

# GRAD IN FOCUS



UNIVERSITY of  
**LOUISIANA**  
LAFAYETTE\*

Graduate  
School

MARCH 2024



## Message from the Dean

DR. MARY FARMER-KAISER

It's almost here! Grad Student Appreciation Week is at the end of the month and, in my book, there's no better way than GSAW to lead into Spring Break.

But we have to get through March first, and March is always a packed month! Classes, research, and writing remain, and there are conferences, deadlines, and more that fill our already-full calendars. I know I am not alone when I wonder how to better manage the competing priorities. It all matters so much.

Last month, I received a gift when I attended the 125th Academic Lecture Series hosted by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences on February 5. Little did I know when I headed over to the new Moncus Hall just how much I needed the message offered that evening by Dr. Amelie Hollier in her talk, "The Great 8: Life Lessons from a Seasoned NP." Allow me to share with you her "Great 8" lessons. They really resonated with me.

1. Try to curtail multitasking.
2. Learn something new everyday.
3. Operate from the inside out.
4. Have some daytime dreams.
5. Guard and protect your work=life balance.
6. Build healthy bones. (These bones, she reminded us, include the funny bone.)
7. Identify and focus on your BIG ROCKS. (These are your mission=critical priorities. Everything else has to be the sand that can fit in and around the big rocks.)
8. Be generous.

Embrace a lesson and have a great March!  
Dr. MFK



"Education is the  
passport to the  
future, for tomorrow  
belongs to those who  
prepare for it today."

MALCOLM X

American Muslim Minister  
and Human Rights Activist





# Upcoming Events in March

## **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.

## **3/6 - Money Matters Lunch & Learn: Taxes in Grad School**

Join us Wednesday 3/6 for lunch and a chance to talk about getting ready for Tax season. This workshop will focus on understanding how to think about and approach taxes while in grad school. [Registration is required.](#)

## **3/6 - Spring Student Workshop for Manuscript Submission and Review**

Students! Join us online on Wednesday 3/6 from 4-5 p.m. to hear from our editing team on topics including the updated Guidelines, formatting, manuscript embargoes, common issues, and the final review and approval process. Whether you're finishing this Spring or just starting, this workshop is for you! [Register to get the Zoom link.](#)

## **3/7 - Spring Faculty Workshop for Manuscript Submission and Review**

Faculty! Join us online on Thursday 3/7 from 4-5 p.m. to ensure you are up to date on the Guidelines and manuscript submission processes. We'll walk you through final manuscript review and approval procedures and answer questions about best practices for guiding your graduating students through this last step. [Register to get the Zoom link.](#)

## **3/8 - Sustainable Development Faculty Research Summit**

Join us on Friday 3/8 from 9 am to 2 pm at the LITE Center as 19 faculty presenters deliver brief, impactful pitches about sustainability-related research.

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

Join our graduate faculty panel on Tuesday 3/12 to learn about how they stay committed to a daily writing practice. We'll also talk about how to make the most of the resources available through NCFDD to build the writing habits you need as a grad student. Lunch is served at 11:30 am. [Registration is required.](#)

## **3/16 - The Big Event with GSO**

Grad students have joined the Big Event to do their part for UL Lafayette's largest day of service! We're teaming up with the Graduate Student Organization on Saturday 3/16 to lead an on-campus beautification project with Parish Proud.

## **3/18 - 3/22 - Graduate Student Appreciation Week.**

See page 4 for a complete list of GSAW events that celebrate grad education.

## **3/20 - Money Matters Lunch & Learn: Entrepreneurship**

Join us on Wednesday 3/20 for lunch as we cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset for success during grad school and beyond. [Registration is required.](#)

## Most Loved

GRAD PROGRAM

is building steam!

The professors are awesome and create a positive learning atmosphere!"

"There has not been a moment in grad school where I felt like I was on my own!"

"The MBA program does a great job of connecting individuals across the world."

"Awesome faculty and great facilities!"

Tell us what you love about your grad program by:

- Post on your social channels using **#ULGradLove2024** and include **@ULGradSchool**

- Visit us in Martin Hall or at an event and write on our "Most Loved" board

- Fill out [this form](#), which sends your reply directly to the Grad School





# Research SHOWCASE

 March 12th  8:30 - 11:30 a.m.  Student Union Halls

Join us for an Academic Showcase hosted by the **Office of the Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development** in celebration of our 125th anniversary! Explore fascinating exhibits, including fossil skulls, patient simulations, solar power tech, and student research. Get hands-on with interactive AI artwork creation and enjoy giveaways. Don't miss this free event!

