

GRAD IN FOCUS



UNIVERSITY of
LOUISIANA
LAFAYETTE

Graduate
School

NOVEMBER 2024

Message from the Dean

MARY FARMER-KAISER, PH.D.

Last week, I had the privilege of attending the SREB Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, along with a stellar group of our PhD fellows, faculty members, and several of our academic college deans. The Institute never fails to energize me, and this year was no exception. We left feeling inspired, uplifted, and reminded of the shared purpose that unites us in a journey of education and mentorship.

The Institute opened with a reminder that was simple: "Don't only shoot for the moon; shoot to get home." I've thought much about that message in the days that followed. In academia, it's easy to get caught up in a race for external validation but, ultimately, the goal is to become deeply grounded in your own purpose and to grow even beyond the graduate degrees we seek.

Throughout the conference, we were encouraged to embrace courage, find joy in our work, and lean deeply into the commitments we've made. As grad students, researchers, and educators, each of us has taken on a path that's often rigorous, unpredictable, and sometimes exhausting. But there is also immense beauty in this process—the chance to make a meaningful impact, to learn alongside others, and to do work that resonates with the world around us.

In reflecting on these themes, here are a few takeaways that especially hit home for me:

- *Grace, gratitude, and laughter*—the world needs more of these three things. Extend them to others and, especially, to yourself.
- The people who succeed often *go deep, not wide*. Invest in mastering the deep knowledge that matters to you.
- Your best work is done *after you've had time to rest*. Prioritize time for renewal.
- Most importantly, *know the power of your voice*. It's needed, respected, and valued here.

This time in grad school is precious. Stay curious, celebrate even the smallest of wins, and take each step with confidence. Keep supporting one another and move your passion forward with courage and joy.

Dr. MFK

"We may affirm absolutely that nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion."

GEORG WILHELM
FRIEDRICH HEGEL

German Philosopher





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 am. 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!**

11/5 & 11/6 - 3MT® Preliminary Competition

Join the Grad School and our 3MT® competitors for the first round of competition on Tuesday 11/5 from 2-3 am and Thursday 11/6 from 11-12 am in Griffin Hall, Room 315. Cheer on the contestants and learn more about both research communication and the exciting research happening on campus! No registration required.

11/8 - Final Manuscript Submission Workshop for Grad Students

Join us online Friday morning from 10-11 am for an intro to what to expect and how to prepare when submitting your defended thesis, dissertation, or synthesis manuscript to the Grad School for review and final approval. **Register [here](#)** to get the Zoom link. (There's a similar session for faculty chairs on 11/13.)

11/11 - Career Readiness - A2i Industry Insights: Life Sciences Career Opportunities

This webinar at 11 am -12 pm CST is one in a series of talks organized by our A2i university with industry partners designed to help you build your network, explore career opportunities, and prepare for the transition to industry. This virtual session is organized by the University of Virginia A2i and is open to the entire A2i community, which includes us! **Register [here](#).**

11/12 - Virtual Writing Session

NCFDD will host a writing session via Zoom from 9-10:30 am. You'll write for 30 minutes and reflect on your progress. Learn firsthand just how much you can do in this short period of time! Anything that moves your manuscript forward counts as writing! Activate your NCFDD institutional membership account **[here](#)** and **register [here](#).**

11/13 - A2i Job Search Strategies Lunch & Learn: Harnessing the Power of an Interdisciplinary Team

Our first on-campus A2i program, this workshop will use First Solar as a case study to demonstrate the necessity of interdisciplinary teams in industry. Whatever your discipline, it'll get you thinking about job search strategies that translate your academic and research skill sets for industry positions. Plan to join us for lunch at 11:30 with the workshop from 12-1 pm in HLG 315. **[Advance registration required.](#)**

11/14 - How to Manage Stress, Rejection & the Haters in Your Midst

Feeling stressed? Devastated when your academic work gets rejected? Is your work making you sick? Join NCFDD to explore the impact of stress, identify common sources, and learn concrete strategies for managing negative energy and rejection in your environment in this virtual workshop offered via Zoom. Activate your institutional membership account **[here](#)** and **register [here](#).**

11/16 - Navigating the IRB Process of Human Subjects Research

Dr. Hung-Chu Lin, Psychology professor and chair of the Institutional Review Board, will answer questions about the IRB process at UL Lafayette from 1:30-2:30 pm via Zoom. Contact **clancy_ratliff@louisiana.edu** for the Zoom link.

