

GRAD IN FOCUS



UNIVERSITY of
LOUISIANA
LAFAYETTE*

Graduate
School

OCTOBER 2023



Message from the Dean

DR. MARY FARMER-KAISER

Last Friday, the Grad School launched the University's 125th Anniversary Academic Lecture Series by welcoming Dr. Christine Pfund from the University of Wisconsin-Madison to campus. In addition to delivering a keynote lecture, she spent time with grad faculty and with Ph.D. students who are part of the University Fellows Community.

In each setting, Dr. Pfund encouraged us to reflect on how we identify, prioritize, and ask for what we need. Her questions seemed simple but in each setting they revealed that, so often, we are not on the same page.

Communication can be hard. Aligning expectations can be hard. Asking for what we need can be hard. And mapping out a network of mentors to support our academic and professional needs can be hard too. Yet, all of these often-tough-tasks are essential to success in grad school.

We've included in the pages ahead resources from Dr. Pfund that can guide you in articulating your needs and in working to create a constellation of mentors to support your academic and professional success. I hope you (grad students and mentors) will give them some thought!

Happy reading!
Dr. MFK



**“While the past
century and a
quarter have been
monumental,
I believe strongly
that our best days
are yet come.”**

DR. E. JOSEPH SAVOIE
UL Lafayette President





Recap

ACADEMIC SPEAKER SERIES

Anniversary Edition

Using the Science of Mentorship to Advance the Mission of Service, Vision, and Leadership in Louisiana Christine Pfund, Ph.D.

Wisconsin Center for Education Research. University of Wisconsin-Madison



National Academies Consensus Report: The Science of Effective Mentorship in STEM

- Podcasts and report: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/the-science-of-effective-mentoring-in-stemm>
- Online guide: <https://www.nap.edu/resource/25568/interactive/>

Mentorship Education Curricula for Mentors and Mentees:
(You'll need to create a log-in to download the free materials.)

Online self-study for the mentors of undergraduates:
<https://www.ctsi.umn.edu/education-and-training/mentoring/mentor-training>

Individual Development Plans, Mentoring Compacts and Mentoring Maps:
<https://www.nap.edu/resource/25568/interactive/tools-and-resources.html#section2>

Should you address cultural diversity directly in the mentoring relationship?



Culturally Aware Mentoring Resources:
<https://cimerproject.org/culturally-aware-mentoring-resources-2/>

Attributes for Effective Mentoring with table of mentor roles:
Pfund, Christine, et al. "Defining attributes and metrics of effective research mentoring relationships." *AIDS and Behavior* 20.2 (2016): 238-248.

What is Mentorship? Elements

Trust

Trust develops when mentors and mentees work together to identify and respond to their mutual goals, needs, and priorities. These change over time and thus may require adjustment.

Expectations

Explicit declarations of the expectations of both mentors and mentees at the initiation of mentorship—revisited periodically and possibly recorded in writing—can help create an effective mentoring relationship.

Self-reflection

Critical and honest self-reflection occurs at multiple stages of effective mentorship processes.

Education

Mentorship is a learned skill, and mentorship education influences mentor and mentee attitudes, self-efficacy, and behaviors.

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE





Recap

ACADEMIC SPEAKER SERIES

Anniversary Edition

Identifying, Prioritizing, and Communicating Your Needs

Instructions:

1. Check the box next to the roles you currently need your mentor to play.
2. Circle the 3 roles that are priorities for you at this point in your career.
3. Choose one of the 3 circled roles and write down how you could ask for your mentors to play that role, or play it more effectively.
4. Practice what you would say to your mentor with a partner.

Check for Roles Currently Needed	Roles Mentors Can Play Across 5 Domains* of Attributes Needed for Effective Mentoring Relationships
Research Skills	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help me develop research skills specific to my area of focus
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help me become a better science communicator (presenting and writing)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help me learn how to collaborate effectively
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help me write grant proposals and seek other funding
Interpersonal Skills	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work with me to define and align the expectations we have for our relationship
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide me with constructive feedback
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communicate honestly and build a trusting relationship with me
Psychosocial Skills	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help me build my research self-efficacy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help me build my career self-efficacy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help motivate me
Cultural Diversity Skills	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help me develop a sense of belonging in my program/department
<input type="checkbox"/>	Be open to conversations about diversity and how it impacts my training experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help me address issues of bias and stereotype threat
Sponsorship Skills	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster my independence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help me network (colleagues, funding sources, stakeholders)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help me find ways to better balance my work and personal life
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help me navigate and explore career options

Adapted from Branchaw, J., Pfund, C. and Rediske, R. (2010). *Entering Research: Workshops for Students Beginning Research in Science*. W.H. Freeman & Co., New York.

*Domains described in: Pfund, C., Byars-Winston, A., Branchaw, J., Hurtade, S., Eagan, K. (2016) *Defining Attributes and Metrics of Effective Research Mentoring Relationships*. *AIDS and Behavior*, 20(2), 238-248.





Upcoming Events in October

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 the coffee, breakfast treats, and quiet. You provide the focus. Parking is easy. No registration is required.

10/5 - Spill the Beans

Join us for a cup of coffee (on us!) at Rêve Coffee Lab (downtown) at 3 p.m. and conversation with inspiring people in our grad education community. Each month we invite a new special guest. No presentation, only open dialogue. Hear their story and ask questions as they “spill the beans” about how they got their start, why they love what they do, how they stay focused and inspired, and much more. No registration required.

10/10 - Money Matters: Family

Join us in HLG 315 for lunch at 12 p.m. to learn from Dr. Brian Bolton during a Money Matters program focused on grad students with dependents. [Registration required.](#)

10/18 - Manuscript Workshop for Students

Join us online from 10-11 a.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.

10/19 - Charting Our Vision Together: Graduate School Alumni Chapter Kickoff

The Alumni Association and the Grad School are mapping out a vision for a new alumni chapter for our graduates. If you're already a Grad School graduate, join us at the Alumni Center on Thursday, October 19, 4-6 p.m. to create a vision board for yourself and to help us create one for this new joint initiative. [Registration required.](#)

10/20 - Grad Bingo

BINGO is back! We're celebrating Homecoming with a night of free food, great prizes, and fellowship at Grad Bingo Night! Partners and families are welcome. The fun begins in HLG 147 at 5 p.m. [Registration required.](#)

10/25 - 3MT Info Session

Get all the details for this year's Three Minute Thesis Competition on Zoom at 3 p.m. We'll go over all the basics, including competition rules, tips and strategies. Register in advance to get the Zoom link.

10/26 - Money Matters: Roth IRA

Dr. Brian Bolton will lead us for another Money Matters program focused on setting up a Roth IRA. Yes, you really can set one up now! Join us for lunch to learn more in Dupré Library 221 for lunch at 12 p.m. to learn more. [Registration required.](#)

10/31 - Lunch and Learn - CVs and Resumes

It may be Halloween but there's nothing spooky about resumes and CVs. Join us for lunch at 12 p.m. in Dupré Library 221 to learn the difference between the two and to get some tips for creating and revising your own.

JOIN US FOR BINGO NIGHT!

OR SHOULD WE CALL IT
GRAD-INGO?



Friday, October 20th
Griffin Hall Auditorium
Room 147

First game starts at 5 p.m.
[Registration required.](#)

We have fantastic prizes generously donated by our local business partners, including (but not limited to) ...

- Bon Temps Grill
- Cabelo Salon
- Kart Ranch
- Lolli's Chocolates
- Planet VR
- Ragin Nutrition
- Sunday's Soda Fountain
- Whiskey & Vine

PIZZA, DRINKS, AND
DESSERTS WILL BE SERVED!



Queen Faryal Atif: Making Us Proud

One of our very own graduate students, Faryal Atif, has been crowned 2023 Homecoming Queen!

Faryal is an outstanding grad student who consistently goes the extra mile for UL Lafayette. As the president of the International Student Council, GSO Rep, and a dedicated student pursuing a M.A. degree in English, she actively participates in numerous campus events, demonstrating unwavering dedication in all her roles.

Thanks, GSO, for nominating Faryal!



ALL THINGS



how to survive grad school online

by Michelle Hunt
UL Lafayette MBA Online Graduate
[Read the full article here.](#)

1. Include your people.
2. Establish a schedule.
3. Know your learning style.
4. Set realistic goals.
5. Get your timing right.

