

# GRAD IN FOCUS



UNIVERSITY of  
**LOUISIANA**  
LAFAYETTE\*

Graduate  
School

APRIL 2024



## Message from the Dean

DR. MARY FARMER-KAISER

'Tis the season of high highs and low lows.

The excitement of thesis and dissertation defenses, job interviews, and impending graduations is in the air. Yet, now is the time when disappointments that accompany tough revisions, tight deadlines, job rejections, and delayed graduations can cause some melancholy too.

Nelson Mandela's words to the right capture well the importance of both the highs and the lows in our lives. Often our strength reveals itself most not as we achieve success, but rather when we rise in the face of disappointment. Without question, resilience (perhaps even more than brilliance) is essential in grad school. This inner strength is what helps us weather the storms of being challenged or seeing the sun set on one of our dreams. Give yourself permission to reflect in these dark moments.

As we navigate this last month of the academic year, I encourage you (and myself too) to remember that setbacks are not the end of the road but mere detours on our journey. They are opportunities to grow, to adapt, to revisit our definition(s) of success, and to persevere. A new day will come and, with it, the sun will shine again.

Together, let's test our resolve. We've proven time and time again that we have the fortitude to keep at the research, the writing, the job search, and so much more. Although there may be moments when we are unsure about what lies ahead, it is the journey--with high highs and low lows--that defines our purpose.

Dr. MFK



**"Do not judge me  
by my success,  
judge me by how  
many times I fell  
down and got  
back up again."**

NELSON MANDELA





# Upcoming Events in April

## **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.

## **4/3 - Faculty Workshop for Final Manuscript Submission and Review**

Faculty, join us online on Wednesday, 4/3, from 12-1 p.m. to stay current with the [Guidelines](#) and final manuscript submission/approval processes. We'll outline what students and faculty should expect. Come with questions! We promise answers! [Register here to get the Zoom link.](#)

## **4/3 - 35th Annual Black Student Achievement Awards**

Held on Wednesday, April 3, at 6 p.m. in Angelle Hall auditorium, this event hosted by the Black Faculty & Staff Association will celebrate 700+ exceptional Black graduate and undergraduate students for their academic excellence.

## **4/4 - Student Workshop for Final Manuscript Submission and Review**

Students, join us online on Thursday, 4/4, from 12-1 p.m. to learn about the [Guidelines](#), manuscript formatting requirements, embargoes, common challenges, and the final review and approval process. Whether you're finishing a thesis or dissertation this Spring or just getting started, this workshop is tailored for you! [Register here to get the Zoom link.](#)

## **4/11 - Honors Convocation**

Honors Convocation, which takes place this year at the Cajundome on April 11 at 6 pm, recognizes the academic achievements of outstanding undergraduate and graduate students. The Graduate School also recognizes our recipients of the Outstanding GTA Award, Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award, and the Outstanding Master's Mentor Awards at Honors Convocation.

## **4/12 - Graduate Student Sustainability Summit**

Join us on Friday 4/12 from 9 am to 2 pm at the LITE Center as the 22 grad student recipients of the inaugural 22 grants deliver brief pitches about their sustainability-related research. Lunch will be provided. [See a list of our presenters and RSVP here.](#)

## **4/17 - Lunch & Learn: Charting an Effective Summer Writing Plan**

Join our conversation about developing an effective summer writing plan. We'll also talk about summer writing events hosted by the Grad School and other resources available to you as a grad student to strengthen your writing habits. [Advance registration is required.](#)

## **4/18 - Grad Money Matters Lunch & Learn: Career Income Planning**

Our last Money Matters event of the semester will focus on aligning your academic, professional, and financial goals with grad school. Join us in Griffin Hall 315 on 4/18 for lunch starting at 11:30 a.m. and conversation from 12-1 p.m. [Advance registration is required.](#)

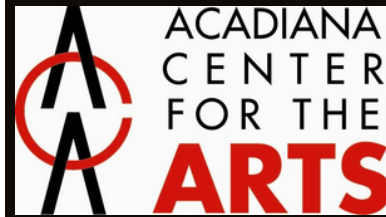
# Lafayette Community Engagement





With the help of SGA, the **Graduate School** and **The 705** have teamed up to provide **30 grad students with 705 membership for a year.**

The 705 fosters personal, professional, and civic development for future community leaders.

