University of Maryland Distinguished Dissertation Award for 2011

Biological and Life Sciences

Jie Chen, Ph.D.
College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences; Department of Chemical Physics
Title: *"Link Between Dynamics and Function in Single and Multi-subunit Enzymes"*
Dissertation Advisor: Devarajan Thirumalai, Institute for Physical Science and Technology

Humanities and Fine Arts

Juliet Wiersema, Ph.D.
College of Arts and Humanities; Department of Art History
Title: **"The Architectural Vessels of the Moche of Peru (200-850 A.D). Talismans for the Afterlife"**
Dissertation Advisor: Joanne Pillsbury, Per-Columbian Program, Dumbarton Oaks

Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering

Ricardo Arévalo, Ph.D.
College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences; Department of Geology
Title: **"Quantitative Modeling of Mantle Heterogeneity and Structure"**
Dissertation Advisor: William McDonough, Department of Geology

Social Sciences

Biance Bersani, Ph.D.
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences; Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Title: **"Are Immigrants Crime Prone? A Multifaceted Investigation of the Relationship Between Immigration and Crime in Two Eras"**
Dissertation Advisor: John H. Laub, National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice