

EIGHTH ANNUAL

GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL AWARDS

University of Missouri

Celebrate!

The Graduate School
The Graduate Professional Council
Office of Postdoctoral Education

LETTER FROM THE DEAN



Colleagues,

We are so happy to be able to ease into in person celebrations once again. It is particularly special to gather to honor, recognize, and celebrate the outstanding achievements of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, and those faculty and staff who provide unwavering support and mentorship to them.

As you will discover throughout this program, those who are part of our graduate and postdoctoral communities are critical to our success as a university and to our teaching, scholarship, and engagement missions. This event would not be possible without the time and commitment of many individuals. I would like to thank the Graduate Faculty Senate and its Awards Committee and the faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars who reviewed award nominations. They had to make very difficult decisions among such accomplished nominees.

I would also like to thank the graduate student leaders in GPC and the postdoctoral leaders in MUPA, who advocate for their constituencies daily, and who find time to single out individuals who have made a difference at Mizzou.

Finally, I extend my gratitude to my colleagues in the Graduate School and Office of Postdoctoral Education for their contributions to this awards event and to their ongoing work to improve the lives of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

Please share this program with friends and family. Take a moment to express gratitude, joy, and pride for the successes achieved. Never take for granted the many talents and gifts Mizzou's graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, faculty, and staff possess. It is a privilege to work with, advocate for, and celebrate this community.

Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeni Hart". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jeni Hart



Jeni Hart, PhD
DEAN OF THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL
AND VICE PROVOST FOR
GRADUATE STUDIES

GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL



2021 - 2022 Executive Board

Amanda Hoffman	President
Kyle Betts	Vice President
Juliet Okpasuo	Treasurer
Maliha Islam	Secretary
Ann Obadan	Director of Professional Development
Patrick Bokolo	Director of Programming
Blessing Okafor	Director of Public Relations
Jeffrey Ehimuh	Director of National Affairs
Lexi Jackson Hall	Director of State Affairs

2022 - 2023 Executive Board

Parker D. Owens	President
Mary Dickson-Amagada	Vice President
Juliet Okpasuo	Treasurer
Elizabeth Taylor	Secretary
Jessica Osase	Director of Professional Development
Patrick Bokolo	Director of Programming
Blessing Okafor	Director of Public Relations
Emmie Harcourt	Director of National Affairs
Lexi Jackson Hall	Director of State Affairs

Gold Chalk Award

The Gold Chalk Award recognizes University of Missouri faculty who have made significant contributions to the education and training of graduate and professional students. For the past 33 years, GPC has recognized over 200 outstanding and well-deserving faculty. Each year this award is given to four faculty members across varying fields of study who demonstrate not only excellence in teaching, but who also exhibit compassion and a commitment to the education and wellbeing of graduate and professional students.

Professional School



Paul Litton
SCHOOL OF LAW

Humanities and Fine Arts



Amanda Hinnant, PhD
JOURNALISM

Natural and Mathematical Science



Soren Larsen, PhD
GEOGRAPHY

Social and Behavioral Science



James Endersby, PhD
TRUMAN SCHOOL GOV & PUB AFFRS

Excellence in Teaching Award

The GPC Excellence in Teaching Award honors a graduate or professional student who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to teaching and education. This award celebrates the teaching excellence of graduate and professional students as they provide quality education to others, and the student's adherence to Mizzou's core values of respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence



Elizabeth Dorssom
POLITICAL SCIENCE



Bini Sebastian
SHP/HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

International Student Award

The GPC International Student Award is an award that honors an international graduate or professional student who shows exemplary leadership and service to the university and to the international student community. This award celebrates the accomplishments of international graduate and professional students through their hard work, dedication, and adherence to Mizzou's core values of respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence.



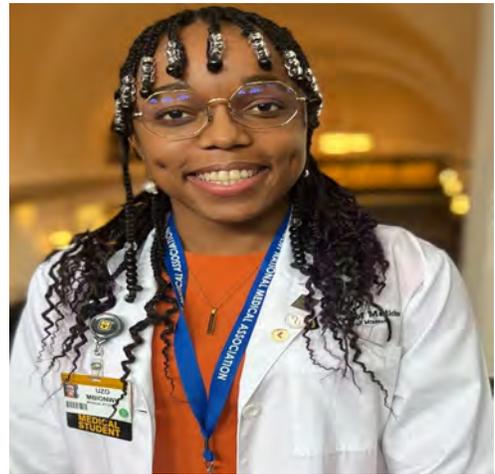
Rishabh Mahendra
AGRIC & APPLIED ECON

Excellence in Student Leadership Award

The GPC Excellence in Student Leadership Award honors a graduate or professional student who shows exemplary leadership in service to graduate and professional students at the University of Missouri. This award celebrates the accomplishments of graduate students through their hard work, dedication, and adherence to Mizzou's core values of respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence.



David Beckwitt
POLITICAL SCIENCE



Uzoamaka Mbionwu
MEDICINE

Graduate Support Staff Award

This special recognition is given to one departmental staff person who exemplifies outstanding service to graduate students. In the past this award was formerly called the Graduate Student Association (GSA) Graduate Support Staff Recognition Award.



