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“We’re basically giving the foster kids a toolbox of mindfulness—skills that can help them handle distressing situations and improve their perceived happiness.”

-Miguel Nunez, clinical psychology doctoral student and Provost Graduate Fellow
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Letter from the Dean

Dear Friends of the Graduate School,

The University of Cincinnati is enriched and shaped by our community of ~11,000 graduate students, and the faculty who teach and mentor them. I hope you are equally enriched as you read about their accomplishments.

This Annual Report is designed to give you, first and foremost, a view into the excellence of the University of Cincinnati graduate students studying to become the next generation of professionals and leaders.

Our graduate students reflect the world; in their interests, their backgrounds, and their talents. A comprehensive university provides a window into current ideas, and one of the biggest privileges of my position is the opportunity to peer into the windows of emerging scientists, entrepreneurs, artists and humanists to see what passions drive them. I hope this report gives you the same feeling.

The Graduate School seeks to support and to recognize the work that makes our university great. Part of this report highlights our Yates Fellows and our Provost Graduate Fellows. These are new or expanded scholarship programs, where a deepened commitment to recruiting a diverse student population has enriched our environment with new ideas and talents. You will also read about a new grouping of doctoral students with academic career aspirations, who are integrating into teams of our most accomplished faculty to learn more about the joys of life in the academy. The amazing potential of these students is being groomed by mentorship teams composed of our Graduate Fellow faculty and our emeriti. As a member of these mentorship teams, I can attest that the faculty learn as much from the students as we hope to teach them. It is a wonderful new community on campus. You will also read about Suzanne Masterson, who has won this year’s Excellence in Mentoring Award. Her dedication to students, and to the pursuit of excellence in graduate education, shapes an environment in which her students thrive.

Supporting all these programs, students, and faculty are the staff at the University of Cincinnati. Our staff members are the essential forces to help students and faculty attain their goals. They organize entire programs, know the deadlines, know where and when to ask questions, how to find things (in a database or a faculty member’s office), and most importantly when to offer a kind word to get someone over a hurdle. They reside in the Graduate School, in the student’s departments, in the registrar’s office, and in all corners of the university. It is a group that deserves highlighting, so we will tell you more about them in next year’s report.

In the meanwhile, you are always welcome to visit our Graduate School offices in Van Wormer Hall, and we encourage you to follow our news on social media sites as we continue to develop and engage opportunities for graduate students and faculty.

Chip Montrose
Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
Do you have to be a scientist to understand global warming, cancer biology, and the way vaccines work? No, you don’t have to formally study science—but you do need to understand the science behind these topics. And if you want to separate the real facts from the “alternatives,” science is your biggest and best asset. This is easier said than done when our Facebook pages are constantly saturated with misinformation. What resources can we trust to supply fair and balanced scientific facts in a time when that trust seems ill-advised?

Project: Citizen Science answers this call for trustworthy, accessible scientific information. The official mission statement describes this graduate student group as a multidisciplinary collaboration that aims to increase the public’s understanding of science—but founder Stephen Riffle prefers to describe the group in real-world terms. “To put it a little less formally, we want to use art and storytelling to bring science to the public,” he says. “We believe the majority of the public are bright and intelligent people. Science is riddled with jargon, however, which can really close it off to the public. We want to make it accessible and attractive so that hopefully, even if in a minor way, we can help spread an understanding of science.”

Riffle knows a thing or two about science—he is a scientist himself. While earning his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacology through UC’s Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology program, he researched the effects of chemotherapy on the cytoskeleton of tumor cells. Now as a fourth-year student in the Molecular and Developmental Biology Graduate Program, he studies how tumor cells behave and stay alive without oxygen. With all the time Riffle spends in the lab, you may think that the idea of Project: Citizen Science came to him there—but it turns out that a humble Facebook post was the real catalyst.

Riffle was browsing Facebook in the fall of 2016 when he came across a viral video. A police officer was testifying on behalf of an alternative-medicine doctor at a congressional hearing in the 1990s. In the video, the officer tells the gut-wrenching story of losing his own daughter to cancer, and says that this doctor should be allowed to practice. The problem, though, is that the doctor’s very expensive “miracle drug” has never been reported to be successful from any scientific organization, and has even been alleged to cause patient deaths.

“It’s a sad and compelling story that people were quick to share,” Riffle says. “But it’s far sadder knowing that the doctor being portrayed as the hero in this story is a predator of deeply depraved magnitude. There’s no good way to argue these points on Facebook, though. To do so is to be the angry scientist who is for some reason taking an adversarial stance against a guy who just lost his daughter. This dilemma is a symptom of a much bigger problem in society—scientists can suck at telling a good story. It was my hope that Project: Citizen Science could help mitigate this.”

Facebook is now the primary source of news for many people, and a lot of misinformation is spread through compelling stories that make it difficult to separate fact from fiction. Scrolling through your news feed, you can see articles stating that big pharma is hiding the cure to cancer, gluten is bad for everyone, scientists are still debating about the existence of global warming, and vaccines can cause autism. Articles can present these topics as facts without basing the information on any real scientific findings. This “clickbait” tends to play to our intuitions and fears, and is made easily accessible. But science can and should be accessible, too—we just need scientists who are readily available to explain it.

“In its most nascent form, science is the art of questioning and seeking answers,” Riffle says. “Therefore we want to allow people to question science. It’s okay to ask for the evidence behind evolution or global warming. We can’t all be experts, so to some extent it is good to have faith in others. I want people to have faith in scientific experts. But for them to have faith, I believe we need to reduce the amount of stuff we ask them to just trust us on. If we can make information available to the public, then they can see the evidence for themselves and form their own opinion.”

To do this, Project: Citizen Science is starting with the internet—group members are producing scientific blogs that convey concepts and findings in general terminology, building Wikipedia pages and designing videos streamlined for social media. But the mission also extends beyond computer screens. They plan to host science-themed trivia nights at local bars, set up communication workshops where students can learn how to be creative and effective when talking to the public about science, and organizing events.

In April 2017, the group held their biggest and most noteworthy event to date: Joys of Critical Science Communication. Dr. Christopher Labos and Jonathan Jarry, hosts of the Body of Evidence podcast, flew in from Canada to present on how to identify pseudoscience, how pseudoscience begins, and what people in the scientific community and beyond can do to stop it from happening. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion featuring UC environmental health professor Dr. Erin Haynes, Chris Anderson from Science Over Everything, and a local attorney specializing in communicating the science behind brain trauma to courtrooms.

As Project: Citizen Science gains momentum, they hope to organize more events and workshops, establish an outreach group to put on scientific events at local schools, and build an interactive blog that allows readers to flip between scientific and general language.

In the meantime, how can you join in on the battle against misinformation? “Get out there and try to explain your research to people,” Riffle says. “Find out what works and what doesn’t work.” A great way to do this would be to join Project: Citizen Science. We can help you learn and find opportunities to get some practice. Even if you don’t work in science and still want to get involved, we really need you! Scientists aren’t trained in storytelling, graphic design or public communication. Join up with a scientist and work with them to help communicate their topic.”
Gatlin says that her greatest resources are actually found outside of the lab, through the relationships she has established as a Yates Scholar. "The program expands my support system as a minority and creates an educational environment that is designed to help me thrive," she says. "I have had many opportunities to meet and build strong relationships with students, faculty and administrators."

Wishing for every student to experience this rich support system, Gatlin created a community to promote diversity in STEM. As the founder and president of the UC Graduate Consortium for Cultural Diversity in Chemistry (CCDC), she had to define what this community would mean. What are their core values? How can they make an impact? And how can they engage people in the mission? After establishing this organization, she was able to assemble a team with a common vision. Gatlin’s CCDC has created outreach and community programs, professional development forums, and a diversity lecture series in the chemistry department.

Gatlin’s hope is that all who aspire to study chemistry and beyond are able to make use of the resources—what she calls “journey partners”—surrounding them. “Own your journey!” she says. “The world needs you, so giving up is not an option. The hurdles I have overcome along the way were some of my greatest teachers. Owning your journey says that you believe you are great even before anyone else believes it.”

The Yates Fellowship Program began in 1966 as the Graduate Intern Program of the UC Institute for Research and Training in Higher Education. This program’s mission was to identify, admit, support and mentor promising individuals of African-American and Appalachian heritage in UC graduate programs. In 1978, the program became part of the Division of Graduate Studies and Research and was renamed the Graduate Minority Fellows and Scholars Program. The program expanded in the following year to include students from all underrepresented minorities. In 1995, the program was renamed to honor Dr. Albert C. Yates, the first African-American to serve as vice president and university dean for Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Cincinnati.

