

# GRAD IN FOCUS



UNIVERSITY of  
**LOUISIANA**  
LAFAYETTE\*

**Graduate  
School**

SEPTEMBER 2023



## Greetings from the Dean

DR. MARY FARMER-KAISER

Welcome to Fall 2023. I'm so glad that you're here!

Creating a place where grad students thrive--not survive--is our mission, and this semester we'll be looking both to the past and to the future to guide us in this important work.

The Grad School will launch the 125th Anniversary celebration Academic Speaker Series on September 29 with a focus on the science of mentoring to help chart our course forward. We'll also begin sharing soon the findings of our recent Graduate Education Climate Survey to reflect on where we've been and where we need to go as the University launches a new strategic plan.

And there are important new resources to help you thrive that we are especially excited about. Two are highlighted in the pages ahead--the new Statistical Consulting Center and our NCFDD institutional membership. These investments are something good for grad students, for sure!

If you know anything about me, I hope it is that I love when we get to celebrate and share the good. And there is good! I know, sometimes it is hard to see. And I am hoping that you will help us showcase your "something good" in the semester ahead. Keep reading to learn more.

Here's to a great semester!  
Dr. MFK



**"Graduate school is  
not a 9-to-5 job; it's  
a way of life that  
requires dedication,  
perseverance,  
and a passion  
for knowledge."**

SYLVIA EARLE

Explorer-in-Residence at the  
National Geographic Society





## Upcoming Events in September

### **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.

### **9/1 - Grad School Trivia with GSO**

2:30-5 p.m. at KOK Wings & Things (405 E. University Ave.)

It's not too late to [register!](#) The winning team wins dinner with the Dean!

### **9/7 - 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 will 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.

### **9/14 - Lunch & Learn: NCFDD**

Grab lunch from 12-1:30 p.m. in Griffin Hall 315 and learn firsthand from faculty and grad students who are taking full advantage of our new National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity's (NCFDD) institutional membership. [Advance registration required.](#)

### **9/21 - Money Matters: International Students**

Join us in Dupré Library 221 for lunch from 12-1:30 p.m. to learn from Dr. Brian Bolton and Dr. Rose Honegger during a Money Matters program focused on international students. [Advance registration required.](#)

### **9/26 - Lunch & Learn: Climate Survey Findings**

Have lunch with us at 12-1 p.m. in Dupré Library 221 and get a sneak peek at preliminary grad education findings from two recent climate surveys. Presented in partnership with the Office for Campus Diversity the University Committee for Graduate Student Success and Retention, we'll also introduce you to the James Jackson Community of Scholars and its important mission. Advance registration required.

### **9/28 - Manuscript Workshop for Students**

Join us online from 12-1 p.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.

**WE ARE  
HAVING A  
PARTY!**

THE UNIVERSITY IS 125  
YEARS OLD, AND THAT IS  
SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE.



Celebrate with us by  
attending the first lecture  
in the 125th Anniversary  
Academic Speaker Series.

Using the Science of  
Mentorship to Advance  
the Mission of Service,  
Vision and Leadership  
in Louisiana

Christine Pfund, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist  
Wisconsin Center for  
Education Research  
University of Wisconsin

Friday, September 29  
5p.m.  
Hilliard Art Museum

**WELCOME BACK  
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**



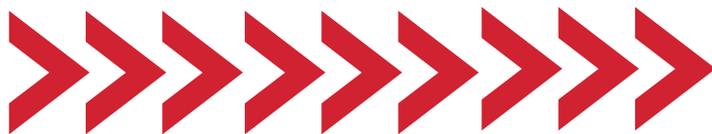
# Looking Ahead to October

Learn more and register at [gradschool.louisiana.edu](https://gradschool.louisiana.edu).

- 10/5 - Spill the Beans
- 10/10 - Money Matters: Family
- 10/12-10/13 - Fall Break
- 10/18 - Manuscript Workshop for Students
- 10/19 - Homecoming Grad Alumni Event
- 10/20 - GRAD BIN BI
- 10/25 - 3MT Info Session
- 10/16-10/27 - Spring Advising



Are you wondering how to show that your work is meaningful with mathematically sound evidence and rigorous statistics? Wondering what sample size would be necessary to observe an effect that is statistically significant? If you are a graduate student, you can now get support from the Statistical Consulting Center.



## Statistical Consulting Center

The Statistical Consulting Center offers statistical consulting to UL Lafayette graduate students and faculty on research involving statistical methods.

Successful research requires planning. Please contact us as early as possible as you plan and conduct your research.

