Grad students to compete at forum

By M. Heather Conway
Lantern staff writer

OSU graduate students will now have an opportunity to compete for recognition and awards in their areas of research, just like their faculty counterparts.

The Council of Graduate Students is sponsoring OSU's first Research and Scholarly Activities Forum, in which graduate students will compete for a $500 award in one of six areas of research.

The forum's six areas of research include applied sciences, arts and humanities, biological sciences, education, natural and physical sciences, and social sciences and policies, said Linda Williams, vice president of the council.

Judges will determine the winner in each category based on the students' 20-minute presentation. "It's very unusual for graduate students to get an opportunity at such a level. The graduate school fully supports them," said James Siddens, assistant dean of the Graduate School.

The forum will be held during the spring quarter and students must submit briefs on their topics to the council by Feb. 20.

Williams said judges will select the eight best briefs in each category, and these students will compete in the competition. "Although the judges for the forum haven't been named yet, Williams said the council hopes to have at least one judge from outside the university with national prominence, one OSU faculty member and one visiting professor or eminent scholar.

John Rogers, president of the council, said the opportunity to submit work on such a level is beneficial for students. "I think it's one of the best services we can provide for the graduate students," he said.

"(The forum will) encourage graduate students to share their research with the academic community, to recognize outstanding student achievement within the university, and to facilitate dialogue between students, faculty, administration and the public," Williams said.
Forum presents awards

Graduate students compete, provide professional research

By Ty Goehringer-Lee
Lantern staff writer

Sixty-four graduate students participated in Saturday's day-long event of scholarly presentations at the second annual Council of Graduate Students Research and Scholarly Activities Forum.

Ten received Outstanding Research Awards worth $500, eleven received Honorable Mention Awards and $100.

The forum is designed to give graduate students the opportunity to present their research on a competitive level.

Merl C. Hokenstad, Jr., Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve, said he was impressed with the program because it combined research from all academic areas. He said because of the forum's success at Ohio State his university is planning to start a similar forum.

He ALSO praised the judging system, which consisted of faculty from Ohio State and other universities, as well as leaders from Battelle Memorial Institute. Three separate panels evaluated each presentation on research, content and style.

"It was a learning experience for the judges as well as the presenters," Hokenstad said.

First place awards went to Y. Peter Chung, finance; Marie J. Anderson, plant pathology; Melanie T. Fisher, history of art; Janet M. Wenzlau, molecular genetics; Diane J. Tedick, educational studies.

The $500 award also went to Gonul Turhan, electrical engineering; Amy W. Goodwin, English; Robert Walch, physics; Clara M. Pelfrey, medical microbiology and immunology; and Kerry L. Marsh, psychology.

HONORABLE MENTIONS went to: H. Rao Unnava, marketing; Xiusheng Yang, agricultural engineering; Bradley L. Tindall, history of art; Daniel John Wozniak, microbiology; Martha Ann Wilson, theory and practice of education.

Also receiving honorable mentions were: K.S. Bhatia, engineering mechanics; Scott McGinnis, East Asian languages and literatures; Alan T. Levenson, history; Karl W. Haider, chemistry; Vajayan Krishnan, dentistry; and Alan J. Strathman, psychology.

Diane J. Tedick won a top prize for her presentation titled, "The Effects of Topic Familiarity on the Written Compositions of International Graduate Students."

Tedick said she was happy for the opportunity to find out what others at Ohio State are researching.

"WHEN YOU believe so much in something you're doing, it's wonderful when others acknowledge it," Tedick said.

Kevin T. McGuire's presentation, "Tracking the Intractable Obscenity Problem: Predicting Outcomes in the Supreme Court," did not win a prize. However, McGuire said the forum was valuable.

"It gives the opportunity for a trial run," he said. For those going into academic fields, McGuire said the forum gives students the experience of presenting papers in a scholarly situation.

Donald L. Haefele, Education: Services and Research, said he strongly encourages the organizers to continue the event. The forum is jointly funded by the Graduate School, the Council of Graduate Students and the Council on Student Affairs.

THE FORUM will most likely expand in the future because professors involved this year will encourage students to submit research, Haefele said.

Jeffrey Leptak, Council of Graduate Students vice president, said about 150 people attended the event.
Forum showcases graduate research

By Gemma McLuckie

Things weren't going well for Dara Tarolli. She had finished her presentation for the Graduate Research Forum a good 20 seconds under deadline, but the panel of judges weren't asking the questions she had expected.

