THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

University of Maryland Distinguished Dissertation Award for 2012

Biological and Life Sciences

Kelly O'Quin, Ph.D.
College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences; Department of Behavior, Ecology, Evolution and Systematics
Title: *Evolution, Development and Genetics of Opsin Gene Expression in African Cichlid Fishes*
Dissertation Advisor: Karen Carleton, Associate Professor, Department of Biology

Humanities and Fine Arts

Mirna Zakic, Ph.D.
College of Arts and Humanities; Department of History
Title: *The Furthest Watch of the Reich: National Socialism, Ethnic Germans and the Occupation of the Serbian Banat, 1941 - 1944*
Dissertation Advisor: Jeffrey Herf, Professor, Department of History

Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering

Zhao Zhang, Ph.D.
A James Clarke School of Engineering; Department of Mechanical Engineering
Title: *Morphologic Instability of Graphene and its Potential Applications*
Dissertation Advisor: Teng Li, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Social Sciences

Sarah Gerson, Ph.D.
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences; Department of Psychology
Title: *Comparing Me to You: Comparison Between Novel and Familiar Goal-Directed Actions Facilitates goal Extraction and Imitation*
Dissertation Advisor: Amanda Woodward, William S. Gray Professor, University of Chicago