*In addition, the Student Union ballroom will host a historical display showcasing the University's 125-year journey.*

## RESEARCH COMPETITION

Graduate Student Appreciation Week



= \$500  
*in three categories*



= \$200  
*in three categories*

*Enter to Win*  
*Deadline*



You have research and creative works to share! We have cash prizes to share!

**It's a win-win!**

There's still time to enter your research, creative works, and projects in the 2024 GSAW Paper and Poster Competitions!

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







# Grad Student

## APPRECIATION WEEK

March 18 - 22

Monday

18<sup>TH</sup>

### GSAW Keynote Address, Professional Head Shots, and Doctoral Candidacy Recognition

Join us at the LITE Center for a professional head shot and some inspiration!

Dr. Gretchen Vanicor will inspire us at 6pm with the GSAW Keynote Address and doctoral students who have advanced to candidacy since April 2023 will be recognized along with their graduate faculty committee chairs. Come early to get your picture taken! [Register.](#)

Tuesday

19<sup>TH</sup>

### Grad Etiquette Brunch

In partnership with the Office of Career Services, the Grad School is offering a great professional development opportunity for grad students. Engage with faculty and industry professionals and brush up on conference etiquette. Activities (including brunch) begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. [Registration by Thursday, March 14 is required.](#)

Wednesday

20<sup>TH</sup>

### Money Matters Lunch and Learn: Entrepreneurship

Cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset can help you achieve your goals as a graduate student and beyond. This workshop will help you develop a skill set for recognizing opportunities amid challenges and determining the best path to success. [Registration is required.](#) Wednesday is also Day 1 of the **Research Showcase Poster Presentations.**

Thursday

21<sup>ST</sup>

### Research Showcase Poster Presentations (Day 2)

First place prize is \$500, and first and second prizes will be awarded in three categories (STEM, Professional, and Humanities) and in two formats (posters and papers). This is a great opportunity to share your work with the larger University community and be recognized for its excellence. [Register here by March 11.](#)

Friday

22<sup>ND</sup>

### Trivia, Community, and GSAW Awards at KOK

Join us at Kitchen on Klinton at 3 p.m. for Trivia fun (and other games too), comradery, and a chance to hear first about our Research Showcase and Most Loved Graduate Program winners. [Register your Trivia Team here.](#)

# THE BIG EVENT

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Start GSAW early by joining the Graduate Student Organization flock for the BIG EVENT on Saturday, March 16.



## What is the Big Event?

The Big Event is UL Lafayette's largest day of service! It gives UL Lafayette students (undergrad and grad) the opportunity to volunteer in our community. Through a variety of service projects, we demonstrate our citizenship and social responsibility, all while promoting a Ragin' Cajun spirit.

[gso.louisiana.edu](http://gso.louisiana.edu)

Your participation in GSAW activities not only offers opportunities to learn from and with others in the grad education community, but it also contributes to the 2024 Most Loved Grad Program Competition.



## Sustainable Development Research Grant Grad Recipients

### Jahidul Alam (English Ph.D.)

Francis Bacon and Early Modern Environment: Exploring How Salomon's House Refutes His Anthropocene  
Environmental Protection SDGs 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

### Leticia Andrus (Educational Leadership Ed.D.)

Diversity Beyond Borders: A Literature Review of the Representation of International Students in Diversity Discourses in American Universities  
Social Inclusion SDGs 4, 8, 16, 17

### Bipin Bastakoti (Environmental Resource Science M.S.)

Soil Health Degradation in the Vermilion-Teche Basin of Louisiana  
Environmental Protection SDGs 2, 8, 13, 15

### Precious Batubo (Earth and Energy Science Ph.D.)

Analyzing Sedimentary Deposits to Reconstruct Medium-sized Paleo-Tsunami using Deep Neural Networks  
Environmental Protection SDGs 9, 11

### Katarina Brankovic (Francophone Studies Ph.D.)

Shedding Light on the Experiences of the Disability Community at UL Lafayette: Campus Collaborations to Prioritize Accessibility  
Social Inclusion SDGs 4, 11, 16

### Markashia Brown (Educational Leadership Ed.D.)

What do we already know about the Financial Literacy of Women & First-Generation African-American Women Students  
Economic Growth SDGs 4, 5, 8, 10

### Redeemer Buatsi (Communication M.S.)

Reporting Rape in the United States-A Content Analysis of Media Coverage of Rape in the State of Louisiana  
Social Inclusion SDGs 3, 5, 16

### Kirsten Cases (Architecture M.Arch.)

Reacclimating Neglected Infrastructure Through Stabilizing Carbon Dynamics  
Environmental Protection SDGs 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17

