September 1, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Graduate Department Heads, Program Directors and Program Coordinators

FROM: Yonatan Eyal
Director of Graduate Studies, Graduate School

RE: Call for Nominations: 2018 MAGS Distinguished Master’s Thesis Awards

Full-time faculty members are invited to nominate graduate students who have written outstanding theses within the two broad categories of Biological & Life Sciences and the Humanities for the 2018 Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Distinguished Master’s Thesis Awards. The students chosen by the Graduate School selection committee to represent UC in the MAGS Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award will each receive a $150 prize. Nominees must meet the criteria on the 2018 MAGS Thesis Guidelines, described below. Students who earned a master’s degree between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017—a two year span—are eligible to be nominated. All nominations must be made by the student’s faculty advisor/mentor or graduate program director.

The nomination application must include
1) The abstract of the nominated thesis. The abstract, describing the research and its significance, must not exceed 300 words and must contain the title of the thesis and the name of the author, but not UC’s name.
2) The thesis.
3) The student’s resume (one page only, please) with current contact information (email, phone and address).
4) A letter from the student’s faculty mentor.

The nomination application is due to Megan Tischner in the Graduate School no later than 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017. Please see the submission guidelines below for details.

The UC Graduate School’s selection committee will then select one thesis in each category to serve as UC’s nominations to MAGS for entry in the regional selection process. The two theses selected to represent UC in the regional competition will be announced by Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017.

Each recipient of the regional MAGS Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award will receive a $750 honorarium. In addition, up to $500 will be available to each recipient for travel expenses to attend the MAGS Annual Meeting, April 4-6, 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI. Should a UC nominee win this award, the Graduate School will cover any travel expenses which exceed the $500 provided by MAGS for the awardee to attend the meeting to receive the award. The faculty mentor or thesis advisor will also be invited to attend the presentation ceremony.

Please direct any questions to Megan Tischner at 513-556-2379 or megan.tischner@uc.edu.

* Students who have written theses within the categories of Social Sciences and Physical Sciences/Engineering will be eligible next year for the 2019 cycle.
MAGS Thesis Guidelines

1. To be considered, a thesis must contain original work that makes *an unusually significant contribution to the discipline*. It must be in a format that conforms to accepted disciplinary standards, and it must have been accepted as final by the degree-granting institution. Theses submitted electronically will normally be in pdf format; hyperlinks to additional materials may be included but must be verified prior to submission. Any program wishing to submit a thesis in another electronic format should consult with the Graduate School Office (megan.tischner@uc.edu) prior to doing so.

2. Nominations will be accepted in the disciplines of Biological & Life Sciences and the Humanities in which UC offers a master’s degree. Original works accepted by a program “in lieu of thesis” (such as musical compositions, published books, works of art, computer software, etc.) may *not* be nominated.

3. A nominee must have been awarded the master’s degree within the *two-year span* of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017. Since the intent of the competition is to recognize scholarship by students who are pursuing their first graduate research degree, individuals who received a PhD degree (or comparable research degree) in any discipline prior to the writing of the master’s thesis are not eligible. However, recipients of a first professional degree awarded prior to the writing of the thesis may be nominated.

Submission Guidelines

All nomination materials must be submitted **electronically** to Megan Tischner, c/o the Graduate School. Submit all materials **together** (in the same email or cloud storage folder) by **5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017**. Incomplete and late submissions will be rejected, **no exceptions**.

Send nomination applications to Megan Tischner, via email attachment or shared cloud storage folder, at megan.tischner@uc.edu.