2009 Giles T. Brown Outstanding Thesis Award

The Office of Graduate Studies is pleased to announce the 2009 Giles T. Brown Outstanding Thesis Award competition. The 2009 award consists of an engraved plaque and $1,000 to the recipient which will be presented at the 2009 Honors Convocation in May. The recipient's thesis also will be sent forward to the WAGS /UMI Distinguished Master's Thesis Award competition for the opportunity to win an additional $1,000 and travel expenses to receive the award at the association's annual meeting.

Each college may submit only one nomination for the award.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

This award recognizes distinguished scholarly achievement at the master's level. Nominations will be accepted in any discipline in which the college offers a master's degree. If a discipline offers both a thesis and project option, only the thesis option is acceptable for consideration. Competition is open to any student completing a thesis for May 2008, August 2008, or January 2009 graduation. In addition to the award for outstanding thesis, finalists will be judged for honorable mention.

GUIDELINES FOR THE 2009 GILES T. BROWN OUTSTANDING THESIS AWARD

1. Nomination materials include:
    a. Four unbound copies of the thesis with the signed signature page.
    b. Four copies of a non-technical summary, prepared by the student (1000-1500 words), describing the research and its significance for a general academic audience of **non-specialists**.
    c. An original and three copies of nomination letters from a member of the student's thesis committee, the student's Department Chair, and the College Dean. The letters should include information regarding the significance of the thesis, the contribution of the thesis to the department's program, and the impact of the thesis on the knowledge base of the discipline.
    d. A short biography (minimum 125 words, not to exceed 150) of the nominee written by the student. (See attached guidelines and examples.)
2. All nomination materials must be turned in by the Dean's Office **no later than Friday, March 13th at 5:00 p.m.** to Erinn Banks in the Graduate Studies Office, MH-103. Incomplete nominations will not be considered. (Each college may submit only one nomination.)
3. Theses will be judged on the following criteria:
    a. Originality
    b. Significance of the study
    c. Overall quality
    d. Outcomes and accomplishments from the thesis

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GILES T. BROWN OUTSTANDING THESIS AWARD
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION GUIDE

Length: Minimum of 125 words but not to exceed 150 words.

Items to include:

- Your name
- Major and year of degree
- Title of your thesis

The following items are applicable for the body of your biography:

- Research, academic interests or projects
- Campus involvements and activities
- Community involvements and activities
- Honors and awards
- Immediate career, educational, or personal plans (**please try to include this in your last sentence**)

Tense: The statements should be in the **third person** (she/he), ***not the first person*** (I or me).

Deadline: No later than Friday, March 13, 2009

Pronunciation: If your name has difficult or alternative pronunciations, pleased provide us with a preferred pronunciation with your biography.

Sample biographies:

XXX graduated in August 2006 with a Master's of Science in Geology. He was awarded the prestigious 2005 Arthur D. Howard Award from the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division of the Geological Society of America for his thesis proposal. His proposal was chosen from 50+ applicants and he was the first student from a non-PhD granting institution to garner the award. The importance of his work in the Santa Ana Mountain Foothills has been recognized by the local geologic community and he has given presentations to the South Coast Geological Society and the Geological Society of America. He is in the process of writing a substantial paper about his research for publication in the *Bulletin of the Geological Society of America*. He currently works as an Engineering Geologist with GMU Geotechnical in Orange County.

Questions about the Giles T. Brown Outstanding Thesis Award should be emailed to Erinn Banks (ebanks@fullerton.edu).

XXX graduated in May 2007 with a Master's of Science in Kinesiology. While working on her master's degree, she assisted faculty members conducting older adult balance and fitness evaluations for the Archstone Foundation and for older adults with fibromyalgia. In November 2007 she presented her own thesis research, "The Association between Sensory Impairment and Functional Limitations in Balance in Community-Dwelling Adults," at the Gerontological Society of America annual conference – the largest and most prestigious conference in the field of aging. Her presentation resulted in multiple invitations to publish her findings in high quality peer-reviewed clinical and scientific journals. She is actively seeking employment as a full-time faculty member at community colleges and hopes to teach courses in relation to older adult fitness, disease prevention, sports injuries, health, and wellness.

XXX graduated in January 2008 with a Master's of Arts in Geography. He has authored and presented seven papers on multiple research topics, two of which were presented at annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers. His thesis research, "Impacts of Downtown Revitalization on the Homeless: Los Angeles' Skid Row," integrated two strands of urban geography, homelessness and revitalization, and explored the conflicts that occur when these two topics compete locationally. He currently teaches at local community colleges and has been accepted by several PhD programs. He would like to examine how to encourage students at the K-12 level to develop a geographic perspective that allows them to recognize the relevance and importance of geography in their daily lives. As an urban geographer, he plans on continuing his research emphasis on societal or educational problems as they affect underserved segments of society.