

# GRAD IN FOCUS



UNIVERSITY of  
**LOUISIANA**  
L A F A Y E T T E \*

Graduate  
School

FEBRUARY 2024



## Message from the Dean

DR. MARY FARMER-KAISER

I always associate the Spring semester with celebration. Spring brings Mardi Gras and, even better, it's when we celebrate the contributions of graduate education to our University through Graduate Student Appreciation Week.

While Mardi Gras doesn't yet offer a parade to celebrate our "vast social and intellectual ecosystem" (a phrase I borrow from my grad education colleagues Sonali Majumdar and James Van Wyck), this Spring will offer MANY opportunities to share your research and creative works and to learn from others about their projects too.

The 3MT Finals started our research celebration beautifully. And yet there's so much more to come! On Monday, Feb. 5, we will introduce a new funding source to support doctoral student research. The Sustainable Development Grants supporting grad student research will be announced soon. (Make sure to mark your calendar for the Faculty and Grad Student Sustainability Summits.) You also won't want to miss the deadline on March 11 to enter the Grad Student Appreciation Week Research Showcase competitions. And there's even a 125 Day Academic Showcase being planned for March 12.

Yes, indeed, so many opportunities to learn and to lead in our vast ecosystem!

Dr. MFK



Take pride in how far you've come.  
Have faith in how far you can go.  
But don't forget to enjoy the journey.

MICHAEL JOSEPHSON

Lawyer and Founder of the  
Joseph & Edna Josephson  
institute of Ethics



# Upcoming Events in February

## **Mondays - Wake Up and Write!**

Every Monday morning when the University is open, grad students and faculty write, read, and think at the Alumni Center Board Room from 8:30-10:30 a.m. The Grad School provides coffee, breakfast treats, and quiet. You provide the focus and progress. Parking is easy. No registration is required.

## **2/7 - Lunch & Learn: Aligning Your Time & Priorities + NCFDD**

Join us in HLG 315 at noon for lunch and conversation about the benefits and challenges of using a weekly planning session to stay focused and on task. This session will prep you for a hands-on skills development VIRTUAL workshop offered through NCFDD on February 8. [Registration is required.](#)

## **2/8 - Money Matters - Investing as a Grad Student**

We'll be in HGL 315 at 11:30 for Lunch with Dr. Brian Bolton who will walk through the steps of setting up your own Roth IRA investment account for free. Learn about strategies for maximizing the financial benefit of a retirement account while you are a graduate student. [Registration Required](#)

## **2/14 - The 2024 Most Loved Grad Program Competition Launches!**

Each year in the weeks between Valentine's Day and Graduate Student Appreciation Week in March, the Grad School challenges our grad students, faculty, staff, and alumni to some good-spirited competition. What's at stake? Bragging rights, a cool traveling trophy, and a departmental lunch on us. Get ready for the love!

## **2/22 - Money Matters - Debt & Income Management**

Our third event in this series will be getting into the nuts and bolts of refining your budgeting skills as a graduate student. We'll be in HLG 315 at 11:30 for lunch and conversation. [Registration Required](#)

## **2/27 - Lunch & Learn: Skills for Managing Your Semester + NCFDD**

This workshop will focus on some of the core skills that are crucial for your success in grad school. Join us for lunch at noon in HLG 315 to talk about how to make the most of the skills training available through your NCFDD account. [Registration is required.](#)

## **2/28 - Manuscript Workshop for Students**

Join us online from 12-1 p.m. for an intro to what to expect and how to prepare when submitting your defended manuscript to the Grad School for review and final approval. [Register in advance](#) to get the Zoom link.

## **2/27-3/11 - 14 Day Writing Challenge**

Sign up for the NCFDD 14-Day Writing Challenge. The challenge is simple: write for at least 30 minutes every day--Monday through Friday--for two weeks. Writing, in this instance, refers to any scholarly activity ranging from the spark of a new idea to polishing a near-complete project. Plus, you get access to the WriteNow software! Register by 2/16 at <https://www.ncfdd.org/14-day-challenge>.

# Most Loved

GRAD  
PROGRAM

Grad students, faculty, staff, and alumni, brace yourself for the academic showdown of the year!

Get ready to show us the love for your grad program! Help your department claim the "Most Loved Grad Program" title, possession of the coveted traveling trophy, and a VIP lunch for your department!

Watch for details beginning on February 14!



Past "Most Loved" winners!

2023: Biology

2022: Psychology

2021: Communication

2020: MBA

2019: Communication

2017 & 2018: Counseling



# All Things



## 14-DAY WRITING CHALLENGE

- ✓ write for 30 minutes
- ✓ Monday-Friday
- ✓ for 14 days

**kickstart your daily writing habit and sign up today!**

**February 27th - March 11th**

NCFDD is a professional development, training, and mentoring community that can help you achieve extraordinary writing and research productivity while maintaining a full and healthy life off campus.

## WHAT?

## WHO?

**YOU!** All graduate students, faculty, postdocs, and staff have access to free membership by virtue of the University's institutional membership.

Visit [ncfdd.org/join](http://ncfdd.org/join) to sign up!  
No need to wait, do it now.  
Scroll down to select our institution.

## HOW?

## FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS



## PROGRAMS & RESOURCES FOR NCFDD MEMBERS

- Monday Motivator
- 10 Core Skills
- 14-Day Writing Challenges
- WriteNow Software
- Guest Expert Webinars
- Multi-Week Courses
- Dissertation Success Curriculum
- And more!







Our 8 finalists in the 3MT competition outdid themselves! These grad students dedicated themselves to explaining their research within the tight confines of a three-minute presentation to a non-specialist audience—no easy task. They made it look easy, but their efforts made selecting a winner a challenge for the judges. Join us in congratulating our top three presenters! In addition to monetary prizes, our #3MT winner, Bibi Aseeya Mohamed, will represent UL Lafayette at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools Regional 3MT Competition in Greenville, South Carolina on March 14-15, 2024.



