

Graduate research showcase

March 31, 2016

Update: The winner of the 2016 Fitch H. Beach Award was computer science and engineering student Joseph Roth. He is a PhD student from Hudsonville and will graduate in December. His research topic was human sensing for biometrics. Photos of the 2016 event can be viewed

at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/msuengineering-pr/albums/72157666645320675>



March 25, 2016

Engineering Graduate Research Symposium is March 31

The innovative ideas of more than 300 graduate students will be featured by the Michigan State University College of Engineering at the annual Engineering Graduate Research Symposium on Thursday, March 31. The event is open to the public in the MSU Breslin Center.

Katy Luchini Colbry, director for graduate initiatives in the College of Engineering, coordinates the MSU Engineering Graduate Research Symposium. She said the symposium includes presentations by the nominees for the Fitch Beach Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research.

Each department nominates one doctoral student. Awards are based on a review of students' academic and professional records and on an oral presentation of their research. Awardees receive a stipend from this endowed award, along with a certificate and a medal to be worn at graduation.

Nominees for the **2016 Fitch H. Beach Award** are:

Zhiguo Liu, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering: An Integrated Process to Upgrade Biogas, Reclaim Wastewater, and Reutilize Solid Residues: Magnifying Sustainability of Anaerobic Digestion

Caitlin Kowalsky, Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science: Rapid High-Throughput Fine Conformational Epitope Mapping

Emily Tummons, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering: Oil Droplet Behavior at the Membrane Surface During Crossflow Filtration

Joseph Roth, Department of Computer Science and Engineering: Human Sensing for Biometrics

Shreya Nad, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering: Synthesis and Analyses of Single Crystal Diamond Substrates for Optical and Electronic Applications

Byron Zambrano, Department of Mechanical Engineering: The Role of Hemodynamics on Intraluminal Thrombus Accumulation and Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Expansion

Welcome address

The welcome address will be presented by Judith Stoddart, interim associate provost for graduate education and dean of the Graduate School at Michigan State for 2015-16.

She has been an associate dean in the Graduate School since 2011, assistant dean (2007–2010), and director of the University Fellowship Programs since 2002.

As co-PI and project director at MSU for the Council of Graduate Schools Ph.D. Completion Project and for the ETS/CGS Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education, Stoddart has worked with graduate programs across MSU and with national partners on initiatives to improve doctoral student recruitment, mentoring, and career and professional development.

Outstanding Graduate Student Awards

Eight outstanding graduate students will receive a stipend, certificate, and a medal to be worn at graduation. The 2015-16 Outstanding Graduate Students are:

Yingqian Lin, Biosystems Engineering (advisor: Fei Pan)

Caitlin Kowalsky, Chemical Engineering (advisor: Timothy Whitehead)

Mohanned Naser, Civil Engineering (advisor: Venkatesh Kodur)

Joseph Roth, Computer Science (advisor: Xiaoming Liu)

Bin Fan, Electrical Engineering (advisor: Wen Li)

Fernanda Paes Wilson, Environmental Engineering (advisor: Alison Cupples)

Chen Zhang, Materials Science (advisor: Thomas Bieler)

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Ali Al-Jiboory, Mechanical Engineering (advisor: Guoming Zhu)

Symposium Agenda:

8-9 a.m.: Registration, continental breakfast, poster set-up

9-9:15 a.m.: Welcome by Judith Stoddart, MSU Graduate School

9:15-10:45 a.m.: Fitch Beach Research Award nominee presentations

10:45-11 a.m.: Break

11 a.m. - noon: Poster Session A (Biosystems, Chemical, Materials Science, Mechanical)

Noon – 1 p.m.: Poster Session B (Civil, Computer Science, Electrical, Environmental)

1-2:30 p.m.: Poster clean up, lunch, Career Connections

2:30 – 3 p.m.: Awards

Questions can be directed to Katy Luchini Colbry, colbryka@msu.edu or 517-432-1064.

[More details in the 2016 program. \(.pdf\)](#)

Related Website: [Communications contact: Patricia Mroczek](#)

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