Dynamic Presentation: How to Engage Audiences at Conferences, in the Classroom, and Beyond!

NCFDD Webinar
Tuesday, October 24 at 1-2 p.m. CST
Presenter: Marnel Niles Goins, PhD, Marymount University

This online NCFDD presentation focuses on the importance of audience engagement for public presentations and provides strategies for capturing and keeping the attention of an audience in various contexts. Dr. Goins will provide recommendations for how to study an audience prior to a presentation, as well as suggestions for verbal and nonverbal communication strategies that engage an audience the entire presentation.

Register at <https://www.facultydiversity.org/webinars/dynamicpresentations>.

Grad school = a massive amount of notes, and Evernote is one of the best apps for grad students to keep all of those pearls of wisdom in one place.



It's easily searchable, notes sync across devices, and the notebook organization helps keep your proverbial ducks in a row. The best part for grad students on the go? Use the audio recorder to capture ideas for discussion, projects, and more.



September Events Overview

We'd love to see you at our monthly events, but sometimes that's just not possible. Here's a brief recap of our recent events.

14-DAY WRITING CHALLENGE

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

kickstart your daily writing habit and sign up today!



Lunch & Learn: NCFDD

Graduate students learned firsthand from Dr. Liz Skilton, Dr. Maria Seger, and Dr. Robert McKinney about ways to benefit from our institutional membership in the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity. Activate your FREE membership at <http://www.facultydiversity.org/join> by using your UL Lafayette email. Sign up by OCTOBER 4 for the next 14-Day Writing Challenge!

Money Matters: International Students

Grad students heard from Dr. Brian Bolton, Professor of Finance, and Dr. Rose Honegger, Associate Director of Global Engagement about preparing for income taxes, curricular practical training (CPT), optional practical training (OPT), retirement, and more. Some topics will be discussed in greater detail at future money matter events so be sure to join us next time.

Spill the Beans with Amanda Shuford Mayeaux, Ed.D., NBCT

Our first Spill the Beans guest was Graduate Council chair and Ed.D. graduate coordinator, Dr. Amanda Shuford Mayeaux. When Dr. Mayeaux was in 8th grade she participated in a program that taught teens how to use a college library and to research. One day she overheard two men engaged in a passionate argument about the details of the War of 1812. What struck her was that, despite their differences, they ended the discussion with smiles and a plan to meet again the following week. When she asked them what they did, they replied, "We are professors." From that moment, she knew she wanted to become a professor herself. Thanks for inspiring us with this story and more, Dr. Mayeaux!

Lunch & Learn: Climate Survey Findings

Dr. Emily Sandoz, chairperson of the University Committee for Graduate Student Success and Retention, and Chief Diversity Officer Kiwana McClung shared some initial findings from two climate surveys conducted in 2022-2023. Climate surveys are valuable tools for assessing perceptions and perspectives within an organization. The outcomes will pave the way for future improvements in our grad education community. Stay tuned for more news on this front.





The Three Minute Thesis® competition celebrates the exciting research being done at UL Lafayette by grad students.

Explain your research in **three minutes** (or less), in a language appropriate for a **non-specialist audience**, with only **one static slide**.

Up for the challenge? Learn more at the upcoming info session on Oct. 25.

GRAD PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Master's in Athletic Training



On September 14th, the faculty in the Master's in Athletic Training (MSAT) program were delighted to host potential students from Japan who came to discover more about UL Lafayette and the program. They had the opportunity to immerse themselves in our campus environment, visit clinical sites, and participate in classes to get a firsthand experience of what the program entails.

Faculty of the MSAT program are also thrilled to announce a new partnership with the Dance program within Performing Arts. They're collaborating to benefit students in both programs. In this exciting venture, a select group of undergraduate dance students can schedule appointments with grad students in the MSAT program. They'll provide guidance on injury prevention techniques, injury diagnosis, and care plans. It's a wonderful opportunity for cross-disciplinary learning in our university community.

THE CHALLENGE?

