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 summer and fall 2010, 66 students completed theses in areas as varied and original as the students themselves. What follows is a complete list of Summer/Fall 2010 theses by college/school and some research highlights.

**Animal Sciences and Agricultural Education**

**Elise Chad**  
Nutrient Composition of Alpaca (*Vicugna pacos*) Milk  
*(Chair: Jon Robison)*

**Lea Pereira**  
Comparison of Analytical Methods to Measure Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus in Feed and Feces of Dairy Cattle  
*(Chair: Jon Robison)*

**Food Science and Nutrition**

**Akshay Aswani**  
Development of a Beverage from Whey  
*(Chair: Gour Choudhury)*

**Christina Bawana**  
Efficacy of Chitosan as a Transparent Edible Coating in Extending the Shelf Life of Fresh-Cut Peaches  
*(Chair: Gour Choudhury)*

**Julia DiPiero**  
Development and Analysis of a Yogurt Beverage Containing Probiotics and Prebiotics  
*(Chair: Gour Choudhury)*

Elise Chad studied nutrient composition of alpaca milk to improve upon existing supplements for alpaca crias. Julia DiPiero assessed viscosity, syneresis, and palatability in the development of a healthy yogurt beverage.
Mary Perez
How Pistachios May Favorably Influence an Individual's Metabolic Profile and Risk for Chronic Diseases Associated with Inflammation
(Chair: Lisa Herzig)

Preetam Sarkar
Peach Pomace Utilization Using Twin Screw Extrusion Processing
(Chair: Gour Choudhury)

Nikhil Setia
Extrusion Processing of Opuntia
(Chair: Gour Choudhury)

Chelsea Zweigle
Pistachio Byproducts as Substrate for Shiitake Mushrooms
(Chair: Gour Choudhury)

Plant Science

Shashi Yellareddygari
Efficacy of Slow Release Nitrogen Formulations Applied to Vegetables
(Chair: Dave Goorahoo)

Viticulture and Enology

Hatice Durgun
The Quantification of Rot in Wine Grapes
(Chair: Roy Thornton)

John Giannini
Yeast Strain and Its Chemical and Sensory Impact on Red Wine Phenolics
(Chair: Roy Thornton)

John Giannini’s 2-year study sought to determine if differences in wine phenolic profile could be attributed to yeast strain.

English

David Gejeian M.F.A.
California Living
(Chair: Alex Espinoza)
Students in the university’s English Department have written 158 master’s theses in the last 11 years, which ranks English as the top thesis-producing program during that time. The M.F.A. in Creative Writing is similarly productive, having written 125 collections of stories, poems, essays, or stand-alone novels over the same period.* Many of these creative writers have gone on to publish their work in respected literary magazines and journals.

*MData through AY 2010

Marilyn Riddle Harper  M.F.A.
This is Just the Crate
(Chair: Timothy Skeen)

Lisa Lieberman  M.F.A.
All My Bad Boyfriends
(Chair: John Hales)

Olivia Munoz  M.F.A.
The Mouth on That Girl
(Chair: Steven Church)

Laura Musselman  M.F.A.
Bloodletting
(Chair: Steven Church)

Lisa Lieberman takes readers through stories of law-abiding drug dealers; online dating; pot-smoking, small town sheriffs; relapsing drug-addicted Hawaiian fishermen who swim with Christians and man eating sharks; and learning to date with a loaded shotgun under her bed.

Emily Scalzo  M.F.A.
Sugar Moon
(Chair: Connie Hales)

Amber Tidwell  M.F.A.
In Spite of Myself
(Chair: John Hales)

Ria Williams  M.F.A.
Amateur Vice
(Chair: Connie Hales)

*LAmber Tidwell’s memoir explores her experiences with faith and corporate religion.