**Bibi Aseeya Mohamed**  
**School of Geosciences**

"3-D Reflection Seismic Investigation On The Formation of Mass Transport Deposits Along The Sigsbee Escarpment"



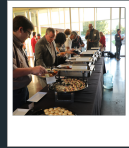
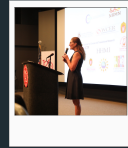
**Md Nahin Mahmood**  
**Department of Petroleum Engineering, Systems Engineering**

"Mitigating Global Warming through Carbon Dioxide Storage"



**Mateo Chavez**  
**Department of Psychology**

"Encouraging Growth Mindsets and Grit in Socially Anxious People"



Join us  
**ACADEMIC SPEAKER SERIES**  
*Anniversary Edition*

**The Great 8: Life's Lessons from a Seasoned Nurse Practitioner**

**Dr. Amelie Hollier, Family Nurse Practitioner & Co-Founder APEA**

**College of Nursing and Health Science**

Moncus Hall Room 422  
**February 5, 5-6 pm**  
Reception to Follow



*Thank you!*

**3MT Finals Judges:**

**Carlee Alm-LaBar**  
Executive Director of the  
Schumacher Family Foundation

**Aleisha Johnson Cook**  
Principal Consultant and Owner of  
AJC Business Solutions &  
President of The 705

**Dr. John Laudon**  
Professor of English

**Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser**  
Dean of the Graduate School &  
Professor of History





## MARCH 8th: Faculty Sustainable Development Research Summit

📍 LITE Center 537 Cajundome Blvd 🕒 9 am - 2 pm

Phase 1: The first Sustainability Summit will feature 19 faculty recipients of these awards. Presenters will deliver brief, impactful pitches about their research. Come to learn and to engage in focused conversations during multiple breakout sessions.



## APRIL 12th: Grad Student Sustainable Development Research Summit

Phase 2: Save the date! The second Sustainability Summit will recognize our Grad Student recipients. Submissions were due on January 31, and you answered the call We received more than 90 applications! Awards will be announced soon. For now, just save the date--April 12--and plan to join us.

[Learn More: Sustainable Development Research Awards Programs](#)

## Doctoral Research & Travel Funds

In partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Research, Innovation & Economic Development, the Graduate School is pleased to announce a new funding source to support doctoral student research and travel. Pre-candidacy doctoral students will be eligible for awards up to \$1,500; doctoral candidates will be eligible for awards up to \$2,500. Watch your email on Monday, Feb. 5, for a formal announcement with guidelines and instructions on how to apply!



## Grad Education in the News

- ["Frustrated With Your Dissertation Chair? Three Fundamental Strategies to Help Strengthen the Relationship."](#)  
Inside Higher Education, 30 January 2024.
- ["A New Career Model to Support International Ph.D.s and Postdocs."](#)  
Inside Higher Education, 22 January 2024.

## GSO Funding Spring 2024 Application Deadlines

- Friday, February 2, 2024
- Friday, March 15, 2024
- Friday, April 12, 2024

GSO provides funding to graduate students to help defray the cost of attending conferences and purchasing research equipment and supplies. GSO also provides one-time grants for purchasing thesis, dissertation, or project supplies.



## GRADUATE STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK

March 18-22, 2024

## RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Plan now to enter your **research, creative works, and poster projects** in the 2024 GSAW Paper and Poster Competitions!

*Deadline*



To register and download the rules and guidelines, [click here.](#)





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University of Louisiana  
at Lafayette Graduate School



Save the Date

## Looking Ahead to March

3/6 - Money Matters Lunch & Learn: Taxes

3/6 - Manuscript Workshop for Students

3/12 - Lunch & Learn: Developing a Daily Writing Practice + NCFDD

3/12 - 125th Day

3/18-3/22 - Graduate Student Appreciation Week

3/18 - Doctoral Candidacy Recognition

3/25 - 4/1 - Spring Break

## Important Dates and Deadlines

2/2 - DEADLINE: Graduate Foreign Language Exams

2/5 - College of Nursing and Health Sciences 125th Anniversary Academic Lecture at 5 p.m. in Moncus Hall, Room 422

2/12 - 2/14 - HOLIDAY: Mardi Gras

2/15 - DEADLINE: Doctoral Progress Reports Due

2/23 - DEADLINE: Apply for Spring/Summer/Fall 2024 Graduation

2/27 - Spring 2024 Grad Expo at the Alumni Center



## Key Resources for Grad Students

**Campus Cupboard** supplies free, nonperishable items to meet students' temporary food needs. Location: 210 E. St. Mary Blvd

**Career Closet** provides students with free, gently used professional clothing items for interviews, career fairs, and other professional networking events. Location: 210 E. St. Mary Blvd

**Career Services** provides services to students in career planning, development, and job-seeking strategies. Location: Agnes Edwards Hall, Room 104

**The Counseling and Testing Center** offers free counseling, crisis intervention, and short-term psychotherapy for individuals, couples, and groups. Location: Saucier Wellness Center, OK Allen Hall

**The Office of Disability Services** establishes eligibility and facilitates services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Location: Agnes Edwards Hall, Room 126

**Graduate Student Organization** and **Student Government Association** advocate for all graduate students and offer funding to help offset the cost of research and travel. Locations: gso.louisiana.edu and sga.louisiana.edu

**The Writing Lab** (formerly The Writing Center) offers a writing community for students and faculty with a comfortable space where writers work with other writers. Visit to discuss writing, receive feedback and help, and take advantage of tutoring services. Location: Dupré Library First Floor