GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

U.S. SENATOR PHIL GRAMM DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY

2020

OCTOBER 21, 2020 | 11:00 AM
COLLEGE STATION, TX

SALUTE TO GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION WEEK
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF DR. PHIL GRAMM, FORMER U.S. SENATOR FROM TEXAS AND FORMER PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, FOR MAKING THIS PROGRAM POSSIBLE. HIS LEGACY OF SCHOLARSHIP AND PUBLIC SERVICE ARE TESTIMONIAL TO HIS COMMITMENT TO GRADUATE EDUCATION AND THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND MENTORING BY TEXAS A&M GRADUATE STUDENTS.
ORDER OF EVENTS

WELCOME

DR. KAREN BUTLER-PURRY
ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

DR. JULIE HARLIN
ASSISTANT PROVOST FOR GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

CLOSING REMARKS

DR. KAREN BUTLER-PURRY
ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Michaela Baca is a doctoral candidate in the Department of English. Her research is focused on later medieval and early modern women’s writing and feminist book history and bibliography. Her dissertation rethinks the role of book ownership and authorship specific to Tudor queenship and its impact on commercial women’s authorship.

The archival research for her dissertation, conducted primarily at the British Library and the Free Library of Philadelphia, was supported by her department and a Glasscock Center for Humanities Research’s Graduate Research Fellowship. Her work on Mary I will appear in a forthcoming edited collection as part of Palgrave Macmillan’s Queenship and Power series.

In addition to her research, Michaela enjoys teaching, writing, and literature in the English department, where she enjoys integrating digital approaches to texts and questioning the power dynamics of canon creation with her students. Her teaching has been recognized by the Staley Creswell Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Fasken Graduate Student Teaching Award, and the Association of Former Students Distinguished Graduate Student Award for Teaching. Michaela plans to defend her dissertation in January 2021.
Kimberly Clough is a PhD Candidate in the Department of English where she studies transnational literature in the long twentieth century. Her dissertation explores literary representations of Muslim women's veiling practices. Refuting assumptions of uncritical religious observance or coerced covering, Muslim writers evidence self-reflection about veiling practices as performative of identity.

She has presented her research at international academic convenings and been awarded travel grants to attend these events. As instructor of record at Texas A&M University, she has taught multiple courses from introductory composition to upper division literature.

Her teaching has been recognized by the Association of Former Students Distinguished Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching. She currently works as a graduate assistant researcher for the Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Evaluation where she assists in assessment initiatives.
Carolyn Gunthardt is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Chemistry. Her research focuses on studying the photodissociation dynamics of small molecules, including ozone.

She has received multiple awards for her research, including the Thomas Hairston Memorial Graduate Scholarship and the Dow Chemical Graduate Scholarship. Her research has resulted in numerous publications, including an article published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

In addition to research, Carolyn has served as a teaching assistant for general and physical chemistry laboratories and mentored five undergraduate researchers. She has a passion for teaching and was awarded the Chemistry First Year Program Teaching Assistant Award.

Carolyn is the recipient of an Intelligence Community Postdoctoral Fellowship. During this fellowship she will be working at the University of Michigan studying spectroscopy with entangled photons.
Shreedevi Arun Kumar (Shree) is a fifth year PhD candidate in Dr. Akhilesh Gaharwar’s laboratory in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. She received her bachelor’s in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry at Rutgers University. Her research is focused on developing drug delivery platforms for various biomedical applications including vaccine delivery and cancer therapy.

She successfully developed a biodegradable, injectable vaccine delivery platform that can potentially withstand the harsh transportation conditions often experienced in developing countries. This platform can also be activated upon injection by the medical staff providing additional personalized control over the delivery of the vaccine.

Shree has published her results in peer-reviewed journals and has presented in several national conferences. Shree also pursued entrepreneurial efforts to commercialize this technology by participating in NSF I-corps Site program.