Tarolli, a Ph.D. candidate in business marketing, was one of 57 graduate students in 10 disciplines who were seeking $500 top honors or $100 honorable mentions. The April 21 forum was coordinated by the Council of Graduate Students, and co-sponsored by the Graduate School and the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. The forum gives graduate students a taste of the grant-seeking process. In the four years since it began, the annual event has become a model for graduate schools nationwide.

With a smoothness earned from eight practice sessions, Tarolli had presented her research on "Development and Field Testing of a Theory-Based Mood Scale for Marketing Research." She told how she had developed a test for determining a shopper's mood, which might make a difference in how much and what he or she bought.

Then came the question and answer period. She responded to a pointed query from presentation judge Sven Lundstedt. Apparently unsatisfied, he told her, "I know, I carefully read your materials (an abstract given beforehand to the presentation judges)."

A few moments later in the hallway outside 090 University Hall, she told a member of the audience, "(They asked) about the beginning of the paper, not the end. That's a bad sign. My literature review is a little controversial."

More than money was at stake. There also was the recognition by her peers and top faculty from Ohio State and elsewhere.

During a break in presentations, Lundstedt leaned his 6-foot, 5-inch frame against the wall and drank coffee as he talked.

"I'm impressed at how really good the papers are," said the professor of public policy and management, and international business and public policy. "They involve interesting and relevant research, interesting research questions, and the methodology is well-designed. Also the presentations are very professional."

The forum is a massive undertaking, one that Benetta Lucius, vice president of the Council of Graduate Students, was relieved to see finished. She was in charge of the whole affair, which each year involves much attention to detail.

The Ph.D. candidate is in her third year on the council. She is seeking a degree in instructional design technology from the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership.

Lucius's 10-member committee found 31 professors to volunteer as abstract judges, who read summaries of research papers and decided which were good enough to be presented at the forum. Another 44 faculty served as presentation and feedback judges on April 21. Of that number, seven were visitors from other universities.

"I had heard of your excellent (business) department, and so was happy to have a friend ask me to be a judge," explained Yasar Geyikdag, a professor of finance and international business at the State University of New York, College at Old Westbury. He and Lundstedt were two of the four judges who listened to six business papers.

Ideas are forming for the 1991 forum, said R. Luke Evans, president of the Council of Graduate Students and Ph.D. candidate in curriculum, instruction and professional development in Educational Policy and Leadership.

The main thrust, Evans said, is to get Ohio State faculty involved.

"Those who have volunteered get just as excited as the students about the forum."

But before next year's event could be planned, the 1990 forum had to be completed. The winners of the honoria were announced at a luncheon at the Faculty Club, funded in part by Procter and Gamble. Tarolli didn't have long to wait; the business category $500 winner was the first announced by William J. Collins, associate dean of the Graduate School. She smiled broadly for the camera, but admitted later, "I was surprised."

In the nine other categories, the top award winners, their fields and papers were:


Honorable mentions went to:
- Yunhi Won, public policy and management; John Clinton Steer, plant pathology; Eugenia Costa-Giomi, music education; John V. Moran, molecular genetics; Sharon Driscoll, chemical engineering; Yanfang Tang, East Asian languages and literatures; Zhaohui Wang, physics; and Rhunette Curry Diggs, communication.

'I'm impressed at how really good the papers are.'
— Sven Lundstedt
Graduate students present papers to receive honors

By Jennifer Liu
Lantern Staff Writer

Fifty-eight graduate research papers from 10 academic areas were presented Saturday in the Fifth Annual Graduate Research Forum at the OSU Fawcett Center for Tomorrow.

The Graduate Research Forum, started in 1987, was hosted by the Council of Graduate Students and co-sponsored by the OSU Graduate School, OSU Graduate Office and Proctor and Gamble Inc.

The forum provided graduate students the opportunity to present papers, field questions and receive feedback to the presentation style and content of their research work from nationally prominent scholars, said Randy Bass, vice president of the council and coordinator of the forum.

Paul Isaac, associate dean of the Graduate School, said it was a good chance for graduate students to test their ideas about research. Past participants said they improved their research projects based on the feedback from the judges, he said.

In addition, the interaction among students will stimulate them to set up higher expectations of their research. As a result, the whole research and graduate education enterprise will benefit, Isaac said.

The 58 papers were divided into different areas by topic and each was judged by four or five OSU professors and professors from other universities.