Each year, UC graduate programs nominate incoming students for the Yates Fellowship Program. In 2016, the Graduate School expanded the program to support 25 incoming master’s and doctoral students. New and continuing award winners receive a stipend and a full tuition scholarship. Additionally, each student is paired with a faculty member from his/her program, who acts as a guide to the program and university. Award recipients such as DeVonna Gatlin, Maurice Adkins, JàNay Cooper and Josue Campos exemplify the program’s vision of academic excellence.
Maurice Adkins
History, PhD

Education alleviates ignorance and elevates us to a higher frequency of awareness. This applies to the education of history as well. By keeping an accurate record of our history and acknowledging this record—sustaining awareness by informing younger generations of our mistakes and our triumphs—we believe, or at least hope, we will somehow be allowed to stay on a road of progression.

This concept is one believed and put into daily practice by Maurice Lamont Adkins. Adkins—budding historian, Yates Fellow, passionate teacher and future professor—is a PhD student with a keen desire to impact the world through honoring history and higher education. Maybe the best way to understand Adkins is to first know that his favorite book is “Invisible Man” by Ralph Ellison and that his current reading list is dominated by letters black ministers penned advocating for rural North Carolina schools, circa 1866.

The youngest of four children and a first-generation college student, Adkins is a native North Carolinian. He graduated the same institution from which Adkins received his bachelor’s and James Shepard (founder of the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua, present day North Carolina Central University). Adkins explains how these men—who happened to be close friends, no less—used their institutions to elevate black farmers and artisans, create a greater sense of community, and provide loans to African American entrepreneurs.

“I want to trace this history to provide an understanding of the importance of strong and dedicated leadership by individuals such as James Dudley. Today, leadership is key at historically black colleges and universities as it is connected to their survival,” says Adkins. “The lives of these leaders and the political debates about these institutions are informative to our understanding of the importance of black colleges. The institutions are not only monuments to the former slaves who built them but a testament to the struggles faced by African Americans to garner an education in a country bound by racial discord and animus.”

And when Adkins says that former slaves built these beloved institutions, he’s speaking in a literal sense. Not only was James Dudley the former slave of North Carolinian governor Edward Bishop Dudley, but the students, teachers and founders of these black colleges physically constructed the actual structures, brick by brick.

In addition to his dissertation research, Adkins is currently working on an article—one he hopes to publish by the end of the 2017–18 academic year—that exposes the history of black schools in his hometown of Salisbury, North Carolina; a town that holds historical significance in the African American education movement following the civil war. “Salisbury had a very active African-American community and the heavy presence of benevolent organizations in the area made the city an active participant in the establishment of schools for black children,” says Adkins. “I want to unpack this narrative to give voice to those individuals who were significant to the movement.”

Beyond his extensive research and writing, Adkins serves as both a teacher of African American history for the Upward Bound Program (a summer-long preparation course at UC for incoming college students) and a teaching assistant for the history department. Filling these roles as educator has convinced Adkins that his chosen career path is, in fact, the right one. “I think each year invigorates my will to become a professor because of the rapport I build with the students and the skills I gain from leading these courses. I always reflect on how important mentoring is to our youth. If I can help as many people as possible to reach their academic goals, then I fulfilled my duties as a mentor.”

In the case of his long-term goals, after Adkins completes a post-doctoral program he hopes to obtain a tenure track position and meticulously work his way into administration. “My goal is to eventually become an effective president at a college or university,” he says.

But this is not to say that Adkins will ever forget where he came from and who has helped him along the way. “I know that I will leave UC with lifelong networks, particularly with my professors who have been instrumental in my current and future success at UC.”

And, above all else, Adkins plans to continue educating his history students, especially in the scope of African American history. Alleviating ignorance and creating a higher frequency of awareness is what this historian, educator, and PhD student has dedicated himself to. As a future professor and leader, Adkins intends to keep informing younger generations of our mistakes and triumphs while honoring history and staying on a road of progression.

“My friends may see it as me acting like a nerd of history, but for me, it’s what drives my passion to become a great historian.”
Jañay Cooper has always had an infatuation with cosmetics and skincare, but her interest is beyond skin-deep. She’s a licensed esthetician, makeup artist—and pharmaceutical scientist. Before cosmetics appear on store shelves, they go through a lengthy process of research and development. Cooper wanted to be involved in the beginning stages of the products she was so passionate about. As an undergraduate, she began to pursue cosmetic dermatology, but soon decided that medical school wasn’t for her. She wanted to take a different approach to pursuing a scientific career in skincare.

Finding the right doctoral program proved to be difficult—most schools only offered programs at the master’s level and were very chemistry-focused. Cooper was looking for the opportunity to integrate her makeup and skincare passions. When she came across UC’s cosmetic science program in the James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy, she knew she’d found the right fit.

Cooper’s research focuses on a potential treatment for people with vitiligo, a disease that causes the loss of skin color. Biomembrane/Cosmetic Sciences, PhD

Her thesis will establish some of the ways this ingredient interacts with melanocytes, the pigment cells in the skin. She works with cell and tissue cultures to understand how the ingredient would affect people undergoing vitiligo treatments. Her findings not only serve as claim support for the product, but also as a blueprint for the design of future products.

“I find the study of epidermal pigmentation fascinating,” she says. “It’s cool to watch yourself tan in 15 minutes in the sun, while knowing exactly what is going on in your skin, and the vast amount of biological processes enacted in that moment. You’re also able to consider and judge skincare products based on ingredients and what they can do for you in terms of biological benefits. Being able to apply the knowledge to your daily life and consumer choices is valuable.”

With the skills she’s learned in the lab, Cooper has even been able to save a few bucks on her beauty routine. In the Hair Care Science course, she learned the chemical processes of hair coloring, bleaching, relaxing, and perming. Now that she understands the scientific strategies behind these processes, Cooper doesn’t have to go to the salon anymore—she can dye her own hair.

“The entire science behind the cosmetic industry is exciting,” she says. “I’ve been very fortunate to be involved in research projects that I love and that suit my professional interests perfectly. This helps me immensely to stay motivated in the project, especially through all the challenges. I am also pleased with its direct connections to the cosmetic skincare industry. The Yates fellowship program got me in the door, and I’m grateful.”

In the future, Cooper wants to continue her work in pharmacetical sciences to create more medical and therapeutic solutions. She’d love to establish a franchise of skincare clinics with trademark spa treatments, cosmetics and skincare products. Continuing her work with pigmentation studies, she’s also hoping to focus on anti-aging and ethnic skincare products made with natural and organic ingredients.

She counts her keys to success as being free to explore and consider her true passions, and the motives behind why she does what she does. “Do all your professional endeavors with sincerity and excellence, to the best of your ability,” she says. “The work will speak for itself.”

JOSUE CAMPOS
Design, MDes

Josue Campos is after some very specific things. He searches for efficient creativity, design at the highest degree of innovation, discomfort and change. He dedicates himself fully to whatever is in front of him; the kind of insatiable drive that applies to both staying up all night studying and the next day forcing his body into the freezing ocean for charity at the Polar Plunge in Tybee Island, GA. A student with a gripping respect for the interplay of culture and design, as well as an acute passion for becoming familiar with the unfamiliar (foreign cities and what they choose to purchase, in particular), Campos knows how to appreciate the innovative and the different.

The Master of Design student and Yates Fellow recently graduated from the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning at UC after formerly obtaining a degree in mechanical engineering in Atlanta. Throughout his stint in Georgia, the curious and hungry aspects of Jose’s spirit led him to make a precarious decision. Something about the confining lines of his current engineering gig left him yearning for alternatives. “I could only be creative so much—I couldn’t leave the engineering bubble. Whenever I presented something different—not even creative really, just different—it was seen as, why are you doing this? Get back to the blueprints. And that bothered me.”

With the compelling notions of risk and innovation pervasively floating in the back of his mind, Campos decided to chase something new. He started contacting design firms and asking them what they were looking for in new and upcoming designers. Their answer? The University of Cincinnati. “All of the directors I talked to said that DAAP was a great school, that the students come out ready to rock and roll. And I was like, that’s what I want to be: someone who is qualified and someone who is ready to go.”

Abandoning the exact recipe of engineering for more unpredictable endeavors, Campos moved to Cincinnati and began his design journey, attempting to satisfy that unnamed, unshakeable hunger always driving him further. Fast forward to present day, the young designer manages an impressive list of accomplishments. His own designs have landed on the shelves of Toys “R” Us, his endless pursuit of inspiration has taken him as far as Japan (exploring Tokyo’s city streets alone in search of new design was his favorite part), and he’s teamed up with Matthew Wizinsky, a communication design professor at DAAP, to co-create an exhibition that opened in October 2017 titled, “Dread & Desire”—an exhibit showcasing the ways in which the things we interact with everyday are interfaces making up a bigger system. “Those things could be physical interfaces, something we touch,” says Campos, “Or they could be virtual interfaces and digital interfaces, something like social media. A lot of it focuses on social media.”

