

SIGF DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

The Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education has announced the names of the inaugural group of doctoral students to receive a Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship (SIGF) award. The SIGF Fellowship is a three-year award to current doctoral students engaged in interdisciplinary research and the pursuit of questions which cross-traditional disciplinary boundaries.

In completing the fellowship selection process, Vice Provost Patricia J. Gumport underscored the exceptional talent of the applicants and the broad range of interdisciplinary research projects. "Over 175 very impressive applications were submitted by doctoral students from 6 schools and 41 departments. The reviewers were so impressed with the quality and originality of the research that they identified another 9 students to receive an honorable mention." Applications were reviewed by a university-wide faculty committee, following an intensive review of applicants by faculty in six interdisciplinary subject areas.

In May 2007, President Hennessy announced the Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowships Program and a \$25 million anonymous commitment to help fund this new group of endowed fellowships. Gumport added, "Expanding doctoral student support in all forms is clearly a university priority. This program in particular signifies Stanford's commitment to fostering academic innovation and interdisciplinary expertise in the next generation of leaders." The university is working on raising endowed funds to award as many as 100 3-year SIGF awards, in addition to raising funds for graduate fellowships within each of Stanford's seven schools.

Fellows

Binyamin Blum, Law (J.S.D.)
Melinda Cromie, Mechanical Engineering
Viviana Gradinaru, Neurosciences
Tamar Kricheli-Katz, Sociology, Law (Ph.D./J.S.D.)
Kapa Lenkov, Biology
Katherine Mach, Biology
Jonathan Shemwell, School of Education
Matthew Simonton, Classics
Michael St. Clair, Drama
Abhay Sukumaran, Communication
Jessica Tsang, School of Education
Austin Zeiderman, Anthropology

Honorable Mention

Marie-Catherine de Marneffe, Linguistics

Nicholas de Sieyes, Civil & Environmental Engineering

Alex Neuhausen, Electrical Engineering

Maria Perez Zurita, School of Education

Maryanna Rogers, School of Education

Katie Shelef, Biology

Piya Sorcar, School of Education

Daniel Weissman, Physics

Adam Wolf, Biology