As a culminating experience for the master’s degree program, the thesis attests to the highest level of the student’s academic, scholarly, and creative abilities. Each student works under the guidance of a faculty thesis chair and committee. The resulting thesis is viewed with pride as a reflection of the scholarly promise of the student and a commitment to excellence for the university. This spring 2008 semester, 69 students completed theses and dissertations in areas as varied and original as the students themselves. What follows is a complete list of spring 2008 publications by college/school and some research highlights.

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Animal Sciences and Agricultural Education**

**Tyler Colburn** (read ABSTRACT)
The Elimination of Alfalfa Hay from the Diets of High-Producing Dairy Cows: Effects on Milk Production
(Chair: Jon Robison)

**Nicholas Falcone** (read ABSTRACT)
Effect of LT4 on Milk Production, Milk Components, Serum Mineral Status, and Serum Hormone Status in Lactating Dairy Cows
(Chair: Jon Robison)

**Jose Francisco Sarmiento** (read ABSTRACT)
Effect of Selenized-Yeast on Health of Periparturient Dairy Cows
(Chair: Jon Robison)

**Food Science and Nutrition**

**Analisa Woodward** (read ABSTRACT)
Beliefs and Behaviors of College Students Toward Weight Management
(Chair: Sandra Witte)

**Plant Science**

**Namratha Pulla Reddy Gari** (read ABSTRACT)
Optimizing Nitrogen Rates for Organic Vegetables Subjected to Airjection® Irrigation
(Chair: Dave Goorahoo)

Dairy farming is the leading agricultural commodity in California, producing $7.3 billion in annual sales in 2007. (California Department of Food and Agriculture)

Analisa Woodward focuses her research on dietary practices in relation to preventable disease in a sample of college-aged subjects.
Viticulture and Enology

Olga Karapanou (read ABSTRACT)
Wine Grape Yeast Interactions
(Chair: Roy Thornton)

Olga Karapanou’s thesis received a $500 Honorable Mention prize in the 2007-2008 Outstanding Thesis Award competition.

Creative Writing—Master of Fine Arts

Neal Blaikie (read ABSTRACT)
A Queenless Box of Bees
(Chair: Steve Yarbrough)

Liz Scheid (read ABSTRACT)
Hypervigilance
(Chair: Connie Hales)

Erin Cook (read ABSTRACT)
Fly
(Chair: Steve Yarbrough)

Eric Smith (read ABSTRACT)
Facing the Inevitable
(Chair: Steve Yarbrough)

Mark Roberts (read ABSTRACT)
Trying to Connect
(Chair: Steven Church)

“Before her body split through worlds, she was caught between there & here, where her eyes first understood light:"

English

Christopher Estep (read ABSTRACT)
Polycultural Theory: Liberating Complexity in American Texts
(Chair: Richard Hansen)

Karla Bulsterbaum Hess (read ABSTRACT)
“Making Sense” in the Center: In Support of Writing Center-Based Collaborative Writing Groups
(Chair: Magdalena Gilewicz)

Sheri McClure-Baker (read ABSTRACT)
Live to Speak: Power, Language, and Gender in Three Gothic Novels
(Chair: Toni Wein)

Susan McLenithan (read ABSTRACT)
Race, Literacy, and Language: Pedagogy to Build Bridges and Cross Borders
(Chair: Richard Hansen)

Benjamin Ovando (read ABSTRACT)
Ideo-Linguistic Rhetoric: Negotiating Signification and Ideology in Victorian Novels
(Chair: Ruth Jenkins)

Maria Veredian (read ABSTRACT)
Staging The Woodlanders
(Chair: Clare-Marie Wall)

Maria Veredian’s thesis includes an adaptation to theatrical script of Thomas Hardy’s novel The Woodlanders.
**Mass Communication and Journalism**

**Faith Sidlow** (read **ABSTRACT**)
Consumption of News among Various Age Groups: Traditional Media Versus New Media  
(Chair: Tamyra Pierce)

**Zoua Vang** (read **ABSTRACT**)
Hmong Radio: Its Listeners and Objectivity of the News  
(Chair: Tamyra Pierce)

**Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures**

**Sylvia Mejía** (read **ABSTRACT**)
La salvación del hombre en el verso de César Vallejo: Una perspectiva Marxista  
(Chair: Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval)

**Ana Pineda** (read **ABSTRACT**)
La técnica de la interrupción en la obra *Al filo del agua*  
(Chair: Cosme Zaragoza)

**CRAIG SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

**Master of Business Administration**

**Ann Townsend** (read **ABSTRACT**)
Fear and Loathing in Steinbeck Country: Factors Affecting Technology Change and Skill Acquisition in a Central California School District  
(Chair: Rudy Sanchez)

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

**Mechanical Engineering**

**Jason Cudnik** (read **ABSTRACT**)
Flow Path Analysis of a Prandtl-Meyer All-External Expansion Aerospike Nozzle  
(Chair: Walter Loscutoff)

