Outstanding Thesis Award 2007-2008

**UNK Overall Thesis Winner:**
Anna Thompson (Re-)Reading Hardy  
*Rebecca Umland - English, Advisor*

**College of Education:**
Justin Rethorst Differences in Job Satisfaction Among Collegiate Athletic Trainers  
*Scott Unruh – Kinesiology & Sports Sciences, Advisor*

**College of Fine Arts and Humanities:**
Judy Kay Lorenzen Let Autumn Come  
*Allison Hedge Coke - English, Advisor*

**College of Natural and Social Sciences:**
Roger Yerdon Rotational Grazing Effects on Above-Ground Biomass, Species Diversity, and Forage Quality in Tallgrass Prairie in Southern Manitoba  
*Steve Rothenberger - Biology, Advisor*

**College of Natural and Social Sciences Honorable Mention:**
Anjeza Pashaj Changes in *Glutathione-S-Transferase* Gene Expression in Large Caged Populations of *Drosophila Melanogaster*  
*Kim Carlson - Biology, Advisor*

Joshua Rice Gazing Westward, Watching God: A Case Study of Two Protestant Missions on the Antebellum Frontier  
*James Rohrer - History, Advisor*

Jeffrey Wrehe "Thus Does Glory Fade": A History of Fort McPherson and Fort Hartsuff  
*Mark Ellis - History, Advisor*

Outstanding Thesis Award 2010-2011

**University of Nebraska at Kearney**
Ethan Cordes Nora Virus Infection of *Drosophila Melanogaster*: Evaluation of Differential Gene Expression and Virus Evolution  
*Kim Carlson - Biology, Advisor*

**College of Fine Arts and Humanities**
Sandra Anthony Insh'allah  
*Martha Kruse - English, Advisor*

**College of Natural and Social Sciences**
Martha Isabel Montanez Diaz Transcriptome Changes in Switchgrass (*Panicum Virgatum* L.) Seeds When Hydrogen Peroxide is Applied to Alleviate Dormancy  
*Paul Twigg - Biology, Advisor*
Outstanding Thesis Award  2011-2012

University of Nebraska at Kearney – overall winner
Amber J. Alexander  Fighting the War from Home: The Impact of the Fairmont, Harvard and Bruning Army Air Fields on Rural Nebraska Residents  
*Mark Ellis - History, Advisor*

College of Fine Arts and Humanities
Faith A. Colburn  Threshhold: A Memoir  
*Allison Hedge-Coke - English, Advisor*

Honorable Mention:
Paul Skinner  Fighting for Their Place: Constructing Masculinity in Chuck Palahniuk's Fight Club  
*Robert Ficociello - English, Advisor*

College of Natural and Social Sciences
John Stratton  DesMoines ordnance Plant Ankeny, Iowa, on the Home Front During World War II  
*Vernon Volpe - History, Advisor*

Honorable Mention:
Stephanie R. Butler  Tests of Marking Methods and Survey Protocols for Burying Beetles (Coleoptera: Silphidae)  
*Wyatt Hoback - Biology, Advisor*

Honorable Mention:
Christopher S. Uphoff  Seasonal Food Habits and Variability in Length of Age-0 Walleye in Harlan County Reservoir, Nebraska  
*Casey Schoenebeck - Biology, Advisor*

Outstanding Thesis Award  2012-2013

College of Fine Arts and Humanities
Carrie Crockett  The War Over Time: Bakhtin and Bulgakov vs. Soviet Utopianism  
*Susan Honeyman - English, Advisor*

College of Natural and Social Sciences
Shelley R. Frear  The Genoa Indian School: A Mixed Legacy 50 Years of Transformation, Survival, and Hope in a United States Government Indian Boarding School on the Nebraska Plains  
*Mark Ellis - History, Advisor*

Honorable Mention:
Fredrick A. Baker  “What Gallant Times Were Those!” The Ninth Texas Infantry Regiment at the American Civil War Battles of Shiloh and Murfreesboro  
*Vernon Volpe - History, Advisor*
Honorable Mention:
Joshua J. Granger  
A Floristic Comparison and Ecological Analysis of Bur Oak (Quercus Macrocarpa Michx.) Savannas in Central Nebraska  
Steve Rothenberger - Biology, Advisor

Overall University of Nebraska at Kearney winners in 2 categories:

Biological Sciences:
David Alexander-John Schumann  
Experimental Repatriation of Plains Topminnow, Fundulus Sciatricus, for Species Conservation and Evaluation of Potential Limits to Persistence in Nebraska  
Wyatt Hoback - Biology, Advisor

Humanities:
Laura Leigh Hyatt  
Evoking Supernatural Music in Shakespeare: From Celestial to Magical Music  
Marguerite Tassi - English, Advisor

Outstanding Thesis Award  2013-2014

University of Nebraska at Kearney
Joshua Arostegui  
The People's Liberation Army and the Sino-Indian Border Conflict of 1962  
Pradeep Barua - History, Advisor

