The Graduate School Program Director Newsletter

April 2017

Table of Contents

UNC Charlotte Honors Heather Smith with de Silva Award

University leaders gathered Mar. 30 to congratulate Dr. Heather Smith, professor of geography and earth sciences and director of the doctorate in Geography and Urban Regional Analysis, who received the 2017 Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award. For more information on the event, please visit http://inside.uncc.edu/news-features/2017-03-31/%E2%80%98amazing-mentor%E2%80%99-heather-smith-honored-de-silva-award

Important Dates

- Dissertation defense deadline – Apr. 7
- National signing day/deadline for funded students to accept or decline offers – Apr. 15
- Applications open for 2018 spring, 1st and 2nd summer and fall admission – Apr. 15
- Application deadline for 2017 1st summer admission – Apr. 15
- Dissertation submission deadline – Apr. 17
- Master's thesis defense deadline – Apr. 28
- Priority deadline for 2017 2nd summer admission — May 1
- Master's Merit Award and Graduate School grant secondary nomination deadline – May 15
- Applicant Final Deadline for 2017 2nd Summer Admission – June 15
- Applicant Final Deadline for 2017 Fall Admission – Aug. 15
- 2017 Fall GASP Secondary Nomination Deadline – Aug. 21

More dates and events are at http://registrar.uncc.edu/calendar and http://gradlife.uncc.edu/events.

Graduate Academic Affairs

Call for Nominations: Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Awards

The Graduate School is accepting nominations through May 22 for the Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Awards in the field of Biological Sciences.

The award is presented annually to an individual whose dissertation represents original work making an unusually significant contribution to their discipline.

For more information and instructions for submitting a nomination package, please visit http://gradlife.uncc.edu/resources/graduate-student-competitions or contact jennifer.harkey@uncc.edu.

20 Nominated for Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award

The 2016-17 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards program saw the highest number of nominations to date. The Graduate School will host a reception in honor of award recipients Apr. 21, 12:30-2:00, Cone 268.

The Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award recognizes teaching skills supported by strong student evaluations. Awards are at the Doctoral and Master's levels. All nominees are honored at the reception, and selected winners receive a $500 award.

A call for nominees went to GPDs and faculty TA supervisors in early February.

Dissertation and Thesis Committees Now Available in DegreeWorks

Dissertation and thesis committees can now be viewed in DegreeWorks. When a committee is established, a new block of data will appear below the general student information on the audit. Information includes committee chair, graduate faculty representative and committee members.

Another recent change includes moving the program GPA from the degree block to the major block. This change, which does not alter its operation, accommodates the expansion of DegreeWorks to undergraduate students this year.

PLEASE NOTE: To view these changes, you will need to clear your browser cache. See this FAQ for instructions: https://faq.uncc.edu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=15177116

Recruitment & Admissions

Summer/Fall 2017 Admissions Applications Remain Down

Overall, applications submitted for summer/fall 2017 compared to the same period last year are down over 7%. International applications, primarily to master's programs, are down 14% while domestic applications are up 4.5%. On the bright side, offers of admission are up over 20% compared to this time last year.

For details on your program of study, see the report in eGEM.

Half time Enrollment Definition changing for Fall Semester

UNC Charlotte's definition of half time enrollment is changing beginning in fall 2017.   To be considered enrolled half time, graduate students must take at least 4.5 credit hours, which essentially means five or more credit hours for UNC Charlotte. For more information, please visit http://provost.uncc.edu/news/2017-03-20/graduate-student-half-time-enrollment-definition-has-changed.

NinerScholars Deadline Looms for Scholarships and Fellowships

April 15 is a big day for scholarships and fellowships as 58 at the graduate level have application deadlines on that date. Another 13 close on June 30. To apply, students should use the NinerScholars Portal. If students need help with the NinerScholars Portal, they can contact the University Scholarship Office, or read the online user guide. Please note: Only eligible applicants through the NinerScholars Portal will be matched with these funding opportunities.

Students Should Indicate Intent to Enroll

With National Signing Day quickly approaching on April 15th, you can use eGRAD to track students who intend to enroll and also identify those who may not plan to enroll or who have not yet indicated their intent to enroll. Understandably, students offered funding also accept awards electronically.

After applicants are admitted, they are asked to confirm their intent to matriculate by completing and submitting the Enrollment Form in mygradschool.uncc.edu. Their responses are located on the decision tab in eGRAD and can help you gauge if new enrollment in your graduate program is on track with projections.

For admitted students who have not submitted the Enrollment Form by Apr. 15, you may wish to contact them to determine their enrollment plans. If they do not intend to enroll, please share the information with Graduate Admissions staff so that the decision not to enroll can be entered on their record.

Can Admission be Deferred?

Students who were admitted but did not enroll may not defer admission, but they can easily re-apply.

Admission is withdrawn for any applicant who does not enroll for the term to which s/he is admitted. However, the applicant still can be considered for a future term by logging into the application portal (https://mygradschool.uncc.edu) and creating a new application. Original biographical information will pre-populate to simplify the process.

