

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

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The Graduate School's  
Annual Awards  
Celebration

*2016-2017*

Event Program  
April 13, 2017



Thursday, April 13th 2017

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5:00 p.m. Event Registration Opens  
Reception Begins

5:45 p.m. Welcoming Remarks by Dean Prado  
Special Recognition of Dr. Lawrence Morehouse

6:00 p.m. Winners Announced / Presentation of the Awards  
Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant  
Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant  
Graduate Student Exemplar  
Outstanding Graduate Program Director  
Faculty Mentor of the Year

6:30 p.m. Presentation of Certificates to Nominees

7:00 p.m. Reception Concludes



# Student Nominees

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## OUTSTANDING GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

This award recognizes a graduate student who has distinguished himself/herself in scholarly or research pursuits in a graduate program at UM. The award winner made a distinctive and discernible contribution to his/her field during his/her tenure or in the 2016-17 academic year.

**Haluk Damgacioglu**, Ph.D., Industrial Engineering

**Brittney Ellzey**, Ph.D., Mathematics

**Xu Han**, Ph.D., Chemistry

**Busra Keles**, Ph.D., Industrial Engineering

**Shruti Khandelwal**, M.S., Architecture

**Bohdan Khomtchouk**, Ph.D., Human Genetics and Genomics

**Basar Koc**, Ph.D., Computer Science

**Eric Louderback**, Ph.D., Sociology

**Katherine Martin**, Ph.D., Psychology

**Vasileios Stathias**, Ph.D., Human Genetics and Genomics

**Drewry Wofford**, Ph.D., History

# Student Nominees

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## OUTSTANDING GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

This award recognizes a graduate student for enhancing undergraduate education at UM. The award winner demonstrated superior effectiveness or innovation as a teacher of undergraduates while serving as an instructor or teaching assistant in a classroom, laboratory, studio or other setting, and made significant professional development as a teacher.

**Summer DeBastiani**, Ph.D., Nursing

**Sercan Demir**, Ph.D., Industrial Engineering

**Daniel Forster**, Ph.D., Psychology

**Dana Kaufman**, D.M.A., Music Theory and Composition

**Shruti Khandelwal**, M.S., Architecture

**Nelson Mastracci Marques**, Ph.D., History

**Brian Richter**, Ph.D., Psychology

**Lafayette Trey Watson**, Ph.D., Exercise Physiology

## GRADUATE STUDENT EXEMPLAR

This award recognizes a graduating student who excelled academically either by overcoming tremendous odds to be successful, or by consistently making contributions that benefited others. This student's service, leadership or other distinctive efforts were made to the campus, local, national or international community.

**Lis-Marie Alvarado**, MSED, Community and Social Change

**Mehrad Bastani**, Ph.D., Industrial Engineering

**Gloria Schmitz**, M.A., International Administration



# Faculty Nominees

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## OUTSTANDING GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

This award recognizes a Graduate Program Director (GPD) who made a significant impact on graduate education, and/or in support of graduate students in his/her program during the 2016-17 academic year. The outstanding GPD may have made innovations and/or contributions to enhance curriculum, programming, recruitment, retention or placement.

**Alex Wilson**, Biology

**Henrik Cronqvist**, Finance

**Burjor Captain**, Chemistry

**Juliano Laran**, Marketing

## FACULTY MENTOR OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes a faculty member who has shown tremendous commitment to mentoring, advising and supporting graduate student advisees during the 2016-17 academic year. This faculty member made distinctive efforts in mentoring and advising graduate students to 1) become professionals in their field, 2) shape the graduate work of a graduate student, or 3) provide exceptional personal support and development to a graduate student.

**Hassan Al-Ali**, Miami Project to Cure Paralysis

**Anabel Bejarano**, Educational & Psychological Studies

**Christopher Boardman**, Media Writing & Production

**Jacklyn Collins**, Accounting

**Henrik Cronqvist**, Finance

**Alessia Fornoni**, Medicine

**Martin Grosell**, Marine Biology & Ecology

**Caglar Irmak**, Marketing

**William Johns**, Ocean Sciences

**Tulay Koru-Sengul**, Public Health Sciences

**Roger Leblanc**, Chemistry

**Debra Lieberman**, Psychology

**Sarah Messiah**, Pediatrics and Public Health Sciences

**Steven Safren**, Psychology

**Kathleen Sealey**, Biology



# SPECIAL RECOGNITION

**Dr. Lawrence Morehouse**  
**President and CEO of the Florida Education Fund (FEF)**

*The FEF's mission is to strengthen the larger community by creating and implementing programs and services that lead to institutional enhancement and greater educational advancement for historically underrepresented groups.*

The FEF was funded initially by a major grant from the McKnight Foundation of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and, subsequently, a challenge grant from the Foundation, which required matching funds from the Florida Legislature. As a not-for-profit corporation established in 1984, the FEF has provided an avenue to ensure that educational advancement is possible. This quasi-public entity with a statewide mission and national impact, was originally known as the McKnight Programs in Higher Education and administered by the Florida Association of Colleges and Universities, which served as the forerunner to what is now known as the FEF.



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