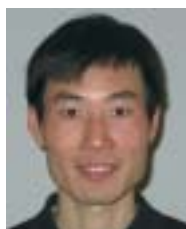


Alumni Association Dissertation Award Winners Spring 2003



Deborah C. Blaine, Ph.D. Candidate in Engineering Science and Mechanics
(Adviser: Dr. Randall German)

Deborah's research involves using finite element methods to model sintering, consequently developing a sinter cycle design advisor from the modeling results. Deborah was the recipient of the 2002 Axel Madsen Center for Powder Metallurgy Technology Scholarship. She has co-authored three manuscripts related to her dissertation work and has presented at several professional meetings and conferences.



Hongchang Cui, Ph.D. Candidate in Plant Physiology
(Adviser: Dr. Nina Fedoroff)

Hongchang's research addresses one of the most fundamental questions in current biological research: how are genes regulated by DNA methylation? DNA methylation is essential for normal growth and development. His project is likely to have important practical applications in agriculture. In 2002, Hongchang received a Keystone Conference Scholarship.



Douglas N. Dow, Ph.D. Candidate in Art History
(Adviser: Dr. Brian Curran)

Douglas' dissertation represents the first serious study of the frescoes of the Chioostro dello Scalzo in Florence. The title of his dissertation is "Confraternal Piety and Corporate Patronage: The Frescoes of the Life of the Baptist in the Chioostro dello Scalzo, Florence." He has presented at a variety of professional conferences in the United States and Italy.



Jessica Enoch, Ph.D. Candidate in English
(Adviser: Dr. Cheryl Glenn)

Jessica's dissertation topic, "Contested Education: The Resistant Rhetorics of Lydia Child, Zitkala Ša, Jovita Idar, and Soledad Flores de Pena," will make a significant contribution to education, rhetoric, and composition studies. She has several publications and has presented at numerous professional conferences. In 1999, and again in 2001, Jessica was the recipient of an excellence in teaching award.



Clara Fang, Ph.D. Candidate in Civil Engineering
(Adviser: Dr. Lily Elefteriadou)

Clara Fang's dissertation title is "Optimal Adaptive Signal Control for Diamond Interchange Using Dynamic Programming." She has published several papers in international journals and conference proceedings. In 2002, Clara Fang received the Carmen E. Turner Fellowship from the Women's Transportation Institute.

Alumni Association Dissertation Award Winners Spring 2003



Amy L. Griffin, Ph.D. Candidate in Geography

(Adviser: Dr. Alan MacEachren)

Amy was a Fulbright Scholar in 1997-98 and a University Graduate Fellow at Penn State in 1998-99. Since 1999, she has been a National Defense Science and Engineering Fellow. Amy's dissertation will describe and evaluate how different types of user-interface devices for interactive computing allow scientists to interact with a geographical simulation model and promote knowledge creation among users.



Brian D. Johnson, Ph.D. Candidate in Crime, Law, and Justice

(Adviser: Dr. John Kramer)

Brian's dissertation is titled "The Multilevel Contexts of Criminal Sentencing." Since 2001, he has received the Forrest Crawford Graduate Fellowship for Ethical Inquiry. He has given oral presentations at a number of professional meetings.



David J. Proctor, Ph.D. Candidate in Chemistry

(Adviser: Dr. Philip Bevilacqua)

David's dissertation research involves fundamental studies of the molecular basis for thermodynamic stability in RNA structure. David demonstrates a great deal of self-initiative and is committed to excellence in all he does. He has presented at numerous professional meetings and has co-authored two publications.



Yumiko Sakuragi, Ph.D. Candidate in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Microbiology

(Adviser: Dr. Donald Bryant)

Yumiko's dissertation title is "Identification and Genetic Modification of the Biosynthetic Pathways of Phylloquinone (Vitamin K1), Plastoquinone, and alpha Tocopherol (Vitamin E)." Yumiko has the extraordinary ability to communicate the results of her research to others. She has an outstanding list of ten publications and given many oral and poster presentations.



Timothy A. Slack, Ph.D. Candidate in Rural Sociology

(Adviser: Dr. Leif Jensen)

Timothy has an abiding interest in issues of poverty and inequality in rural America. His dissertation topic is "Alternative Economic Strategies Among Low-Income Rural Households." In 2002, his grant proposal submitted to the Rural Sociological Society was funded. He has co-authored several manuscripts and book chapters. Timothy has presented at five professional conferences.