Maybe his greatest accomplishment, however, is his thesis: Campos designed a tool, a methodology, to help companies design for new markets in a specific culture. His thesis came about in doing research at DAAP. Campos found that global companies often fail at designing products for foreign cultures. It is all too common for designers to be ignorant of what the consumer really wants. “There are no guidelines; there are essentially no factors to go by when designing for consumers in differing cultures,” says Campos. “Different cultures have different aesthetics. It’s easy for companies to box them in [when designing for cultures unlike their own]. Even when they think they have the perfect equation, they still mess it up.”

In his thesis, Campos identifies three fundamental elements to account for when designing: culture attributes, product attributes, and modification. Combine culture attributes with product attributes, and modify accordingly. “I researched why products were failing. If we take a product that already exists and we inspect it, we can find out what consumers
do like and don’t like about the product—and why they like or don’t like it—and in turn learn the beliefs and values about the consumer.”

In addition, his thesis and research serve as the theoretical foundation of an even greater venture, a future business. “I’m starting my own consulting company based on the thesis work that I’ve done. Companies who go global will want this information,” says Campos. “What I offer companies is a new perspective, through design, on how to research micro-cultures and tailor products for new markets. As part of the method, I have curated a list of cultural attributes that aim at uncovering important value and meaning in products that we and others use.”

The explanation of his research in physical form, however, clearly illustrates the obvious need for proper design. When travelling in Japan, he noticed the stark difference between Japanese automobiles and our own. “They enjoy their compact cars because they can fit in Japan’s narrow streets and small driveways,” he explains. “Recognizing this might help car manufacturers understand why a truck would not sell well in a Japanese market.”

Campos goes on to describe even more cultural miscommunication followed by ill-design. “I recently spoke to a Mexican client that years ago tried to sell their goods—purses, shoes, luggage—in Chile. They thought the Chileans were very similar to Mexicans, because they speak Spanish and live in Latin America. They were wrong. When it comes to trends and dress, Chileans are very conservative. They do not follow western fashion like Mexicans and Americans do.

“The Chileans could not relate to the company’s advertisements, colors, and trends. The company flopped in Chile. This happens all the time everywhere, even within one’s own country.”

That being said, Campos’ business is one based in both equation and creativity. His work is equally art and calculation—there’s an exact design present, but the design only resonates if the artist’s judgement is sound. It’s also important to remember that his current ventures are an outcome of his desire to leave engineering for something more creative, more profound. Campos is always searching to bend the lines that confine, to ensure he is a tool being put to proper use; a self-made force continuously powered by that peculiar, innate, never-satisfied hunger.

What is the Master of Design student and Yates Fellow doing now? He lives in Clifton, just down the street from the university. He owns a pet turtle. He’s continuing work on an array of projects, including his evolving company. He likes extreme sports (BMX bikes, specifically—but he admits that evidently, when you put your mind to it, anything can become an extreme sport). “That’s the kind of thing I like to do. The possibility of getting hurt is there, but the reward at the end makes it all worth it. That’s what I’m after.”

And what is his advice to fellow students who may share in his unshakeable hunger—students who wish to leave their own exact recipes, to chase their own unpredictable endeavors? “Wake up early. Drink water. Drink coffee. Take some time to be quiet. Tell yourself you are good enough. Then tell yourself what you are going to do, and do it. Start working.”
In the fall of 2012, UC transitioned from quarters to semesters. This led to a significant inequality in the reporting period used for our 2012 reports and it affected the numbers given here.
Earning a doctoral degree is often seen as the summit of the higher education landscape. The intelligence, passion and work ethic necessary to complete the years of coursework (not to mention research projects and dissertation writing) are highly prized within doctoral programs. The doctoral students who earn their diplomas are those who have spent the years graciously and diligently mastering their craft—the craft of academics. Yet many students find that these traits alone are not enough to ensure success when it comes to the highly competitive academic job market. When students dive into the application pool in their final year of doctoral study, they often find their applications disregarded or lost in the shuffle. What they find on the other side of graduate school is exciting but unforgiving—which is to say, the real world. And what does the real world ask of these doctoral students? It asks them to be especially well-prepared by mastering not only the craft of academics, but also the craft of professional development.

A program at the University of Cincinnati has been meticulously engineered to help PhD students with this problem—the problem of being an exceptional scholar while lacking the soft skills essential to navigating the job market. The Fellowship for Doctoral Students Aspiring to Academic Careers is a program dedicated to the mentoring of doctoral students by the university's distinguished faculty. Through this mentoring, doctoral students are prepared to seek out and hold tenure-track positions.

On top of connecting PhD students with excellent mentors, the program administers a $2,000 stipend to each student that shall be used to support their professional development. It can be spent on conference travel, career development workshops, networking activities; anything that would make the student more competitive in the professional job market. David Butler, a biomedical engineer and UC professor specializing in soft tissue research, oversaw the program in its initial year. In its quest to create job-acquiring professionals out of each of its doctoral fellows, the program pairs each student with three to five graduate faculty mentors; essentially, a team of people who are experts not only in their academic disciplines but also in navigating a professional career, and who are committed to nurturing the student's professional growth.

"This is often the first time the student is offered the undivided attention of three, four faculty members; mentors who have the student's future in mind—not so much as a researcher in the technical sense, but as a professional," says Howe. "The intensity of their focus is solely on the student's professional development. It's really important to emphasize here that the point of the program is to increase the probability that the graduate student will be able to land and keep academic jobs."

These faculty mentors come from the membership of the Fellows of the Graduate School. And why is that special? Who exactly are the Fellows? They are an elite group whose admission is obtained by nomination followed by formal selection;
the membership consists of university faculty who are generally the most experienced and accomplished researchers in their chosen field. Basically, these mentors are the best of the best. And they work directly with their mentees.

Butler, founder of the program and the previous chair of the Fellows of the Graduate School, serves as one of these mentors. “We go to Starbucks, we sit, we talk. They are so laser-focused on getting their research done, and you ask them, have you put out any applications for jobs? And they come to the end, they’re at the cliff, they defend their dissertation and they are so elated, and then they realize … I need to go find a job. I need money. And all too often it’s very last minute. How are they going to build that self-confidence? It’s that self-assurance, that feeling of being able to sit at a table with colleagues and have an intelligent, confident conversation.

“This program changes their focus. It changes the way they think. Every one of my PhD students that I have, I can see the transformation when it occurs. I can see the very instant they quit being a student and they start being a colleague. And then the question becomes, how early can you get them to realize that they are a professional colleague and not just a student?”

One of Butler’s mentees, Amanda Powers—a PhD student in the Department of Biological Sciences—exudes nothing but gratitude for the program. “Having faculty fellows as mentors has been invaluable for my academic and professional development. Having the perspective of faculty who have been through tenure, promotions and have moved into leadership roles, such as the head of a department, or administrative roles, such as a dean, has been very informative. Aside from professional advice, our mentors have taken an interest in our personal development. They encourage us to have hobbies and consider how career decisions will affect our personal goals. Growing and maturing can be an uncomfortable process, but stepping out of your comfort zone will help you advance your professional development.”

Anwar Mhajne, a PhD student in political science and mentee in the program, recognizes the daily advantages of having constant mentor support. "Our conversations helped ground me when I was stressed out and burdened by the academic process. They motivated me and provided me with some-practical tools to address the challenges I am facing."

Additionally, the mentors encourage students to have a bigger perspective. Instead of preparing for life one year from now, think about five years from now. What about ten years? Perhaps twenty-five? A good career plan embraces the concept of a long career. Even further opening their perspectives, interdisciplinary exposure is an invaluable aspect of the program—the graduate students are exposed to disciplines far different than their own. Biology students mix with engineering professors, business professors converse with English students, and so on.

“We have three dinners each year—autumn, winter, and spring dinners—where all of the Graduate Fellows are invited,” says Butler. “We invite the student fellows to attend each of those dinners, too. The point being, that when the student fellows come, rather than sitting with the other students in their disciplines, we put them at tables with others in every discipline. We are trying to expose them to senior faculty in very different areas. The chance to meet and speak with some of the university’s research leaders is exceptional. It’s terrific for networking.”

The Fellowship for Doctoral Students Aspiring to Academic Careers offers students a unique opportunity: whilst climbing towards their PhD, students are able to receive mentoring from a team of expert faculty who exclusively focus on the student’s professional career and development. These students already have the intelligence, passion, and work ethic to succeed in graduate school—yet the fellowship provides a key advantage by exposing them to the intimate experiences and knowledge of seasoned professors. The doctoral students learn from the successes (and, maybe most importantly, the failures) of those who have already obtained the dream of transitioning from doctoral student to tenured faculty member. Entering the highly competitive academic job market doesn’t have to be synonymous with being disregarded and overlooked. Sometimes the real world, although exciting and unforgiving, can have the most wonderful surprises waiting on the other side of graduate school—for those who have invested in their own professional development.

