Announcements

Directors of Graduate Studies,
Fellowship communities are in full swing with the NSF GRFP and Merit/OSCA Fellowship deadlines this week. Record numbers of graduate students have been preparing external fellowship applications this fall. Jennifer Teste and Elizabeth Savelkoul in the Graduate College have been booked solid with appointments the last couple of weeks meeting with students who are putting the finishing touches on their fellowship applications. A big thank you to the many faculty who have helped students with their applications and have provided recommendation letters!

We invite you all to the 3MT finals which will be held on Friday, November 10 in Art Building West, Room 240 from 3-5 pm. Information about this year’s finalists can be found here. Students from Pharmacy, Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, Classics, Geoscience, Biochemistry, Neuroscience, Microbiology, Pharmacology, Molecular and Cellular Biology and Oral Science are represented in the finalist group. Come cheer your departmental participants on as they compete in the final round! We will also be displaying the winners of the first UI “Thesis in Focus” research image competition. Stay tuned for announcement of the winners of this competition.

Next summer’s Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) program for undergraduates from underrepresented groups will run from Sunday, June 3rd through Friday, July 27th, 2018. Additional information about SROP mentor expectations and scheduling is attached. If you are interested in volunteering to be a research mentor, please complete the Mentor Research Interest Form provided at our website (sign in with your Hawk ID and password) and submit it electronically at your earliest convenience. If you know of other faculty in your department who would be interested in being a SROP mentor, please share this information with them (invitation letter with additional information is attached). Contact Diana Sproles (diana.sproles@uiowa.edu) with questions.

The next DGS meeting is Wednesday, November 8 in the IMU theater. We will discuss how departments have implemented annual reviews and individual development plans (IDPs), and first steps of these processes if you are just getting started. As part of the presentation, Assistant Dean Jennifer Teste will demo the new IDP for Humanities and Social Science PhD students, ImaginePhD. Jennifer is also involved with the development of this tool at the national level, and can carry your feedback back to the designers. I will follow with a brief overview of the STEM tool, myIDP, on Science Careers.

Also, don’t forget to check the UI graduate College internal fellowships page for upcoming internal fellowship deadlines.

Best regards,

Sarah

Sarah Larsen
Senior Associate Dean for Academic and Administrative Affairs

December 2017 Commencement

The Graduate College holds Commencement celebrations each year, one in May and one in December. To participate in the ceremony, students must register. The next commencement ceremony will be held on 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.

Graduates/faculty interested in renting apparel should contact Herff Jones direct by calling 952-447-4449. Rental orders must be received no later than Saturday, November 11, 2017 to avoid a late rental fee (952-447-4449) for the December 2017 commencement ceremony.

Fellowship Resources

Graduate College Spring & Summer Fellowship Opportunities

In summer 2017 the Graduate College launched a new pre-exam mentored research fellowship for underrepresented ethnicity 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. 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

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

Trans-inclusivity Practices

Preferred name and gender pronouns. Iowa students can prescribe their preferred name and gender pronouns as part of their student information record (MyUI and MAUI). Pronouns of reference include he/him/his, she/her/hers, ze/zer/zers, they/them/their, etc. Class lists include these preferred options, which means that faculty and staff can easily address students as they wish to be identified. You will also find students' preferred options in MAUI on the academic summary panel.

Check out this UI resource to assist students with updating their academic record as well as for more information.

Gender and Sex are Separate Data Fields on the UI Grad App. Incoming students now complete application questions for both gender and sex. The distinction between someone’s sex and their gender is very important. Sex implies biological anatomy, whereas gender describes the emotional and psychological attributes of someone’s gender identity. Someone who is transgendered has a gender identity that does NOT align with their sex assigned at birth. Someone who is cisgendered has a gender identity that DOES align with their sex at birth. To better represent these identities, UI adopted new application choices. They are:

- Gender (choose all that apply): Agender, Bigender, Man, Non-Binary, Transgender, Woman, Another gender not listed above, and Prefer not to answer

Check out this UI resource for Trans-communities and Allies for more information on these identities and what they mean.
Gender-Inclusive Restrooms on Campus. After surveying all University buildings, a map was developed to illustrate where students can find gender-inclusive restrooms (any bathroom designated as uni-gender, or single-user).

Gender-Inclusive Restrooms on Campus. After surveying all University buildings, a map was developed to illustrate where students can find gender-inclusive restrooms (any bathroom designated as uni-gender, or single-user). Find your building on this map. Does your building have an inclusive restroom? Where is the nearest one? How far would a transgendered student have to travel to use the restroom, from your building?

Graduate College News

Lulu Merle Johnson: a pioneer in higher education

Lulu Merle Johnson’s story is a powerful tale of triumph. In 1941, Johnson received a Ph.D. in American history from the University of Iowa, becoming the first African American woman in the state of Iowa to earn a doctorate. She also was among the first African American women to earn a Ph.D. in history in the United States. Find the full article on our website: https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/news/lulu-merle-johnson-a-pioneer-in-higher-education-2017

Graduate College selects dissertation prize winners

Based on their excellence in doctoral research, four University of Iowa graduate students have been recognized for having the best dissertation in their fields at the UI in 2017. The Graduate College honors John Eicher and Viral Shah with the D.C. Spriestersbach Dissertation Prize and Allison Cox and Matt Sutterer with the Rex Montgomery Dissertation Prize. Find the full article on our website: https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/news/graduate-college-selects-dissertation-prize-winners

Grad students exposed to digital scholarship

The University of Iowa’s Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio, funded by the Graduate College, offers a fellowship that supports graduate students as they pursue innovative ways to share their scholarship digitally. The Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio Fellowship allows PhD, DMA, and MFA students to benefit from a mentored digital scholarship internship experience in the University of Iowa’s Libraries Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio (link is external). Visit our website for more: https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/news/2017-10-18/fellowship-exposes-grad-students-to-digital-scholarship

ImaginePhD Launch

The ImaginePhD Team is excited to announce the launch of ImaginePhD—a free, online career exploration and planning tool for Ph.D. students and postdoctoral scholars in the humanities and social sciences as of October 23rd.

ImaginePhD users are able to:

- assess their career-related skills, interests, and values
- explore careers paths appropriate to their disciplines
- map out steps for degree completion alongside career and professional development

Developed by experts from over 50 universities, ImaginePhD offers a unique platform that teaches PhDs about popular job sectors, search strategies, and how to transfer skills across settings. Like the related GCC member project myIDP, with 100,000+ users, ImaginePhD has the potential to transform PhD career planning. We encourage you and your students to create accounts at http://www.imaginephd.com when the site launches on October 23. We would also appreciate your help in spreading the word about this new resource. Feel free to share information across communication channels as you see fit. Promotional materials are available at: http://tinyurl.com/ImaginePhDPromo

Survey Regarding TA Experience/Needs

We need input from current, former, and prospective teaching assistants!

The University of Iowa’s Graduate College, the Office of Teaching, Learning & Technology, and the Graduate Student Senate are collaborating to gather information about graduate teaching assistant training.

Please encourage your students to complete this survey to help us understand the kinds of training students want and/or received. We will use this information to improve offerings and will share the results in aggregate form (no personally identifiable data) with the Faculty Senate, Directors of Graduate Studies, Graduate Student Senate, the Council on Teaching, and others.

To take this 5-10 minute TA Support Survey, please use this anonymous link: https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3ERAU05f2AVLEP3

If you have questions about the survey please contact Interim Associate Dean Shelly Campo in the Graduate College (shelly-campo@uiowa.edu or 335-2136).

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.