Announcements

Directors of Graduate Studies,

Each year it amazes me how quickly the end of fall semester arrives. The semester’s final Directors of Graduate Studies meeting (held jointly with the Graduate Faculty) will be conducted on Wednesday, December 12 @ 3:30 PM in the Old Capitol Senate Chamber. After the agenda is finalized, it will be posted here and distributed via mass e-mail.

Tallies made after the fall commencement registration deadline puts the ceremony at maximum capacity for graduating students and faculty-hooders. The Graduate College is honored to celebrate the successes of this cohort on Friday, December 14 @ 7:00 PM in Hancher Auditorium. Audience seating for this year’s fall ceremony is not ticketed. Thanks for spreading the word.

I look forward to receiving innovative two-page concept proposals (Phase I) for the Graduate College Challenge Grants by January 15. The goal of the Challenge Grants is to better prepare our graduate students for the knowledge economy, global challenges, and broader career options. Details are attached.

Following up on the October DGS meeting related to students in distress, the Graduate College organized a “Working with Students in Distress Workshop” being held on Wednesday, February 27 @ 3:30 PM in W401 PBB. Details below.

John C. Keller, PhD
Professor, College of Dentistry
Interim Vice President for Research
Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education
Dean, the Graduate College

December 2018 Commencement

The December 2018 ceremony will be held Friday, December 14, 2018, 7 p.m., Hancher. More information is available on the Graduate College website. Questions regarding the ceremony should be directed to Kathy Klein Gerling (kathy.klein@uiowa.edu) 319-335-3492. All questions regarding regalia should be directed to Herff Jones (gradmidwest@gmail.com) 952-447-4449.

Fellowships

Research Grants for the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences - With funds from the Graduate College and the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Graduate Student Senate administers funding assistance for humanities and social science research and work in the creative, visual, and performing arts to be conducted during the academic year 2018-2019. Grants of up to $1,000 are available for research expenses including archive usage, equipment, supplies, software, interviews (research related), and on location filming or performance, etc. The application deadline is November 29, 2018. More information can be found here.

Chateaubriand Fellowship Program - The call for applications for the Chateaubriand Fellowship is open every year from October to January. The Chateaubriand Fellowship is a grant offered by the Embassy of France in the United States. It supports outstanding Ph.D. students from American universities who wish to conduct research in France for a period ranging from 4 to 9 months. More information can be found here.

Graduate College Funding Resources

The Graduate College provides a wide variety of financial assistance to help masters and doctoral students meet educational, living, and professional development expenses. We provide close to 20 different internal fellowship opportunities and staff support for students seeking external grants and fellowships. The Graduate College also partners with the Graduate Student Employment Committee, which provides recommendations to University leadership on matters related to employment benefits. The current graduate employment agreement contains information on graduate assistant rights and benefits.

If you have any questions, please contact us at grad-fellowships@uiowa.edu or call Associate Dean Shelly Campo (335-2136) or Executive Director of Operations Donna Welter (335-2145). https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/funding.

Workshops

NEH Grant Writing Workshop
Friday, March 1, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn, Iowa City - The University of Iowa will host a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Regional Application Writing Workshop on March 1, 2019. The workshop will include a presentation about NEH grant programs, a discussion of grant-writing tips, and a demonstration of NEH’s peer review system. This workshop is free and open to scholars from any institution. An agenda and additional details about the workshop will be posted in January 2019.

On Thursday, February 28, and the afternoon of Friday, March 1, Dr. Daniel Sack, Program officer in the NEH Research Division will be available for short one-on-one appointments with faculty. On Thursday, February 28, 4:00-5:00pm, Dr. Sack will be available to meet with a small group of graduate students. Please indicate if you are interested in scheduling one of these appointments when completing the registration process. For more information & to register, visit: https://bit.ly/2K6iNFa

Working with Students in Distress Workshop
February 27, 2019, 3:00-4:30 p.m. in W401 Pappajohn Business Building (PBB) - This is a follow-up to Barry Schreier’s intro’ presentation at the October DGS meeting and in January at the coordinators meeting. The workshop is campus-centric, student-focused, and learning outcomes specific to situations encountered by faculty and staff.
You are in your office, thinking about a recent interaction with a student that has left you troubled. Many things are running through your mind. Is this a big deal? Should I call someone about this? Can I help this student myself? Should I even get involved?

For many students, personal matters have a profound effect on academic performance, and for that alone, such interactions are significant and a reason to be involved. But these are complicated issues and getting involved can feel intimidating. All one has to do is pick up a newspaper to read about the emotional concerns students are having. Our students struggle with anxiety, depression, general emotional dysregulation, thoughts of self-harm, physical illnesses, family problems, financial crises, and others. Any of these can leave a student distressed and seeking your help.

The “Working with Students in Distress Workshop” is designed to help Staff and Faculty respond to students in distress. It is our experience that faculty and staff want to help students when they are in distress, but sometimes struggle with right words and best approaches. The “Working with Students in Distress Workshop” is designed to provide language and practical skills to help Staff and Faculty navigate challenging interactions. The “Working with Students in Distress Workshop” provides the signs of what distress looks like, ideas of what to do and what not to do, and simple language to assist with having the confidence to act when a student is struggling.

Your response may be a conversation with the student, a phone call to UCS, or a referral to one of the many offices and people who work with distressed students every day. Regardless, we want you to know that you are never alone. We are partners in the important work of helping a student in distress find understanding, support, and appropriate campus services.

This workshop is offered by University Counseling Services and will take place on February 27, 2019, 3:00-4:30 p.m. in W401 Pappajohn Business Building (PBB).

**Graduate Courses**

A Social Justice Pedagogy Course will be available for all graduate students to take in Spring 2019. This graduate course is designed to assist students who are currently incorporating – or planning to incorporate – content and pedagogy related to social justice into the courses they teach. More information can be found in the attached flier.

**Graduate College News**

Three Minute Thesis Showcase - Tianlu Zhang, a doctoral student in Second Language Acquisition, was selected the winner of the University of Iowa’s fifth Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. The finals were held November 2 in Art Building West. [https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/three-minute-thesis-showcase](https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/three-minute-thesis-showcase)


Clinical Psychology Alumna improving quality of life for Iowa Veterans - Julia Van Liew gained skills in the University of Iowa’s Clinical Psychology Program that prepared her to improve the quality of life for older Iowa veterans with chronic diseases. [https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/profiles/ui-alumna-provides-care-for-iowa-veterans](https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/profiles/ui-alumna-provides-care-for-iowa-veterans)

Language acquisition research earns PhD student top Three Minute Thesis prize - When Tianlu Zhang read about the requirements of the University of Iowa’s annual Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, she felt compelled to participate. “I just had a strong feeling this was something I could do,” says Zhang, a native of Beijing and graduate student pursuing a PhD in second language acquisition. “I could imagine myself doing this public speech, even though I had never done it before.” [https://now.uiowa.edu/2018/11/language-acquisition-research-earns-phd-student-top-three-minute-thesis-prize](https://now.uiowa.edu/2018/11/language-acquisition-research-earns-phd-student-top-three-minute-thesis-prize)