College of Fine Arts and Humanities
Justin Zyla  
The Muting of the Dawn  
Robert Ficociello - English, Advisor

College of Natural and Social Sciences
Erick Wadsworth  
The 1866 European Mormon Migration  
Mark Ellis - History, Advisor

Kellie Licking-Murray  
Drosophila Melanogaster Nora Virus Virus-Like Particles: In Vitro Assembly  
Kimberly Carlson - Biology, Advisor

Honorable Mention:
Dustin Casady  
Body Condition of Spring Migratory Female Northern Pintails and Measures of Plasma Lipid Metabolites to Assess Habitat Quality in the Rainwater Basin  
Letty Reichart - Biology, Advisor

Outstanding Thesis Award  2014-2015

University of Nebraska at Kearney
Jake A. Eberlein  
Mark Ellis - History, Advisor
College of Fine Arts and Humanities
Jason Willard
A Fortification in Music: Reading J. R. R. Tolkien's Legendarium with Plato's Dialogues to Educate the City in Virtue and Guard It, with the Light of Logos and Mousike Undivided, Against Sophistry
Marguerite Tassi - English, Advisor

Outstanding Thesis Award  2015-2016

University of Nebraska at Kearney
Ron Judd
The Liberal Arts on Trial: Charles H. Fisher and Red-Scare Politics at Western Washington College of Education, 1933-39
Linda Van Ingen - History, Advisor

College of Fine Arts and Humanities
Kevin Stones
Beneath the Poppy Fields
Jessica Hollander - English, Advisor

Honorable Mention:
Heather Zaruba
Back to Basics: Natural Morality in the Novels of Thomas Hardy
Rebecca Umland - English, Advisor

College of Education
Marissa Bongers
Dietary Habits and Nutrition Knowledge in Female Collegiate Distance Runners
Greg Brown – Kinesiology & Sports Sciences, Advisor

Britni Norfolk
Screening and Identification of Individuals with Brain Injury Seeking Services through the Area Agency on Aging in Rural Nebraska
Miechelle Mckelvey – Communication Disorders, Advisor

Outstanding Thesis Award  2016-2017

University of Nebraska at Kearney
Arielle E. Roberts
Sideways Stories: A Parallax of Queered Memory
Susan Honeyman - English, Advisor

College of Natural & Social Sciences
Madelina Cordia
The Fruits of Their Labor: The Bracero Program in Southern Oregon, 1942-1964
Mark Ellis - History, Advisor
Outstanding Thesis Award  2017-2018

University of Nebraska at Kearney
Jacob Hillesheim   “Sanctuary of Belief and Conscience”: The US Supreme Court, Freedom of Speech, and Brandenburg V. Ohio
Linda Van Ingen - History, Advisor

College of Arts & Sciences
Kay Fahlbusch   Running Away
Martha Kruse - English, Advisor

Outstanding Thesis Award  2018-2019

University of Nebraska at Kearney
Sara Ruggles   Sustainable Empowerment: A New Community-Based Oral History Program Design
Jinny Turmen - History, Advisor

Robert Ritson   The Spatial Ecology of Bison (Bison Bison) in Multiple Herds Across the American West
Dustin Ranglack - Biology, Advisor

Outstanding Thesis Award  2019-2020

University of Nebraska at Kearney – Best UNK Thesis Award
Gail Blankenau   Journey to Freedom from Nebraska Territory
Chris Steinke - History, Advisor

University of Nebraska at Kearney – Honorable Mention
Erica Brandow   The Relationship Between Communication and Temperament When Completing Tasks Varying on Difficulty
Philip Lai - Communication Disorders, Advisor

Outstanding Thesis Award  2020-2021

University of Nebraska at Kearney – Best Thesis Award
Brian Mason   Comparison of Abiotic and Biotic Factors Between Coves of Varying Connection to Harlan County Reservoir, Nebraska

University of Nebraska at Kearney – Honorable Mention
Shelby Hinrichs   Addressing Adolescents’ Syntactic Complexity and Overall Writing Skills through an Online Writing Workshop: A Pilot Study with the Homeschool Population
Outstanding Thesis Award  2021-2022
University of Nebraska at Kearney – Best Thesis Award

John Masker  
Growth, Maturation, and Weight Status: Insights from a Longitudinal Cohort of Nebraska Youth
Kate Heelan – Kinesiology & Sports Sciences, Advisor

Tanya Woodward  
My Soul Cries Out: Reimagining Lament for Research and Language Practice With Edwidge Danticat
Amanda Sladek - English, Advisor

Outstanding Thesis Award  2022-2023
University of Nebraska at Kearney – Best Thesis Award

Michael Nelson  
Is This Your Boy? The Spirit of the American Doughboy in World War I Memorialization
Will Stoutamire – History, Advisor

University of Nebraska at Kearney – Honorable Mention

Brenda Lopez Adame  
Los Dictados Como Herramienta Útil en el Aula de Español para Hablantes de Herencia
Janet Eckerson – Modern Languages, Advisor