“Maybe the most interesting comment I heard from one of the students,” says Howe, “—this was one of the original six graduate student fellows—she said, ‘You know, I used to spend 100% of my time with my mentor talking about research. But this program made me want to talk about both my research and my future—and most importantly, my professional development.”
The Provost Graduate Fellowship supports promising new PhD students whose presence diversifies and enriches our institution. Increasing the underrepresented ethnic and racial minority influence, as recipients of doctoral degrees, diversifies both the Graduate School and the scope of our future academic talent. Established in 2016 by UC's provost, Beverly Davenport, and funded by the Office of the Provost, this fellowship signifies the commitment of UC's leadership to making graduate education mirror the demographics of American society.

Each year, the fellowship awards up to three incoming PhD students with a three-year, $25,000 fellowship that includes full tuition. The two inaugural recipients, Miguel Nunez and Dawna Rutherford, have gracefully embraced the challenges of earning a PhD whilst navigating the journey of their doctoral research.

Dawna Rutherford had no intention of entering nursing education. The plan was to travel the world, working as an obstetrical nurse. She earned her BSN from the University of Massachusetts, entered the Air Force as a nurse and officer, and began working with patients and families—the plan was set in motion. It wouldn't take long, however, for Rutherford to discover a new dimension of nursing that would set her on a different path.

Part of Rutherford's job was not only to care for her patients and their families, but also to serve as an educator and advocate. Teaching CPR classes to her colleagues and the civilian populations introduced the possibility of becoming an educator. "As a novice nurse, it was rewarding to see how educating individuals empowered them to properly care for themselves," says Rutherford. "As a military member, I had the honor of serving our country, locally and globally, through education." Her new path was now clear. After separating from the military, she continued to train other nurses and families.

Working as a traveling nurse, Rutherford arrived on the East Coast, where several of her nursing colleagues were enrolled in UC's Nurse Practitioner distance learning program. Although Rutherford's cross-country travels didn't leave any free time to commit, her colleagues' high praises of UC's nursing program stayed in the back of her mind.

In 2015, Rutherford was working as a professor when Dr. Donna Shambley-Ebron came to speak to her students about UC's doctoral program in nursing research. Rutherford ended up being just as interested in the program as her students were. Dr. Shambley-Ebron took the time to speak to her individually and she realized that she wanted more from her own education.

"It sounded challenging, but I've never run from a worthy challenge which would expand my breadth of knowledge and ability to work with a larger audience," says Rutherford. "Although I left the sandy beaches of Virginia Beach and the Outer Banks of North Carolina, I realized a terminal degree would allow me to not only educate future nursing students, but also to shape the future of healthcare. Needless to say, I am here in Ohio!"

Rutherford is now using her time at UC to research the effects of bullying on nursing students in clinical settings. She develops intervention methods to mitigate these effects, allowing nursing students to have a healthier and more productive clinical experience. Rutherford also studies women's health, the long-term effects of violence and trauma, and treatment of chronic illnesses.

"Nursing education has a pivotal role in developing healthcare leaders in our current society and for the near future," she says. "The world is becoming more complex, and nursing is no exception. It is critical to be well-versed in using technology to improve healthcare delivery. Nurse educators can guide the next generation to look at healthcare from the perspective of individuals both locally and globally."

As she strives to guide others, Rutherford has received guidance herself. Within the College of Nursing, her professors have made themselves available to offer help and answers for any type of question. As a Provost Graduate Fellow, she's received support and advice about navigating graduate school. "In education, it is amazing how much everyone can learn from each other," she says. "I'm not making this journey alone."

Rutherford recently received photos from former students in their caps and gowns, graduating with their BSN. Memories came back to her of these students just entering the university. Now they were ready to go out into the world as nurses. She marveled at the change. "I've been given the opportunity to pursue my passion," she says, "and in return, give to the future generation of nurses."
MIGUEL NUNEZ
Clinical Psychology, PhD

Human beings respond to adverse situations in a multitude of ways. These reactions can create staggered ramifications in both the mind and body, and—if the reaction is one that is self-destructive—can negatively influence an individual’s well-being. Miguel Nunez noticed this strange yet consistent occurrence and began questioning its roots. What makes us react to certain things the way we do?

In his quest for answers, Nunez found the field of psychology. “The abilities the mind possesses have always fascinated me,” he says, “and I relish the opportunity to do something that I love.” Psychology was the perfect link of my interests.” Fortunately for Nunez, the University of Cincinnati offers the ideal place to further develop his passion for psychology and aiding those in need of healing.

Nunez was drawn to Cincinnati for a variety of reasons—the beautiful parks, year-round events, and four-season weather (very important to him, coming from sweltering Texas). But the biggest factors in his decision to attend UC originate from the Department of Psychology.

When interviewing with Dr. Farrah Jacquez, who would later become his advisor, Nunez learned of the PITCH lab (Partnerships for Improvement and Treatment in Community Health). The lab would offer Nunez an opportunity to work with a team of faculty, researchers, and fellow students to address health disparities in minority and economically disadvantaged communities. Attracted to the lab’s cause and excited to join the project, Nunez made the decision to enroll in UC’s clinical psychology PhD program.

Now an avid researcher working on multiple clinical trials at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Nunez dedicates his work days to helping children and young adults—all by the abilities of the lab. He has partnered with researchers Dr. Megan Greiner, Dr. Sarah Beal, and Dr. Maria Espinola to conduct research trials on teenagers (specifically in foster care) who have undergone adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

ACEs include any stressful or traumatic events children experience, such as emotional abuse and neglect, parental divorce, and incarceration of a family member.

“I’m looking at how the adverse childhood experiences influence their subjective well-being. Subjective well-being means their perceived happiness,” says Nunez. “Then we teach the foster children a set of therapy skills. And then we try and measure if these skills help them.”

The therapy Nunez’s team administers to the foster teenagers is called Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). This kind of therapy, originally developed to aid suicidal individuals and those suffering from borderline personality disorder, is now one of the most popular forms of therapy in the world. It is used to help any kind of patient searching to elevate their inner state of emotional wellness. The foundation of DBT consists of one-on-one face time between the therapist and patient, a process of heavy sifting through thoughts and honing in on the detrimental elements inhibiting happiness.

The therapy’s most notable purpose, however, is its acute focus on the power of thought; which is to say, DBT deems the mind’s awareness (specifically, the ability to control this awareness) as the key to emotional well-being. “The idea of it is that your thoughts and emotions and behaviors are all tied together—if you can influence one of them you can influence all of them.”

More so, Nunez picks apart certain aspects of DBT for the sake of the study’s scope of influence. He focuses on providing foster kids with four exclusive DBT skills: mindfulness, distress tolerance, interpersonal effectiveness, and emotional regulation.

“We’re basically giving the [foster] kids a toolbox of mindfulness,” he says. “Skills that can help them handle distressing situations and improve their perceived happiness. [These skills] also help [one] to be in the moment rather than to fill one’s mind with worries.”

Most simply said, the research aims to create a dilution of psychological distress and an expansion of psychological wellness.

The ultimate goal: the foster teens will possess the ability to look back on their pasts—and face their futures—better prepared, fully capable of handling difficult emotions with grace and inner strength. Nunez adds, “If this turns out to be significant, we can take this research and use it as a targeted intervention for teenagers to avoid the negative effects of ACEs on their mental health.”

Beyond the obvious remarkable of his research, Nunez’s current studies possess something else—a particular connection to his own life’s experiences. As a child, Nunez spent time in foster care. While such an experience is often associated with negative connotations, his reigns especially positive in retrospect: by his own account, the foster care system served its ultimate purpose in that it took Nunez out of a bad situation and put him into a good situation, one where he could truly grow.

“It was a source of great happiness for me,” says Nunez. “Being in foster care allowed me to surround myself with good people and gave me the freedom to succeed, to chase my studies. It motivated me to do well. It was exceptional. I met some wonderful people. Part of the reason I am who I am is because of the foster care system. Such attachments play a role in my interest to study trauma and resilience. I certainly hope that through my work, I can help those populations, and perhaps make a difference in their lives.”

Given the number of teens and adults who could benefit from learning these therapy skills to cope with past childhood stressors and trauma, it’s hard to imagine Nunez sending his research out in the world to be met with anything but great interest. Nunez’s passion for his research and profession keeps him motivated as he works towards his goal of helping others. “This research is meant to be applied. I want it to influence real-world people, rather than stay in the lab.”

And, although he understand that life can always pan out in a multitude of ways, Miguel Nunez is good at living by the skills he teaches. Rather than fill his mind with future post-doc concerns and anxieties, he remains focused and firmly planted in the present. “My plans for now are just to enjoy my program, enjoy UC, and make the most of my time here.”
In the years following graduation, there are many details students forget about their time at the University of Cincinnati. They forget papers they’ve written, lectures they’ve attended, quizzes they’ve graded and books they’ve read. But they will undoubtedly remember the person that went above and beyond to guide them through their graduate education. For many business administration students, that person is Dr. Suzanne Masterson.

