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The Graduate Student Newsletter is a combined effort of the [Graduate School](#), the [Graduate Student Organization \(GSO\)](#), [Career Services](#) and the [Office of Sponsored Programs](#) to provide concise and timely information about events and deadlines for the SU grad student community.

Dates & Deadlines!

April 15 — Request for exam deadline for May 2016 Masters grads

April 25 — submission of final dissertation and signed title page for May 2016 PhDs

SU Events Calendar

Campus Events:

<http://suevents.syr.edu/main.php?view=month>

Around Syracuse:

www.syracuse.com/events/

Outstanding TA Award Winners

Each year the Graduate School recognizes Teaching Assistants who have made distinguished contributions to Syracuse University by demonstrating excellence as primary instructors, laboratory or studio leaders, recitation instructors, or lecture course assistants. Congratulations to this year's recipients!

<i>Jacqueline Augustine</i> , Exercise Science	<i>Sam Jackson</i> , Social Science
<i>Laura Ballard</i> , Mathematics	<i>Julia James</i> , History
<i>Scott Bassler</i> , Physics	<i>Emily Judd</i> , Earth Sciences
<i>Patrick Biermann</i> , Mathematics	<i>Shawn Kowal</i> , Chemistry
<i>Franziska Boehme</i> , Political Science	<i>Erica Layow</i> , Science Teaching
<i>Maria Fernanda Boza Cuadros</i> , Anthropology	<i>Emily Mitchell-Eaton</i> , WGS
<i>Matthew Chacko</i> , Writing Program	<i>Peter Rugano Nthiga</i> , Science Education
<i>Theavy Din</i> , LLL	<i>Scarlett Rebman</i> , History
<i>T. Jake Dionne</i> , CRS	<i>Shaundel Sanchez</i> , Anthropology
<i>Nicole Dular</i> , Philosophy	<i>Jessica Sauve</i> , Economics
<i>Jennifer Edmond</i> , Mathematics	<i>Chelsey Smith</i> , LLL
<i>Brittany Eggleston</i> , Psychology	<i>Sara Sotoud</i> , CEE
<i>Ryan Falkenstein-Smith</i> , MAE	<i>Staci Stutsman</i> , English
<i>Julian Georg</i> , Physics	<i>Tracy Vargas</i> , Sociology
<i>Woosang Hwang</i> , Child and Family Studies	<i>Nidhi Vij</i> , PAIA
<i>Tamara Issak</i> , Writing Program	<i>Michelle Zaso</i> , Psychology

Congratulations New and Returning Teaching Mentors!

The Graduate School is proud to announce the Teaching Mentors for 2016–17. Selected for their excellence in teaching and overall graduate study, the Teaching Mentors serve as small-group leaders and mentors to approximately 300 new TAs during the TA Orientation Program in August. They also assist in the development and implementation of TA Program activities throughout the academic year. Thanks to all those who applied, and a rousing welcome to our Teaching Mentor staff!

<i>Carolina Arango-Vargas</i> , Anthropology	<i>Franziska Boehme Newell</i> , Political Science
<i>Lindsey Banister</i> , CCR	<i>Michael Newell</i> , Political Science
<i>Teresa Bruno-Nino</i> , Philosophy	<i>Janine Nieroda-Madden</i> , Reading & Language Arts
<i>Lindsay Burt</i> , Political Science	<i>Laxmikant Pathade</i> , Chemistry
<i>Andrea Catroppa</i> , History	<i>Heather Potts</i> , Psychology
<i>Hsiao-Wen (Vicky) Cheng</i> , English	<i>Scarlett Rebman</i> , History
<i>Ryan Curl</i> , Psychology	<i>Stella Rwanda</i> , Literacy Education
<i>Naomi Dershowitz</i> , Philosophy	<i>Jeremy Sloane</i> , Science Teaching
<i>Brittany Eggleston</i> , Psychology	<i>Yosung Song</i> , Special Education
<i>Bridget Fahey</i> , Political Science	<i>Karriann Soto</i> , CCR
<i>Justin Freedman</i> , Special Education	<i>Matthew Stewart</i> , History
<i>Jacob Hall</i> , IDDE	<i>Victoria Wambua</i> , Mathematics
<i>Woosang Hwang</i> , Child & Family Studies	<i>Thomas (TJ) West</i> , English
<i>Laura Jaffee</i> , Cultural Foundations of Education	<i>Kimberly Williams Brown</i> , CFE
<i>Kelsey John</i> , Cultural Foundations of Education	<i>Brandi Williams</i> , Literacy Education
<i>Erica Layow</i> , Science Teaching	<i>Frehiwot Wuhib</i> , Teaching & Curriculum



SU ORGS FOR GRADS

> Slutzker Center: <http://international.syr.edu/>
Providing services and programming for international students at SU.