[Contact the SGA Grad President & Senators for all the details!](#)



## AcA Insiders' Salon Festival International Kick-Off Edition

 April 23rd  7:30 pm

Did you know? Through the Grad School partnership with the AcA, **our grad students receive free AcA membership.** Attend the upcoming AcA Insiders' Salon to learn more about this membership and the AcA.

## 2024 Outstanding Master's Mentor Award Recipients

*Awarded to Graduate Faculty members who demonstrate exemplary mentorship and advising, playing a crucial role in fostering the academic and professional growth of master's degree students.*

**Dr. Lauren Auverset van Gerwen**  
Department of Communication,  
College of Liberal Arts

**Dr. Wesley Bradford**  
School of Music, College of the Arts

**Dr. Seonhee Jang**  
Department of Mechanical  
Engineering, College of Engineering

**Dr. Davide Oppo**  
School of Geosciences, Ray P.  
Authement College of Sciences

## 2024 Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award Recipient

*Acknowledges and rewards outstanding teaching by a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) who has excelled as an instructor of record during their graduate studies, contributing significantly to our undergraduate teaching mission.*

**Justin Dunnam**  
Ph.D. student in Mathematics  
Department of Math, Ray P. Authement  
College of Sciences

## 2024 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award Recipient

*This award recognizes the top graduate teaching assistant for their essential role in supporting faculty members (who are the instructors of record) and fulfilling our undergraduate teaching mission.*

**Tasnim Supty**  
M.S. student in Biology  
Department of Biology, Ray P.  
Authement College of Sciences



## LAUNCHING FALL 2024 Accelerated Bachelor's-to- Master's (ABM) Programs

Beginning in Fall 2024, UL Lafayette will offer Accelerated Bachelor's-to-Master's (ABM) Combined Curriculum Plans of Study in the areas identified below. ABM programs provide high-achieving undergraduate students the opportunity to earn both the baccalaureate degree and master's degree in less time and at less cost.

- M.S. Communication
- M.A. English
- M.A. French
- M.M. Music
- M.S. Systems Technology
- M.S.E. Engineering
  - Chemical Engineering
  - Civil Engineering
  - Electrical Engineering
  - Engineering Management
  - Mechanical Engineering
  - Petroleum Engineering

Help us spread the word to strong undergraduate students in these areas.

**Detailed Email** *Coming soon*



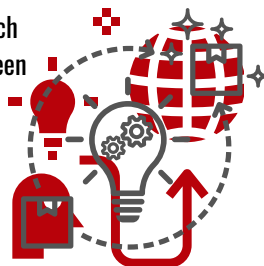
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L A F A Y E T T E

**Office of Innovation Management**

**Technology • Collaboration • Innovation • Commercialization**

The Office of Innovation Management is a key research partner. In addition to facilitating partnerships between the University and industry, it provides guidance on:

- Intellectual property policies & protection
- Technology licensing
- Creation of start-up companies



**Curious and ready to learn more?**

Talk to your faculty and reach out to the Office of Innovation Management by emailing [noah.bergeron@louisiana.edu](mailto:noah.bergeron@louisiana.edu).



The LITE Center, STE. 115  
537 Cajundome Blvd.  
Lafayette, LA 70506



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# Graduate Student APPRECIATION WEEK

March 18 - 22 *highlights*

## Doctoral Candidacy Recognition and Pinning Ceremony



## Etiquette Brunch



## Trivia Night



**Most Loved**

GRAD PROGRAM

ENGLISH



**Congratulations to the English Department! Our English grad students really showed up during GSAW! They entered the Research Showcase, offered love for their programs and faculty, attended events, and more. We share your love, and we're looking forward to hosting a department lunch in your honor. Let's celebrate finding a new home for the traveling trophy and claim that title, English faculty and grad students! #ULGradLove2024**