RAGIN' CAJUNS





The Writing Center



The Writing Lab

The newly opened Writing Lab welcomes students from all disciplines at any stage of the writing process! Visit Dupré Library 155A or [book a virtual session](#) to discuss writing, receive feedback and help, and take advantage of other services. Resources also available for those writing in English as a second language.



Looking Ahead to November

Learn more and register at gradschool.louisiana.edu.

11/1 - 3MT Workshop

11/2 - Spill the Beans

11/8 - Manuscript Workshop for Students

11/15 - Money Matters: Side Hustles

11/21 - 11/22 - 3MT Prelims

11/28 - Money Matters: Career Planning

11/29 - Lunch and Learn: Job Market Panel



Huge congratulations goes to our Grad Trivia winning team, Aquamatics! This team included four brilliant individuals who met that day for the first time. Not only did they forge new friendships, but they also showed an impressive command of trivia knowledge from birthday celebrations around the world to all things Barbie. Jonathan Chapman (Biology), Jessica Ojadi (Informatics), Fiyinfoba Ogunkeye (Informatics), and Gabriel Trahan (Computer Sciences) celebrated their win with an exclusive Dinner with the Dean as a well-deserved prize!



#ULGradGoodNews

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, what your amazing colleague or mentor did, or even a happy moment during your grad journey.

Your stories inspire us, so don't hold back. Share the good, and let's celebrate together!

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



We look forward to our **Doctoral Hooding Ceremony** -- a celebration of the significant scholarly contributions that our graduating doctoral students have made over the last several years at UL. Put it on your calendar now!

Thursday, December 14th
Cajundome Convention Center
Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments at 6:00 p.m.
Ceremony at 7:00 p.m.

Grad Education in the News

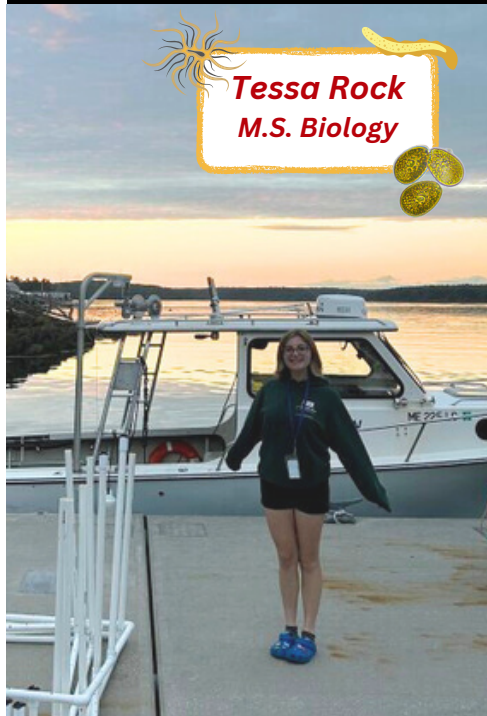
"Biden Administration Puts Grad Schools in the Hot Seat," Inside Higher Education, 3 October 2023.

"Purpose and the Ph.D.," Inside Higher Education, 18 September, 2023.

Tessa's Good News

I recently was able to attend the training course from the National Center for Marine Algae and Microbiota up at Bigelow Laboratories in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. My advisor, Dr. Stauffer, encouraged me last semester to put in an application and when I was accepted she worked with me to find a way to pay for everything so I could attend. It was one of the best experiences of my life. For 10 days I was in a lab being taught by some of the best phytoplankton taxonomists in the world about how to identify different phytoplankton species. That course opened my eyes to how much we know and still don't know in my field, and it has made me even more excited to work on my master's degree. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity, now time to share my new knowledge!

<https://bit.ly/ULGradGoodNews>





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University of Louisiana
at Lafayette Graduate School

Important Dates and Deadlines

10/10 - B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration
125th Anniversary Academic Lecture at 5:30 p.m. in the
Student Union Ballroom

10/12 -10/13 - Fall Break

10/16 - 10/27 - Spring Advising

10/18 - Manuscript Workshop for Students at 10 a.m.

10/24 - Ray P. Authement College of Sciences 125th
Anniversary Academic Lecture at 3:30 p.m. in the
Oliver Hall Auditorium (Room 112)



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 advocates for all graduate students and offers funding to help offset the cost of research and travel. Location: gso.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