> Maxwell Center for Career Development: <http://www1.maxwell.syr.edu/career.aspx> Located in 202 Maxwell, the Career Development office for Maxwell students provides a specialty range of services, Career appointments, interview preparation, cover letter & resume review, and networking advice.

> Counseling Center: <http://counselingcenter.syr.edu/>
The Counseling Center offers members of the SU community free, confidential help through times of crisis and the everyday stresses of life. Referrals for students and students' families—with and without health insurance through SU—are available here.

> Health Services: <http://health.syr.edu/> Located at 111 Waverly Avenue, SU health services provides care for graduate students who pay their health fee and include services such as office visits, ambulatory care services, pharmacy, nutrition counseling, immunizations, vaccines, and travel medicine.

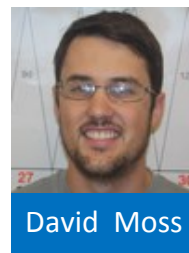
> Academic Integrity Office: <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu/>
Established to implement SU's Academic Integrity (AI) Policies and Procedures, the Office of Academic Integrity can advise how to promote AI in the undergraduate classroom (as a TA) or to consult on how AI affects graduate student life.

> Legal Services: <http://www.studentlegal.net/index.html>
If you are a Syracuse University student (excluding law students) or a SUNY-ESF student, have paid the graduate student activity fee, and are registered on main campus, you are eligible for advice and representation as defined at the Legal Services website.

Moss Clinches 3-Minute Thesis Title



Graduate student David Moss (PhD, Earth Sciences) took home the SU [3-Minute Thesis](#) title, triumphing over Bracket 2



David Moss

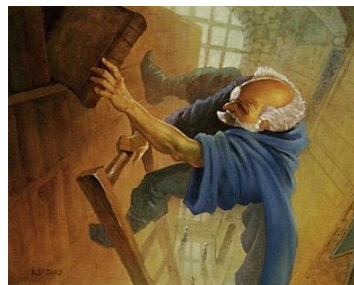
winner Karriann Soto (PhD, Composition and Cultural Rhetoric) in the finals on March 25, capping off the Graduate Research Skills Seminar. David's thesis is "The Evolution of Extreme Longevity in Modern and Fossil Bivalves." Congratulations to David and all participants in the [GSO](#)-sponsored 3rd annual 3-Minute Thesis competition.

Inaugural Celebration of Scholarship Conference

The BGSA is pleased to announce the **Inaugural Celebration of Scholarship Conference**, which will take place on **April 30 in Schine 304 at noon**. We welcome a variety of proposals from all academic disciplines. The focus of the conference is to bring together graduate and undergraduate students to connect and present a diverse set of research projects conducted at Syracuse University. The conference is intended to be a vehicle for graduate students to practice presenting in a more relaxed conference environment and to a general audience.

Graduate students will present through round tables and poster presentations. Undergraduates interested in graduate school are encouraged to attend to connect with graduate students and learn more about the process. Presenters must submit their name, email, department, title, and 100-250 word abstract to the [online portal](#) by **April 15**.

Graduate Research Support Survey



Are you satisfied with the research support offered to graduate students on campus? Which additional research support services and resources do you think should be offered in order to strengthen the quality and impact of your research?

Two graduate students in the iSchool are undertaking a campus-wide assessment project to better understand your needs. Please take this brief online survey to help us improve the environment for graduate student research at SU. All responses are recorded anonymously. Thank you! [Click here to participate](#).

Info from the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship Programs

Federal Consolidation Loan: Are you considering a federal consolidation loan after graduation? Review a [list of loan tips](#) online.

Personal Student Loan Counseling Available: Personalized one-on-one student loan counseling is being offered at The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship Programs from April 5 to May 12. During your personal counseling session, you will meet with a Financial Aid Counselor who will review your loan history and advise you on your next steps as you leave the University. Sign up by completing the [online form](#).



Upcoming Events

Apr. 15 – Child & Family Studies FPP- What Search Committees Are Really Looking for in the Social Sciences. 12:00-1:30 pm, Falk Complex 101

April 15 – Teaching Mentor Spring Meeting. 111 Bowne Hall, 3:30-5:00 pm

April 20 – FPP Breakfast for recipients of the Certificate in University Teaching. Goldstein Alumni and Faculty Center, 8:30-10:00 am (invitation only).

