

Graduate Student Association Holds Awards Ceremony to Celebrate and Honor Graduate and Professional Students



On 15th April 2022, the Graduate Student Association (GSA) held its 2nd annual, first in-person edition of the graduate student recognition award ceremony. The Graduate Student Recognition Awards acknowledges, appreciates, and celebrates the contributions of graduate and professional students to the University of South Carolina and the Carolina Community.

Graduate students were nominated by their professors, faculty, advisors, peers, friends or colleagues to support their application. This year GSA received 170 applications and nominations across all the 13 colleges at UofSC. GSA gave out a total of 27 awards to graduate students in nine categories, including Research, Teaching, Leadership, Service, Diversity, International, Overall Doctoral Achiever, Overall Master's Achiever, and Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Creativity. There were three awards presented in each of the nine categories.

This year's ceremony was honored by university administrators Dr. Weldon Tracy, the Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Edwards Anna, Associate Vice President for Student Life, and other dignitaries from the Leadership and Service Center, the University Libraries, Center for Teaching Excellence, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, and International Student Services. The ceremony had more than 80 in-person student attendees.

GSA president, Sowmya Raghu, PhD student in Mechanical Engineering, "The Graduate Student Recognition Award was created to commemorate the excellence of graduate and professional students. Having been involved with the GSRA (Graduate Student Recognition Awards) over the last two years, I appreciate the Grad Awards team, Debolina, Fadi and Samantha, led by Idris for all their efforts and contributions to make the students feel included and celebrated. This mega-awards ceremony highlighted the importance of graduate and professional students, who are usually unsung champions, to the Carolina community in Research, Teaching and Service aspects. I hope that the awards continue to grow and be impactful in recognizing graduate and professional student talents and strengths."

"Graduate students have always worked hard contributing not only to research and teaching but also rendering great service to the community. We have all joined here to celebrate the immense contributions and remarkable efforts of graduate students to the Carolina Community." Idris Kambala Mohammed, Secretary Graduate Recognition Awards.

The awardees felt appreciated and honored:

“I am excited and honored. This was an amazing event. Thanks to GSA for recognizing the contribution of Graduate Students”, Rajat Das Gupta, Overall Doctoral Student Achiever awardee.

“Deep gratitude and blessed to be recognized.... Doctoral journey is quite challenging, but these recognitions will boost my spirit and help me in my future endeavors.” Wenyu Guo, Outstanding International Student Award recipient.

“This was a great ceremony – and providing both framed certificates and the small plaques/trophies was very special.” Laura E. Thorp, Exemplary Graduate Student Award for Service recipient.

They also thank the GSA for the efforts:

“Thank you all for arranging the inaugural awards.” Yiwen Shih, Outstanding International Student Award recipient.

“Great event, nice to be in person this year.” Laura Murdock, Overall Doctoral Student Achiever awardee

“Thank you for all the work you put into this!” Laura E. Thorp, Exemplary Graduate Student Award for Service recipient.


“I attended the event online. Thank you for providing the online option!” Ling Hao, Exemplary Graduate Student Award for Service recipient.


See the full list of award winners:

Overall Doctoral Student Achiever:

GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Overall Doctoral Achiever Award

<p style="text-align: center;">●</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RAJAT DAS GUPTA</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Ph.D in Epidemiology</p> <p>"I am really excited and honored. This was an amazing event. Thanks to GSA for recognizing the contribution of the Graduate Students."</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">●</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GARETH GEORGE REES-WHITE</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">PhD in Composition and Rhetoric</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">●</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LAURA MURDOCK</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Ph.D in Chemistry</p> <p>"Great event, nice to be in person this year"</p>
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**Graduate Student Association**
University of South Carolina

Overall Master's Student Achiever:

GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Overall Master's Student Achiever Award

NISHAT TABASSUM



Master of Science in
Computer Science

EMILY ELEY



MS in Marine Science

ANU PRIA ROY



Masters in Library and
Information Science and
Minor in Health
Communication

Outstanding Graduate Student Researcher Award

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Outstanding Graduate Student Researcher Award

HYUNSU KIM



PhD in Hospitality
Management

RAJAT DAS GUPTA



Ph.D in Epidemiology

MICHAEL ROYKO



Ph.D. in Chemical
Engineering

Outstanding Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Diversity:

GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Outstanding Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Diversity

MARGARET (MAGGIE)
CARSON



PhD in Environmental Health
Sciences

NANCY URIEGAS



TIFFANY WORLEY



Exemplary Graduate Student Leadership Award

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Exemplary Graduate Student Leadership Award

TASHA CHILDS



PhD Candidate in the
College of Social Work

MARGARET (MAGGIE)
CARSON



PhD in Environmental Health
Sciences

FLORENTIUS
JOHANNES VAN
ZANTEN



PhD in mechanical
engineering

Exemplary Graduate Student Award for Service

GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Exemplary Graduate Student Award for Service

ANU PRIA ROY



Masters in Library and Information Science and Minor in Health Communication

"We enjoyed the event and all the board members worked hard to make the event successful"

LING HAO



Ph.D. in Education

"I attended the event online. Thank you for providing the online option!"

LAURA E. THORP



Ph.D in English and American Literature

"This was a great ceremony - and providing both framed certificates and the small plaques/trophies was very special. Thank you for all the work you put into this!"



Graduate Student Association
University of South Carolina

Outstanding International Graduate Student Award

GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Outstanding International Graduate Student Award

DEBOLINA HATI



PhD in biochemistry

WENYU GUO



"Deep gratitude and blessed to be recognized as the 'Outstanding Graduate International Student Award' and 'Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award' organized by the Graduate Student Association (GSA) at the University of South Carolina. Big shout-out to the GSA for organizing this 'Graduate Student Recognition Awards ceremony' supported by the Graduate School at the University of South Carolina. I am indebted to all my research collaborators, mentors, and colleagues, for whom I received these two awards. Doctoral journey is quite challenging, but these recognitions will boost my spirit and help me in my future endeavors."

YIWEN SHIH



Ph.D in HSPM

"Thank you all for arranging the inaugural awards!"

Outstanding Graduate Student Award for Entrepreneurship, Creativity, and Innovation

GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Entrepreneurship, Creativity and Innovation Award

NAKISA
ABDOLLAHBEIGI



MFA in Studio Art

IAN CAMPBELL



Ph.D in Rhetoric

ISRAEL MAURICE
BUTLER



Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award

GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant

WENYU GUO



Ph.D

SHEA FERGUSON



Ph.D student in Educational
Psychology

KATHERINE CARROLL