Linguistics

Galen Balcom
Automated Part of Speech Induction to Improve Understanding of the Parts of Speech
(Chair: Sean Fulop)

Mass Communication and Journalism

John Haisten Willis
The Worldwide Leader Takes on The Final Frontier: An Early Analysis of ESPN’S Local Sports Web Sites in Chicago and Boston
(Chair: Kelley McCoy)

Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

Erica Avina
Madres de la modernidad Mexicana: La naturaleza híbrida y lenguaje creador de Malinche y Sor Juana
(Chair: Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval)
Daniel Calleros Villareal
La identidad del Mexicano postrevolucionario:
Enfundada y desenfundada
(Chair: Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval)

Alejandra López
La promesa incompleta de la modernidad: La identidad cultural en Martín Luis Guzmán, Octavio Paz, Rodolfo Usigli y Carlos Fuentes
(Chair: Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval)

Óscar López-Aguirre
Ideología, religión y devenir en Paz, Yáñez y Rulfo
(Chair: Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval)

Fernando Márquez-Martínez
Una mirada preliminar a la poetica del paisaje en El arte de ensoñar
(Chair: Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval)

Claudia Plascencia
The Problematics of the Narrator in the XIX & XX Centuries
(Chair: Debbie Avila)

Claudia Plascencia studies changes in the Spanish novel as a result of the historical events and literary movements that were emerging during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Oscar Lopez-Aguirre analyzes novels by Yáñez and Rulfo as they manifest Octavio Paz's theory of the Mexican Mask.

Alicia Sandman evaluated the validity and reliability of the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) using a sample of 30 special education students.

Soua Thao
Cultural Perspectives of Hmong Families Toward Disabilities and Special Education
(Chair: Colleen Torgerson)

Nina Palomino took a close look at the changing landscape of higher education through the eyes of university administrators, all of whom have modified the traditional model of service delivery in the wake of decreased funding from state and federal government.

Educational Research and Administration

Nina Palomino
The Effects of Decreased Funding on Higher Education: Perspectives from Administrators
(Chair: Susan Tracz)
Literacy and Early Education

Stephanie Bondy
How Modeled Echo Reading Affects Oral Reading Fluency of English Learners When Compared to Repeated Reading
(Chair: Glenn DeVoogd)

Brigitte Cushman
The Impact of Self-Efficacy Beliefs on English Language Learners’ Academic Effectiveness in High School and Other Institutions
(Chair: Imelda Basurto)

Tsunami Turner
Children’s Development of Positive Body Image: Determining Prevention Effectiveness in Populations of Young Children
(Chair: Pamela Lane-Garon)

Civil Engineering

Nathan Shwiyhat
Geo-Mechanical Effects of Suffusion on Sand-Kaolinite Mixtures
(Chair: Ming Xiao)

Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies

Aubrie Hagopian
Concurrent Treatment as a Motor-Skill Approach for Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS)
(Chair: Steven Skelton)

Jessica Strahan
Naturalistic Treatment for Phonological Disorders Through Conversational Recast Method
(Chair: Steven Skelton)

Kinesiology

Brian Ferguson
Effects of Short-Term Sodium Bicarbonate Supplementation with Acute Caffeine Ingestion on Simulated 3-KM Cycle Performance
(Chair: Felicia Greer)
Gregorio Matíaz
Physiological Responses in Hyperthermic Versus Thermoneutral Environment in Trained Cyclists
(Chair: Felicia Greer)

Andrew Quesada
Effects of 8 Weeks of Chronic L-Arginine Supplementation on Upper Body Muscular Strength in Recreational Body Builders
(Chair: Felicia Greer)

Sandrine Rangeon
Mapping the World of Coaching Science: A Citation Network Analysis
(Chair: Wade Gilbert)

Sandrine Rangeon found that coaching science is highly influenced by a small set of key publications and researchers in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

Public Health

Leslie Abasta
Exploring Missed Appointments in the Health Care Safety Net in the San Joaquin Valley: A Pilot Study
(Chair: John Capitman)

Leslie Abasta studied the ways missed medical appointments threaten practice efficiency and provider productivity.

