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The 2018 Graduate Council with Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Graduate Council Advisor Dr. Collin Wick. Front row from left to right: Imran Hossain, Abhishek Panchal, Jolin Rodrigues. Back row from left to right: Hillary husband, Kimlin Hall (Office of Graduate Studies, COES), Dr. Collin Wick, Nwankwo Chinonso

## COES Graduate Symposium 2018: Follow the Science to Tech it Higher

by Imran Hossain, Micro-Nano Systems Graduate Student

While the rest of the College of Engineering and Science (COES) busied themselves keeping up with exams and deadlines, grad students from the College showed off how research is done at Tech. On December 14, members of the 300 strong graduate student body displayed their research to Bulldog fans at the Graduate Research Symposium organized by the COES Graduate Council, an organization that represents graduate students within the College.

The COES Graduate Council disseminates information to the student body and administration/teaching staff and helps organize oral and poster presentations that showcase the effort graduate students put in for research activities for the University and the community in general. As part of their duties, the organization hosted a research symposium on December 14, 2018. The symposium featured posters and presentations on a computer simulation of the effect of aging, hydrogels for bacterial release, expansive soil models from all parts of Louisiana, a hair care formulation (patent pending) and many other projects under the same roof.

“This conference has brought together the graduate students and the faculty of COES to share results and discuss issues on related topics through oral presentations and poster sessions,” says Debojit Sarker, a doctoral student in Engineering with a concentration in Materials and Infrastructure Systems at Louisiana Tech. “This unique blend of formats provides an opportunity to learn and exchange information on the latest scientific developments in a variety of interdisciplinary areas,” he added.

Considering that the majority of graduate students come from outside of the U.S. and the amount of external funding for graduate research, the term “The World comes to Tech,” truly applies to graduate studies within the College. Graduate students within all programs in the College do a significant amount of research, carrying out their work under the guidance of their respective advisors inside buildings across campus. This symposium provides an event, not only to showcase research, but to bring these students together.

The event was a huge showcase for COES graduate students. At the Symposium, faculty judges evaluated students’ work, giving valuable feedback and incentives and recognition for the best work.

The best presenters were rewarded with a luncheon with Louisiana Tech President Dr. Les Guice. During the luncheon, attendees had a lively discussion with him about the issues facing graduate students in the COES. Dr. Guice was very passionate and discussed things students need to keep their best work going.

“We are amazed by the enthusiasm of COES graduate students,” says Abhishek Panchal the president of COES Graduate Council. “This goes to show the commitment of our graduate students towards their research and the value they keep adding to the University in general and research community in particular,” he added.

“Hopefully, this will be a platform for future events all across COES,” said Hillary Husband and Jolin Rodrigues in chorus.

Through this event, the COES Graduate Council aims to encourage collective research and draw attention of the University to the path-breaking research that occurs right here on campus.