When a professor goes above and beyond expectations, they are more than just an educator—they become a trusted confidante, friend, and mentor. Each year, the Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring Award is presented to the graduate faculty member who best embodies what it means to be a mentor. Current and former students nominate the professors who demonstrate this outstanding and sustained guidance of doctoral students. These professors have put in the extra time and effort to make a lasting impact on the professional and personal lives of their students. In 2017, Dr. Suzanne Masterson from the Carl H. Lindner College of Business was honored with the Excellence in Mentoring of Doctoral Students Award.

Since joining the university in 1998, Dr. Masterson has played an integral role in the Lindner College of Business. The mentors who guided Dr. Masterson through her studies at the University of Maryland inspired her to do the same after graduation. Becoming a professor in the college’s thriving doctoral program offered Dr. Masterson the opportunity to give back through her own work with doctoral students. She has continued to serve the Lindner College of Business as a professor for almost 20 years, and doctoral program director for the past decade.

During this time, Dr. Masterson has certainly achieved the goal she set when first arriving at UC—to make a positive impact in the lives of doctoral students. To get a feel for the relationships she has built with countless students over the years, one only has to look to examples from her current students. Dr. Masterson worked beyond office hours to help Lakshmi Palaparambil Dinesh practice presentations and sharpen her teaching skills. She has coached Nathan Tong through his doctoral studies, always making the time to sit and chat with him no matter how busy her schedule is. And Marcia Lensges was able to publish her first research project in a respected management journal with the help of Dr. Masterson’s skillful instruction.

Students of Dr. Masterson speak not only of her willingness to give advice, but also the exceptional quality of her guidance. Dr. Masterson’s extensive research concerning organizational fairness translates into a passion for ensuring that each and every one of her mentees has the best experience possible, and takes those lessons with them as they move on to their own careers. “I try to give our PhD students a realistic preview of what an academic career entails, through an apprenticeship-style working relationship,” she says. “We get our PhD students involved in research from the very beginning of the program, and give them multiple teaching opportunities, as well as opportunities to get involved in service. I really want to ensure that students are fully prepared to succeed wherever they go, because they’ve already done it as a doctoral student at UC.”

Wherever her students go after graduation, Dr. Masterson remains steadfast in her role as mentor. She continues to provide support for the job decisions, research projects, and journal submissions they take on years after earning their degrees. Former student Dr. Sungdoo Kim summarized it best when he named her a “lifetime advisor.”

Dr. Masterson says, “I love the experience of working with a student through each of their important milestones, and having the rush of seeing them leap over the hurdle and move forward on their path. It’s an incredible feeling to watch students succeed and to know that I’ve been a part of their journey.”
The Graduate School is proud of the diverse academic endeavors completed by its master’s and doctoral students during the 2016–17 academic year.

University of Cincinnati master’s theses and doctoral dissertations can be found online at etd.ohiolink.edu.

The following listing of doctoral dissertations represents the quality, vitality and diversity of graduate research and scholarship at UC.

CARL H. LINDNER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Hassey, Roseann
PhD, Summer 2016
Stand by Your Brand: How Brand Personality and Brand Failure Type Shape Brand Forgiveness
Advisor: Joshua Clarkson, PhD

Otto, Ashley
PhD, Summer 2016
Why We Decide Not to Decide
Advisor: Joshua Clarkson, PhD

Torabi, Elham
PhD, Summer 2016
Capacity and Flow Management in Healthcare Delivery Systems with Multi-Priority Patients
Advisor: Craig Froehle, PhD

Ward, Michael
PhD, Fall 2016
Delivering Responsive Care in the Emergency Department: Targeting the Population versus a Disease-Specific Approach
Advisor: Craig Froehle, PhD

COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Hamilton, Sarah
PhD, Fall 2016
Using the Third Formant to Investigate Perceptual Abilities in Children with Residual Sound Errors (RSE)
Advisor: Suzanne Boyce, PhD

Ishikawa, Keiko
PhD, Spring 2017
Towards Development of Intelligibility Assessment for Dysphonic Speech
Advisor: Suzanne Boyce, PhD

Keck, Casey
PhD, Summer 2016
A Descriptive Study of Pragmatic Skills in the Home Environment after Childhood Traumatic Brain Injury
Advisor: Nancy Creaghead, PhD

Rivera Campos, Ahmed
PhD, Summer 2016
Using Ultrasound Imaging for Better Understanding of the Apicoalveolar Rhotic /r/
Advisor: Suzanne Boyce, PhD

Rivera Perez, Jean
PhD, Summer 2016
The Use of Text-to-Speech to Teach Vocabulary to English Language Learners
Advisor: Nancy Creaghead, PhD

Speights, Marisha
PhD, Summer 2016
Testing Syllabic Complexity as an Indicator of Effective Speech Production in Children
Advisor: Suzanne Boyce, PhD
Ahmadoghlu, Ramin
PhD, Summer 2016
Nationalism, Secularism, and Islam: Azerbaijani Turks in Azerbaijan and Iran
Advisor: Laura Jenkins, PhD

Alberts, Jeremy
PhD, Fall 2016
Advisor: Ishi Buffam, PhD

Alexander, Andrew
PhD, Fall 2016
The Renaissance Tragic Interior and Its Classical Substructure
Advisor: Jonathan Kamholtz, PhD

Allender, Elyse
PhD, Fall 2016
Automated Tools and Techniques for Mars Forward Exploration
Advisor: Tomasz Stepinski, PhD

Alsajigh, Saed
PhD, Summer 2016
New Password Authenticated Key Exchange Based on the Ring Learning with Errors
Advisor: Jintai Ding, PhD

Aragus, Jose
PhD, Spring 2017
(Creative Dissertation) A Personal History of Want: a Memoir in Verse; (Critical Dissertation) Little Realities: Writing, Reading & Teaching the Cento Poem
Advisor: John Drury, MFA

Ariyabuddhiphongs, Kris
PhD, Spring 2017
Symmetry of Intercellular Rhythmic Coordination: The Case of a Three-Person Drumming Task
Advisor: Rachel Kallen, PhD

Athreya, Dilip
PhD, Summer 2016
Prospective Control of Action during Interpersonal Throwing-Catching
Advisor: Michael Riley, PhD

Badada, Bekele
PhD, Summer 2016
Probing Electronic Band Structure and Quantum Confined States in Single Semiconductor Nanowire Devices
Advisor: Leigh Smith, PhD

Bailey, Aaron
PhD, Summer 2016
On the Mechanism of Oxidative Coupling of 1,4-Diaminobenzene with Resorcinol
Advisor: Hairong Guan, PhD

Battle, ShaDawn
PhD, Fall 2016
"Moments of Clarity" and Sounds of Resistance: Weled Library Subversions and De-Colonial Dialectics in the Art of Jay Z and Kanye West
Advisor: Sharon Dean, DA

Bonnette, Scott
PhD, Spring 2017
On the Modification of Risk Factors for Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injuries in Female Athletes through Visual Feedback
Advisor: Michael Riley, PhD

Brewer, Jeffrey
PhD, Spring 2017
A Landscape Archaeology Approach to Understanding Household Water Management Practices of the Ancient Lowland Maya
Advisor: Nicholas Dunne, PhD

Brown, Elizabeth
PhD, Spring 2017
The Behavioral Genetics of Oblation in Drosophila melanogaster
Advisor: Stephanie Rollmann, PhD

Brown, Mitchell
PhD, Fall 2016
Menander Offstage
Advisor: Kathryn Gutzwiller, PhD

Can, Xiaooy
PhD, Spring 2017
Mass Exclusion List for RNA Modification Mapping Using LC-MS/MS
Advisor: Patrick Limbach, PhD

Chakraborty, Arundhoti
PhD, Fall 2016
Development of Copper Catalysts for the Reduction of Polar Bonds
Advisor: Hairong Guan, PhD

Chen, Longrui
PhD, Summer 2016
Development of Solvent-Free Catalyzed Organic Reaction under Mechanochemical Conditions
Advisor: James Mack, PhD

Clutterbuck, Amberlie
PhD, Fall 2016
Method Development for the Collection and Instrumental Analysis of Harmful Compounds in Mainstream Hookah Smoke
Advisors: Edward Merino, PhD and Julio Landero Figueroa, PhD

Cominsky, Cynthia
PhD, Fall 2016
The Retention of Registered Nurses at the Department of Veterans Affairs
Advisor: Stacie Furst-Hollaway, PhD

Davis, Adam
PhD, Summer 2016
Search for Mixing and Charge-Parity Violation in Neutral Charm Mesons through Semileptonic B Meson Decay
Advisor: Michael Sokoloff, PhD