11/19 - Career Readiness - A2i Industry Insights: Transition from Grad School to Industry

This virtual workshop at 11 am - 12 pm (CST) is organized by one of our A2i university partners with industry reps. **Register [here](#)** via NC State University to get the Zoom link and start building your network, exploring career opportunities, and preparing for the transition to industry.

11/28 & 11/29 - Thanksgiving Break

LinkedIn Learning

LinkedIn Learning is an online educational platform that helps you discover and develop business, technology-related, and creative skills through expert-led course videos.

Access LinkedIn Learning by going to **ULink** and searching for the **Career Services** card.

Let's TACO-bout Mental Health



WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 13
6:30-8:00 PM

Join NAMI on Campus & NAMI Acadiana and pick up a fun snack on the go, walking tacos, and awesome Mental Health items! Learn more **[here](#).**





DUPRE LIBRARY RESOURCES

Individual Research Appointments

Dedicated UL Lafayette librarians will work with you to create a tailored research strategy to locate and identify the best tools and resources for any given topic. Appointments are available in-person or virtually using Zoom or Teams. Request a one-on-one research appointment using the Automated Booking System [here](#) or email learn.library@louisiana.edu.

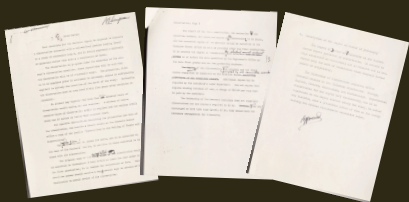
Rapid ILL

Dupré Library provides FREE access to journal articles and book chapters with 24-hour turnaround times using InterLibrary Loan. Log in or create an [ILLiad](#) account to submit a request.

Library of Things

To support individual interests and learning needs, the Library of Things collection covers a large array of items that are categorized by technology, kitchen, school supplies, stuffed animals, recreation, and miscellaneous items. New items are continually being added. View the Library of Things [here](#).

History IN THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



Did you know that the **University Archives** at UL Lafayette is home to a treasure trove of fascinating information? While researching the Graduate School, we discovered marked-up notes from 1968 regarding the development of the graduate student handbook. These documents highlight the description of the **Doctor of Philosophy degree**--and, remarkably, the Ph.D. you're earning today is much the same!



CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

In Spring 2024, Professor Josh Bendickson, the Brauns-Oudenhoven-Boustany Eminent Scholar and Endowed Chair in Innovation & Entrepreneurship, issued an **open call for research proposals** across the UL Lafayette campus, seeking projects focused on **Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship**. The initiative showcases **cutting-edge research** at UL Lafayette and build a community of scholars passionate about advancing these fields within Louisiana and beyond.

A total of **\$36,000** in funding was awarded across 18 projects, which included both faculty and graduate student proposals. We're especially excited to highlight **seven graduate students** whose projects were selected for funding, a testament to the impactful work happening within our graduate education community. These faculty and graduate researchers will present their work at the **Inn-eaux-vate Louisiana Conference on Feb. 7, 2025** at the **LITE Center**.

Redeemer Buatsi - MS Candidate, Communication, *Mapping the Gender Differences in Tech Entrepreneurship in the United States*

Michael Davis - PhD Student, Systems Engineering - Electrical & Computer Engineering, *Development of an Ultra Power-Dense Cascaded Wind Turbine*

Léa Fougerolle - PhD Candidate, Francophone Studies, *NEED TITLE*

Maxwell L. Gontarek - PhD Candidate, English, *Development of an International Publishing Project Focused on the Translation of French and American Poetry*

S M Shamsul Hoque - PhD Candidate, Earth and Energy Sciences, *Automated Seismic Data Registration by Deep Learning: A New Paradigm for Multicomponent Seismic Data Processing*

Marjan Pahlevani - MS Candidate, MS Informatics, *Virtual Reality (VR) Empathy Training for Healthcare Students*

Araf Mim Ahmed Smrity - PhD Candidate, Systems Engineering - Mechanical Engineering, *Commercially Viable Heat Transfer Solutions: Exploring the Stability and Efficiency of Hybrid Nanofluids through Molecular Dynamics Simulation*

This program – its design, implementation, and funding – is made possible by Dr. Bendickson and has been supported by a cross-campus collaboration with Mary Farmer-Kaiser & Philip de Mahy (The Graduate School), Dianne Olivier (Academic Affairs - Faculty Affairs), Kiwana McClung (Office for Campus Inclusion), Noah Bergeron (Office of Innovation Management).



What is **Imposter Syndrome**?



