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 2011 semester, 61 students completed theses in areas as varied and original as the students themselves. What follows is a complete list of spring 2011 publications by college/school and some research highlights.

### Animal Science

**Brittany Whyler**  
Salivary Cortisol as an Indicator of Stress in Performance Quarter Horses in a Home and Show Environment  
(Chair: Anne Rodiek)

### Food Science and Nutrition

**Jennifer Pietz**  
Factors Influencing Student Selection of Dietetic Internship Programs  
(Chair: Lisa Herzig)

### Plant Science

**Christine Rainbolt**  
Steam as a Methyl Bromide Alternative in California Cut Flower Production  
(Chair: Anil Shrestha)

Christine Rainbolt evaluated two steam application methods as **Methyl Bromide alternatives** in cut flower nurseries.

### Creative Writing—Master of Fine Arts

**Michelle Brittan**  
The Numerology of Us  
(Chair: Tim Skeen)  

**Marilyn Byrne**  
Cradled Between the Earthworm’s Soil and the Skybird’s Flight  
(Chair: Connie Hales)
Brian Fikes
Church of the One Streetlight
(Chair: John Hales)

Gabriel Ibarra
Garage Sale
(Chair: Tim Skeen)

Jane Jeffers
Mary the Elephant and Other Stories
(Chair: Alex Espinoza)

Miguel Jimenez
Goodbyes: Stories
(Chair: Alex Espinoza)

Kristofer Whited
Elements of Home
(Chair: Alex Espinoza)

Georgia Williams
Raised for Chaos: A Memoir
(Chair: John Hales)

Mario Rosado
Earth at Great Heights
(Chair: Alex Espinoza)

"I grew up in a borderland between New York City country clubs and Pennsylvania Dutch farms, the great expanse between civilization and wilderness nearly swallowing me up at times."
--Georgia Williams, Raised for Chaos: A Memoir

**English**

Kristen Akina
The Problem of Female Reserve: Jane Austen’s Script of Sisterhood
(Chair: Ruth Jenkins)

Lorena Hayes
Rethinking Pedagogies, Reform, and Ideologies in Secondary Schooling
(Chair: Virginia Crisco)

Jenny Heaton
Subterranean Places: Finding Archetypal Meaning in Autobiographies Through the Deconstruction of Binary Language
(Chair: John Beynon)

Megan McKnight
The Construction of Error in Teacher Commentary on Latino/a and White Students’ Writing in a First Year Writing Program
(Chair: Asao Inoue)

Monica Medina
Ageism in the Novels of Jane Austen
(Chair: Ruth Jenkins)

**Linguistics**

Viktoriia Teliga
Phonological Movement in Ukrainian
(Chair: Chris Golston)
Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

Yuleinys Castillo
Mujer y nación en tres novelas sudamericanas: Iracema, Doña Bárbara e Ifigenia
(Chair: Gloria Medina-Sancho)

Julio Puente García
Modernidad, conciencia y libertad del individuo en Rulfo, Quiroga y Cortázar
(Chair: Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval)

Iván Sergio Garibay
Sex, Madness and the Subversion of Power Structures in the Works of Leopoldo María Panero
(Chair: Debbie Avila)

CRAIG SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Business Administration

Russel Statham
Leadership Development in Student Governing Board Members
(Chair: Lynnette Zelezny)

Russel Statham evaluated the effectiveness of the various methods through which students serving on university governing boards undergo leadership development

Civil Engineering

Benjamin Adams
Piping Erosion Mechanisms of Organic Soils and Bioabatement of Piping Erosion of Sand
(Chair: Ming Xiao)

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Kinesiology

Sean Chamberlain
Extreme Sport Athletes’ Perceptions About Sport Psychology and Use of Mental Skills
(Chair: Jenelle Gilbert)
Bryan Crutcher
Perceived Wellness in Injured Collegiate Student-Athletes and Its Association with Mood State, Readiness, and Rehabilitation Adherence
(Chair: Dawn Lewis)

Oscar Rodriguez
The Effects of Multiple Cold-Water Immersions on Recovery from Exercise-Induced Muscle Damage Resulting from Multiple Sessions of Repeated Sprint Performances
(Chair: Jacobo Morales)

Nursing
Carole Cooper
Evaluation of a Pediatric Fall Risk Assessment Tool
(Chair: Mary Barakzai)

Public Health
Whitney Blum
Ethnicity and Gender as Predictors of Physical Activity Levels of Adolescents
(Chair: Suzanne Kotkin-Jaszi)

Alicia Gonzalez
An Exploratory Analysis of Access to Care and Health Status Among Undocumented Latinos in Fresno County, California
(Chair: John Capitman)

Esther Rivera
A Comparison of White and Hispanic Body Perception
(Chair: Mohammad Rahman)

Social Work Education
Hiromi Bacon
Exploring California State University, Fresno Students’ Resiliency and Childhood Trauma Experiences and Their Supportive Persons’ Attributes
(Chair: Anne Petrovich)

Marsha Calhoun
Exploring Lesbian Survivors of Domestic Violence Access to Services
(Chair: Donna Hardina)

Bryan Crutcher’s research determined new implications for sport psychologists working with injured athletes.

Inability to pay and fear of discovery by U.S. immigration were among the barriers to health care access by the undocumented Latinos in Alicia Gonzalez’s study.
Caroline Dezan
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on
What Facilitates Timely Referral
to Palliative Care for Children with
Serious Illness in Fresno, California
(Chair: Debra Harris)

Monique Eastis
Understanding the THP+ Program Host Parent Model Through the
Eyes of Former Participants in the Program
(Chair: Donna Hardina)

Tonya Franklin
The Perceptions of the Educational Achievement Outcomes of
Five African American Former Fostered Young People
(Chair: Kris Clarke)

Elizabeth Graves
The War Continues: Iraq and Afghanistan War Veterans Returning Home
(Chair: Kris Clarke)

Rena Haggard
A Policy Analysis of California’s Mental Health
Services Act Within Fresno County
(Chair: Donna Hardina)

Louis Jackson
Former Foster Care Youths’ Awareness of Stigmatized
and Unstigmatized Social Support Systems
(Chair: Donna Hardina)

Ouraiphone Konethongkham
Understanding Services Provided to Foster Youth and the
Impacts on Permanent Connection
(Chair: Kris Clarke)

Kathryn Mitchell
Experienced First Hand: A Look at the Relevance of
Transitional Programs for Emancipating Youth
(Chair: Anne Petrovich)

Ksenija Norris
Shame, and the Way It Impacts the Relationship Between Mothers with Substance Abuse
Disorder and Child Welfare Social Workers
(Chair: Kris Clarke)

Joanna Zamora
An Exploratory Study on Social Workers’ Attitudes and Practices with Gay and Lesbian Clients
(Chair: Salvador Montana)

“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

Caroline Dezan explored the problem of inadequate access to end-of-life care services for children diagnosed with a serious illness.

Elizabeth Graves seeks to explain how Iraq and Afghanistan War Veterans narrate their experiences and the effects of social support systems once they have returned from such a distressing environment.
Rain Healer conducted an inventory of Diptera, commonly called flies, present on some of the California native plants that have been utilized in habitat restoration in the Westlands Water District region of southwest Fresno County.
Psychology

Joy Ewart
Investigation of the Effects of the Lexical Category Model on Attention in English
(Chair: Lorin Lachs)

Karmjot Grewal
Self-Disclosure and Acculturation Within the United States East Indian Community
(Chair: Constance Jones)

Mary Vongsackda
Working Memory Differences Between Monolinguals and Bilinguals
(Chair: Jennifer L. Ivie)

School Psychology (Ed.S.)

Angela Alcorn
Resiliency Factors of Foster Youth
(Chair: Marilyn Wilson)

Shauna Buchholz
The Effect of Mothers’ ASL Skill Level on the English Literacy of Their Deaf Child
(Chair: Lorin Lachs)

Malerie Goodman
The Role of Perspective-Taking in Reading and Its Relationship to Empathy in Children
(Chair: Robert Levine)

Barbara Greenberg
The Effect of Variable-Response Reinforcement of Novel Questions on Quantity of Conversational Interactions for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
(Chair: Marianne Jackson)

Haley Jameson
Self-Concept as a Mediator of Academic Performance: The Influence of Ethnicity, Native Language, and English Proficiency
(Chair: Marilyn Wilson)

Lauren Litel
The Better-Than-Average Effect in High School Students’ Academic Self-Assessments and the Role of Academic Motivation
(Chair: Paul Price)

Karmjot Grewal’s goal was to further understand acculturation and self-disclosure in the young generation of East Indians living in the United States.

Shauna Buchholz examined the connection between the ASL SKILL LEVEL of mothers its relationship to their deaf child's English literacy skills.

Haley Jameson investigated the relationship between self-concept and academic performance in an effort to contribute to the body of literature on Hispanic Dropout Rates.
Pickawillany demonstrates how Natives were not passive victims, but active, vital agents who acted in their own interest. The events of the raid feature a number of individuals who were cultural brokers, intermediaries between the groups who played a central, but tenuous, role in negotiations. It also exhibits the power of ritual violence, a discourse of torture and maiming that communicated meanings to friends and rivals alike, and whose implications shaped the history of the period and perceptions of Natives.”

--Luke Fleeman Martinez