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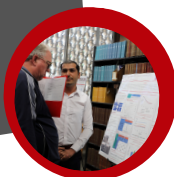
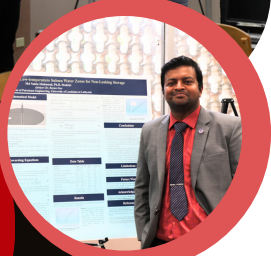
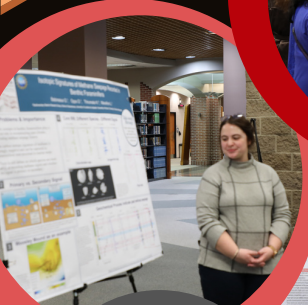
TOP-TIER  
RESEARCH  
UNIVERSITY



# Research

# Showcase

## Winners



### HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCE POSTER COMPETITION



**Ayodeji Adegoke (Psychology M.S.)**  
The Relationship Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Identity Development Among Emerging Adults: The Role of Peer Relations



**Tracey Adjei (Communication M.S.)**  
A Bibliometric Analysis of OTC Advertising Research



**Thomas Poche' (Engineering: Mechanical M.S.E.)**  
Synthesis, Characterization, and Classification of Polymer-like Hydrogenated Amorphous Carbon by Plasma-enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition of Cyclohexane Precursor



**Gracie Babineaux (Earth and Energy Science Ph.D.)**  
Signatures of Methane Seepage Recorded in Benthic Foraminifera from Woolsey Mound (Gulf of Mexico)



**Sumona Hoque Mumu (Kinesiology M.S.)**  
Post Reform Cannabis Use and Major Depressive Episode: A Naturalistic Investigation



**Christie Sexton (Athletic Training M.S.)**  
The Effects of Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy on Patellar Tendinopathy



**Xingli Zhang (Computer Science Ph.D.)**  
From Virtual Touch to Tesla Command: Unlocking Unauthenticated Control Chains from Smart Glasses for Vehicle Takeover



**Jenita Jahangir (Mathematics Ph.D.)**  
A Discrete-Time Stage-Structured Host-Parasitoid Model With a Combination of Pest Control Strategies



**Dhwani Hemant Mehta (English Ph.D.)**  
Translating Ideas, Claiming Credit: Unmasking Ethical Quandaries in Multilingual Authorship



**Katie Potier (Applied Language & Speech Sciences Ph.D.)**  
Synthesizing Vygotsky's Sociocultural Theory and Deaf Pedagogy Framework Toward Deaf Education Reform: Perspectives From Teachers of the Deaf

### STEM POSTER COMPETITION

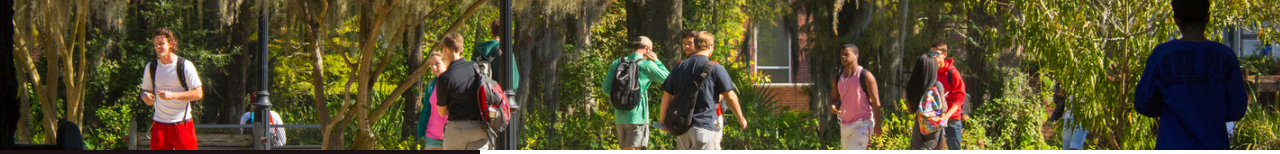
### PROFESSIONAL POSTER COMPETITION

### STEM PAPER COMPETITION

### HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES PAPER COMPETITION

Special thanks to the members of the **Graduate Faculty** who selected our winners and to the **Office of the Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development** for funding prizes of \$500 and \$200 for our 1st and 2nd place winners in all competition categories.





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University of Louisiana  
at Lafayette Graduate School



Save the Date

## Looking Ahead to May

5/9 at 6pm - Doctoral Hooding  
Ceremony at the Convention Center



5/10 & 5/11  
Commencement Ceremonies



Join us

## ACADEMIC SPEAKER SERIES

Anniversary Edition

Thursday, April 4 - College of the Arts 125th Anniversary  
Academic Lecture at 5:30 p.m. at the LITE Center

Monday, April 10 - College of Liberal Arts 125th Anniversary  
Academic Lecture at 6pm at the Student Union, Bayou Bijou

## Important Dates and Deadlines

4/8 - Last day to submit DEFENDED theses/ dissertations for Grad School review and final approval

4/22 - Last day to submit FINAL theses/dissertations/synthesis projects for Grad School review and final approval

4/22 - Last day to complete graduate written and/or oral examinations

## 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: [go.louisiana.edu](http://go.louisiana.edu) and [sga.louisiana.edu](http://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