De Silva, Weeraddana Manjula Kumara
PhD, Summer 2016
Collateral Imaging for Real-time Cardiac MRI
Advisor: Yu Li, PhD

Drogan, Catalin
PhD, Summer 2016
Norms Associated to Weights in von Neumann Algebras and Decompositions of Positive Operators
Advisor: Victor Kaftal, PhD

Edalati Ahmadsaraei, Masoud
PhD, Summer 2016
Diffusion Tensor Imaging: Application to Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance Imaging
Advisor: Michael Taylor, MD, PhD

Ellick, Jacqueline
PhD, Summer 2016
Reconsidering Parental and Maternal Status as Influences on Women’s Work Experiences
Advisor: David Maume, PhD

Fallon, Corey
PhD, Summer 2016
The Effects of a Trust Violation in a Team Decision-Making Task: Exploring the Affective Component of Trust
Advisor: Chung Tiu Chiu, PhD

Gilbert, Rachel
PhD, Spring 2017
Immunity and Sexual Signaling in the Wolf Spider Schizocosa ocreata
Advisor: George Uetz, PhD
Hagen, Alexandra
PhD, Summer 2016
Rhetoric of Ruin: 9/11 in German Literature, Film and Culture
Advisor: Harold Herzog, PhD

Hanley, Traci
PhD, Spring 2017
Trace Elemental Methodologies for the Chromatographic Speciation of Silver ions and Silver Nanoparticles and the Development of Rice Flour Internal Quality Control Material for Arsenic Speciation Applications Using High Performance Liquid Chromatography
Advisors: Peng Zhang, PhD and Julio Landero Figueroa, PhD

Holmes, Kyle
PhD, Summer 2016
Masters of Eloquence and Masters of Empire: Quintilian in Context
Advisor: Daniel Markovic, PhD

Jaberansari, Negar
PhD, Fall 2016
Bayesian Hierarchical Models for Partially Observed Data
Advisor: Seonho Song, PhD

Kizhakkedam, Anish
PhD, Summer 2016
Targeting the Stress Response to ROS: Design and Development of Novel and Selective Anti-Cancer Agents
Advisor: Edward Merino, PhD

Li, Shenghao
PhD, Summer 2016
Non-Homogeneous Boundary Value Problems for Beamwise-Type Equations
Advisor: Bingyu Zhang, PhD

Nestheide, Robert
PhD, Summer 2016
State Responses to Energy Transitions: Great Power Navies and Their Transition from Coal to Oil
Advisor: Thomas Moore, PhD

Niesterowicz, Jacek
PhD, Spring 2017
Unsupervised Pattern Based Regionalization of Large Multi-Categorical raster Maps Using Machine Vision Methods
Advisor: Tomasz Stepinski, PhD

Ojo, Kolade
PhD, Fall 2016
Development of Sensors for Detection of Magnesium Metal Corrosion
Advisor: William Heineman, PhD

Pollard, Travis
PhD, Spring 2017
Local Structure and Interfacial Potentials in Ion Salivation
Advisor: Thomas Beck, PhD

Phung, Chau
PhD, Summer 2016
The Synthesis of Oxaazolidinones from Aziridines and Carbon Dioxide
Advisor: Allan Pinhas, PhD

Pollard, Travis
PhD, Spring 2017
Local Structure and Interfacial Potentials in Ion Salivation
Advisor: Thomas Beck, PhD

Gas-m-Cambronero, David
PhD, Summer 2016
In Search of Elysium: Spanish Poetry of Difference at the Dawn of the 21st Century
Advisor: Maria Moreno, PhD

Hagen, Alexandra
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Rhetoric of Ruin: 9/11 in German Literature, Film and Culture
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Advisor: Allan Pinhas, PhD

Pollard, Travis
PhD, Spring 2017
Local Structure and Interfacial Potentials in Ion Salivation
Advisor: Thomas Beck, PhD
Powers, Lucas  
PhD, Spring 2017  
Metal Binding Rotaxanes as Sensors and Therapeutic Agents  
Advisor: David Smithrud, PhD

Raglin Bignall, Whitney  
PhD, Fall 2016  
Understanding the Social Support Needs of Parents of Children with ADHD: The Relation between Caregiver Strain and AD/HD Specific Support  
Dissertation  
Advisor: Farrah Jacquez, PhD

Robinson, Jendai  
PhD, Spring 2017  
Fabrication and Characterization of Plasmonic and Electrochemical Devices towards Sensing Applications  
Advisors: Laura Sagle, PhD and William Heineman, PhD

Ross, Robert  
PhD, Summer 2016  
Taking It Down a Level: Low Flow Sampling of RNAs by Liquid Chromatography Coupled to Tandem Mass Spectrometry  
Advisor: Patrick Limbach, PhD

Rumney, Linwood  
PhD, Summer 2016  
Disreputable Means  
Advisor: John Drury, MFA

Rusinek, Cory  
PhD, Spring 2017  
New Avenues in Electrochemical Systems and Analysis  
Advisor: William Heineman, PhD

Schwei, David  
PhD, Summer 2016  
The Empire Strikes: The Growth of Roman Infrastructureal Minting Power, 60 B.C. – A.D. 68  
Advisors: Peter Van Mienen, PhD and Barbara Burrell, PhD

Singleton, Meredith  
PhD, Fall 2016  
A Study on the Impact of Collective Feedback in the Online Technical and Professional Communication Classroom  
Advisor: Lisa Meloncon, PhD

Snook, Michael  
PhD, Summer 2016  
Quantum Resistant Authenticated Key Exchange from Ideal Lattices  
Advisor: Jingtao Ding, PhD

Speira, Travis  
PhD, Summer 2016  
Manning Up and Queening Out: Gay Men’s Negotiations of Gender and Sexuality  
Advisor: Annula Lindens, PhD

Strickley, Sarah  
PhD, Fall 2016  
Electra, Ohio  
Advisor: Leah Stewart, MFA

Sun, Zhuting  
PhD, Fall 2016  
Electron Transport in High Aspect Ratio Semiconductor Nanowires and Metal-Semiconductor Interfaces  
Advisor: Andrei Kogan, PhD

Thapa, Mahendra  
PhD, Summer 2016  
Molecular Dynamics Simulation of Calbindin-D9k in Apo, and the Single and Doubly-Loaded States in Various Side-Chains  
Advisor: Mark Rance, PhD

Thomas, Brandon  
PhD, Summer 2016  
The Independence of Animal Neutral and Referential Environmental Properties  
Advisor: Michael Riley, PhD

Underhill, Megan  
PhD, Summer 2016  
Becoming White: The Racial Socialization Practices of Middle-Class White Parents  
Advisor: Jennifer Malat, PhD

Vernia, Jennifer  
PhD, Spring 2017  
Synthesis, Structure and Photochemistry of Fe(III) Complexes with Tripodal Amine Chelates Containing A-Hydroxy Acid and A-Hydroxy Amide Groups  
Advisor: Michael Baldwin, PhD

Vrazo, Matthew  
PhD, Summer 2016  
Stratigraphic and Paleoecological Controls on Eurypterid Lagerstatten in the Mid-Paleozoic  
Advisor: Carlton Brett, PhD

Washburn, Auriel  
PhD, Summer 2016  
Anticipatory Synchronization in Humans and Artificial Agents  
Advisor: Michael Richardson, PhD

Wickramasuriy, Nadeeka  
PhD, Summer 2016  
Optical and Electrical Characterization of Single Semiconductor Nanowires  
Advisor: Leigh Smith, PhD

Wilson, Jerika  
PhD, Fall 2016  
Who’s Coming to Sex Therapy? Exploring Black Women’s Willingness to Seek Treatment for Sexual Problems/Dysfunctions  
Advisor: Ann Kathleen Hoard Burlew, PhD

Wise, Julia  
PhD, Summer 2016  
Towards Understanding Dissolved Organic Carbon Dynamics at the Intersection of Anthropogenic Modifications and Natural Processes of a Dryland River  
Advisor: Aaron Diefendorf, PhD

Zhang, Yue  
PhD, Summer 2016  
Bayesian Cox Models for Interval-Censored Survival Data  
Advisor: Xia Wang, PhD
Badus, Alexandre
PhD, Spring 2017
Communicating in Song: The American Sung-
Through Musical from “In Trousers” (1979) to
“Caroline, or Change” (2004)
Advisor: Bruce McClung, PhD

Chen, Hsin-Lei
DMA, Fall 2016
“V” to Transformative Lightness of Beings for
Orchestra
Advisor: Mara (Margaret) Helmuth, DMA

Eccleston, Elizabeth
DMA, Summer 2016
An Annotated Bibliography of Canadian Oboe
Concertos
Advisor: Mark Ostoich, DMA

Frechette, Erin
DMA, Spring 2017
The Pedagogy of Walfrid Kujala: The American
Flute School and its Roots in the French Flute
School of the Late Nineteenth Century
Advisor: Scott Lipscomb, PhD

