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 2009, 59 students completed theses in areas as varied and original as the students themselves. What follows is a complete list of Summer/Fall 2009 theses by college/school and some research highlights.

Animal Sciences and Agricultural Education

Kathleen Bell (read ABSTRACT)
Plasma Fructose, Glucose, Insulin, and Immunoglobulin G Concentrations in the 24 Hours Immediately Following Parturition When Fructose Is Used as an Energy Supplement for Neonatal Foals
(Chair: Anne Rodiek)

Tadahiro Miwa (read ABSTRACT)
Serum and Milk Response to Lactating Cows Fed Selenium Enriched Mustard Meal
(Chair: Jon Robison)

Phillip Riordan (read ABSTRACT)
The Correlation of Mycotoxins with Production and Health Parameters on Central California Dairies
(Chair: Jon Robison)

Food Science and Nutrition

Mao Xiong (read ABSTRACT)
Affective Testing on the Seven Moles of Oaxaca
(Chair: Dennis Ferris)

Plant Science

Chad Jorgensen (read ABSTRACT)
QTL Analysis and Marker Addition in a Recombinant Inbred Population of Pepper (Capsicum annuum L.)
(Chair: James Farrar)
Frances Rond (read ABSTRACT)
Ethephon, Gibberellic Acid, and Kinetin's Effect on Guayule (Parthenium argentatum) Seed's Germination and Seedling’s Development
(Chair: Bruce Roberts)

Loren Scheufele (read ABSTRACT)
Factors Affecting Glyphosate Control of Horseweed (Conyza canadensis) and Hairy Fleabane (Conyza bonariensis)
(Chair: Bruce Roberts)

Loren Scheufele seeks to determine if control of Horseweed and Hairy Fleabane can be achieved through a combination of application and nozzle size and type in conjunction with glyphosate.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Art and Design

Phillip Johnson (read ABSTRACT)
Images of Ifa Divination Trays: The Significance of Abstracted Motifs
(Chair: Laura Meyer)

Anna Palecek (read ABSTRACT)
The Dialectics of Media and Design
(Chair: A. Sameh El Kharbawy)

Anna Palecek studies design-related programming and magazines to determine their influence on interior design students and professional interior designers.

Communication

Tyffani Upton (read ABSTRACT)
Disciplining Americans: “A” Knowledge of the War on Terrorism
(Chair: Kevin Ayotte)

English

Candace Duerksen (read ABSTRACT) M.F.A.
The Finding Jar
(Chair: Alex Espinoza)

Stefani Hooper (read ABSTRACT)
An Alchemical Analysis of Hildegard of Bingen’s Natural Philosophy
(Chair: Lisa Weston)

Nicole Howell (read ABSTRACT)
The Emancipation of Composition: (Re)structuring the University to Promote Student Success
(Chair: Rick Hansen)

"Thus, what has been recognized as the unified and homogenous discipline of 'English' has become fragmented, complicated by new 'communities' arising on campuses and establishing new professional publications with differing scholarly interests."

Nicole Howell argues for the separation of Composition Theory from the traditional English department.
Matthew Lance (read ABSTRACT) M.F.A.
Transfers
(Chair: Alex Espinoza)

Courtney Miller (read ABSTRACT) M.F.A.
From the Periphery
(Chair: Connie Hales)

Karen Sikola (read ABSTRACT) M.F.A.
A Testament of Numbers
(Chair: Steven Church)

Jose Silva (read ABSTRACT)
Critical Pedagogy at Different Latitudes
(Chair: Rick Hansen)

Cassie Slonaker (read ABSTRACT) M.F.A.
The Use of Silence and Propriety in Jane Austen’s Mansfield Park and Persuasion
(Chair: Ruth Jenkins)

Margaret Webley (read ABSTRACT) M.F.A.
The Music a Painting Makes
(Chair: Connie Hales)

Students in the university’s English Department have written 139 master’s theses in the last 10 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 110 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.

