ORDER OF EVENTS

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
Dr. George Cunningham | Senior Asst. Provost
Dr. Karen Butler-Purry | Associate Provost

PRESENTATION OF Awardees
Dr. Kritika Kothari | Biological & Agricultural Engineering
Dr. Mary Reagan | Humanities & Fine Arts
Dr. Katherine Ann Calle Willyard | Social Sciences
Dr. Akshi Singla | Mathematics, Physical Sciences, & Engineering

NATIONAL COMPETITION NOMINATION
Dr. George Cunningham | Senior Asst. Provost

CONGRATULATIONS
Dr. Karen Butler-Purry | Associate Provost

CLOSING
Dr. George Cunningham | Senior Asst. Provost
Dr. Kritika Kothari is a former doctoral student in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at Texas A&M University. Dr. Kothari also holds a Bachelor of Science from G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology and a Master of Science from the Indian Institute of Technology.

Dr. Kothari's dissertation focused on assessing climate uncertainty effects on crop production for two agricultural regions in Texas: the Texas High Plains and the Edwards Aquifer regions. She used model simulations to assess the impacts of climate change on agricultural crops. Results from Dr. Kothari's dissertation are very useful to farmers and irrigation water managers in these two important agricultural regions in Texas in coping with climate change and reduced water availability for crop production in the future.

Dr. Kothari is currently a post-doctoral scholar in the Department of Plan and Soil Sciences at the University of Kentucky.
Dr. Mary Reagan is a former doctoral student in the Department of English at Texas A&M University. Dr. Reagan also holds a Bachelor of Arts from California State University at Northridge, a Master of Arts in Literature from Texas State University, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence in Law from the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Katherine Ann Calle Willyard is a former doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at Texas A&M University. She also holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science from Texas A&M University. Dr. Willyard specializes in the study of political economy and organizations, and applies her theoretical perspective to understand the influence of corporations on environmental pollution.

Her dissertation project, which received financial support from numerous sources, including the National Science Foundation, examined the impact of organizational and community characteristics, and regulatory factors on Texas oil and gas venting and flaring. Results from her dissertation suggest how recent research on the structural determinates of global climate change might be advanced by focusing on methane producing activities by the oil and gas extraction industry using restricted Census data.

Dr. Willyard is currently a Survey Statistician with the United States Census Bureau.
Dr. Akshi Singla is a former doctoral student in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Texas A&M University. Dr. Singla also holds a Bachelor of Technology from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.

Dr. Singla’s dissertation focused on understanding how living organisms utilize cell membrane molecules to control biological processes. She discovered the mechanism bacteria used to first latch on to a cell before an infection sets in. Dr. Singla developed a new drug delivery system to attack the bacteria where it creates the infection, effectively turning the bacteria’s latching mechanism against it.

She has spent the last five years researching the vexing problem of antibiotic resistance. Dr. Singla is currently a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Gothenburg.