**Curtis Hanson** (read **ABSTRACT**)
Cooperative Autonomous Thermal Soaring for Small Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles  
(Chair: Walter Loscutoff)
Communicative Sciences and Deaf Studies

Katie Jarvis (read ABSTRACT)
A Comparison of the Effectiveness of Semantic Feature Analysis and Promoting Aphasic Communicative Effectiveness for Treating Anomia in Patients with Aphasia
(Chair: Donald Freed)

Health Science

Ashley Parks (read ABSTRACT)
Gardasil Vaccine Attitudes and Opinions Survey of Central Valley, California Mothers of Girls 14 to 18 Years Old
(Chair: Suzanne Kotkin-Jaszi)

Kinesiology

Sakiko Imamura (read ABSTRACT)
Athletic Taping Fails To Attenuate Muscular Strain
(Chair: Robert Pettit)

Klaus Marg (read ABSTRACT)
Effects of Caffeine On The VO₂ Slow Component During Heavy Exercise
(Chair: Robert Pettit)

Matthew Villanueva (read ABSTRACT)
Effect of Creatine Loading Combined with Acute Caffeine Ingestion on Lower Body Muscular Strength and Neuromuscular Function
(Chair: Felicia Greer)

Michael Villanueva (read ABSTRACT)
Effect of Creatine Loading with Acute Caffeine Ingestion on Upper Body Muscular Strength and Neuromuscular Function
(Chair: Jacobo Morales)

Twin brothers Matthew and Michael Villanueva examined the impact of creatine monohydrate loading combined with acute caffeine ingestion on the human body: Michael studied the effects on muscles in the upper body, and Matthew studied lower body function.
Nursing

Mary Hunsader (read ABSTRACT)
Personality Traits and Career Satisfaction in the Nursing Profession
(Chair: Mary Barakzai)

Alicia Lozano (read ABSTRACT)
Incidence of Comorbidities in Heart Failure
(Chair: Mary Barakzai)

Heart failure is the leading cause of hospital admissions for patients older than 65 years and affects more than 5 million people in the United States alone.

Social Work Education

Anamika Barman-Adhikari (read ABSTRACT)
Acculturation and Its Impact on Psychosocial Functioning Among Asian Indian Immigrants in the United States
(Chair: Jane Yamaguchi)

“The social work practitioner is taught to help at-risk populations, which typically include the poor and homeless; abused and neglected children and adults; people of color, women, recent refugees, the chronically mentally ill, developmentally disabled, and the physically ill or disabled; substance abusers; criminal offenders; and the aged.”
—CSU, Fresno Department of Social Work

Ronna Bright (read ABSTRACT)
Intimate Partner Violence in the LGBT+ Community: Perceptions of Service Providers and Community Members
(Chair: Anne Petrovich)

Navjot Grewal (read ABSTRACT)
In Her Words: Five Punjabi Women Discuss Experiencing Depressive Symptoms, Coping Strategies, and Seeking Help
(Chair: Nocona Pewewardy)

Maria Mendez (read ABSTRACT)
Substance Abuse Treatment as a Lifestyle Change: Implications for Working with Mothers in the Real World
(Chair: Virginia Rondero Hernandez)

Valente Orozco (read ABSTRACT)
The Effects of the Foster Care Experience on the Ethnic Identity Development of Six Former Foster Youth
(Chair: Nocona Pewewardy)

Damien Terronez (read ABSTRACT)
The Effects of Recreational Dancing on Quality of Life in Older Adults
(Chair: Anne Petrovich)

Summer Verhines (read ABSTRACT)
The Perspectives of African American Kinship Providers on Permanent Placements in Fresno County, California
(Chair: Salvador Montana)
Joint Doctorate in Educational Leadership

Leonard Carrillo
What Obstacles or Support Mechanisms Do Latinos and Latinas Encounter in Becoming Principals and Sustaining Their Leadership Positions in California?  
(Chair: Karen Watson-Gegeo)

John Forbes (read ABSTRACT)
Salient Factors of Urban Teacher Job Attraction Related to Job Satisfaction: An Empirical Study  
(Chair: Phillip Young)

Randal Haggard
The Instructional Leadership Practices of Principals in K-8 Schools and Their Impact on Student Learning Outcomes  
(Chair: Susan Tracz)

Belinda Peña
Latina Middle School Students’ Resistance and Identity  
(Chair: Karen Watson-Gegeo)

Maiyoua Vang (read ABSTRACT)
Effects of Student Achievement on the Job Satisfaction of Public Elementary School Principals  
(Chair: Phillip Young)

Dennis Wiechmann (read ABSTRACT)
The Relationship Between California’s Community Day Schools Facility Type and Facility Condition with Measures of Academic Readiness, Academic Achievement, and Resiliency  
(Chair: Sharon Brown-Welty)

