graduate student. The final project, writing a statement of teaching philosophy, invites TAs to devise and articulate an instructional approach based on personal strengths and current best practices. Efficient introduction to practical teaching concerns such as planning and structuring courses, creating collaborative active learning experiences, managing classroom dynamics, and evaluating student work. These responses help develop the skills necessary for communicating with diverse audiences. Among other speaking occasions, incredible and transformative work is taking place at the University across disciplines in the areas of discovery, innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership development. You have an opportunity to help recognize the individuals responsible for this amazing work by submitting your nominations for faculty, staff and student research, innovation, mentorship and startup awards. Several of our graduate students were recently highlighted. Check out the stories about 3MT winner, 3rd year graduate student, Sharon Idiga in newsletter and Ranthony Edmonds on her CIRTL experience. Fall commencement is Friday, December 15 at 7 pm in Hancher Auditorium. Thank you for your efforts and service as DGS this fall semester. Best wishes for the holiday season. Sarah Larsen Senior Associate Dean for Academic and Administrative Affairs

Call for Nominations: Outstanding Teaching Assistant

The University of Iowa Council on Teaching announces the 29th annual Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards and invites nominations for 2017-18. This award recognizes teaching assistants who have demonstrated outstanding ability as teachers at the University of Iowa. Teaching assistants from all academic units may be nominated. Nominations may be initiated by students, faculty, colleagues, departmental executive officers (DEOs) or deans. Self-nominations are not allowed.

Please help publicize the award by informing students, faculty, and staff who may be interested in nominating someone. This information and instructions are available on the Council on Teaching webpage for the Outstanding Teaching Awards. Please follow the timelines for submission within your college in order to complete the online process by the deadline. No nominations can be submitted to the Council on Teaching after noon on Friday, March 2, 2018. For further information, contact Tom Schmidt or Brenda Bradley at (335-3565).

Call for Nominations: Discovery and Innovation Awards

Incredible and transformative work is taking place at the University across disciplines in the areas of discovery, innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership development. You have an opportunity to help recognize the individuals responsible for this amazing work by submitting your nominations for faculty, staff and student research, innovation, mentorship and startup awards.


Awards are sponsored by the Office of Research and Economic Development, the Office of Finance and Operations, the Graduate College, the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, and the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates. Winners will be awarded and recognized formally at our annual Celebrating Excellence: The University of Iowa Discovery & Innovation Awards Ceremony, which will highlight these research, innovation and scholarly achievements on April 17, 2018.

Graduate Student Events and Professional Development

Rhetoric Spring Professional Development Course Offerings

Public Speaking for Academics (RHET:7940)
The stakes are high for graduates moving into the job market, giving presentations at conferences, defending comps, or pitching their research. The Public Speaking for Academics course guides graduate students from all disciplines in crafting their messages and delivering them with confidence. Students receive constructive criticism about their research presentations from classmates and faculty who are outside their home discipline. These responses help develop the skills necessary for communicating with diverse audiences. Among other speaking occasions, students will practice video presentations, informal presentations, Q&A sessions, 3-minute pitches, and TED-talk style presentations. The course may be taken Pass/Fail.

Science Communication in the Digital Age (RHET:7500)
In a time of shrinking funding and public misunderstanding of science, it is important to clearly communicate the value and validity of scientific inquiry. In this course, graduate students consider the challenges facing science communicators and develop strategies for meeting those challenges. Among other skills, students learn and practice the principles of writing for the Web, presenting research in videos, and developing multi-faceted media portfolios to communicate the science that matters most to them. The class is open to scientists who want to develop strong, multimodal communication skills. This year, the course will also welcome non-scientists who may envision a career in science communication.

Practicum: College Teaching for TAs (RHET:5100)
Graduate students preparing for careers in academia are increasingly seeking pedagogical training and professional development opportunities. This 1 s.h. cross-disciplinary course offers TAs an efficient introduction to practical teaching concerns, such as planning and structuring courses, creating collaborative active learning experiences, managing classroom dynamics, and evaluating student work. The final project, writing a statement of teaching philosophy, invites TAs to devise and articulate an instructional approach based on personal strengths and current best practices.
in the field.