Katrina Arthur
Performance on the California Physical Fitness Test and Its Correlation to Physical Activity Opportunities in Fresno, California: An Exploratory Study
(Chair: Mohammad Rahman)

Karina Macias
An Investigation of the Drinking Behaviors of Fresno State Students
(Chair: Miguel A. Perez)

Chia Thao
Asian American College Students' Sexual Practices: Findings from ACHA-NCHA Web-Based Data 2009
(Chair: Miguel A. Perez)

Gilda Zárate
Overweight and Obesity Factors for Adults in the San Joaquin Valley, California: Data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2000-2005
(Chair: Miguel A. Perez)

Gilda Zárate identified factors that may affect Body Mass Index variances between men and women in California’s San Joaquin Valley by assessing physical activity against social, demographic, and economic situations.
Biology

Lori Bono
Central Pacific Coast Hard Tick (Acari: Ixodidae)
Distribution, Abundance, and Toxoplasma gondii Prevalence
(Chair: Paul Crosbie)

Rowena Chu
Secretome Analyses of Staged Pancreatic Cancer Cell Lines
(Chair: Jason Bush)

Steve Galentine
Ecto and Endoparasitic Prevalence in Peri-Domestic Medium-Sized Mammals in Stanislaus County, California
(Chair: Paul Crosbie)

Michael Gledhill
Regulation of Methyl Farnesoate During the Life History of the Tadpole Shrimp, Triops longicaudatus
(Chair: Brian Tsukimura)

Vanessa Gonzales
The Population Dynamics of Mitten Crab Larvae in the San Francisco Bay
(Chair: Brian Tsukimura)

Israel Gutierrez
Microbes that Degrade Chloropicrin
(Chair: Alice Wright)

Whitney Janzen
The Effects of Cortisol on the Hormonal Regulation of Food Intake, Glucose Metabolism, and the Growth Hormone/Insulin-Like Growth Factor (GH/IGF) Axis in Tilapia
(Chair: Larry Riley)

Shaynon Scheidt
Characterization of Various Repetitive Elements in Pepper (Capsicum annuum)
(Chair: Jim Prince)

Biotechnology

Venu Polineni
Development of Methodologies to be Applied in the Establishment of Transgenic Meloidogyne incognita Lines
(Chair: Alejandro Calderón-Urrea)

Biotechnology

Venu Polineni
Development of Methodologies to be Applied in the Establishment of Transgenic Meloidogyne incognita Lines
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Preethi Sarvahbowan
Growth characteristics of *Dunaliella primolecta* and *Botryococcus braunii* in Fruit Industry Wastewater and Development of a Protocol to Generate Transgenic Algae
*(Chair: Alejandro Calderón-Urrea)*

**Chemistry**

Rana Elayyan
Amyloid Precursor Protein (APP) Proteolytic Processing in the Presence of Beta-Methylamino-l-Alanine (BMAA) Cycad Neurotoxin
*(Chair: Joy Goto)*

Samuel Hernandez
Product Yield Study of the Reactions of Peroxy Radicals in the Troposphere
*(Chair: Alam Hasson)*

Cindy Xiong
The Metal Ion Content of *Drosophila melanogaster* Expressing Copper-Zinc Superoxide Dismutase (CuZnSOD)
*(Chair: Joy Goto)*

**Marine Science**

Elsie Tanadjaja
The Role of Mechanical and Chemical Processes in Rhodalgal Sediment Production and Implications for Ocean Acidification (Baja California, México)
*(Chair: Ivano Aiello)*

**Physics**

Dulce Romero
Synthesis and Characterization of Rare-Earth Nanoparticles Using the Inverse Micelle Method
*(Chair: Gerardo Muñoz)*

Ulises Urbina
Instrument to Measure the Heat Capacity of Small Samples
*(Chair: Pei-Chun Ho)*
Psychology

Rocio Carbajal
A Comparison of Group-Based and Home-Based Parent Training Using Applied Behavior Analysis Techniques
(Chair: Amanda Adams)

Marguerite McCrow
An Examination of Behavioral Approaches in Increasing Medical Regimen Adherence Among Adolescents with Asthma
(Chair: Marianne Jackson)

Angela Persicke
The Effectiveness of the Headsprout Early Reading Program for Children with Autism
(Chair: Amanda Adams)

History

Melissa Morris
The Paston Women and Gentry Culture: The Development of Individual and Social Identity in Fifteenth-Century England
(Chair: Mark Arvanigian)

Melissa Morris studied the way women in the Paston family of fifteenth-century England used letter writing to create an identity and positively influence their social status.