April 20 – PhD Industry Career Panel and Networking Reception. Link Hall 369, 5:00-7:00 pm

April 21 – Outstanding TA and Excellence in Graduate Education Award Ceremony. Goldstein Alumni and

Faculty Center, 4:30-6:00 pm (invitation only)

April 25 – GSO Spring Picnic. 2:00-5:00 pm, Inn Complete

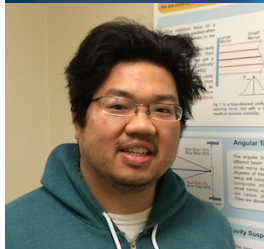
Apr. 28 – Career Services Etiquette Dinner. 6:00-8:00 pm, Goldstein Alumni and Faculty Center

Apr. 29 – Is Hegemony Dead? The Eighth Annual Graduate Conference hosted by the History FPP

May 13 – Doctoral Hooding Ceremony. Schine Auditorium. 5:00 pm (invitation only)

May 15 – Graduation! Carrier Dome, 9:30 am

May 19 & 20 – FPP Annual Conference. White Eagle Conference Center, Hamilton, NY



Thomas Vo

Making Waves: An Interview with Thomas Vo

Physics PhD student Thomas Vo is a member of the SU [Gravitational Wave Group](#) and participated in the [LIGO Scientific Collaboration](#) that demonstrated the reality of gravitational waves.

Where are you from, and how did you decide to become a physicist?

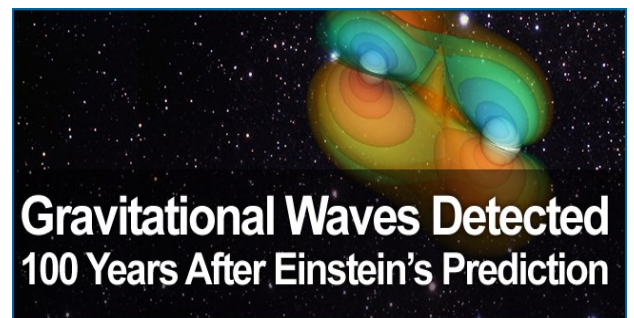
My parents moved to the United States from Vietnam after the war and settled in Seattle, Washington, where I was born and raised. As a child I was always interested in astronomy and would constantly daydream in class about stars, galaxies, and beyond. By high school I realized that I needed to be proficient in both math and physics to continue learning about astronomy, so I decided to study those as well.

How did you get involved with the Gravitational Wave group at SU?

After undergraduate studies at the University of Washington, I tried to explore the working world and found a job as an analyst in finances. I quickly realized that it wasn't for me and a former colleague offered me a position at a lab in the middle of the Eastern Washington desert. They were looking for post-Bachelor physicists to help install and run their instruments. This lab happened to be LIGO Hanford, one of the two interferometers that would later detect the first gravitational wave from the collision of two massive black holes 1.3 billion light years away. While working at Hanford, I met Professor Stefan Ballmer, who was working there on his sabbatical, and seeing his approach to physics greatly assisted my decision to join Syracuse's physics department.

What is the nature of your work with the LIGO project?

I primarily do experimental research that will improve the LIGO detectors' sensitivity with next generation hardware upgrades. Also, I've recently begun smaller projects in detector characterization, which works closely with data analysis groups. Someday I hope to understand the entire gravitational wave field, from experiment to theory.



Interview with Thomas Vo (cont'd)

What is next for you after the PhD? Does involvement with LIGO mean you get any postdoc you want?

After the PhD, I plan on continuing in academia wherever I can find a position, hopefully within LIGO. I've really found that gravitational wave research is fascinating and would love to continue exploring the limitations of our detectors.

Objectively, where do you think gravitational waves rank among great scientific discoveries since, say, the year 1900?

That's a particularly hard question, so many things have happened since 1900. Einstein published his paper on Special Relativity in 1905 and General Relativity in 1915. The computer, lasers, and all the great technology that was invented is the reason why gravitational waves are even detectable by LIGO. But I will agree that it stands as one of the great scientific achievements of all time and hopefully we will continue to observe all the universe has to offer.

