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2008 CCAPS Joan Dallum Graduate Student Research Award

Seda Sümer

Presented at Washington, D.C., March 2009

The purpose of the Joan Dallum Graduate Student Research Award is to recognize and encourage high quality research projects by graduate students and entry level professionals in counseling and human development. The submission guidelines emphasize that the research should have applicability to the counseling and human development goals of ACPA and Commission for Counseling and Psychological Services. For example, research on needs assessment, treatment intervention, outcome and process studies, or preventative programs are appropriate submissions.

This year we are very happy to say that we received 8 submissions for this award. The submissions represented a wide range of research interests, and we encourage all of the applicants to continue their work in these areas. I would like to take this moment to acknowledge the Members of the CCAPS Awards Committee as well as the members of the CCAPS Publicity Committee for their contributions in this process.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that the recipient of the 2008 Joan Dallum Graduate Student Research Award is Ms. Seda Sümer. Seda is a fifth-year Ph.D. student in the Counseling Psychology program at Georgia State University. Her research project is titled Adaptation of International Students in the US, and it is based on her [dissertation research project](#). Her study examined international students' psychological and sociocultural adaptation to the U.S. in relation to their acculturation levels, coping strategies, and intent to stay in the U.S. after their graduation. Results showed that in females identification with the host culture was associated with lower levels of depression, and Escape-Avoidance coping strategy was associated with higher levels of depression. In addition, students who identified more strongly with the American culture were less likely to experience difficulty functioning in the U.S. These students were also more likely to report higher levels of English proficiency, higher likelihood of staying in the U.S. after graduation, and lower levels of depression.

Seda's major advisor is Dr. Kenneth Matheny, who is a regent's professor at the department of Counseling and Psychological Services at Georgia State University, and her dissertation defense is scheduled for March 2009. Seda is currently a pre-doctoral intern at the American University Counseling Center in Washington DC. She is currently in the process of seeking a position in a college counseling center and she is also interested in pursuing teaching and private practice. We congratulate Seda on her excellent submission and we wish her the very best in her career.

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