

November 6, 2017

TO: UF/IFAS-ALL  
FROM: Jackie Burns  
SUBJECT: Nominations for the 2017 Awards of Excellence for Graduate Research

**Overview:** The UF/IFAS Office of the Dean for Research is committed to recognizing the best thesis and best dissertation completed during each calendar year. Cash awards (\$1,500 Doctorate; \$1,000 Master) as well as plaques will be presented to the winners at the UF/IFAS Florida Agricultural Experiment Station's 11th Annual Research Awards Ceremony on May 17, 2018. Supervisory committee chairs will also be recognized with a plaque at the ceremony.

**Eligibility:** All theses and dissertations completed under majors granted in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences are eligible (see next page). Each major listed by program is allowed to submit one nomination – their best for 2017. The nominee's supervisory chair or co-chair must have a tenure home in UF/IFAS.

**Selection Process:** Two committees will be established of three faculty members each to evaluate the nominations and select the best M.S. thesis and best Ph.D. dissertation based on the following criteria:

1. The quality of the thesis or dissertation presentation (i.e., organization, style, clarity, and writing).
2. The quality of the research (i.e., thoroughness, contribution to the field, importance, originality, depth, and scope).

The relative value of each of the criteria is the decision of the selection committee.

**Nomination Process:** All nominations must be submitted through the following website by **Thursday, January 11, 2018:** <http://researchtools.ifas.ufl.edu/graduateresearchawards/>. The information requested includes:

- 1) Nomination form (online):
  - a. Nominee information (name, major, title and current contact information)
  - b. Supervisory Committee Chair/Co-chair (name and contact information)
  - c. Nominator (name and contact information)
- 2) Uploaded PDF files:
  - a. Letter of nomination
  - b. Thesis or dissertation
  - c. Supporting materials (e.g., statement by chair or departmental selection committee, or list of presentations, publications, or other outputs derived from the research)

**Submission Process:** Upon submission, all nominators will receive an immediate email confirmation. If you have any other questions, please contact Dr. Sherry Larkin, Associate Dean for Research, at [slarkin@ufl.edu](mailto:slarkin@ufl.edu). For technical issues concerning the website, contact Brian Gray at [seven7@ufl.edu](mailto:seven7@ufl.edu).

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
2017 UF/IFAS CALS Majors**

<b>Master of Science (M.S.) Thesis</b>	<b>Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Dissertation</b>
Agricultural and Biological Engineering	Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Agricultural Education and Communication	Agricultural Education and Communication
Agronomy	Agronomy
Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology	Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology
Animal Sciences	Animal Sciences
Entomology and Nematology	Entomology and Nematology
Youth Development and Family Science	Family, Youth and Community Sciences
Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences	Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
Food and Resource Economics	Food and Resource Economics
Food Science and Human Nutrition	Food Science
Forest Resources and Conservation	Forest Resources and Conservation
Horticultural Sciences - Horticultural Sciences	Genetics and Genomics
Horticultural Sciences - Environmental Horticulture	Horticultural Sciences - Horticultural Sciences
Interdisciplinary Ecology	Horticultural Sciences - Environmental Horticulture
Microbiology and Cell Science	Interdisciplinary Ecology
Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology	Microbiology and Cell Science
Plant Pathology	Nutritional Sciences
Soil and Water Sciences	Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation	Plant Pathology
	Soil and Water Sciences
	Wildlife Ecology and Conservation