*Data through AY 2009

“A poem is a litany that refuses to chant, a whimpering pup that won’t come when it’s called.”

Mass Communication and Journalism

Celeste Burnias (read ABSTRACT)
Representations of Gender: News Coverage of Hillary Clinton’s 2008 Presidential Primary Campaign
(Chair: Kelley McCoy)

Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

Maribel Moreno (read ABSTRACT)
Las influencias de la poesía arabe en la poesía castellana en la Península Ibérica
(Chair: Ted Bergman)

Avelina Sandoval (read ABSTRACT)
Del amor al desamor: Soledad y comunidad en la poesía temprana de Pablo Neruda
(Chair: Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval)

Avelina Sandoval traces the development of Pablo Neruda as a poet and social activist through three books of poetry.
Chris Ferbrache (read ABSTRACT)
Virtual Team Leader Emergence: A Model to Objectively Measure Leader Emergence
(Chair: Rudy Sanchez)

LYLES COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Civil Engineering

Jose Gomez (read ABSTRACT)
The Effects of Piping on the Shear Strength of Soils
(Chair: Ming Xiao)

Orrin Thomas (read ABSTRACT)
Multiview Constraint Theory for Points with Application to Bundle Adjustment and Camera Calibration
(Chair: Riadh Munji)

Engineering

Hayat Al-Sarabi (read ABSTRACT)
The Kalman Filter’s Role in Identifying GPS Position and Velocity
(Chair: Robert Hecht)

Timothy Schellenberg (read ABSTRACT)
Wideband Printed Dipole Antenna Using a Triangular Parasitic Element
(Chair: Robert Hecht)

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Kinesiology

Juliette Lyke (read ABSTRACT)
Effect of Arm and Leg Hair on Body Volume Measurement Using Air Displacement Plethysmography
(Chair: Michael Coles)

Public Health

Maribel Fernandez (read ABSTRACT)
A Comparative Analysis of the Effects of Traditional Diabetes Care Education Versus Use of the Patient Electronic Care System (PECS) on the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors of Diabetes Patients
(Chair: Suzanne Kotkin-Jaszi)

*Maribel Fernandez used her research findings to improve diabetes education materials in a community health system in Fresno County, California.*
**Biology**

**Jose Gutierrez** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Differential Feeding Behaviors of Two Distinct *Aphis gossypii* Biotypes Using the DC Electrical Penetration Graph
(Chair: Fred Schreiber)

**Catalina Reyes** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Effects of Erosion on the Distribution of Subtidal Communities in Elkhorn Slough, Monterey County, California
(Chair: Michael Graham)

**Jose Soto** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Intestinal Parasite Prevalence in Ocoroni, Sinaloa, Mexico
(Chair: Paul Crosbie)

**Jennifer Talbot** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Genetic Evidence of Permethrin Resistance in the Human Head Louse (*Pediculus humanus capitis*) from the San Joaquin Valley and San Francisco Bay Area, California
(Chair: Paul Crosbie)

**Chemistry**

**Amanda Tout** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Bioethics of Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Tests
(Chair: Andrew Fiala)

**Donal Hodges** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
The Effects of Utilizing Video Production and Online Video Review upon Student Achievement and Motivation
(Chair: David Frank)

**Brian Shamp** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Identification and Quantification of Volatile Fatty Acids from a Commercial Dairy in California Using a Flux Chamber and SPME on GC/MS
(Chair: Alam Hasson)

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**Amanda Tout weighs the benefits of direct-to-consumer genetic testing against its potential repercussions.**

**Jose Gutierrez studies aphid feeding behaviors in an effort to mitigate transmission of costly citrus diseases in California and nationwide.**

**Jose Soto analyzes the prevalence intestinal parasites in a rural Mexican community and recommends measures to diminish parasite transmission.**

**Brian Shamp examines the specific impact that dairy farm emissions have on the air quality of the San Joaquin Valley.**
Earth and Environmental Sciences

