



THE UNIVERSITY of
MISSISSIPPI
The Center for Excellence in
Teaching and Learning

eMantle

May 2015

Volume 3, Number 3

The true value of a teacher is determined not by what he knows, nor by his ability to impart what he knows, but by his ability to stimulate in others a desire to know.

2014-2015 Graduate Instructor Excellence in Teaching Award

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, with support from the Provost Office, Graduate School and Dr. Johnny Lott, annually recognize Graduate Instructors who have been nominated for demonstrating excellence in teaching. This award is given to show the University's appreciation of the efforts of all graduate instructors and teaching assistants whose work contributes to quality teaching and learning on campus.

This year's nominees were:

- Rebecca Albright, English
- Rachel Cason, English
- Joshua Fulwiler, Psychology
- Tamar Karakozova, Modern Languages
- Yan Li, Economics
- Thomas Naugle, Mathematics
- Jared O'Connor, English
- L. Tyler Williams, Accountancy



We congratulate these eight outstanding graduate students on their nomination for this award. Their nomination is evidence of the impact they have had in the lives of our students. We are proud of them all and appreciate their dedication to the teaching profession and for all that they do for our students at the University of Mississippi.

While all the nominations were impressive we are only able to give one award. It is our honor and privilege to announce that **Ms. Yan Li (Economics)** has been selected as the winner of the 2014-2015 Graduate Instructor Excellence in Teaching Award.

In her letter of recommendation, Natalia Kolesnikova, Assistant Professor of Economics, said, "Yan definitely stands out as a gifted and very effective teacher. She asks questions, actively encourages comments, and invites the class to discuss students' comments. Yan's energy and enthusiasm are contagious and she is very encouraging. She achieves a perfect balance between being in control of her classroom and making students feel comfortable with participating."

Since 2012, Yan has taught (with full responsibility) multiple large sections (most over 90 students) of Econ 202. According to co-nominators, Jon Moen (Department Chair and Associate Professor of Economics) and Walter Mayer (Graduate Program Coordinator and Professor of Economics), Yan consistently obtains some of the highest teaching evaluations in the department and approximately 90% of her students recently ranked her as superior or excellent.

Yan was recognized at the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony on Friday May 8, 2015 at the Gertrude Castellow Ford Center for the Performing Arts. At that time, she was presented with our "Golden Apple" trophy and a \$1,000 monetary award by Dr. Maurice Eftink, Associate Provost. In addition, her name will be added to the perpetual plaque displayed in the J.D. Williams Library and will be posted on the CETL website. Please join us in congratulating Yan on this award!

Staff

Sarah Hill, *Senior Staff Assistant*
Rebekah Reysen, *Learning Specialist*
Nancy Wiggers, *Learning Specialist*

Advisory Board

Will Berry, *Law*
Luca Bombelli, *Physics & Astronomy*
Dennis Bunch, *Leadership & Counselor Ed*
Robert Doerksen, *Medicinal Chemistry*
Theresa Levitt, *History*
Andre P. Liebenberg, *Finance*
Martial Longla, *Mathematics*
Stephen Monroe, *Liberal Arts*
Dwight Waddell, *Electrical Engineering*
Amanda Wansa Morgan, *Journalism*
Debra Wenger, *Journalism*
Nancy Wiggers, *CETL*
Dawn Wilkins, *Computer Science*
L. Tyler Williams, *ACCY Graduate Student*

Contact Information

Office: 105 Hill Hall
Phone: (662) 915-1391
Fax: (662) 915-1591
cetl@olemiss.edu
www.cetl.olemiss.edu