Graduate Student Colloquium Chair’s Note

Welcome to the 2015 ttra Graduate Student Colloquium. The purpose of the Colloquium is to provide an interactive forum for graduate students to discuss their research, obtain constructive feedback from researchers in their field of expertise, support the successful completion of their research, expose them to peers' work, and establish relationships for future inter-institutional collaborations.

This year’s Colloquium includes 12 papers that cover a wide range of tourism-related topics, which are grouped into three categories, including niche tourism, tourists behavior and marketing, and innovative methods and critical issues. Each of the submissions went through a blind review process. As chair of the Graduate Colloquium, I would like to thank the following reviewers for their assistance in this process: Carla Barberi, North Carolina State; Geoff Lacher, Arizona State University; Robert Li, University of South Carolina; Jim Petrick, Texas A & M University; Nichole Hugo, Eastern Illinois University; Woojin Lee, Arizona State University; Surya Poudel, Arizona State University, and Shangnan Zhao, California State University, Long Beach.

The Best Graduate Student Colloquium award will be presented on Monday, June 15th at the Graduate Colloquium General Session. The winner will receive a complimentary registration to the 2015 ttra Annual Conference and a plaque.

The colloquium will begin with three concurrent sessions. Each presenter will have 15 minutes to present their papers, followed by questions and answers. All conference attendees, including academics and practitioners, are invited and encouraged to attend the sessions to support these future academics!

After the breakout sessions, there will an exciting general session on “how to be successful in academia.” The panelists for the session are four distinguished tourism scholars, including Geoffrey Crouch, La Trobe University; Daniel Fesenmier, University of Florida; Marion Joppe, University of Guelph, and Jim Petrick, Texas A & M University, who will discuss various domains of academia.

Finally, I would like to thank Jeffrey Eslinger (Conference Chair), Kathy Palmer (Executive Director of ttra), Marion Joppe and Kevin Griffin for all their hard work organizing this year’s conference. I am very excited about the program and hope that you are as well!

Sincerely,

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