We will:

- listen to your needs and work with you to understand the questions and objectives of your study.
- actively participate and help you formulate your problems in terms of statistical questions.
- help you solve those problems, and work with you until the solutions are reasonable and understandable.
- discuss with you what can, and cannot, be achieved using modern statistical methods.

Due to time limitations graduate students will receive priority in scheduling. Don't wait until the last minute to contact us, there may be a backlog later in the semester.

Schedule your initial consultation now! Complete and submit the Consultation Request Form (<https://moodle.louisiana.edu/course/view.php?id=33151>) on the Statistical Consulting Center Moodle page with a brief description of your problem. We will contact you, by email, as soon as possible, find a time to meet, and move forward with our collaboration.

stop by: Maxim Doucet Hall  
(preferred) e-mail: [phillip.whitman@louisiana.edu](mailto:phillip.whitman@louisiana.edu)  
web: <https://math.louisiana.edu/research/statistical-consulting-center>  
phone: 337-482-5299



## #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!



## Don't Forget!

Graduate students appointed in GTA, GRA, GA, or Fellowship roles are required to complete these mandatory trainings within 30 days of hire and once per calendar year.

- Cybersecurity Awareness (30 min.)
- Ethics Training for Public Servants (1 hr.)
- Reporting Power-Based Violence (45 min.)
- Shots Fired on Campus: Surviving an Active Shooter Situations (30 min.)
- Everfi – Preventing Sexual Harassment (1 hr.)

You can access these mandatory trainings via the last module in the Graduate Student Orientation course on Moodle.

## Grad Education in the News

[“Artificial Intelligence: A Graduate User’s Guide,” Chronicle of Higher Education, 25 July 2023.](#)

[“Failed PhD: How Scientists have Bounced Back from Doctoral Setbacks,” Nature, 21 August 2023.](#)

## GSO VACANCIES

- Accounting
- Chemistry
- Educational Curriculum & Instruction
- Engineering Technology

If you are interested in becoming a GSO Department Representative, talk with your Graduate Coordinator. You must be elected by the graduate students in your department or appointed by your department's Graduate Coordinator or Department Head. Simply have your one of them email [GSO@louisiana.edu](mailto:GSO@louisiana.edu) with a memo stating that they are appointing you to the position.

Being a GSO Representative is a great way to serve students in your department and help create positive change for all graduate students at UL Lafayette!

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





# National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is now an institutional member of the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity. NCFDD membership provides all of our graduate students, faculty, postdocs, and staff access to a wealth of resources designed to enhance academic and professional productivity, all while supporting a balanced and fulfilling life beyond campus.

- The Monday Motivator delivered to your inbox weekly
- Monthly Core Curriculum Webinars
- Guest Expert Webinars, Multi-Week Web Courses, and the complete NCFDD Webinar Library
- Dissertation Success Curriculum for graduate students (yay!)
- 14-Day Writing Challenges with WriteNow accountability tracking
- Peer-mentor (“buddy”) matches
- Private Discussion Forum for peer-mentoring and problem-solving

## 3 tips to avoid academic overwhelm this fall

Know what you need as a **human being** and what you need to accomplish as a **researcher** and **writer**

Create a **realistic plan** to meet all of your needs

Build and connect with the type of **support** and **accountability** that will sustain and motivate you through the ups and downs of the term



Activate your **FREE**  
institutional membership at  
<http://www.facultydiversity.org/join>.

Select the **University of Louisiana at Lafayette** as your institution.

Use your **UL Lafayette email address** (i.e., @louisiana.edu) to complete the registration form and activate your account.

## 14-DAY WRITING CHALLENGE

✓ write for 30 minutes

✓ Monday-Friday

✓ for 14 days

**kickstart your daily  
writing habit and  
sign up today!**



**Register by October 3rd  
and you will get the  
benefit of progress plus:**

- Community accountability for daily writing
- Support from the NCFDD team
- Access to the custom WriteNow software



@ULLafayetteGraduateSchool



@ULGradSchool



@ULGradSchool



University of Louisiana  
at Lafayette Graduate School

## Important Dates and Deadlines

9/1 - Last Day to Apply for Candidacy

9/4 - Labor Day Holiday (University Closed)

9/18 - Graduate Foreign Language Examination

9/22 - Deadline for Fall 2023 Degree Candidates  
This is the deadline to apply to graduate in Fall 2023.  
Learn more at registrar.louisiana.edu.

9/28 - Grad Expo  
10 am - 4 pm at the Alumni Center  
Grad Expo is your one-stop shop for commencement.



## 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

