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GAPSA and the Office of the Provost Announce
Winners of the 2009 Award for Interdisciplinary Innovation

Interim Provost Vince Price and GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp are pleased to announce the team and individual graduate and professional student recipients of the 2009 GAPSA-Provost Award for Interdisciplinary Innovation.

In spring 2005, a partnership between GAPSA and the Office of the Provost led to the creation of the Award for Interdisciplinary Innovation summer research fellowship program. The program enables graduate and professional students to engage in a project of their own design to explore, research, and act on critical societal issues. Students were selected based on the quality of their application and funding status. This year seven applicant teams or individuals will receive a \$2,000 monthly fellowship from June through August for this work. This funding will be awarded to the Project Leader in each instance but can be dispersed among project team members, if needed.

The GAPSA-Provost Award for Interdisciplinary Innovation encourages the collaboration of student scholars from different University departments and/or schools and is jointly funded by both GAPSA and the Office of the Provost.

Interim Provost Vince Price comments, "We are proud that Penn's graduate students place such a high value on interdisciplinary work. These projects show the wide range of their interests, their commitment to innovative ideas, and their determination to make a real difference around the world."

GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp added, "GAPSA is pleased to be able to co-sponsor a seventh award this year in addition to the six which have been given out annually. This additional funding has been graciously allocated by the GAPSA Research Student Council, and demonstrates GAPSA's on-going commitment to the funding of academic endeavors around campus and our advocacy for increased funding for our research students."

The winning teams and individuals must submit a report at the end of the summer and participate in a poster session in the fall at the Graduate Student Center. The poster session will provide a venue for fellows to present their work, receive feedback from the larger Penn academic community, and encourage future interdisciplinary collaborations.

Awards Recipients

Project Leader: Ryan Burg (Ph.D. Student, Legal Studies and Business Ethics, Wharton)
Project Member: Rachel Margolis (Ph.D. Student, Demography, Arts & Sciences)
Project Title: *The Sexual Organization of Risk: Sexual Health and Risks through the College Life Course*

Project Leader: Jack Higgins (M.G.A. Student, The Fels Institute, Arts & Science)
Project: *The Penn Public Policy Challenge*

Project Leader: Nagatomi Hirayama (Ph.D. Student, History, Arts & Sciences)
Project Member: Le Han (Ph.D. Student, Communication, Annenberg)
Project Title: *History, Citizenship, and Media Control: A linear comparative study of Chinese state-led nationalism*

Project Leader: Manisha Joshi (Ph.D. Student, Social Welfare, Social Policy & Practice)
Project Title: *Attitudes towards wife-beating among women in Tajikistan: An empirical investigation using Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2005*

Project Leader: Kelly Kroehle (Ph.D. Student, Social Policy & Practice)
Project Title: *Irreconcilable Differences? An Examination of the Presence of Queer Theory in Social Work Practices*

Project Leader: Andrew McPherson (Ph.D. Student, Music, Arts & Sciences)
Project Title: *The Magnetic Resonator Piano: Electronic Augmentation of an Acoustic Musical Instrument*

Project Leader: Huiquan Zhou (Ph.D. Student, Social Welfare, Social Policy & Practice)
Project Member: Xinyuan Shang (Ed.D. Student, Graduate School of Education)
Project Title: *Exploring the Experiences of Volunteer Teachers in Rural China*