### Allison Comeaux (Educational Leadership Ed.D.)

How Do Post-Secondary Disability Service Accommodations in the U.S. Impact Educational Attainment  
Social Inclusion: SDGs 4, 16

### Anamika Das (English M.A.)

Using Natural Semantic Metalanguage to Preserve How a Language Reflects Culture: Comparing Bengali and American Cultures  
Social Inclusion SDGs 4, 10, 16, 17

### Shayan Ebrahimi (Systems Engineering Ph.D.)

Accelerating Decarbonization through Digital Twinning  
Environmental Protection SDGs 7, 9, 12

### Kubiat George (Engineering: Chemical M.S.E.)

Adding Carbon Black Nano-Particles to Improve UV Stability and Reduce Degradation  
Environmental Protection SDGs 2, 6, 9, 11

### Holly Heafner (Environmental Resource Science (M.S.))

Environmental inequities and lead toxicity: a geospatial and demographic evaluation of soil contamination in Lafayette, LA  
Environmental Protection SDGs 3, 4, 10, 11, 16

### Atif Khan (Engineering: Civil M.S.E.)

Utilization of Sugarcane Bagasse ash and Rice Husk ash in sustainable construction bricks  
Environmental Protection SDGs 7, 8, 9, 11, 12

### Farooq Azam Khanzada (Systems Engineering Ph.D.)

Louisiana's Passion for Running Red Lights: Can Automated Enforcement Lead to Improved Safety Outcomes?  
Social Inclusion SDGs 11

### Deepak Jain Veerendra Kumar (Systems Engineering Ph.D.)

Advancing Soiling Loss Predictions in PV Systems with Enhanced Models  
Environmental Protection SDGs 7, 13

### Tyrell Lassair (Earth and Energy Science Ph.D.)

Urban Agriculture as a Strategy to Increase Food Access and Alleviate Food Insecurity  
Environmental Protection SDGs 2, 3, 4

### Lillian Mambiri (Systems Engineering Ph.D.)

Bone Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medical Oncological Solutions  
Social Inclusion SDGs 1, 3, 10, 12

### Mahpara Mashiyat (Earth and Energy Science Ph.D.)

Observations of structural and functional changes in mineral and organic soil wetlands caused by saltwater intrusion events in Louisiana  
Environmental Protection SDGs 13, 14, 15

### Taslima Supty (Biology M.S.)

Impact of Childhood Adversity on Neuroinflammation: Exploring the Connections & Implications  
Social Inclusion SDGs 3, 4, 8, 11, 16

### Jon-Patric Veal (Psychology M.S.)

How Variations in Perspective Taking Can Mediate the Effects of Empathy on Implicit Racial Bias  
Social Inclusion SDGs 10, 16

### Renee Vincent (English Ph.D.)

When DNR Means 'Do Not Rescue': Hurricane Katrina and Medical Inequity within Disaster  
Social Inclusion SDGs 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17



## Sustainable Development Grad Student Research Summit

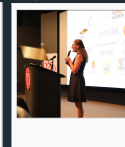


Friday, April 12



LITE Center

All 22 grad student recipients of the sustainable development research grants will deliver 5-minute presentations during the second research summit. Mark your calendar now and plan to experience firsthand the incredible research and creative works happening on our campus!



Join us  
ACADEMIC SPEAKER SERIES  
Anniversary Edition

## Symposiums on an Ensemblic Collaboration

Noel W Anderson, Artist, MFA  
Printmaking & Sculpture  
Current Area Head of Print Media  
New York University

## College of the Arts

The LITE Center  
April 4, 5:30-7:30 pm  
reception to follow



@ULLafayetteGraduateSchool



@ULGradSchool



@ULGradSchool



University of Louisiana  
at Lafayette Graduate School



Save the Date

## Looking Ahead to April

- 4/2 - Lunch & Learn: Mastering Academic Time Management + NCFDD
- 4/3 - Spring Faculty Workshop for Manuscript Submission & Review
- 4/4 - Spring Student Workshop for Manuscript Submission & Review
- 4/12 - Grad Student Sustainability Summit
- 4/17 - Lunch and Learn: Making an Effective Summer Writing Plan + NCFDD
- 4/18 - Money Matters: Career & Income Planning

## Important Dates and Deadlines

3/11 - 3/22 - Advising Session for Summer/Fall

3/11 - Deadline to register for the GSAW Research Showcase Paper and Poster Prize Competitions

3/15 - GSO Funding Deadline

3/15 - Doctoral Research and Travel Grant Application Due Date

*don't forget*

3/25 - 4/1 - HOLIDAY: Spring Break

## 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