



# MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™

## THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

### **2017 Donald Zacharias Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year Award Graduate Student Association and The Graduate School Office Deadline: March 13, 2017**

The Donald Zacharias Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) of the Year Award, named in honor of MSU's 15<sup>th</sup> President , 1985-1997, recognizes two outstanding GTAs (Master's and Doctoral) who have contributed significantly to the academic advancement of students and the growth of MSU through their exemplary leadership abilities and outstanding classroom teaching techniques. A monetary award and a commemorative plaque will be presented to the winner at the annual Graduate Student Association Awards Banquet on March 30, 2017. Past Recipients of the Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year Award will not be eligible for re-nomination until three years have lapsed.

#### **Criteria for Nomination**

Must be a current graduate student holding the title of Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Summer 2016, Fall 2016 and/or Spring 2017 term(s) who teaches or taught either a lecture class or laboratory section

Has demonstrated outstanding classroom teaching techniques and has positively influenced students toward superior academic attainment

Must have an exceptional reputation as an outstanding graduate teaching assistant as determined by graduate faculty in the discipline

#### **Nomination Guidelines**

Completed nomination packet must be submitted to the office of the Graduate School by 5:00 pm, on March 13, 2017 (*Nomination packet will not be accepted after the deadline*)

Department heads should be responsible for nominating only one GTA each (Master's and Doctoral) from their department

#### **Content of Nomination Packet (Checklist)**

- Nomination Form
- Letter of support from the department head
- Letter of acceptance of the nomination from the nominee with Teaching Summary attached (*see Criteria for Teaching Summary*)
- Nominee's resume or curriculum vitae
- Three letters of support from faculty and/or students who can provide specific evidence of nominee's exemplary teaching performance
- Up to three types of documentation that clearly and concisely address the award criteria. Items may include but are not limited to: positive student evaluations with grade distribution or average grade assigned, administrative evaluations, course syllabus, direction to web pages illustrating innovative teaching methodologies, etc.

**All nominees and nominators should plan to attend the GSA Awards Banquet March 30, 2017 at 5:30 pm. The Mize Pavilion at the Hump.**

**2017 Donald Zacharias Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year Award  
Nomination Form**

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Net ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Degree/Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator (*Must be MSU Faculty*): \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long have you had the opportunity to observe the nominee as a graduate teaching assistant?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. List each lecture class and/or laboratory section that the nominee has taught for the Summer 2016, Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 terms:

<i>Lecture Class/Laboratory Section</i>	<i>Term</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. Rate the nominee's qualifications as a teacher:  
**5 = Excellent 4 = Good 3 = Average 2 = Fair 1 = Poor N/A = No Basis for Judgment**

____ Knowledge of material	____ Clarity of presentations
____ Classroom techniques	____ Availability outside of class
____ Attitude toward students	____ Ability to answer questions
____ Other _____	

4. What distinguishes the nominee from other GTAs such that he/she should receive this year's Donald Zacharias Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year Award? Please attach a separate sheet with your comments.

Nominator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**2017 Donald Zacharias Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year Award**  
**Criteria for Teaching Summary**  
*(to be completed by nominee)*

Please attach a separate sheet to your letter accepting the nomination that includes the following information:

1. Provide the following information about your graduate teaching assistantship:
  - a. Specific semesters completed
  - b. Professor(s) supervising your work
  - c. List of lecture classes and/or laboratory sections taught that includes a brief description of the scope of your responsibilities for each one (e.g., supervision of lab, development of instructional materials, instructor of record with full responsibility for the course, etc.)
2. Describe innovative instructional strategies or unique responsibilities that characterize your teaching assignment. Limit to 200 words.
3. Write a brief statement about your teaching philosophy as applied in your classroom.
4. In no more than 200 words, describe why you believe you should be selected for this award. Your statement **must** address the specific criteria for this award (evidence of innovative teaching strategies, positive influence on students, and exceptional reputation as an outstanding graduate teaching assistant).