Garduno-Albo, Jessica
DMA, Fall 2016
The American Bassoon School: 1900–1950
Advisor: Bruce McClung, PhD

Hammond, Orville Everett
DMA, Fall 2016
North Coast Sojourn (for Orchestra)
Advisor: Mara Helmuth, DMA

Harrison, Daniel
DMA, Spring 2017
Between Dust and Being
Advisor: Michael Fiday, PhD

Kang, Yong Sik
PhD, Fall 2016
The Symphonies of Pietro Maria Crispi
(1737–1797): Style and Authenticity
Advisor: Mary Sue Morrow, PhD

Lamont, Mackenzie
DMA, Spring 2017
Not About Posies
Advisor: Michael Fiday, PhD

Lanci, Michael
DMA, Spring 2017
Songs for Joe Hill
Advisor: Michael Fiday, PhD

Lee, Hyung Taek
DMA, Summer 2016
A Stylistic Comparison into “The Carmen
Fantasy” for Double Bass: Proto, Sankey, and
DaXun
Advisor: Albert Lazulis, MM

Magnagotto, Matteo
PhD, Summer 2016
The Interaction of Sonata Form and Schemata
Derived from Galant Practice in the First
Movements of Mozart’s Keyboard Sonatas
Advisor: Mary Sue Morrow, PhD

Park, Siryung
DMA, Spring 2017
George Rochberg’s Caprice Variations for
Unaccompanied Violin: A Stylistic Study and
Performance Guide
Advisor: Kurt Sassmannshaus, MM

Roberts, Phillip
DMA, Spring 2017
Hir em Itonu (On the Nile)
Advisor: Michael Fiday, PhD

Seok, Haerim
DMA, Summer 2016
Colloquy (2016)
Advisor: Bruce McClung, PhD

Song, Hyo Jung
DMA, Summer 2016
A Study and Performance Guide to Selected
Nori Compositions for Piano by Young Jo Lee
Advisor: Jonathan Kregor, PhD
Ali, Sarvath
PhD, Fall 2016
Masked in the Protective Act: Women, Public Housing and the Construction of “Modern/ National” identities in Kuwait
Advisor: Aarati Kanekar, PhD

Alshehri, Sami
EdD, Spring 2017
The Comparison of Physical/Virtual Manipulative on Fifth-Grade Students’ Understanding of Adding Fractions
Advisor: Sally Moomaw, EdD

Berry, Chris
PhD, Fall 2016
Perceived Neighborhood Factors on Health Status, Health Behaviors, Depressive Symptoms, and Health Care Access of Older Adults Who Have a Diabetes Diagnosis
Advisor: Lital Rojas-Guyler, PhD

Bogdaht, Amy
EdD, Fall 2016
Disciplinary Literacy in Social Studies: Changes in Teacher Candidates’ Beliefs and Attitudes
Advisor: Holly Johnson, PhD

Brockman, Becky
EdD, Summer 2016
Critical Literacy: Exploring Topics of Sexuality and Gender with Young Children
Advisor: Connie Kendall, PhD

Burbage, Michelle
PhD, Spring 2017
Lifetime Heroin Use among Americans: An Explanation of Social Determinants
Advisor: Rebecca Vidourek, PhD

Chen, Ching-Chen
EdD, Summer 2016
Psychological Individuation East and West: The Cross-Cultural Validity of a Brief Measure of Separation-Individuation
Advisor: George Richardson, PhD

Chouhy, Cecilia
PhD, Summer 2016
Collective Efficacy and Community Crime Rates: A Cross-National Test of Rival Models
Advisor: Francis Cullen, PhD

Cohen, Derek
PhD, Spring 2017
Right on Crime: Conservative Reform in the Era of Mass Incarceration
Advisor: John Wright, PhD

Collier-Green, Janae’
PhD, Spring 2017
Skin Tone, Age, and Body Image Representation in Health and Beauty Advertisements in Women’s Health Magazines
Advisor: Laura Nabors, PhD

Donovan, Lauren
PhD, Spring 2017
Examining the Effect of Performance Feedback on Family Literacy Practices
Advisor: Renee Oliver Hawkins, PhD

Engelman, Jonathan
PhD, Fall 2016
How College Students’ Conceptions of Newton’s Second and Third Laws Change Through Watching Interactive Video Vignettes: A Mixed Methods Study
Advisor: Kathleen Koeng, PhD

Fahad, Ahmed
EdD, Spring 2017
Understanding How Power and Identity Work in Interactions between Native and Non-Native English Speakers
Advisor: Holly Johnson, PhD

Ferrier, Bradley
PhD, Summer 2016
College Students’ Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors Regarding Hookah Use
Advisors: Rebecca Vidourek, PhD and Laura Nabors, PhD

Frey, Mary
PhD, Summer 2016
An Investigation of the Importance of Health Locus of Control as a Mediator between Social Support and Health Status: A Comparison of Latino vs. Non-Latino Populations
Advisor: Lisa Vaughn, PhD

Gasiewicz, Rebecca
PhD, Fall 2016
Informational Texts: Teacher Beliefs and the Elementary Classroom Phenomenon
Advisor: Holly Johnson, PhD

Haner, Murat
PhD, Fall 2016
The Freedom Fighter: A Terrorist’s Own Story
Advisor: Francis Cullen, PhD

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Association of Malaria Control Methods and Healthcare Access among Pregnant Women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
Advisors: Rebecca Vidourek, PhD and Ashley Merians, PhD
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What is Symbolic Mathematics Language Literacy? A Multilevel Mixed Methods Study of Adolescents in a Middle School  
Advisor: Vicki Plano Clark, PhD

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PhD, Fall 2016  
Using Component Analysis to Increase the Effectiveness of Function-Based Self-Management Interventions  
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PhD, Summer 2016  
Academic Identity Status and Alcohol Use among College Students: A Mixed Methods Study  
Advisor: Marcus Johnson, PhD

Igo, Teminijesu  
PhD, Summer 2016  
The Influence of Internet Information on the Knowledge, Attitudes, Behavioral Intentions and Past Behavior of Young Adults with Regard to Electronic Cigarettes (e-Cigarettes)  
Advisor: Laura Nabors, PhD

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Gamification in an Online Course: Promoting Student Achievement through Game-Like Elements  
Advisor: Victoria Carr, EdD

Janz, Stacey  
EdD, Summer 2016  
Experiencing Homelessness: An Exploratory Case Study  
Advisor: Christopher Sullivan, PhD

Headley, Marcia Gail  
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EdD, Summer 2016  
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Advisor: Christopher Sullivan, PhD

Larkin, Wallace  
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Using Trial-Based Functional Analysis to Design Effective Interventions for Students Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder  
Advisor: Renee Oliver Hawkins, PhD

Lindquist Grantz, Robin  
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Youth Participatory Action Research as a Strategy for Adolescent Suicide Prevention  
Advisor: Lisa Vaughn, PhD

McCabe, Matthew  
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A Novel Method of High-Intensity Low-Volume Exercise for Improving Health-Related Fitness and its Implications for Weight Management among College Students  
Advisor: Bradley Wilson, PhD

McHugh, Kathryn  
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Social Script to Teach Conversation Skills to Adults Significantly Impacted by ASD  
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Increasing Teachers’ Intervention Adherence through a Multi-Tiered System of Support Approach  
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Pappas, Sara  
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A Content Analysis of Online HPV Immunization Information  
Advisor: Amy Bernard, PhD

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Adoption of Street Code Attitudes among Latinos and its Effects on Criminal Offending  
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My Hair or Health: Investigating the Impact of Hair Care and Maintenance on the Health of African American Women  
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Cumulative Disadvantage across the Life Course: Results from a Nationally Representative Sample  
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Redemption in an Era of Penal Harm: Moving Beyond Offender Exclusion  
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Marijuana and African American Youth: Exploring Parenting Behaviors and Characteristics of Acquisition Associated with Marijuana Use  
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Accurately Assessed Stress, Attachment Style and Coping Style of Mainland Chinese International Students in the United States  
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Numerical Analysis of Turbulent Flows in Channels of Complex Geometry  
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Design and Analysis of Efficient Adaptive Algorithms for Active Control of Vehicle Interior Sound  
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Data Aggregation in Healthcare Applications and BGGAM set in a FOG based Cloud System  
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Prognostics and Health Management of Engineering Systems Using Minimal Sensing Techniques  
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Gilpin, Andrew  
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Environmental Behavior of Silver Nanoparticles: Emissions from Consumer Products and Toxicity in Waste Treatment  
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Algorithmic Mechanism Design for Data Aggregation Problems  
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multiphysics Gas Phase Pyrolysis Synthesis of Carbon Nanotube yarn and Sheet  
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Modelling of Machine Life Using Accelerated Prognostics and Health Management (APHM) and Enhanced Deep Learning Methodology  
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Point-of-Care Sensors for Determination of Manganese in Clinical Applications  
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Evaluating the Constituent Leaching from Fluor Gas Desulfurization Gypsum (FGDG) Under Different Leaching Conditions, In Geochemical Interactions with Maize Soil Constituents and Identifying Potential Beneficial Applications  
Advisor: Dimyond Dinyisya, PhD