An outstanding paper and honorable mention paper were awarded in each division. Criteria used to select the winning papers were purpose of study, design and methodology; results, conclusions and implications of the research; organization; vocal and physical delivery; and audio and visual support of the presentation.

Each author of the outstanding papers received $500, and $100 was given to the authors of the honorable mention papers.

Students said they gained something from the forum whether or not they won.

Gail Maria Whitelaw, award winner in Social and Behavioral Sciences who in going to present her paper for a conference in two weeks, said presenting at the forum is a very good experience, and that she would recommend other graduate students to do it. She said the questions asked by the judges and the experience of thinking and answering questions during the session was really beneficial to her.

Chen-Fu Chen, a graduate student in Industrial Design, said this forum gave him a chance to know the strengths and weaknesses of his thesis, and a chance to learn presentation techniques.

I'm sure they will be doing greater things at this university.

Benetta Burton, president of the Council of Graduate Students

Visiting judge James Brandeberry, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Sciences at Wright State University, said the quality of the papers and presentations were very good. “It’s hard to make a decision,” Brandeberry said.

Raymond Lawton, associate professor in Public Policy and Management, said he was impressed by the presentation skills of the students.

Benetta Burton, president of the council, said the council was very proud of this event which gave students a opportunity to show what they can do and what their potential is. “I’m sure they will be doing greater things at this university,” she said.

Ken Cheung, member of the Council of Graduate Students Graduate Research Committee, said the event was very helpful for the graduate students at large. He thought it was a way to show that there were only a few in the audience besides the presenters and judges. “We need to get more graduate students involved,” he said.

Hong Bau Kim, a doctoral student in City and Regional Planning, said he participated because he expected some good comments from the judges to improve his research. But he said he thought the judges in the area in which he participated might not be able to give him good comments.

He said there are many departments in Social and Behavioral Sciences, but the judges are only specialized in a couple of disciplines. “How can I get good comments from the judges from the communication department?” he asked.

Kim suggested that the Council of Graduate Students should divide the participants into different sections, more specifically by their research topics. He said an alternative would be to have a good mix of judges who can give every participant valuable comments.
Aging research

Leonard Hayflick, a cell biologist known for his research on aging, will give the keynote address at the 17th annual meeting of ICSABER Graduate Research Forum.

Hayflick will discuss "The Cell Biology of Aging" at noon May 21 in Rhodes Hall Auditorium. Also, he will present "What They Didn’t Teach Me in Graduate School" during a dinner banquet at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on the Lane, 328 W. Lane Ave.

Hayflick is a professor of anatomy at the University of California, San Francisco.

For more information, call 292-3382.
Research days to hone grad students' presentation skills

By David Sonderman

At a number of forums this spring, graduate students from across the campus will present research in much the same way that they would at professional conferences. The only difference is that they present their research to Ohio State faculty members who serve as "peers," keeping the students on their toes and offering constructive criticism.

The hope is that when these students go to professional conferences, either as graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, or new faculty members at other universities, they will already know what to expect when presenting research findings.

And while higher education has come under fire from legislators about the amount of time faculty spend in research, many faculty and graduate students want people to realize there are more ways to teach than lecturing in front of a class. Graduate research forums are one of them.

President Gee, in a recent White Paper on teaching, noted: "When we teach graduate students, the link between teaching and research is very strong. We spend hours working with them in what is typically our most focused and most personalized teaching..."

Karen Duncan, president of the Council of Graduate Students, says exhibits such as the Graduate Research Forum, April 17, serve as a dry run for students. "You learn how to be a researcher, how to answer questions on your feet and how to interact with your peers," says Duncan.

"It is an avenue for graduate students to communicate their research activities to the community. It is a way to be judged on their work and to get feedback on their presentation style."

The Bennett Graduate Research Society held its ninth annual Research Day earlier this month. Graduate students from the College of Medicine presented research to faculty members during a day-long conference. Christopher W. Gregory, graduate student in the college of medicine and president of the student-run Bennett Society, says these types of presentations are excellent ways to show that research and faculty teaching go hand-in-hand with graduate studies. "Faculty advisors are (graduate students') mentors; graduate students model themselves after their advisors. They teach graduate students how to do quality research and help us learn the techniques used in today's research."

Bennett Day award recipients included Yun Xia, physiology, for outstanding slide presentation; and Maria Ariza, medical microbiology and immunology, John G. Coggon, biochemistry, Pat H. Kitzman, cell biology, neurobiology and anatomy, Dana M. McTigue, physiology, and Abbie W. Meyer, medical microbiology and immunology, all for outstanding poster presentations.

