



## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Winners of 2010 CGS/UMI® Distinguished Dissertation Awards Announced**

*Awards recognize outstanding research by two recent doctoral graduates*

Washington, DC – The Council of Graduate Schools / UMI Distinguished Dissertation Awards, the nation's most prestigious honor for doctoral dissertations, were presented to Charles Conroy and Gregory R. Samanez-Larkin. Dr. Conroy completed his Ph.D. in Astrophysics at Princeton this year. Dr. Samanez-Larkin earned his doctorate in Psychology from Stanford University. The winners were announced at an awards ceremony during the CGS 50th Annual Meeting.

Bestowed annually since 1982, the awards recognize recent doctoral recipients who have already made unusually significant and original contributions to their fields. ProQuest, the world's premier dissertation publisher, sponsors the awards and an independent committee from the Council of Graduate Schools selects the winners. Two awards are given each year, rotating among four general areas of scholarship. The winners receive a certificate, a \$2000 honorarium, and travel to the awards ceremony.

“Proquest/UMI is proud to join CGS in congratulating the winners of the 2010 Distinguished Dissertation Awards,” said Austin McLean, ProQuest Director of Scholarly Publishing and Dissertations. “This year's winners are wonderful examples of creative and innovative research.”

The 2010 Award in Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering was presented to Dr. Conroy for “Stellar Population Synthesis for the Future.” His dissertation examines Stellar Population Synthesis and offers a critical evaluation of the technique, building a framework for a more quantitative and precise estimate of the physical properties of galaxies. Dr. Conroy is

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currently a Junior Fellow in the Society of Fellows at Harvard University and his work on determining how many stars exist in the Universe was recently cited in the *New York Times*.

Dr. Samanez-Larkin received the 2010 Award in Social Sciences for his dissertation, “Incentive Processing in the Aging Brain: Individual Differences in Value-based Learning and Decision Making Across the Adult Life Span.” His research, the result of seven experiments, may lead to more effective ways to communicate investment-related information to older adults, helping them make better decisions about their finances. Dr. Samanez-Larkin is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Vanderbilt University.

More information about the CGS / UMI Distinguished Dissertation Award is available at [www.proquest.com/go/scholars](http://www.proquest.com/go/scholars) or at [www.cgsnet.org](http://www.cgsnet.org).

### **About the Council of Graduate Schools**

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of over 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. Among U.S. institutions, CGS members award 93% of the doctoral degrees and 76% of the master's degrees.\* The organization's mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.

\* Based on data from the 2009 *CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees*

### **About ProQuest**

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