Karen Holsey Young
Effects of Gender and National Origin of Middle School Principal Applicants on the Screening Decisions Made by Female and Male Superintendents  
(Chair: Ronald Unruh)

Kendall Zoller
Nonverbal Patterns of Teachers from Five Countries: Results from the TIMSS-R Video Study  
(Chair: Karen Watson-Gegeo)

Literacy and Early Education

Therese Ewing (read ABSTRACT)
Original Picturebooks and Houghton Mifflin Anthologies: A Comparative Analysis  
(Chair: Glenn DeVoogd)

Therese Ewing challenges Houghton Mifflin’s claims that its anthologies are as authentic as the originals.
Biology

Vanessa Cadiz (read ABSTRACT)
A Mycobacterium smegmatis MC² 155 Mutant Disrupted in Universal Stress Protein is Sensitive to a Variety of Stresses  
(Chair: Mamta Rawat)

Christopher Hamm (read ABSTRACT)
Phylogeography of Tapinoma sessile in California  
(Chair: Paul Crobbie)

Chantale Johnson (read ABSTRACT)
Characterization of Disulfide Stress Response in Mycobacterium smegmatis  
(Chair: Mamta Rawat)

Bobby Kamansky (read ABSTRACT)
Fire and Grazing Effects on Vernal Pool Grasslands  
(Chair: Steven C. Blumenshine)

Megan McCullough (read ABSTRACT)
Environmental Stress Effects on the Expression and Efficacy of Bt Toxins in Widestrike® and Bollgard II® Brands of Cotton  
(Chair: Alice Wright)

Sarathe Peddu (read ABSTRACT)
Pre and Postprandial Effects on the Ghrelin Receptors in the Mozambique Tilapia (Oreochromis mossambicus)  
(Chair: Larry G. Riley)

Maria Wieczorek (read ABSTRACT)
Absence of Wolbachia Symbionts in Pacific Coast Hard Ticks (Acari: Ixodidae)  
(Chair: Paul Crobbie)

Foung Vang (read ABSTRACT)
Potential Impacts of Selenium on California Red-Legged Frog (Rana draytonii)  
(Chair: Brian Tsukimura)

Foung Vang studied the impact of selenium on the California Red-Legged Frog.
Chemistry

Dianne Lim (read ABSTRACT)
Quinones Used as Biomarkers for Exposure to Air Pollution
(Chair: Alam Hasson)

Results from Dianne Lim’s study may help to improve diagnosis of asthma and to better monitor progression and treatment of the disease.

Teresa Mendoza (read ABSTRACT)
Elucidation of Biological Mechanisms Using Small Molecule Models: Reactivity and Exchange Studies of Zinc and Nickel Cysteine Complexes
(Chair: Ronald Marhenke)

Earth and Environmental Sciences

Rohit Sharma (read ABSTRACT)
Ancestral Cascade Arc Volcanism in the North-Central Sierra Nevada, California
(Chair: Keith Putirka)

Physics

Daniel Tennant (read ABSTRACT)
Scattering of Light in Born-Infeld Electrodynamics
(Chair: Gerardo Munoz)

Daniel Tennant’s thesis won the 2007-2008 Outstanding Thesis Award. His thesis offers an experimental test of String Theory, which is the best theory physicists have for realizing Albert Einstein’s dream of a unified field theory.

William Whitaker (read ABSTRACT)
Resistive Plate Chamber Online Data Quality Monitoring for the Compact Muon Solenoid at the European Center for Nuclear Research
(Chair: Raymond Hall)

Psychology

Mary Ann Krating (read ABSTRACT)
Children’s Relational Bullying: Gender and Age Differences
(Chair: Marilyn Wilson)

Do girls actually bully more than boys? Mary Ann Krating investigated bullying behavior in a California school district to find out.

Melissa Lienhard (read ABSTRACT)
The Roles and Functions of School Psychologists: Principals’ Preferences
(Chair: Marilyn Wilson)

Steven Marcial (read ABSTRACT)
The Need for Cognitive Closure and Helping
(Chair: Robert Levine)
Jason Marshall (read ABSTRACT)
Identification of Function in Maintenance of Smoking Cessation
(Chair: Amanda Adams)

Teri Matthews (read ABSTRACT)
Tattooing and Self-Injurious Behavior: Their Relationship and Correlations to Self-Esteem, Anxiety, Body Investment, and Depression
(Chair: Paul Price)

Tiffany Scarritt (read ABSTRACT)
Learning Disabled Students’ Self-Perceptions
(Chair: Karen Carey)

Criminology
Tyson DeWitt (read ABSTRACT)
Different Responses to Violence: A Partial Replication
(Chair: John Dussich)

Interdisciplinary Studies
Shawna Herzog (read ABSTRACT)
Historical Consequences: The Legacy of Sexism and Gender Discrimination and Their Link to Contemporary Sex Trafficking in Russia
(Chair: Loretta Kensinger)