

GRAD IN FOCUS



UNIVERSITY of
LOUISIANA
LAFAYETTE

Graduate
School

OCTOBER 2024

Message from the Dean

MARY FARMER-KAISER, PH.D.

While often considered a cliché, learning to “bridge the gap” is an important part of graduate education.

In every field of study, we spend countless hours identifying gaps—whether in the scholarship, the research, our creative works and writing, and so much more. But identifying the gaps is only the beginning. Our ultimate goal is to bridge the divide between what we know, what we still need to know, and how we apply that knowledge through our own work to make an impact.

In grad education more broadly, we also continue to address the gaps. Perhaps one of the most pressing that I think a lot about is the need to bridge the gap between the work we do on campus and its role in the wider world beyond campus.

Our upcoming Three-Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition is one way to challenge yourself to do just that. 3MT asks you to present your research to non-specialist audiences in under three minutes—an invaluable skill that will make your work more accessible.

In this issue of Grad In Focus, we’re also introducing an academic partnership with Accelerate to Industry (A2i)™ that aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry. Created at NC State, A2i™ offers grad students and postdocs at 35+ universities across the nation—now including our University—added opportunities to connect with industry to explore how academic training both informs and is enriched by real-world application.

Whether through 3MT®, A2i™, or some other pursuit, I hope that you’ll join your fellow researchers, writers, entrepreneurs, artists, educators, and others as we press forward to address the gaps through meaningful connection, solutions, and impact.

Dr. MFK

By offering a unique blend of academic rigor and practical industry experience, A2i empowers students to translate their research into real-world solutions that address pressing global challenges, says NSF.

“A2i is more than just a program; it’s a transformative journey that prepares our students to be leaders in their fields.”

DR. PETER HARRIES

Dean of the Graduate School
North Carolina State University
and visionary leader behind
Accelerate to Industry (A2i)™





Upcoming Events



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. **NEW THIS YEAR: Take advantage of on-site writing support during Wake Up and Write!**

10/7 - A2i Industry Insights Series: Career Opportunities in the Life Sciences Sector

Part of a 4-part series hosted by the University of Virginia, this A2i webinar will be presented by Lauren Celano, co-founder and CEO of Propel Careers. [Register here.](#)



10/9 - 3MT® Virtual Information Session

Get all the details for this year's Three Minute Thesis Competition in our virtual zoom information session. We'll go over all the basics, including competition rules, tips and strategies. [Register here.](#)

10/10 - Money Matters: Investing for Your Future: Compounding Success

Join us for lunch and a Money Matters conversation with Dr. Brian Bolton focused on investing in your future. Lunch begins at 11:30 am in HLG 315, and the discussion starts at noon. [Advance registration is required.](#)

10/16 - Final Manuscript Submission Workshop

Join us online from 12-1 pm 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 here.](#)

10/22 - How To Effectively And Efficiently Revise And Resubmit Your Manuscript Webinar

Receiving a "revise and resubmit" from an academic journal can be exciting... yet daunting. In this virtual NCFDD webinar at 1-2:30 pm, you will learn how to effectively and efficiently approach an "R&R." [Activate your institutional membership](#) and then [register here.](#)

10/29 - Money Matters: Debt, Taxes & Inflation - Navigating Life's Financial Challenges

Join us for lunch and a Money Matters conversation with Dr. Brian Bolton focused on debt, taxes, & inflation. Lunch begins at 11:30 am in HLG 315, and the discussion starts at noon. [Advance registration is required.](#)

10/30 - 3MT® Workshop

Join us online at 3 p.m. for a virtual workshop about the 3MT® Competition! We'll focus on tips and strategies to help you refine and perfect your presentation. Whether you're a first-time competitor or a 3MT® veteran, you're welcome to join. [Register here.](#)

World Mental HEALTH DAY



Mental health and wellness matters in grad school and beyond. Join the International Student Council to learn more about why.



Thursday,
October 10
5 pm



Griffin Hall
Room 315

Pizza will be provided.



Reagan Robicheaux, MS, LPC
Peyton Price, MS Counseling
Candidate and Counseling &
Testing Center GA

live
HEALTHY

Shoutout Your GSO Rep

The Graduate Student Organization wants to hear about and celebrate your departmental representative.

They've created a way for you to recognize your **GSO Rep** for their outstanding contributions!

Whether they've **shared important information, won an award, or done a good deed**, it's a great way to celebrate their extra efforts.

Click [here](#) to give a shout out to your GSO Rep!

Not sure who your Rep is? Click [here](#) for a list of GSO Representatives by department.



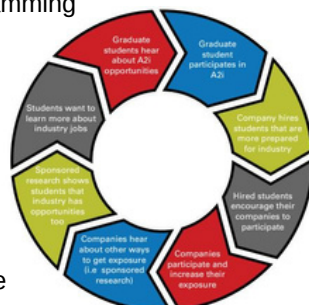
Accelerate to Industry™

FOUNDED BY THE NC STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

The Accelerate to Industry (A2i™) program is designed to increase awareness among graduate and postdoctoral researchers about the growing range of industry career opportunities, as well as the business and professional skills sought by today's hiring executives.

