NOMINATION FORM FOR OUTSTANDING PHD GRADUATE

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING

PURPOSE

The Outstanding Doctoral Graduate is selected through a college wide competition. This award recognizes a student’s academic EXCELLENCE and EXEMPLARY SERVICE to his or her department while pursuing the doctoral degree.

- The Outstanding Ph. D. Graduate Award is presented to one student.
- The faculty of each department chooses a nominee for each major at the PhD Level.
- There may not be a nominee for each major every semester.
- There may not be a winner every semester.

CRITERIA

An Outstanding Ph. D. Graduate is a student with at least a 3.5 GPA, in all of Graduate Coursework AND has been very active in his/her

- Quality & Impact of research, including publications, patents, awards, and scholarships in national and international conferences, in journals, trade magazines, and similar forums. **The publications should be limited to those produce while at FIU.**
- Presentations at conferences: research presentations at national or international meetings. **The presentations should be limited to those made while at FIU.**
- Professional societies: an officer, or a very active member not just a member;
- Departmental activities: has supported the department activities such as E-Week Activities, represented the department in E-Week Activities at the college level, part of recruitment team / visits to High schools, technical competitions, and so forth.
- College activities: part of the Ambassadors Team, the recruitment team, etc.
- Local community: Mentoring, habitat for Humanity, etc.
- Mentorship to undergraduate and graduate Master’s students: has been an active mentor to one or more undergraduate students, or has mentored high school students.

The Graduate Program Directors and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies will evaluate the student’s achievement under the framework of the duties assigned, and realizing that these nominees are Graduate students who are expected to have a high GPA. The distinguishing traits reside in the professional production and in the service.

At the ceremony, an excerpt of the student’s accomplishments will be read based on the
1. Nominator Additional Comments, and
2. Letter of support from department chair

CHECK LIST FOR NOMINATOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part A Completed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part B Completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominator’s Additional Comments (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part C Completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copy of students unofficial transcripts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter of support from department chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student will graduate this semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student will be present at the ceremony</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Return all materials, by email, to: Dr. Giri Narasimhan, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, gir@cs.fiu.edu. Copy Ms. Elizabeth Naranjo, Dean’s Office, naranjoe@fiu.edu
Nomination Form for Outstanding PhD Graduate

College of Engineering and Computing

Student Name: Hamidreza Asgari

Panther ID: 3592463

FIU Graduate GPA: 3.91 (GPA ≥ 3.5)

Email: hasga001@fiu.edu

Department:

- Biomedical
- Mechanical & Materials
- Civil & Environmental
- SCIS
- Electrical & Computer

Major: Ph D in

- Biomedical (BME)
- Civil (CE)
- Materials (Mat)
- Computer Science (CS)
- Electrical (EE)

PART A: Dissertation Work

Dissertation Title: On the Impacts of Telecommuting over Daily Activity/travel Behavior: a Comprehensive Investigation Through Different Telecommuting Patterns

Major Professor: Dr. Xia Jin

Dissertation Abstract:

The interest in telecommuting stems from the potential benefits in alleviating traffic congestion, reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and improving air quality, by reducing the necessity for physical travel between home and work places. Despite the significant potentials in economic, environmental, and social benefits, telecommuting has not been widely adopted and there is little consensus on the actual impacts of telecommuting.

A comprehensive decision-making framework is proposed to reveal and represent the complexity in telecommuting patterns. There are various forms of telecommuting engagement, with different impacts on travel outcomes. It is critical to identify and distinguish between those for whom telecommuting involves a total substitution of travel and those for whom telecommuting is an ancillary activity. Secondly, since all existing studies focus on the choice and frequency of telecommuting as a preference or lifestyle choice, they fail to recognize the randomness of telecommuting engagement in a daily framework. This research applies a multi-stage modeling structure incorporating choice, frequency, engagement, and commute, which provides a means to identify non-regular telecommuters who represent a significant share of daily telecommuters. Advanced statistical modeling techniques are also employed to investigate the actual impacts of various forms of telecommuting on travelers’ daily activity-travel patterns, including time-use analysis and work trip departure times, which have not been well studied at disaggregate level.