In addition to academic research, Shree is also passionate about teaching and is an Academy of Future Faculty Fellow. She also received a Graduate Teaching Fellowship which enabled her to serve as an instructor of record in the Department of Biomedical Engineering for two semesters. She has also mentored several undergraduate students in research and would like to continue her contributions to life science research and teaching after obtaining her doctorate.
MICKEY RAY PARKER

DEPARTMENT OF RANGELAND, WILDLIFE, & FISHERIES MANAGEMENT | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
FACULTY ADVISOR: DR. LEE FITZGERALD

Mickey Parker is a PhD Candidate in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB) Doctoral Program. In addition to being part of the EEB Program, Mickey is an active member of the Applied Biodiversity Science Program, as well as his home department, the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology. Mickey's dissertation research focuses on restoring populations of declining species, specifically the dunes sagebrush lizard, through conservation translocations.

He has presented research at local, national, and international meetings 17 times and has co-authored seven peer-reviewed journal articles, technical notes, and book chapters.

Over the course of his career, Mickey has mentored at least 20 undergraduate students. He brings his passion for teaching aspiring biologists to the classroom at Texas A&M University, where he has been the lab instructor for three courses. Mickey plans to graduate in fall 2021 and pursue a career in academia.
Jordan Rogan is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology (ECCB) and a member of the Applied Biodiversity Science (ABS) multi-disciplinary doctoral program. Her dissertation research takes a multi-disciplinary approach to assess the impact of anthropogenic land-use change on mammal biodiversity in Monteverde, Costa Rica.

She has taught two undergraduate lab courses for multiple semesters, as well as a selection of guest lectures. Jordan has also served as a mentor for several Texas A&M undergraduate students and two international students (from Costa Rica and Peru) as research and field assistants for her doctoral research in Costa Rica.

She was additionally selected as a mentor for six undergraduate students for the ABS Conservation Scholars Program funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation from 2017-18. Jordan has actively engaged in STEM outreach in the community, and in various leadership and service roles through multiple student organizations and university committees including the entirely student-led science and research exhibition, The Ecological Integration Symposium.

She has received several awards, including a Fulbright U.S. Student Program Fellowship for which she spent over a year in Costa Rica conducting her dissertation research. During her time in Costa Rica, she engaged with the local community and provided information and access to conservation incentive programs. She will present her final thesis to the community to aid in on-the-ground, collaborative conservation initiatives, and hopes to remain involved in contributing to conservation efforts in the region.
DAVID W. SULLIVAN

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT | MAY S BUSINESS SCHOOL
FACULTY ADVISOR: DR. MURRAY R. BARRICK

David W. Sullivan is a PhD candidate within the Department of Management in the Mays Business School. His dissertation, chaired by Dr. Murray Barrick, focuses on the manifestation projects examining topics such as person-environment fit, performance management, and gender bias.

Thus far, Dave’s work has been published in the Journal of Applied Psychology and the Journal of Management. In connection to his research activity, Dave has also mentored a team of students through the Aggie Research Mentoring Program and has taught two sections of managing human recourses.

He has been recognized by the Mays Business School for both his research and teaching productivity with the 2019 Dean’s Award for Outstanding Research and the 2020 Dean’s ward for Outstanding Teaching by a Doctoral Student.

From a service perspective, Dave has also served as a Doctoral student Representative for the Human Resource Division for the Academy of Management. Dave plans to defend his dissertation in spring 2021.
A Professor of Economics at Texas A&M University for 12 years, Senator Gramm received his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He has published numerous articles and books on subjects ranging from monetary theory and policy, to private property, and the economics of mineral extraction.

Senator Gramm was elected to serve in the United States Congress form the State of Texas in 1978, and in 1984, was elected to serve as United States Senator. He spent 24 years in the Legislature, working on important Senate and Congressional Committees and authoring major budgetary, welfare, and homeland security reforms.

A Wall Street Journal article said, "Mr. Gramm's... political career represents the arc of our times. From the policy confusion and economic turmoil of the 1970's, we have moved to an era of sounder policy and more durable prosperity... Free markets now occupy the moral and policy high ground in America and most of the rest of the world, but none of this happened by accident. It required years of policy argument and intellectual conviction by people like Phil Gramm."

Currently, Senator Gramm is Senior Advisor to U.S. Policy Metrics, an economic and public policy research firm in Washington, D.C., serving asset managers, hedge funds, and the investor community.

He is married to Dr. Wendy Lee Gramm, a former member of the The Texas A&M System Board of Regents and former Chairman of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission under both President Reagan and President Bush. They have two sons - Marshal, Class of 2000, and Jeff.