Leveraging the unique position of the Graduate School at NC State University, Dr. Peter Harries and his team developed, administered, and advanced this innovative program beginning in 2016 and expanded through an NSF Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) grant in 2019. The bold approach to enhancing industry workforce readiness now guides 30+ academic partners in grad schools across the nation. Last week, UL Lafayette became an official academic partner institution and, in addition to now being able to offer our graduate students access to external programming and initiatives, will begin its A2i™ journey in the coming months.

In a recent spotlight, the NSF used words like “groundbreaking” and “pioneering” to describe A2i™. The model includes not only the more traditional professional development programming that we know well but also more innovative approaches to mentorship and networking, industry immersion, and internships and fellowships. The results at NC State have been impressive. "The A2i program has been instrumental in shaping program participants' careers," says Harries of A2i program participants in the NSF piece. "The soft and research skills and industry immersion knowledge gained through A2i open doors for program graduates to work in industry and make significant contributions in their fields."



Plan to join us for an A2i™ Lunch & Learn on November 13 in HLG 315 to learn more. (Registration is coming soon.) In the meantime, [register](#) for the University of Virginia A2i™ program scheduled on October 7.



UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISIANA
LAFAYETTE

Graduate Student
Organization



The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition challenges you to present research in just three minutes, using only one static slide. The goal is to communicate complex ideas clearly and engagingly to a general audience, explaining the significance and impact of your work. It encourages creative, concise, accessible communication.

- **Cash prizes** are awarded
- UL Lafayette winner **advances to the regional 3MT® competition**
- Regional winner **advances to the national 3MT® showcase**

Virtual Info Session: October 9 @ 3pm
Learn the What, When, Where, Why & How!
 Click [Here](#) to Register



2023-2024 Winners

Looking Ahead to November

Learn more and register at louisiana.edu/graduateschool

- 11/5 & 11/6 - 3MT® Prelims
- 11/8 - Manuscript Workshop
- 11/13 - A2i Lunch & Learn
- 11/18 - Last Day to Submit Defended Copy of Theses/Dissertations
- 11/28 & 29 - Thanksgiving Break



Doctoral Research and Travel Grant Program

The Doctoral Research and Travel Grant Program, funded by the Office of Research and administered by the Graduate School, supports UL Lafayette doctoral students as they conduct and disseminate research that supports degree completion. These grants help cover expenses related to defined research projects and creative works linked to your dissertation or synthesis project.

Pre-candidate doctoral students are eligible for annual awards of up to \$1500.
ABD doctoral candidates are eligible for annual awards of up to \$2500.



Click [here](#) to learn about eligibility, expenses that can be included, deadlines, and how to apply!



ORCID

Connecting research and researchers



Learn more about ORCID at the information table for grad students/ researchers. You can register for free and learn how an ORCID can enhance and uniquely identify your research.

WHAT?

ORCID is a free, unique, persistent identifier for individuals to use as they engage in research, scholarship, and innovation activities.

WHY?

Distinguish yourself and claim credit for your work no matter how many people have your same or similar name.

Easily share data between your record and funding, publications, data repositories, and other research workflows.

Register for free at orcid.org



October 15 and 16



10 am - 2 pm



Dupre Library

#ULGradGoodNews



Your stories inspire us, so don't hold back.

Hey awesome grad students! As you navigate your grad studies, generating new knowledge and creative works, we want to hear more about the good stuff. Tell us about something cool you did, a recent accomplishment, and what your amazing colleague or mentor did that made you (and them) proud.

Share the good, and let's celebrate together!

Use <https://bit.ly/ULGradGoodNews> to tell us something good!

Grad Education in the News

["How to Get the Most Out of a Job Fair as a Ph.D.,"](#)
Chronicle of Higher Education, 11 September 2024.

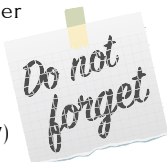
["A New Player Enters the Graduate-School Game,"](#)
Chronicle of Higher Education, 17 April 2024.

["Promoting a Sense of Belonging Among Grad Students,"](#)
Inside Higher Ed, 21 March 2024.



Important Dates and Deadlines

- 10/1: Fall Grad Expo from 2-5pm in the Alumni Center
- 10/2: Fall Grad Expo from 9am-1pm in the Alumni Center
- 10/3 & 10/4: Holiday-Fall Break
- 10/16 & 10/17: Final Manuscript Submission Workshops for Grad Students (10/16) and Faculty (10/17)
- 10/21-11/1: Advising for the Spring Semester
- 10/30: Debt Holds added to accounts with outstanding balances



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

Uwill Student Mental Health & Wellness offers free immediate access to teletherapy. Help is available 24/7/365. Scan the QR code to get started using your UL email.



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 Shopper Shuttle runs on Friday afternoons on the hour from 2-7pm from campus to Walmart. Location: Catch the shuttle at the Union or Cajun Village

The Writing Lab 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



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University of Louisiana
at Lafayette Graduate School

Get Outside get Involved

Downtown Alive!

October 4 @ Downtown Lafayette

Latin Music Festival

October 5 @ 200 Garfield St. Downtown

Yoga in the Park

October 9 @ Moncus Park

Festivals Acadiens

October 11 - 13 @ Girard Park

Bach Lunch

October 18 @ Downtown Lafayette

Rhythms on the River

October 24 @ River Ranch Townsquare

Acadiana Eats Festival

October 26 @ Downtown Scott