This dissertation provides a systematic and sound instrument that advances the understanding of the benefits and potentials of telecommuting on travel outcomes, which will inform policy and decision makers and contribute to the better design and analysis of transportation investment decisions.

Return all materials, by email, to: Dr. Giri Narasimhan, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, giri@cs.fiu.edu. Copy Ms. Elizabeth Naranjo, Dean’s Office, naranjoe@fiu.edu.
PART B: Student’s Curricular and Extracurricular Activities

Provide the following information:
Student work in regards to
1. Publications: (limited to those produce while at FIU).


2. Presentations at conferences: (limited to those made while at FIU).


5) Asgari, H. and X., Jin. ‘On the Impacts of Telecommuting over Daily Activity/Travel Behavior; A Comprehensive Investigation through Different Telecommuting Patterns’. Presented at the 5th Innovations in Travel Demand Forecasting Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, April 2014.


3. Mentorship to undergraduate students (list name of students mentored)

- Nishat Zaman, M.SC graduate 2014.
- Mario Rojas, Current undergraduate student
- Fengjiang Hu, Current M.SC student
4. Duties assigned: as part of TA/RA

- **Graduate Research Assistant**, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Florida International University (2012-present)
  - Analysis of SP/RP data and modeling issues, Case study of travelers' behavior in utilizing managed lanes in the state of Florida
  - Investigation of integrated planning practices in Florida and throughout the nation
  - Exploring GPS-assisted household travel surveys and analysis of trip misreporting behavior
  - Developing an standard telecommuting module based on analysis of telecommuting adoption in New York
  - Statistical analysis and study of temporal variations in non-mandatory activity scheduling based on NHTS and ATUS data
  - Conducting a comprehensive study of ancillary demand components in Florida and how they are treated in the FSUTMS framework

- **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Florida International University (2011-2012)
  - Worked as teaching assistant for undergraduate course: Construction surveying and layout
  - Worked as teaching assistant for undergraduate course: Advanced geometric highway design
  - Worked as teaching assistant for undergraduate course: Highway capacity analysis
  - Worked as teaching assistant for graduate course: Travel demand analysis

- **Instructor**, the Transportation Chapter, Preparation Session for the National FE (Fundamentals of Engineering) Exam (2013-2015)

5. Honor & Awards

- **HENRY P. BOGGS** Best Student Paper Award, Florida ITE District 10, in recognition of paper entitled: ‘Prediction of Telecommuting Behavior; Frequency and Engagement’, summer 2013.

6. Fellowship & Scholarships

- **FIU Dissertation Year Fellowship (DYF)** award winner, spring 2015.

  Student involvement in

7. Professional societies

- Served as Treasure for the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)) Student Chapter at FIU

8. Departmental activities

- Presented posters in the Department Graduate Research Day events for multiple semesters.

9. College activities
- Represented the Department in participating the College of Engineering and Computing’s 30th Anniversary Celebration in Fall 2014

10. Local community
- Participated in South Dade Middle Schools (SDMS) Mentoring Project in 2012
- Participated in the Voluntary Philanthropy Project: Feeding South Florida in 2012

Nominator Additional Comments (preferably the Major Professor)

11. Additional Comments: unique stories, special situation that makes the students accomplishment even more remarkable.

I’m serving as his major advisor. He has been working with me as a research assistant for the past four years. He is, without a question, one of the most outstanding researchers I have worked with. He has consistently demonstrated excellent academic performance, strong research abilities, and dedicated team working efforts and leadership skills. He has successfully presented and published his dissertation work in several top-notch conferences and high quality journals. In addition to his dissertation work, Hamidreza has been leading the investigation for two research projects, during which I had the opportunity to observe his creativity, dedication, and capacity for analytical research.

Being the most senior research assistant in my research team, Hamidreza has been tirelessly supporting his fellow students in accomplishing various other research projects, through sharing his experiences from modeling and data analysis techniques to manuscript writing skills. His collaboration spirit and leadership ability are valuable assets to all students in our program.