Among the spring quarter graduate research exhibitions are:

37th Annual Landacre Day, Landacre Society, College of Medicine: Poster and oral presentations by medical students, at noon April 8 in Rhodes Hall Auditorium. For more information, call Dorothy Shumm at 292-8988.

7th Annual Graduate Research Forum, Council of Graduate Students, Graduate School and Office of Research: Poster and oral presentations by graduate students from a number of disciplines, April 17 at the Ramada University Hotel and Conference Center, 3110 Olentangy River Road. For more information, call Michael Lappi at 292-4380.

ICSABER Day, ICSABER Society: Poster and oral presentations by graduate students in the life sciences, May 5 in Rhodes Hall Auditorium. For more information, call Yung Yu at 460-8068.
Students awarded

Forty-nine OSU graduate students presented their research papers Saturday at the seventh annual Graduate Research Forum, hosted by the OSU Council of Graduate Students.

After the presentation session at the Ramada University Hotel, one outstanding paper and one honorable mention paper were selected from each of the nine program areas: agricultural sciences, the arts, biological sciences, education, engineering sciences, humanities, physical sciences and mathematics, professional biological sciences, and social and behavioral sciences.

The winners are: Sharon DeVaney in Family Resource Management; Kaizaad Navroze Kotwal in Theater; Deeza Subramanian in Molecular Genetics; Ju Liu in Educational Studies; Lawrence J. Pelz in Electrical Engineering; Clifford Rogers in History; Suresh Subramanian in Physics; David Shoup in Veterinary Preventive Medicine; and Joseph R. Priester in Psychology.

All the winners were awarded $500, and the runners-up, $100.

— Hui-ling Lai
Grad student research forum slated for April

By Fabienne Worthy
Lantern staff writer

For the eighth straight year OSU graduate students will gather to show off their research talent in hopes of gaining satisfaction, recognition and cash.

The 1994 Council of Graduate Students' Graduate Research Forum will be held at the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow on April 23.

The council is asking grad students to submit abstracts for blind review by a panel of faculty judges. A maximum of eight papers will be selected for presentation in the following areas: Administrative Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, the Arts, Biological Sciences, Education, Engineering Sciences, Humanities, Physical Sciences and Mathematics, Professional Biological Sciences, and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Cherie Bayer, coordinator of the Forum, is urging all grad students to submit entries.

"We are interested in maximizing participation in this event," Bayer said. "Not only does the competition encourage research by graduate students, it contributes to the professional development of these future scholars."

Students can benefit financially from the forum as well. The awards come in increments of $500, $150 and $100 for the first, second and third-ranked entries.

"I ended up using the award money to go to a conference in Toronto at the American Psychological Association," said Joseph Priester, who won outstanding paper in Social and Behavioral Sciences last year.

The panel of judges are leading researchers and scholars chosen from the OSU community and other universities. A presentation judge in the 1993 competition, Roger Dzwonczyk, who specializes in biomedical engineering at OSU, said that judges are interested in the content of the paper as well as the actual presentation of the research.

Joseph Pelz, 1993 Engineering Science paper winner, found the judges very useful.

"The Forum gives you a chance to learn how to express yourself and describe your research to people who are not necessarily in your field," Pelz said. "I had to make my work understandable to a judge who was in anesthesiology."

All students interested need to submit an abstract that concisely states obstacles, findings and problem-solving techniques. Abstracts are due in the CGS office by 5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 21.
Graduate Council is seeking faculty to judge April forum

The Council of Graduate Students is looking for faculty members to serve as judges for the eighth Graduate Research Forum April 23. Cherie Bayer, CGS president, told the University Senate March 5.

Faculty will be needed to judge the completed papers and oral presentations on the day of the forum. In addition, Ohio State faculty may nominate scholars from other universities who may be willing to serve as judges. Each judging panel will include three Ohio State faculty and one scholar from another institution.

Judges will receive copies of the selected papers prior to the event, then hear oral presentations on April 23. They will base evaluations on the combined merits of each paper and its presentation, and offer constructive criticism.

Papers from eight of the Graduate School's 10 program areas will be presented.

This forum gives graduate students an opportunity to share their research with the academic community in an environment akin to an academic conference, Bayer said.

A group of faculty judged abstracts of submitted papers in January and February to select those for the April forum.

For more information, to volunteer or make nominations, call 292-4380, or e-mail cgsusu@magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu.