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 2007 semester, 65 students completed dissertations and theses in areas as varied and original as the students themselves. What follows is a complete list of spring 2007 publications by college/school and some research highlights.

**Food Science and Nutrition**

Melissa Kendra Guerra-Martinez (read ABSTRACT)
Determinants of Milk Type Selection Among Hispanic Mothers in a California WIC Program
(Chair: Sandra Witte)

**Plant Science**

Jeremy Brooks Bahne (read ABSTRACT)
The Development of a Triploid Clone Through Endosperm Tissue Culture of Sapium Sebiferum (L.) Roxb.
(Chair: James Farrar)

**Communication**

Dawn Marie McIntosh (read ABSTRACT)
Staging the Critical Functions of Identity: An Ethnography of Latina Drag Queens
(Chair: Shane Morman)

**Creative Writing—Master of Fine Arts**

Jefferson Beavers (read ABSTRACT)
What Can’t Be Erased
(Chair: John Hales)

Jeremy Bahne seeks to develop a seedless variety of the Chinese Tallow tree to decrease its invasiveness, which has become detrimental to native plant species in many parts of the U.S.
Ricardo Garza (read ABSTRACT)
Kill the Dog
(Chair: Connie Hales)

Guiseppe Getto (read ABSTRACT)
Psychoagricultural
(Chair: Connie Hales)

Nigel Medhurst (read ABSTRACT)
Public Grooming and the American Dream
(Chair: Steve Yarbrough)

Deanna Pierro (read ABSTRACT)
Something More than Tongues
(Chair: Steve Yarbrough)

John Rabb (read ABSTRACT)
Swinging for the Fences
(Chair: John Hales)

Jennifer Raimondo (read ABSTRACT)
Stories from the Mainland
(Chair: Steve Yarbrough)

Sylvia Savala (read ABSTRACT)
Paper Moon
(Chair: John Hales)

Brian Wall (read ABSTRACT)
Outs in Free
(Chair: Linnea Alexander)

English

Travis Justin Koll (read ABSTRACT)
Restoring Hardy’s Fate
(Chair: Ruth Jenkins)

Toby Suzan Roberts (read ABSTRACT)
Wartalk: Tim O’Brien’s Postmodern Rhetoric of the Vietnam War in The Things They Carried
(Chair: Rick Hansen)

Heidi Aranka Wilson (read ABSTRACT)
Unveiled: An Examination of Jane Austen’s Betrothal Scenes
(Chair: John Beynon)

Raymond Winter (read ABSTRACT)
Re-Mything Nature: Walt Whitman as an Ancestral Origin of Ecofeminist Literature
(Chair: Lyn Johnson)

Travis Koll challenges more popular notions of Thomas Hardy as pessimist, arguing instead that Hardy’s ideal is a “world in which the helpless are helped, the starving are fed, the grieving are comforted, and those most in need of mercy are granted it.” Travis’s thesis won “Honorable Mention” in the 2006-2007 Outstanding Thesis Award.

Mass Communication and Journalism

Laine Joy Hendricks (read ABSTRACT)
The Uses and Preferences for Reality Television Viewing Among Age, Sex, and Race
(Chair: Tamyra Pierce)

Patrick Hescox (read ABSTRACT)
College Student News Motivations
(Chair: Tamyra Pierce)
Rasha Mohamed (read ABSTRACT)
Where are the Real Arabs and Muslims? A Content Analysis of the Portrayals of Arabs and Muslims in Online Print and Video News Reports
(Chair: Tamyra Pierce)

Rasha Mohamad finds that Western media stereotype Arabs and Muslims, framing “the Arab World and Islam as synonymous with terrorism, war, violence, and religious hysteria.”

Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

Maria Elvira Hernandez (read ABSTRACT)
Concha espina: Una perspectiva feminista
(Chair: Debbie Avila)

Maria de Lourdes Pineda (read ABSTRACT)
El libre albedrío vs. predestino en La vida es sueño y El condenado por desconfiado
(Chair: Saul Jiménez-Sandoval)

Norma Ramirez (read ABSTRACT)
Mujeres sin escape: Crítica feminista en dos novelas de Carmen de Burgos, La flor de la playa y El perseguidor
(Chair: Saul Jiménez-Sandoval)

Brenda Soto (read ABSTRACT)
Esperanza y desesperanza en la vision Marxista de Baldomero Lillo y Jose Emilio Pacheco
(Chair: Saul Jiménez-Sandoval)

CRAIG SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Master of Business Administration

Ruby Leonor Camagay Tangonen (read ABSTRACT)
Employer Investment in Wellness Programs: Implications for Fresno Business Firms as Learning Organizations
(Chair: Rafael Solis)

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Civil and Geomatics Engineering and Construction

Martin Paquette (read ABSTRACT)
A Toolbox of Computation Methods for the Problem of Double Proportion Corner Restoration in the United States Public Land System (Chair: James Crossfield)
Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

Randolph Thompson (read ABSTRACT)
Using an Artificial Neural Network to Predict Flight Loads for Maneuver Envelope Expansion of a Modern Aircraft
(Chair: Walter Loscutoff)

Communication Sciences and Deaf Studies

Ericka Olsen (read ABSTRACT)
Generalization of Personalized Cueing to Enhance Word Finding in Natural Settings
(Chair: Donald Freed)

Health Science

Robert Layne Clegg (read ABSTRACT)
The Rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Cases and Mothers Who Lacked Regularly Scheduled Prenatal Care Visits in Fresno County, California Between 1992 and 1998
(Chair: Vickie Krenz)

Tonantzin Eva Soto (read ABSTRACT)
Disparities in Adequate Prenatal Care Among Immigrant Women in the United States
(Chair: John Capitman)

Jessica Woody (read ABSTRACT)
Gross Alpha Levels in Private Drinking Water Wells in Foothill Areas of the Sierra Nevada, California
(Chair: Sandra Donohue)

Kinesiology

Alan Bontya (read ABSTRACT)
The Challenge of Being an Intercollegiate Athlete: A Balance Between Academics and Athletics
(Chair: Catherine Jackson)

Lisa Leininger (read ABSTRACT)
Comparing Perception of Exertion and Enjoyment Between Exergaming and Treadmill Exercise
(Chair: Jenelle Gilbert)
Brittany Loney (read ABSTRACT)
The UNIFORM: A High School Sport Psychology Intervention
(Chair: Jenelle Gilbert)

Adam Smith (read ABSTRACT)
Body Appearance and Physical Activity Attitudes and Behaviors Among Urban Middle School Youth
(Chair: Wade Gilbert)

Nursing

Nichole Lynn Juarez (read ABSTRACT)
The Effect of Alcohol-Based and Alcohol-Free Hand Sanitizer on Subsequent Bacterial Growth
(Chair: Michael Russler)

Carol Richina (read ABSTRACT)
Opioid Detoxification: The Relationship of Anxiety and Physical Withdrawal Symptoms to Addiction Treatment Program Compliance
(Chair: Sylvia Miller)

Lee Sandy Vang (read ABSTRACT)
Perception of Hypertension and Antihypertensive Medication Compliance in the Elderly Hmong Population
(Chair: Janine Spencer)

Social Work Education

Rosemary Dobney (read ABSTRACT)
Public Child Welfare Social Workers’ Personal Feelings About Their Sibling Relationships and Their Impact on Their Professional Practices Regarding Sibling Placements in Foster Care
(Chair: Debra Harris)

Kelly Christine Mancuso (read ABSTRACT)
Reunification Outcomes in Methamphetamine Abusing Families
(Chair: Virginia Hernandez)

Yvette Renee Nealy (read ABSTRACT)
People Who Are Deaf: Perceptions and Perspectives on Education, Family, and Work Life
(Chair: Debra Harris)

Leticia Noriega (read ABSTRACT)
Caregiver Satisfaction with the Transition of Children’s Mental Health Services from a Private, Nonprofit to Public Service Venue
(Chair: Debra Harris)

“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
Michelle Salazar (read ABSTRACT)
Young Family Caregivers: An Invisible Population
(Chair: Debra Harris)

Zang Xiong (read ABSTRACT)
Hmong Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: An Exploratory Study
(Chair: Anne Petrovich)

**KREMEN SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

**Joint Doctorate in Educational Leadership**

**Jose Moreno Castaneda**
Effect of Hispanic National Origin on Salary Differential for Male Elementary School Principals: A Structured Analysis to Explore the Existence and Implications (Chair: I Phillip Young)

**Susan Cox** (read ABSTRACT)
Examining the Impact of Asthma on the Provision of Equitable Educational Attainment for Elementary School Students of the San Joaquin Valley (Chair: Susan Tracz)

**Sharon Cathleen Davis** (read ABSTRACT)
Second Language Acquisition Strategies and Methods in the Classroom: A Study of CLAD Certified Teachers as Mandated by No Child Left Behind Legislation (Chair: Karen Carey)

**Elida Garza** (read ABSTRACT)
Collective Bargaining as a Possible Factor in Title I Schools’ Response Measures to Close the Achievement Gap Between White (Non-Hispanic) and Latino Students (Chair: James Marshall)

**Laurie Beth Goodman**
Leadership Practices in California Middle Schools: Sustaining Organizational Change That Promotes Student Academic Success (Chair: Joseph Castro)

**May Thao Moua** (read ABSTRACT)
An Investigation of Factors Impacting Hmong Students’ Completion of a 4-Year Post-Secondary Degree (Chair: Sharon Brown-Welty)

**Pa Pam Vue** (read ABSTRACT)
Factors That Contribute Towards and/or Impede Hmong Women from Obtaining a Higher Education Degree (Chair: Sharon Brown-Welty)
**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**

**Biology**

**Linda Donnelly** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Resistance Gene Analogs in Pepper (*Capsicum annuum*) and Their Relationship to *Phytophthora capsici* Resistance Genes
*(Chair: Jim Prince)*

**Denise Lynn Lopez** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
*Mycobacterium smegmatis* mc² 155 *fbiC* and MSMEG_2392 Are Involved in Triphenylmethane Dye Degradation and Coenzyme F420 Biosynthesis
*(Chair: Mamta Rawat)*

**Ryan Lopez** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Soil Moisture Patterns in Sierra Nevada Mixed-Conifer Forest
*(Chair: John Constable)*

**Earth and Environmental Sciences**

**Marlon Mauricio Jean** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
The Central Sierra Nevada Volcanic Field of California: A Geochemical Study of a Transitional Arc
*(Chair: Keith Putirka)*

**Psychology**

**Tammie Lynn Fay** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
*(Chair: Marilyn Wilson)*

**Jennifer Fiedler** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Characteristics of Bullying Interventions and Effectiveness of a Middle School Peer Mediation Program
*(Chair: Marilyn Wilson)*

**Danielle Meijer** (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Undergraduate Psychology Students’ Ability to Transfer Critical Thinking Skills
*(Chair: Paul Price)*
“Students in the School Psychology program have obtained positions in school systems throughout California and in several other states as school psychologists. Their research over the years has included studies in social anxiety, child sexual abuse, dropout intervention, interprofessional collaboration, and ethnic self-concept comparisons.”

—CSU, Fresno Department of Psychology

Farah Janell Mohammadi (read ABSTRACT)
Social Skills Training: Are There Long-Term Effects?
(Chair: Karen Carey)

Cassie Muratore (read ABSTRACT)
Using Parent Recording and Graphic Feedback to Enhance Treatment Integrity and Adherence in In-Home Programs
(Chair: Jennifer Austin)

Jennifer Soeda (read ABSTRACT)
The Importance of Function in Treatment Selection for Children With Minor Behavior Problems
(Chair: Jennifer Austin)

Tara Whitener (read ABSTRACT)
Special Education Students’ Perspectives on Special Education Placement and Programs
(Chair: Marilyn Wilson)

Criminology

David Cyrus Pyrooz (read ABSTRACT)
Risk Factors of Gang Membership: Results from an Analysis of Self-Reported Gang Members in the Fresno County, California Jail
(Chair: Jerome Jackson)

History

Denise Best (read ABSTRACT)
A Battle of a Different Nature: Civilians Who Were on Wake Island and Their Fight for Compensation After World War II
(Chair: Melissa Jordine)

Patricia Ann Gostanian (read ABSTRACT)
Profile of a Roman Citizen: A Prosopographical Study of Cn. Cornelius Lentulus Marcellinus
(Chair: David Berkey)

David Pyrooz’s findings reflect a “new class of gang member,” one who trends toward low self-control and longer duration as part of a gang family. David’s thesis was nominated by his college as its nominee to the 2006-2007 Outstanding Thesis Award.