Test scores sent with the original application will automatically attach to the new application, but current transcripts will need to be uploaded. If required, the applicant will need to enter three recommenders and ask them to submit current information, as well as to pay the application fee when submitting the new application.

GASP Policy: Ask Your Students to Apply for NC Residency

The difference between resident and non-resident tuition is $13,171 per student, per year. If domestic out-of-state GASP students obtained NC residency for 2017-18, $540,011 in additional funds would be available to support doctoral students.

To spread limited tuition dollars and support to as many exemplary students as possible, beginning fall 2017 non-resident tuition differential will apply only for the *first year* for new domestic out-of-state students. Students must obtain North Carolina residency by the second year of enrollment or petition the Graduate School for a continuation of the non-resident funding.

Student Profiles Added to Graduate Admissions Site

Check out UNC Charlotte's graduate student depth and breadth on our Graduate Admissions website map.

1. Go to Graduate Admissions: http://gradadmissions.uncc.edu
2. Scroll down the page to the map
3. Click a red pin

The featured student's profile will pop up, along with several others you can peruse.

Do you have a student we can add? Please contact Maryanne Maree-Sams, maryannemaree-sams@uncc.edu. Also, let us know if you see incorrect information or a broken link. The Application Portal is https://mygradschool.uncc.edu.

Diversity Recruitment Opportunities

The following conferences represent good opportunities for professional development and recruiting:

- **McNair Scholars Research Conference – June 22-25, Atlanta** This conference gives scholars an opportunity to network with faculty, graduate school staff and their peers and receive invaluable information about the graduate school application process: www.mcnairscholars.com
- **Advancing Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) – Oct. 19-21, Salt Lake City** This national conference motivates, inspires and engages 4,000 participants to achieve their highest goals in pursuing education and careers in STEM fields: www.sacnas.org
- **Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) – Nov. 1-4, Phoenix** Supporting undergraduates' development as future scientists, this conference presents an excellent opportunity to meet and recruit science-oriented undergraduate students from underrepresented groups in the biomedical sciences: www.abrcms.org
- **Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) – Nov. 1-5, Kansas City** More than 6,600 people attended last year's conference, which included four days of interactive programming, professional networking and competitions: www.shpe.org.

Veteran Recruitment Opportunities

Following are opportunities to recruit veteran students. Contact Asst. Dean Alan Freitag for details, arfreita@uncc.edu, x77312.

- **Camp Lejeune, NC** – Education Assistance Branch Education Expo (Marine Corps), Wednesday, April 26, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Fort Bragg, NC** – Training and Education Center Education Fair (Army and Air Force), Tuesday, May 16, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Carolina Veteran Expo** (all veterans and family members) – Mint Museum Gardens, Charlotte, NC, Saturday, July 1, noon - 5 p.m.

Funding Opportunities

May 1 Deadline to Apply for Giles Dissertation-Year Graduate Fellowship

Encourage eligible students to complete an applicant profile by May 1 at https://ninerscholars.uncc.edu/ to be considered for the Giles Dissertation-Year Graduate Fellowship. The Giles Fellowship provides an award of $20,000 plus $1,000 for travel, health insurance, and full-tuition and fees for students who will complete all of their degree requirements during the award year.

The student must be registered during the fall and spring term for doctoral dissertation research credit.

Applications Open for 2018-19 Fulbright programs

The deadline is Aug. 1 to apply for Fulbright programs for the 2018-19 academic year.

This is the time to encourage your students to consider Fulbright opportunities including English Teaching Assistant fellowships and graduate research/study fellowships.

Students can find details on eligibility and the application process at http://gradlife.uncc.edu/resources/fulbright-fellowship.

For more information, please visit http://awards.cies.org/ or contact Alan Freitag in the Graduate School (x77312).

Center for Graduate Life

Graduate Research Symposium Winners Announced

Winners of the annual Graduate Research Symposium were named recently. For more information, please visit http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/news/graduate-research-symposium-winners.

Upcoming Events:

Caring for Yourself in Uncertain Times: A Graduate Student Discussion – If the political climate is concerning for students, encourage them to register for this session by Apr. 21. Counseling Center staff will guide discussion on building personal resilience and self-compassion Apr. 26, 12:00 – 1:00, College of Health & Human Services 128. Information and registration is available at http://tinyurl.com/uncccares.

Summer Dissertation Boot Camp May 16-19

Encourage students to attend Dissertation Boot Camp May 16-19, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Center for Graduate Life, Cone 268.

The boot camps provide a quiet place to work and an opportunity for doctoral students to devote focused time and attention to making progress on their dissertation. The boot camps offer a quiet space to work, structured writing time, and writing-related resources and support.

Graduate Faculty for Writing, Dr. Lisa Russell-Pinson, will be available on two days of the camp to provide dissertation support. Space is limited. Register here.

# # #

The GPD Newsletter is available for download on the Graduate School's website.