Jorge Baca (read ABSTRACT)
GIS-Aided Modeling and Site Measurement of Soil Erosion Potentials in the Upper Fresno River Watershed, California
(Chair: Zhi Wang)

Physics

Andrea Arias de Gill (read ABSTRACT)
Radiation Arising from the Rindler Gravitational Background
(Chair: Raymond Hall)

Psychology

Melanie Ciapessoni (read ABSTRACT)
Response to Intervention Level of Adoption in California: A Survey of Principals
(Chair: Marilyn Wilson)

Tessa Doty (read ABSTRACT)
Rates of Inclusion Among Students with Autistic-Like Behaviors, Mental Retardation, and Speech and Language Impairments
(Chair: Marilyn Wilson)

Women make up over half the school psychologists in academe and 70% of the school psychology practitioners, yet remain underrepresented in research publications. Cheryl Gibson examines why.

Justin Garcia (read ABSTRACT)
Students' Perceptions of Subject Pool Participation: Coercion, Undue Influence, and Educational Value
(Chair: Constance Jones)

Marcel Garcia (read ABSTRACT)
Identification and Processing of Features in Simulated Dynamic Crime Scenes
(Chair: Matthew Sharps)

Cheryl Gibson (read ABSTRACT)
Women in School Psychology: Underrepresentation in Publication
(Chair: Marilyn Wilson)

Bethany Guerra (read ABSTRACT)
Using Behavioral Treatments to Improve Healthy Lifestyle Habits in School Children
(Chair: Amanda Adams)
Taylor Harris (read ABSTRACT)
Transformation of Functions: Relational Frames of More-Than and Less-Than and the Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure
(Chair: Lorin Lachs)

Kathryn Higgins (read ABSTRACT)
Healthy Father-Daughter Relationships, Self-Image, and Resilience: Associations in a Sample of College Women
(Chair: Constance Jones)

Debra Kusick (read ABSTRACT)
Jumpstart Preschool Program Evaluation: Outcomes for Children
(Chair: Karen Carey)

Elizabeth Savino (read ABSTRACT)
Placement of Sensitive and Nonsensitive Demographic Questions: An Empirical Study
(Chair: Jennifer Ivie)

Coleman Tuttle (read ABSTRACT)
Effects of Anonymity on Aggressive Behavioral Responses to Anger-Provoking Driving Situations
(Chair: Christine Edmondson)

Tsion-Hanna Wolde (read ABSTRACT)
The Effect of Errorless Learning Procedures on Rate of Skill Acquisition in Teaching Children with Autism
(Chair: Amanda Adams)

Criminology

Kristiana Dixon (read ABSTRACT)
Analysis of a State Victim Compensation Program: A Comparison with Child Protective Services
(Chair: John Dussich)

History

Vernon Creviston (read ABSTRACT)
The Quebec Act: Politics, Religion, Territory, and the Rejection of the British Monarchy in the American Colonies
(Chair: Brad Jones)
Danielle Griffiths (read ABSTRACT)
A Community Divided: Visalia, California 1852-1940
(Chair: Daniel Cady)

Tristan Shamp (read ABSTRACT)
Nationalism, California, and the Civil War:
The Divided Town of Visalia
(Chair: Ethan Kytle)

Jessica Szalay (read ABSTRACT)
World War II Newsreels: The Legacy of Yellow Journalism
(Chair: Blain Roberts)

Stefanie Tacata (read ABSTRACT)
Twentieth-Century Cuban Feminism and Motherhood
(Chair: William Skuban)

Zachary Zweigle (read ABSTRACT)
Through Adversity to the Stars: The Development of an
Autonomous British Royal Air Force
(Chair: Melissa Jordine)

International Relations

Paul Betancourt (read ABSTRACT)
Can the Swiss Model of Confederation
Be Applied in Afghanistan?
(Chair: Russ Mardon)

Paul Betancourt takes the position in his study that confederation is a style of government that can lower conflict, especially between people with different ethnic or religious backgrounds, and offers ways this style of government can work in Afghanistan.