Lee, Gil Jun  
PhD, Spring 2017  
Design and Analysis of a Novel Squash Test Apparatus Developed for Objective Rating of Squash Propensity and Its Application  
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Synthesis of Quantified Impact of Connected Vehicles on Traffic Mobility, Safety, and Emission: Methodology and Simulated Effect for Freeway Facilities  
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A Bayesian Framework for Uncertainty Quantification in Soft Tissue Mechanics: Application to Traumatic Brain Injury  
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Processing, Characterization and Applications of Aligned Carbon Nanotube Sheets  
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Sustained Release Micro-Implants for Delivery of Hydrophobic Drugs to Treat Vitreoretinal Diseases
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Secure Trust Establishment in an Internet of Things Framework
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Studies on Ion Transport in Mesoporous and Microporous Inorganic Membranes as Ion Separators for Redox Flow Batteries
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Investigation of the Noise Radiation from Heated Supersonic Jets
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Design, Modeling and Control of a Tilting Rotor Quadcopter
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Processing and Characterization of Graphene/Polyamide-Nickel Oxide Hybrid Nanocomposites for Advanced Energy Storage in Supercapacitor Applications
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Assessment of the Severity of Aortic Stenosis Using Aortic Valve Coefficients
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Investigation of Erosive Flow Injected Through Apertures into a Narrow Annulus
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Digital Signal Processing Methods for Safety Systems Employed in Nuclear Power Industry
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Rendering Secured Connectivity in a Wireless IoT Mesh Network with WPAII and VANE's
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Characterization of Cavitation Effects in Therapeutic Ultrasound: Sonophoresis Experiments and Quantitative Emission Measurements
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Processing and Properties of Nanocomposite Thin Films for Microfabricated Solid-Oxide Fuel Cells
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Intelligent Machine Learning Approaches for Aerospace Applications
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Advisor: Teik Lim, PHD

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Continuous Physiological Monitoring Enabled by Novel Sweat Stimulation, Collection and Sweat Rate Correlations
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Patient-Specific Instruments for Total Hip Arthroplasty
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Development and Evaluation of Technologies for Neurological Assessment
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DHT-based Collaborative Web Translation
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Wang, Guangyu
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An MD-SPH Coupled Method for the Simulation of Reactive Energetic Materials
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Improving Performance and Reliability of Flash Memory Based Solid State Storage Systems
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Wang, Tawan
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Vibration and Sound Radiation Analysis of Vehicle Powertrain Systems with Right-Angle Geared Drive
Advisor: Teik Lim, PHD

Wessman, Andrew
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Physical Metallurgy of Rene 65, a Next-Generation Cast and Forged Nickel Superalloy for Use in Aero Engine Components
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Zhang, Lu
PHD, Fall 2016
Study of Novel Graphene Structures for Energy Storage Applications
Advisor: Vesselin Shanov, PHD

Zhang, Yi
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Groupwise Distance Learning Algorithm for User Recommendation Systems
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Zheng, Lina
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Studies on the Elemental Measurement of Aerosols Using Micropulse Spectroscopy
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Zhuang, Mobing
PHD, Summer 2016
Effects of Chemical Dispersion on Biodegradation of Petroleum
Advisor: George Sorial, PHD
Bell, Kristin
PhD, Summer 2016
The Role of Kupffer’s Cell Factor 5 in Normal Intestinal Homeostasis
Advisor: Noah Shroyer, PhD

Betz, Kristina
PhD, Summer 2016
Immunoglobulin A Dynamics in Rotavirus and S. typhimurium infection
Advisor: Sean Moore, MS, MD

Bick, Gregory
PhD, Summer 2016
Uncovering the Roles of RNF8 Ubiquitin Signaling Networks and BRCA1 in Recruiting Fanconi Anemia Proteins to DNA Damage
Advisor: Paul Andreassen, PhD

Chen, Xiaoyi
PhD, Spring 2017
Role of Autophagy in Normal and Malignant Hematopoiesis
Advisor: Yi Zheng, PhD

Dade, Jessica
PhD, Summer 2016
HcZrt2, a Zinc Transporter and Nutritional Virulence Determinant in Histoplasma capsulatum
Advisor: George Deepe, MD

Fecher, Roger
PhD, Summer 2016
Inverse Correlation between IL-10 and HIF-1α in Macrophages infected with Histoplasma capsulatum
Advisor: George Deepe, MD

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PhD, Spring 2017
Interrogating the Mechanisms Underlying the Immunopathogenesis of Obesity and its Associated Sequelae
Advisor: Senad Divanovic, PhD

Glauert, Michelle
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Characterization of a Novel Mouse Model for Angiosarcoma in which Combined Inhibition of mTOR and MEK Results in Tumor Suppression
Advisor: Lionel Chow, MD, PhD

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Hepatic Lypi Deficiency and the Development of Neonatal Cholestatic Fatty Liver Disease
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A Tale of Two Cell Populations: Anesthetic Effects on Immature Dendritic Granule Cells and Cortical Interneurons
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Targeting β-Catenin in MPMSTIs
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Reproductive Benefits Conferred by Genetically Foreign Cells that Persist in Mothers and Offspring
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Type I IFN Control of Sterile Inflammation: Uncovering Mechanisms behind Autoimmunity and Antitumor Immunity
Advisor: Edith Janssen, PhD

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Exploiting genetic Vulnerabilities to Overcome Treatment Resistance in Adult Glomas
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The Role of Brm in Determining Thymic and Peripheral T-Cell Fate
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Modeling and Analysis of Acute Leukemia
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X Chromosome Gene Dosage in Autoimmune Disease Susceptibility and B-Cell Development
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Matrika, Marie
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Oncogenic Phenotypes Induced by Overexpression of the Dek Proto-Oncogene
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Hormonal Influence on Insulin Transport through the Blood-Brain Barrier and Hypothalamic Inflammation
Advisor: Min Liu, PhD

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Insights into the Molecular Determinants Required for DNA Family Mediated Inhibition of BMP Signaling
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Rydeen, Ariel
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Requirements for Cyp26 Enzymes in Cardiac Development
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Elucidating the Pathogenesis of Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis
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Executive Function in Adolescents with and At-Risk for Bipolar Disorder
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Advisor: Andrew Herr, PhD

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Mechanism of Human Hematopoietic Stem Cell Loss during Ex Vivo Manipulation and Gene Transfer
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The Benefits and Costs of Environmental Enrichment
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BMP Signaling and Intersecting Molecular Mechanisms in Cardiac Aortic Valve Disease
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Genomic Integration of Wnt/ß-Catenin and BMP/Smad1 Signaling Coordinates Digestive System Development
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The Structural, Biophysical, and Functional Characterization of the CSL-RITA Complex: Similarities and Differences in Notch Transcriptional Regulation
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Bilirubin Modulates Leukocyte Recruitment to Sites of Inflammation
Advisor: Stephen Zucker, MD

Walker, Ryan
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Structural and Biochemical Studies on Ligands and Antagonists within the Transforming Growth Factor ß Family
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The Role of GSK3ß-CUGBP1 Pathway in the Correction of Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1 Muscle Pathology
Advisor: Lubov Timchenko, PhD

Costanzo, Amy
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The Culture of Interprofessional Collaborative Practice on Two Adult Acute-Care Medical-Surgical Units
Advisor: Donna Shambley-Ebron, PhD

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How Pediatric Critical Care Nurses Manage Their Work-Related Grief: A Focused Ethnography
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Morrison, Caroline
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Self-Management by Adolescents and Young Adults Following a Stem Cell Transplant
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Antecedents of Cancer-Related Fatigue in a Pediatric Population
Advisor: Beverly Reigle, PhD

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Patient Experience of Older Adults with Multimorbidity in a Model of Care Coordination
Advisor: Donna Martsolf, PhD, RN

Weber, Jillian
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A Grounded Theory Study of How Homeless Veterans Manage Their Chronic Health Problems
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Prevalence, Predictors, and Economic Impact of Drug-Drug Interaction Associated with Antipsychotic Medications among Adults in the United States
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An In Vitro Method for Measuring the Dissolution and Release of Suspended Solids from Coacervates on the Skin Surface
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Risk of Acute Liver Injury Associated with the Use of Orlisat: Cohort and Self-Controlled Case Series Studies Using the MarketScan® Commercial Claims Database
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Intarakumhaeng, Rattikorn
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Factors Influencing Percutaneous Absorption: Effects of Solvents, Solute Physicochemical Properties, and Penetration Enhancer
Advisor: Kevin Li, PhD

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