I sincerely hope you will consider Hamidreza Asgari for the Outstanding PhD Graduate Award.

PART C: Additional Documentation

Attach a:
1. Copy of students unofficial transcripts
2. Letter of support from department chair

PART D: Electronic Submission

- PDF file of this completed form.
- PDF of Letter of support from Department Chair
- Electronic version of Transcripts (PDF)
July 13, 2015

To the Award Selection Committee,

It is a true pleasure for me to write this letter in support of Mr. Hamidreza Asgari’s application for the Outstanding Graduate Award for Summer 2015. Hamidreza joined the department as a PhD student to pursue his degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Florida International University (FIU) in Fall 2011. He has achieved outstanding academic performance with a very high GPA of 3.91 out of 4.

I had the chance to talk with Hamidreza in various Departmental events, including the Graduate Research Day events where he presented his research work. I have been impressed by his dedication in conducting research and explore scientific questions. His work has resulted in three journal publications and more than a dozen presentations at various conferences, and several additional papers under review by top journals in the field. He was awarded the Dissertation Year Fellowship in Spring 2015, which was the only recipient in the Department. He also won the prestigious Henry P. Boggs Best Student Paper Award by the Institute of Transportation Engineer (ITE) Florida Chapter in 2013. These accomplishments are clear demonstration of his commitment and exceptional research capabilities toward his research work.

Besides his academic work, Hamidreza has been serving on the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) FIU student chapter. He has demonstrated strong leadership skills. He was selected to represent the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at the College of Engineering and Computing’s 30th Anniversary Celebration in Fall 2014.

Hamidreza is an outstanding individual with excellent potential. I strongly recommend him for this award. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Ton-Lo Wang, Ph.D., P.E.
Professor and Associate Chair
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
Florida International University
10555 W Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33174
**PART C: Additional Documents**

**UGRD and GRAD Record Unofficial**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student ID</td>
<td>3592463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>270 NW 107th Avenue Apt 203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miami, FL 33172-3812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print Date</td>
<td>2015-06-30</td>
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**Transfer Credits**

Transfer Credit from Sharif University of Technology

Applied Toward Engineering Program

### 2010 SPR

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### Beginning of Graduate Record

### FALL 2011

- **Program**: Engineering
- **Plan**: Civil Engineering - PhD
- **Major**
  - CGN 5320 Gis Civil & Env
  - CGN 6939 Graduate Seminar
  - TTE 5315 Highway Safety
  - TTE 6257 Traf Control Sys
- **Grading Basis**: Pass/Fail
  - CGN 3.00 3.00 A
  - CGN 0.00 P
  - TTE 3.00 3.00 A
  - TTE 12.00
- **TERM GPA**: 4.000
- **TERM TOTALS**: 9.00 9.00 36.000

- **CUM GPA**: 4.000
- **CUM TOTALS**: 9.00 39.00 36.000
  - Good Standing

### SPR 2012

- **Program**: Engineering
Plan : Civil Engineering - Ph.D.  
Major  
CGN 6939 Graduate Seminar  
0.00 P  
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail  
TTE 5205 Adv Hwy Cap Analys  
3.00 3.00 A 12.000  
TTE 5215 Fund Of Traffic Eng  
3.00 3.00 A 12.000  
TTE 5607 Transp Demand Anal  
3.00 3.00 A 12.000  
TERM GPA : 4.000  
TERM TOTALS : 9.00 9.00  
36.000  
CUM GPA : 4.000  
CUM TOTALS : 18.00 48.00  
72.000  
Good Standing  

SUM 2012  
Program : Engineering  
Plan : Civil Engineering - Ph.D.  
Major  
CGN 5930 Sp Top In Civil Eng  
3.00 3.00 B+ 9.990  
Course Topic(s): Adv Applic Trans Syst  
STA 6166 Stat Meth Res I  
3.00 3.00 A 12.000  
TERM GPA : 3.670  
TERM TOTALS : 6.00 6.00  
21.990  
CUM GPA : 3.920  
CUM TOTALS : 24.00 54.00  
93.990  
Good Standing  

