University of Maryland Distinguished Dissertation Award for 2014

**Biological and Life Sciences**

**Mariano Kanamori**  
School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics  
Title “The Effects of Orphan and Vulnerable Child Primary Care Giving Household Wealth and Female Autonomy on Women's Body Mass Index in Southern Africa”  
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Olivia Carter-Pokras

**Humanities and Fine Arts**

**Matthew Scott Heerman**  
College of Arts and Humanities, Department of History  
Title: “Deep River: Slavery, Empire, and Emancipation in the Upper Mississippi River Valley, 1730-1860”  
Dissertation Advisor: Distinguished University Professor Ira Berlin

**Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering**

**Jane Cornett**  
A. James Clark School of Engineering, Department of Materials Science and Engineering  
Title: “Thermoelectric Transport Phenomena in Semiconducting Nanostructures”  
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Oded Rabin

**Social Sciences**

**Ariel Ortiz Bobea**  
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
Title: “Essays on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Agriculture”  
Dissertation Advisor: Distinguished University Professor Richard Just