**Announcements**

**Directors of Graduate Studies**

This week, nominations are due for the L. B. Sims Outstanding Master's Thesis Award on October 11, 2017. The Graduate College will consider nominations from Biological/Life Sciences and Humanities. Visit [http://bit.ly/2yiFtM](http://bit.ly/2yiFtM) for more information.

The preliminary round of the JMT competition was held last Friday. Over 40 graduate students participated in the preliminary round. Finalists will be announced later this week and will compete for prizes in the final round on Friday, November 10.

Please take a moment to visit the [Diversity and Inclusion section](https://grad.uiowa.edu/diversity) of the new Graduate College website which features the Office of Graduate Inclusion, Opportunities for Students, Community Resources, and the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SRDP).

The next DGS meeting is **Wednesday, October 11** in the IMU theater. We will discuss UI Graduate Diversity initiatives including new fellowship opportunities for students from underrepresented groups. The agenda can be found [here](https://grad.uiowa.edu/accessibility). At the November DGS meeting, the focus will be on annual reviews and individual development plans (IDPs).

Best regards,

Sarah

Sarah Larsen
Associate Dean for Academic and Administrative Affairs

**December 2017 Commencement**

The Graduate College holds two commencement ceremonies each year, one in May and one in December. To participate in the ceremony, students must register. The next commencement ceremony will be held Friday, December 15, 2017 at 7 p.m. at Hancher Auditorium. Graduate students who completed their studies in Summer 2017 (and did not participate in May commencement) have the option of participating in December, 2017 commencement. Information is available for students [here](https://grad.uiowa.edu/underrepresented-minority-pre-comprehensive-exam-mentored-summer-research-fellowship-pilot-program).

Graduates/faculty interested in purchasing (rather than renting their apparel) should contact Herff Jones direct by calling 992-447-4449. Purchase of apparel orders must be received no later than **Tuesday, October 24, 2017** (992-447-4449) to receive apparel for the December 2017 commencement ceremony.

Graduates/faculty who are renting apparel need to do so no later than **Saturday, November 11, 2017** to avoid a late rental fee. [See GC website](https://grad.uiowa.edu/underrepresented-minority-pre-comprehensive-exam-mentored-summer-research-fellowship-pilot-program).

**Fellowship Resources**

### Graduate College Fall Fellowship Opportunities

The Graduate College offers multiple fellowship opportunities for the fall semester. Please note all fellowships are by departmental nomination. If you have a PhD student needing to travel abroad for dissertation research, the T. Anne Clearly fellowships are open and are considered on a rolling basis. We also have one new fellowship opportunity this fall. If you have domestic ethnic minorities (citizens or permanent residents who are Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders). We are pleased to announce we will offer the fellowship in both Spring and Summer of 2018. The deadlines for applications are November 1 and February 15 respectively. To be eligible, students must have completed at least one full semester of coursework at the time of application (PhD student who were new this summer or fall are not eligible for spring). Details can be found at [https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/underrepresented-minority-pre-comprehensive-exam-mentored-summer-research-fellowship-pilot-program](https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/underrepresented-minority-pre-comprehensive-exam-mentored-summer-research-fellowship-pilot-program).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Interim Associate Dean Shelly Campo at 319-335-2136 or shelly-campo@uiowa.edu.

**Graduate College Spring & Summer Fellowship Opportunities**

In summer 2017 the Graduate College launched a new pre-comprehensive exam mentored research fellowship for underrepresented ethnic minority PhD students (US citizens or permanent residents who are Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders). We are pleased to announce we will offer the fellowship in both Spring and Summer of 2018. Details can be found at [https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/underrepresented-minority-pre-comprehensive-exam-mentored-summer-research-fellowship-pilot-program](https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/underrepresented-minority-pre-comprehensive-exam-mentored-summer-research-fellowship-pilot-program). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Interim Associate Dean Shelly Campo at 319-335-2136 or shelly-campo@uiowa.edu.

**Academic Affairs**

**Resources for helping students in distress**

Where can you turn to help a student in crisis? How can you improve your readiness to support distressed students? There are three on-campus resources you'll want to remember.

First, to quickly determine who to contact when a student is in crisis, please refer to the [Dean of Students’ Quick Guide for Helping Students](https://grad.uiowa.edu/underrepresented-minority-pre-comprehensive-exam-mentored-summer-research-fellowship-pilot-program). This resource matches students’ presenting behaviors, e.g., acting in a frightening manner or out-of-character, with a proper response level and campus contact. Angela Reams is the Assistant Dean of Students and the Director of Student Care and Assistance. She is also always available for consultation.

Second, you can schedule an in-service on student mental health for a group of faculty or staff. “Students in Distress Workshop” is offered by the University Counseling Services (UCS) and designed to help faculty and staff respond to students in distress. To schedule a workshop, contact Barry Schreier, UCS Director.

Third, you can improve your ability to act with confidence in critical situations, especially those involving the potential of student self-harm or suicide. [Kognito](https://grad.uiowa.edu/underrepresented-minority-pre-comprehensive-exam-mentored-summer-research-fellowship-pilot-program) is an online, avatar based, interactive training program designed to help you intervene effectively to obtain support for student about whom you have a concern. You may wish to encourage teaching assistants to complete the Kognito training as part of their classroom preparation.

**Graduate Student Events and Professional Development**

The Office of the Provost is pleased to offer the [Fall 2017 UI Campus-Wide Faculty Development Calendar](https://grad.uiowa.edu/underrepresented-minority-pre-comprehensive-exam-mentored-summer-research-fellowship-pilot-program). The calendar features programs offered by several UI offices, including the Office of the Provost, Chief Diversity Office, the Office of Teaching, Learning and Technology/Center for Teaching, and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development.

All UI faculty, staff, post-doctoral scholars and graduate students are also invited to access resources via UI's institutional membership in the nationally acclaimed [National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity](https://grad.uiowa.edu/underrepresented-minority-pre-comprehensive-exam-mentored-summer-research-fellowship-pilot-program) (NFCD). The membership is co-sponsored by the UI Office of the Provost and the Chief Diversity Office and provides numerous benefits at no
charge to UI faculty, staff, postdoctoral scholars, and graduate students, including webinars, a weekly productivity e-newsletter, monthly writing challenges, and others. Members of the UI community can access NCFDD webinars and resources via their personal computers once they have activated an individual account with the NCFDD. For information about activating an individual account, please see: NCFDD Institutional Membership: http://provost.uiowa.edu/files/provost.uiowa.edu/files/ncfdd.pdf.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Office of the Provost at faculty@uiowa.edu with questions or suggestions for future faculty development programs on campus.

REQUEST A WORKSHOP
Visit bit.ly/GradWorkshops for more information on available workshops & request form.

The Graduate College offers workshops that can be requested by student groups (formal organizations or informal groups of students), faculty, departments, or other campus organizations. These workshops can be a productive addition to orientations, seminars, courses, research group meetings, and more. They introduce students to the basics of professional and career development topics (like application documents, the job search, and more), freeing up faculty to address field-specific issues in more detail.