FALL 2012  
Program : Engineering  
Plan : Civil Engineering - Ph.D.  
Major  
CGN 6905 Dir Ind Study  
3.00 3.00 A 12.000  
CGN 6939 Graduate Seminar  
0.00 P  
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail  
STA 6244 Data Analysis I  
3.00 3.00 B+ 9.990  
TTE 5273 Intel Transp System  
3.00 3.00 A 12.000
TERM GPA : 3.780
TERM TOTALS : 9.00 9.00
33.990

CUM GPA : 3.880 CUM TOTALS : 33.00 63.00 127.980
Good Standing

SPR 2013
Program : Engineering
Plan : Civil Engineering - PhD
Major
CGN 6910 Supervised Research
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail
TERM GPA : 6.00 6.00 P
TERM TOTALS : 9.00 9.00
12.000

CUM GPA : 3.890 CUM TOTALS : 42.00 72.00 139.980
Good Standing

SUM 2013
Program : Engineering
Plan : Civil Engineering - PhD
Major
CGN 6939 Graduate Seminar
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail
TERM GPA : 0.00 P
TERM TOTALS : 0.00 0.00 0.00

CUM GPA : 3.890 CUM TOTALS : 48.00 78.00 139.980
Good Standing

FALL 2013
Program : Engineering
Plan : Civil Engineering - PhD
Major
CGN 6939 Graduate Seminar
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail
0.00 P

SPR 2014
Program : Engineering
Plan : Civil Engineering - PhD
Major
CGN 6939 Graduate Seminar
0.00 P
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail
CGN 7980 Ph.D. Dissertation
9.00 0.00 IP
TERM GPA : 0.000
TERM TOTALS : 0.00 0.00
0.000
CUM GPA : 3.910 CUM
TOTALS : 57.00 87.00
175.980

SUM 2014
Program : Engineering
Plan : Civil Engineering - PhD
Major
CGN 7980 Ph.D. Dissertation
6.00 0.00 IP
TERM GPA : 0.000
TERM TOTALS : 0.00 0.00
0.000
CUM GPA : 3.910 CUM
TOTALS : 57.00 87.00
175.980

FALL 2014
Program : Engineering
Plan : Civil Engineering - PhD
Major
CGN 6939 Graduate Seminar
0.00 P
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail
CGN 7980 Ph.D. Dissertation
9.00 0.00 IP
TERM GPA : 0.000
TERM TOTALS : 0.00 0.00
0.000

CGN 7980 Ph.D. Dissertation
9.00 9.00 A 36.000
TERM GPA : 4.000
TERM TOTALS : 9.00 9.00
36.000
CUM GPA : 3.910 CUM
TOTALS : 57.00 87.00
175.980
Good Standing

CGN 6939 Graduate Seminar
0.00 P
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail
CGN 7980 Ph.D. Dissertation
9.00 0.00 IP
TERM GPA : 0.000
TERM TOTALS : 0.00 0.00
0.000
CUM GPA : 3.910 CUM
TOTALS : 57.00 87.00
175.980
CUM GPA : 3.910 CUM
TOTALS : 57.00 87.00
175.980

SPR 2015
Program : Engineering
Plan : Civil Engineering - PhD
Major
CGN  6939  Graduate Seminar
0.00 P
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail
CGN  7980  Ph.D. Dissertation
3.00 0.00 IP
TERM GPA : 0.000
TERM TOTALS : 0.00 0.00
0.000

CUM GPA : 3.910 CUM
TOTALS : 57.00 87.00
175.980

SUM 2015
Program : Engineering
Plan : Civil Engineering - PhD
Major
CGN  7980  Ph.D. Dissertation
3.00
TERM GPA : 0.000
TERM TOTALS : 0.00 0.00
0.000

CUM GPA : 3.910 CUM
TOTALS : 57.00 87.00
175.980

Graduate Career Totals
CUM GPA : 3.910 CUM
TOTALS : 57.00 87.00
175.980