

**William Preston Society  
Conference of Southern Graduate Schools  
2009-10 Master's Thesis Awards**

The William Preston Society is comprised of former members of the Board of Visitors, the current president and past presidents. The thesis award is given to a graduate student whose master's thesis presents the best original research with potential to benefit all people.

Three awards are given each year, but the disciplines rotate each year. For the 2009-10 year, one category will be for an outstanding Master's thesis in Life Sciences and the second category will be for an outstanding Master's thesis in Social Sciences, Business and Education. The third category will be restricted to the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools category and is titled "Innovative Application of Technology to Scholarship in a Master's Thesis".

Preston Thesis Award winners and Conference of Southern Graduate Schools nominees are selected in early Fall by a Review Committee convened by the Graduate School Associate Dean. Winners also are recognized at the Fall semester William Preston Society awards banquet and automatically become the VT nominees for the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools annual Master's Thesis Award competition.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Secured theses are not eligible for consideration of the award;
- Nominees must have completed their thesis in the last academic year (2008-09), including summer of 2009;

**Nomination Requirements (to be submitted by the student's department)**

- Presentation quality PDF copy of a letter of endorsement from the major professor which must address contribution to the field or discipline, scholarship, research methodology and clarity of style and presentation;
- Presentation quality PDF copy of the 1-2 page maximum, double spaced abstract;
- ETD web link access information for the thesis;
- Presentation quality PDF copy of the nominee's 1-2-page abbreviated CV.

**Call for Nominations: Deadline for 2009-10:** Send presentation quality nomination materials by PDF file by Friday, Sept.11, 2009 at 5 PM to Pat Goodrich at [goodm@vt.edu](mailto:goodm@vt.edu). All PDF files will be sent "as is" to the Review Committee for their review.

Successful candidates will be notified and will be invited to provide a brief overview of his/her thesis at the William Preston Society's annual meeting on Friday, Nov.20, 2009. William Preston Society Gold Watch Awards will be presented at this meeting.

For more information contact Janet Rankin, Associate Dean, Graduate School, at [jrankin@vt.edu](mailto:jrankin@vt.edu).