From: Office of The Graduate School
To: Academic Deans, Directors, Department Chairs, Department Heads and Graduate Advisors
Date: October 7, 2015
Re: Distinguished Dissertation Award Nominations

I am pleased to announce that the LSU Alumni Association will again sponsor, for the thirty-second year, the Distinguished Dissertation Awards. Through the generosity of the Alumni Association, the University will continue to recognize two distinguished dissertations — one in the arts, humanities and social sciences and one in science, engineering and technology. The awards will be made next spring in conjunction with the Distinguished Research Master Lecture. Because the lecture celebrates excellence in faculty research, it is an especially appropriate occasion to honor similar achievements by graduate students.

As in previous years, each Distinguished Dissertation Award will consist of $2,000, along with a certificate. This will be presented to the doctoral student in each category whose research and writing epitomize superior scholarship. Any student receiving his or her doctoral degree at any of the three commencements in 2015 will be eligible to be nominated for this award. The winning dissertations will be chosen by a committee of members of the graduate faculty.

I am asking that dissertations be screened initially by the deans and directors of the ten colleges and schools involved in graduate education at the doctoral level: Agriculture, Business, Coast and Environment, Humanities and Social Sciences, Human Sciences & Education, Engineering, Mass Communication, Music and Dramatic Arts, Science, and Veterinary Medicine. Deans will establish their own selection process. I strongly recommend that the selection process at the college level involve reviewers with recent experience in evaluating dissertations nominated for these awards.

After the initial screening process, the selected dissertations will be forwarded to The Graduate School for consideration by two University-wide selection committees. Each dean may submit dissertations according to the following schedule: one to twenty degrees, 1 nomination; twenty-one to forty degrees, 2 nominations; over forty degrees, 3 nominations. Therefore, according to the number of doctoral degrees awarded in 2014, the deans of Humanities and Social Sciences, Science, Human Sciences & Education, and Engineering may submit three nominations, the deans of Agriculture and Music & Dramatic Arts may submit 2 nominations, and the deans of Business, Coast & Environment, Mass Communications, and Veterinary Medicine may submit one nomination each.

For each submitted dissertation, the attached nomination form must be completed. Nominators must designate the award category in which each dissertation should be considered. The forms and dissertations, along with letters of support from major professors and from the deans or their college-level selection committees, must reach the Graduate School no later than Friday, February 5, 2016.

I know that each of you joins me in thanking the Alumni Association for its continued recognition of the doctoral dissertation -- the capstone of graduate education.

Michelle A. Massé, Dean
The Graduate School

MAM: rlr
Attachment

Cc: F. King Alexander, LSU President and Chancellor
    Richard Koubek, LSU Interim Executive Vice President and Provost
    Cliff Vannoy, President and CEO, LSU Alumni Association
    Claire Drake, Executive Assistant to the President, LSU Alumni Association
    Mike Garner, Chief Financial Officer, LSU Alumni Association