Imposter syndrome is a psychological pattern where individuals doubt their accomplishments and fear being exposed as a "fraud," despite evidence of their skills and achievements. It's a common experience, especially in high-stakes environments like graduate school, where we can sometimes feel we don't "deserve" to be here.

Signs of Imposter Syndrome

- Feeling like achievements are due to luck, not ability
- Doubting skills despite positive feedback
- Fear of not living up to expectations

- Counseling Services: Graduate students can access [The Counseling and Testing Center](#) as well as [UWILL](#) (24/7/365) to speak with professionals trained in managing imposter feelings.
- Explore these additional resources for more tips:
 - [TED Talks](#) on Imposter Syndrome
 - Blog: "[How to Overcome Imposter Syndrome in Graduate School](#)"
 - [Guided Meditation Apps](#) that focus on building confidence

Remember, You're Not Alone!

Graduate school can bring on intense self-doubt, but you're part of a community that believes in you and your potential. Reach out, share your experience, and seek support. You are exactly where you belong!

Looking Ahead to December

Learn more at louisiana.edu/graduateschool

12/9-12/15 - Taking on Finals Week

12/20-12/21 - Celebrating Our Graduates

12/22-1/14 - Enjoying a Well-Deserved Break!



Teacher Tuition Incentive Program



The **Teacher Tuition Incentive Program**, initiated by President Ray Authement and the Graduate School, supports K-12 educators in Louisiana pursuing graduate studies. Awards are contingent on fund availability and eligibility criteria, including full-time employment in a K-12 school and enrollment in a graduate program.

Awards for **doctoral students** can be as much as \$2,000 to support enrollment in 6 credit hours, while awards for **advanced master's students** are up to \$1,200 to support on-campus study or \$1,000 for online/hybrid courses. **Early master's students, Master's +30, and grad certificate students** are eligible to apply too.

The application for Spring 2025 awards closes on **December 16**.

Click [here](#) to learn about eligibility criteria and to apply.



12 Essential Apps for Grad School Success



Guest blogger alert! Meet Courtney DeWeese, an MBA student and graduate assistant at the Graduate School. Courtney uses apps to streamline her time management, research, projects, and focus. In this guest blog post, she shares 12 favorite apps to help you thrive. While you can [read the full blog](#) for more detailed insights on each app, here are the apps you need to know!



Courtney DeWeese
MBA Student

Organization & Project Management Tools

- Trello
- GoodNotes
- Notability

Research & Citation Management Tools

- Zotero
- R Discovery

Writing & Study Tools

- Grammarly
- Quizlet

Communication & Collaboration Tools

- Microsoft Teams
- GroupMe

Focus & Productivity Tools

- Forest
- Serene
- NaturalReader

Money Matters Recap



In October, Dr. Brian Bolton hosted two sessions of our Money Matters series: *Investing for Your Future: Compounding Your Success* and *Debt, Taxes & Inflation: Navigating Life's Financial Challenges*. You engaged actively in the discussions and we shared the slide deck with participants after each session. Thanks to everyone who attended!

Not able to attend? Check out the [Personal Financial Planning workbook for Grad Students](#) created just for you [here](#).



#ULGradGoodNews

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

Hey awesome grad students! As you navigate your grad studies, we want to hear more about the good stuff. Tell us about something cool you did, a recent accomplishment, or 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

- "The Job Search: CVs, Cover Letters, and Other Application Documents,"
- "The Job Search: How to Manage Your Application,"
- "The Job Search: The Interview Stage"
- "The Job Search: Negotiating an Offer and Starting Work"

All in [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#), 1 November 2024.



Important Dates and Deadlines

12/2: Last Day to Submit Final Copies of Theses or Dissertations

12/2: Last Day to Complete Graduate Written and/or Oral Comprehensive Exams

12/6: Last Day of Classes

12/9-13: Final Exams

12/19: Doctoral Hooding Ceremony

12/20-21: Commencement Ceremonies



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

C'est Bon Seasoning Fest
Nov. 8-10 @ Pelican Park

Yoga in Moncus Park
Every Wednesday from 6-7 PM

Second Saturday ArtWalk
Nov. 9 @ Downtown Lafayette

BOGO Ice Cream
Sundays Soda Fountain every Wed. 3-5pm

Southern Screen Festival
Nov. 21-24 @ Acadiana Center for the Arts

Food Truck Firday
Nov. 22 @ Moncus Park

Downtown Alive!
Nov. 22 @ Parc Sans Souci