

# Loann Crane Award Recipient

## Whitney Chappell

Whitney's focus of research is in Hispanic Linguistics.

She is the recipient of the Susan L. Huntington Dean's Distinguished University Fellowship, the Ray Travel Award, and the Arts & Humanities Graduate Research Small Grant.



### 1. In 2011, you received the Loann Crane Award. What did you do with the funds received?

I used the Loann Crane Award to support my travel to Managua, Nicaragua, where I conducted research for my dissertation on innovative dialectal features in Nicaraguan Spanish. In my data collection I recorded interviews, image identification, and reading tasks with nearly 40 participants, and the Loann Crane Award also allowed me to compensate these informants for their participation.

### 2. What did this award help you accomplish in your studies and professional development?

This award allowed me to collect the data needed for my dissertation, which I will be defending now in less than one month.

### 3. What do you remember the most about this experience?

Recording my participants in Managua was an incredible experience; not only was I able to capture the linguistic variables I wanted to explore in my dissertation, I was also able to meet amazing individuals from all walks of life and listen to their stories. Some speakers had served in the Revolution or the Contra war, others were living in extreme poverty, and each individual had an incredible tale to tell.

### 4. What are the benefits of receiving this award?

The Loann Crane Award allowed me to write the dissertation I had dreamed of writing. Without this funding it would have been impossible to travel to Nicaragua and live abroad while collecting my data.