Excellence in Graduate Education Winners

The Excellence in Graduate Education Faculty Recognition Award honors faculty members whose dedication to graduate students and commitment to excellence in graduate teaching and mentoring have made a significant contribution to graduate education at Syracuse University. Congratulations to this year's winners:



Thomas Keck
Political
Science



*Gwendolyn
Pough*
Women's and
Gender Studies



*Cecilia
Van Hollen*
Anthropology



Simon Perez
Broadcast and
Digital Journalism

Upcoming Events Hosted or Co-Hosted by the Disability Cultural Center

- ◆ **A Place at the Table: Community, Food, Access** — Friday, April 15, 11:30 am–1:00 pm, 106 Hoople
Co-facilitated by Melda Rodriguez (Brainfeeders) and Christy Kalebic (Disability Student Union)
- ◆ **Orange Ability** — Saturday, April 16, 1:00–4:00 pm, Women's Building Gym (1st floor)
OrangeAbility is an accessible, adaptive and inclusive sports exposition held on the Syracuse University campus. You will have the opportunity to learn about and participate in wheelchair basketball, power soccer, sled hockey and more!
Email SUDCC@syr.edu for information.
- ◆ **Disabilities as Ways of Knowing: Disability as Part of the Story** — Monday, April 18, 6:00–8:00 pm, Watson Theater, Watson Hall
Poetry reading with Ona Gritz and Dan Simpson, followed by a reception and book signing.
- ◆ **Stress and Wellness: What is "Mental Health"?** (Interfaith Dialogue Dinner Series) — Wednesday, April 27, 6:30–8:30 pm, Hillel, 102 Walnut Place



Explore SU's Research Computing Resources

The **Computing Colloquies** series is designed to help campus researchers identify and make the most of the diverse array of campus computing resources available at Syracuse University. All faculty, students, and staff conducting, planning, or supporting research activities at Syracuse University are invited to the sessions.

Chihwa (Duke) Kao, Professor of Economics at the Center for Policy Research in the Maxwell School, will conduct a deep-dive exploration of MatLab, with an eye toward demonstrating how it supports his research in econometrics, continuous time stochastic models, and financial markets. MatLab is a multi-paradigm numerical computing environment and fourth-generation programming language with around one million users in industry and academia from various engineering, science, and economics backgrounds. **Monday, April 18. 3:00-4:30 p.m. Katzer Collaboratory, 347 Hinds Hall.** Refreshments will be provided.



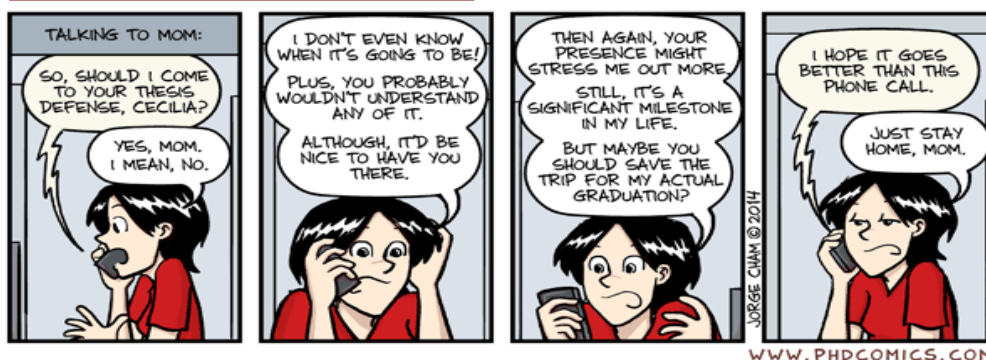
Gary Engelhardt is the Melvin A. Eggers Faculty Scholar and Professor of Economics at the Maxwell School, and a Faculty Associate at the Syracuse University Aging Studies Institute. His specialties are in the economics of aging, household saving, pensions, Social Security, taxation, and housing markets. Dr. Engelhardt will discuss how campus computing resources support and inform his work and commentary, which has been featured nationally, including in *The Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Fox News*, *CNBC*, *MSNBC*, National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*, and American Public Media's *Marketplace*. **Thursday, April 28. 3:00-4:30 p.m. 500 Hall of Languages.** Refreshments will be provided.

These sessions will explore how computing resources help researchers take on new and greater computational tasks, enhance research productivity, increase the competitiveness of grant submissions, and advance scientific discovery across many disciplines. Participants will have opportunities to:

- Connect with other researchers on campus
- Participate in an ongoing campus dialogue centered on research computing
- Receive information on available resources and navigating the landscape
- Meet and engage SU's research computing staff

Please register for the session(s) you plan to attend [using this online form](#) or send an email to researchcomputing@syr.edu. In your email, please include your name, daytime phone number, the session(s) you plan to attend, and any accommodations you may require. To find out more about the growing variety of research computing resources and activities at SU, visit researchcomputing.syr.edu.

PhD Comics — LOLGrads!



The Graduate School Newsletter is (usually) published once a month. If you have announcements or articles that you would like to contribute, please contact the editor at gradnews@syr.edu.

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