17 (5:30pm - 8:30pm), Friday, Dec. 3 (5:30pm - 8:30pm). Questions to Ms. Baird 975-6511, Ms. Abney 934-8129, or Dr. Austin 975-6539. (2-3 hr)

GRD 717-6N: Principles in Scientific Integrity. Tues., 3:30pm - 6:00pm, Bevill 170. Questions to Dr. Kincaid 934-8797 or Dr. Vollmer 934-4805. (3 hr)

GRD 720-P7: Effective Communication Skills. (Second language English speakers). Thu., 5:30pm - 8:30pm. Questions to Ms. Abney 934-8129. (3 hr)

For more details, see the UAB Class Schedule, visit the GRD web site (www.uab.edu/profdev), or contact Julia Austin at 975-6539 or jaustin@uab.edu

Graduate School Deadlines: *To Graduate in Spring 2004*

MPH, MSPH, DrPH, and MSN students: Check with your Graduate Program Directors for other deadlines, which differ from those of the Graduate School.

Aug. 18: Deadline to change residency
Aug. 18: Admission to candidacy due (Doctoral students require 2 semesters)
Sept. 10: Application for degree due

Plan I

Nov. 5: Last day for public defense
Nov. 15: Approved version due in Graduate School

Plan II

Dec. 3: Last day for receipt of final papers

Notes from Jan: If you are working on a thesis or dissertation and don't yet have the current issue of *A Guide to the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations*, I encourage you to pick one up in the Graduate School office or visit the Grad School web site where it is available in both PDF and HTML.

Also now available in the Graduate School office are two newly developed writing resources: *A Quick Guide to APA Reference and Citation* and *a Quick Guide to Punctuation and Word Usage*. Both are designed to save valuable time for you the writer.

The APA guide provides examples and brief explanations of rules governing APA reference and citation style and page references to the most recent edition of the manual.

The Quick Guide to Punctuation and Word Usage covers commonly used (but frequently misused) language conventions such as comma usage, italics, and abbreviations. This guide provides page references to both the APA manual and to *Scientific Style and Format* (CBE) and highlights areas where style manuals and individual journals may disagree.

For those of you who use a citation order reference system (CBE or Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts to Biomedical Journals), a similar guide for you is nearing completion.

Spotlight on Professional Development

For PhD students, writing scientific papers and grants is critical to survival in the scientific arena. My research mentor continually stressed the importance of writing, as he returned my poorly written research proposals. Aware of my weak writing skills, I sought help through the Graduate School Professional Development Program. I enrolled in GRD 702, a research writing course, under the instruction of Ms. Nancy Abney. During that semester, my research mentor made numerous comments on how my writing was greatly improving. As a result of my improved writing skills, my research proposals contained fewer red marks, my confidence in my writing ability increased, and, as a consequence, I was given more writing responsibilities on grants associated with my project.

By taking GRD 702, I was able to learn revision and editing techniques that helped me improve each paper over several revisions. In addition to developing these revision skills, I also needed to sharpen my impromptu writing skills, which would be beneficial for writing quick reports, research summaries, and especially for the Writing Sample Section of the MCAT for which I was preparing. To work on impromptu writing in order to get a better than average MCAT score, I enrolled in GRD 704 Specialized Instruction. During the Specialized Instruction, Ms. Abney administered timed writing sessions, showed me how to evaluate my work, and instead of holding my hand through the writing process and functioning as an editor, she gently pushed me to critically analyze my own writing. As a result of my taking these courses, not only did I get positive comments on my papers, but I scored in the top 10% on my MCAT writing sample.

I know that without these writing courses, I'd still be getting "work on your writing" lectures from my research mentor and would have a low MCAT writing score. I plan to continue with GRD 704 to write articles for publication and, finally, to write my dissertation.

Delicia Munfus



Delicia Munfus, Ph.D.
UAB Department of
Microbiology

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Effective July 1, 2004 students will be required to have a valid UAB e-mail address and BlazerID in order to register for classes. Go to www.uab.edu/blazerid to obtain a BlazerID, to get information on setting up your UAB e-mail account, or for information about directing your UAB e-mail to another account. Students should check their e-mail for official UAB communications frequently (once a day if possible). UAB provides a number of campus computer labs where e-mail can be accessed. For a list of all campus computer labs, log on to www.uab.edu/it/labs.php

Graduate Students *In The News*

The Samuel B. Barker Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies, named for UAB's first graduate dean, Dr. Samuel Booth Barker, was conceived in 1995. Each Spring since then, two students (one at the master's level and one at the doctoral level) who will graduate in the spring, summer, or fall of the calendar year, may be nominated for "the Barker award" by their department's graduate program director. The Dean of the Graduate School chooses the final recipients from the group of nominees. The winners' names appear on plaques outside the Graduate School office as continuing evidence of their accomplishments.

This year, both recipients accepted their awards at the Graduate Student Research Day Awards Luncheon, held on April 9 in the HUC Great Hall. Acting Provost Eli Capilouto was the guest speaker.



Chenxi Wang,
Nutrition Sciences,
accepts the 2004
Barker Award at the
doctoral level from
Graduate School
Associate Dean Susan
M. Sell.

Dina Hagler,
English, accepts the
2004 Barker Award
at the master's level
from Graduate
School Associate
Dean Susan M. Sell.



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