Holly Oswald
CHEMISTRY

Excellence in Research

Every year GPC honors outstanding graduate and professional students for their handwork and dedication to their own work, the Mizzou community, and to the world. This year GPC created the Excellence in Research award to specifically honor the research work and achievements of our outstanding graduate and professional student population.



Omiya Hassan
ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGR



Emily Lessner
PATHOBIOLOGY AREA PROGRAM

Outstanding GA Member Award

Every year GPC continues its mission to bring together graduate and professional students from across to work together to promote and advocate for the graduate and professional student community. The work that we do could not be done without the those graduate and professional students serving as student Representatives to the General Assembly. Each year the Executive Board recognizes outstanding Representatives, who not only dedicate their time, but also demonstrate a high level of service and commitment to the graduate and professional student population.



Tuwilika Elias
TRUMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Johanna Milord
COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY

MU Distinguished Dissertation Award

MU Distinguished Master's Thesis Award

The Distinguished Dissertation and Thesis Awards honor the top-ranked dissertation and thesis across all disciplines



Title: "The Etiologic, Theory-based, Ontogenetic Hierarchical Framework of Alcohol Use Disorder"

Cassandra Boness PhD
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES



Title: "An Analysis of Katharina Sieverding's Schlachifeld Deutschland XI/78"

Jordan Rhodes
VISUAL STUDIES

Donald K. Anderson Awards

The Donald K. Anderson awards honor graduate students who perform exceptionally in graduate teaching and research assistantships. These honorees have excelled not only in their teaching abilities and research productivity but also in mentoring their peers and undergraduate students.

Research Assistant Award

Teaching Assistant Award



Maryluz Hoyos Ensuncho
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY



Kanishka Sikligar
CHEMISTRY

MU POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION

2021- 2022 MUPA Board

Musfique Ahmed	Co-Chair
Megan Sheridan	Co-Chair
Kimberly Davenport	Social & Special Interest Chair
Lauren Hamilton	Finance Chair
Skylar King	Communications & Marketing Chair
Sara McMullin	GPC Representative
Laura Ridenour	Professional Development Chair
Akashdeep Singh Virk	Awards Chair



Postdoctoral Research Award

Postdoctoral Teaching Award

The Postdoctoral Research Award recognizes exceptional research quality, productivity, innovation, and mentorship of students. The Postdoctoral Teaching Award recognizes exceptional teaching skills, instructional design, and support of students. These postdocs are top-ranked amongst their peers.



Dulpeng Cai, PhD
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



Joseph Gunn, PhD
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Postdoctoral Faculty Mentor Award

This award represents an appreciation for a faculty member who has demonstrated a profound leadership contribution to improving the postdoctoral experience and supporting postdoctoral scholars on our campus.



Elizabeth King, PhD
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Postdoctoral Grant Recipients, Fall 2021

The MU Office of Postdoctoral Education Research Grant Program supports postdoctoral scholars in developing their independent research program. Recipients are selected based on the quality, innovation, and significance of their research proposal.



Harriet Fitzgerald, PhD
ANIMAL SCIENCES



Eleni Galata Bickell, PhD
APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

Postdoctoral Grant Recipients, Spring 2022



Knoo Lee, PhD
NURSING



Taylor Kelty, PhD
NUTRITION AND EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY

MU Campus Winner of the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Excellence in Teaching Award

This award recognizes students who exemplify excellence in the teaching and learning mission of MAGS member universities. Our MU campus awardee demonstrates exceptional contributions to teaching, innovative instructional design to promote student learning, and an interest in a faculty or teaching career.



Genevieve Caffrey
LEARNING, TEACHING AND CURRICULUM

Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Foundation Award - MU Robert Epstein Scholarship in International Studies

This prestigious scholarship is given to one exceptional graduate student on our campus who is majoring in the fields of international relations, public service, political science, diplomacy, history or the humanities, reflecting President Truman's interest and involvement in those areas.



Yujin Julia Jung
POLITICAL SCIENCE

MU Graduate Faculty Mentor Award

The Graduate Faculty Mentor Award recognizes the quality mentoring a graduate faculty advisor has provided to graduate students as well as their dedication to graduate student success.



Becca Hayes, PhD
ENGLISH

Sandra K. Abell Science Education Award

The Sandra K. Abell Award is given to recognize the outstanding achievements of a graduate student pursuing Ph.D. studies in a life or physical science who has demonstrated a commitment to science and college science teaching, as well as scholarly excellence. This Award is given in honor of Sandi Abell, who dedicated her career to promoting science education.



Glenn Gilyot
CHEMISTRY

Professor Mary Elizabeth Gutermuth Award for Community Engagement

Gutermuth was a French language scholar and MU Ph.D. who taught for many years at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. Her endowment gift to the Graduate School recognizes students who have demonstrated excellence in service to the community through engaged scholarship.



Brittany Fatoma
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY



Heather Heckman-McKenna
ENGLISH

MU Outstanding Director of Graduate Studies

The Outstanding Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) Award honors a faculty member who is serving as a DGS for their exceptional leadership and commitment to their graduate program and graduate students. The awardee demonstrates innovative practices in graduate education, strong support and advocacy of graduate students, and significant advancements or positive contributions to their graduate program.



Joan Hermsen
SOCIOLOGY