4-28-2011

Graduate Research Awards and Scholarly Activities

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Dunn, John M., "Graduate Research Awards and Scholarly Activities" (2011). WMU President John Dunn. 90.
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Good afternoon. I'm happy to be here to celebrate your achievements. In fact, there are few things I'd rather do than collect more information I can share about the terrific work being done in our labs, offices and classrooms here on campus by our graduate students. I can be pretty shameless when it comes to singing your praises, and events like this one simply give me more material--more pages to that songbook.

I've been enormously proud of this University's commitment to graduate education and the leadership of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee. Your GSAC representatives, Joel and Michelle, have been strong and capable advocates for all of you. Their counsel and input are invaluable components to the shared governance which guides and constantly strives to improve the WMU educational experience.

And I've been pleased at the increasing number of opportunities to showcase our graduate students' work. WMU’s graduate programs, and the students who give them life, deserve brass-band recognition. And today the spotlight rests on you, the 2011 recipients of our top graduate teaching and research awards.

You've played an important role in making this the vibrant university that it is. For those of you who will be back with us next fall, I look forward to more chances to get to know you. For those of you who will receive your long-awaited degrees this Saturday, I'll see you at Miller Auditorium where I’ll proudly shake your hand and wish you all the best.