Seminar: Topics in Teaching & Professional Development (RHET:5352)
This advanced teaching seminar offers TAs with some classroom experience an opportunity to expand their instructional repertoires and deepen their understanding of pedagogical principles and curricular design. The seminar, designed primarily but not exclusively for teachers of courses that emphasize writing and a process approach, focuses on teaching as a rhetorical act. Students in the course read about and discuss pedagogical theories and approaches, and learn about career options in the academy and beyond (alt-ac). They will write teaching philosophy statements, conduct classroom observations, and develop professional portfolios that will enable them to present their teaching credentials when they enter the academic job market.

Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL): Winter Session
The UI’s Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL) will offer an opportunity for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to earn their CIRTL Associate certificate during the winter break. Participants can attend any approved combination of online, or on campus programming to earn the certificate. Participants need to earn 5 units in order to earn their certificate. The times and locations for events will be announced in December.

Monday, January 8: “How Learning Works” (Megan Knight, 1 unit)
Wednesday, January 10: “SteamProv” (Lisa Kelly, 2 units)
Thursday, January 11: “Learning Analytics” (Russell Larsen, 1 unit)
Friday, January 12: “Human Subjects Research for Teaching as Research (TAR) Projects” (Brent Collinsworth, 1 unit)
Wednesday, January 17: “Tools for Online Learning” (Erin Barnes, 1 unit)
Friday, January 19: “TA Teaching Institute” (Center for Teaching, 2 units)

See attachment for details.

Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference (MIGC)
Please see the attached Call for Papers and Call for Creative Work for the thirteenth annual Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference (MIGC). MIGC will take place on February 16-17, 2018, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. MIGC is a graduate conference intended to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue between diverse programs and areas of study. Our conference theme this year is “ASYMMETRY,” and our keynote for the conference is Dr. Lisa Parks (MIT). Parks’ interdisciplinary research deals with global media, inequality in infrastructure development, and, more recently, militarization and drone warfare.

The deadline for abstracts is December 1st, 2017. Papers and creative work are welcomed from a variety of disciplines in the humanities, arts, and humanistic sciences. Please see attached for the CFP and Call for Creative Work for more information. To submit abstracts, please email or visit our website, http://themigc.com. If you have any questions, let us know at themigc@gmail.com.

2018 Jakobsen Memorial Conference Committee
The 2018 Jakobsen Memorial Conference Committee is seeking judges for our annual graduate research paper competition. The Jakobsen Memorial Conference is an annual interdisciplinary research conference organized by and for graduate students at the University of Iowa. This year the 20th Annual Jakobsen Memorial Conference will be on Saturday, March 24, 2018. Students are invited to submit papers for judging and a potential cash prize. We invite you to help judge the fantastic graduate research that is being conducted at the University of Iowa.

This year each judge will have no more than 5 papers/projects to evaluate. Judges are given a rubric and scores are input via a form in mid-March. Each judge can indicate their first and second choices for category: Creative Works, Humanities, Social Sciences & Education, Biological & Health Sciences, Math, Engineering & Physical Sciences, and Other Professional. This indication will help us know which kinds of papers to send to which judges.

Being a judge requires a minor time commitment but has a significant impact on the graduate student community at the University of Iowa. We truly appreciate your help in this endeavor. If you are willing to be a judge please fill out a Qualtrics survey (by January 30th) at: https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cCRA2X4d3RXuyI5

If you have any questions, please feel to email 2018JakobsenConference@uiowa.edu. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Fellowship Resources

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. The deadlines for applications is February 15. 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.

Graduate College News

Trying to cut back on sugar? This year’s 3MT competition winner is studying how to do just that
Sharon Idiga, a third-year graduate student earning her PhD in the Molecular Medicine Program at the University of Iowa, has found it difficult to explain her research to people outside of her laboratory, so she participated in this year’s Three-Minute Thesis competition to get some practice. https://now.uiowa.edu/2017/11/3mt-competition-winner

CIRTL helps grad student excel at teaching
As is the case for most new teaching assistants, Ranthony Edmonds recalls the worry associated with teaching her first course at the University of Iowa. “I wanted to do a good job and provide my students with a good experience, but I honestly wasn’t exactly sure how to execute that.” Edmonds says. Three years later, her outlook has changed and she feels much more confident in her ability. https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/news/2017-11-11/cirtl-helps-grad-student-excel-at-teaching