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Annual Faculty and Mentoring Competitions Underway

The Graduate School is pleased to announce the 2016 competitions for the First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal and the Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award are now underway.

The First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal recognizes outstanding scholarship, creativity and/or research among senior full-time faculty members. Each year the University with support from First Citizens Bank, present this award in order to recognize and foster the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and creative endeavors.

The Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award was established in memory of Dr. Harshini de Silva, an associate professor of Biology, who was noted for her deep dedication to the academic and professional development of graduate students. Each year, the Chancellor’s Office and the Graduate School present this award to a full-time member of the graduate faculty who evinces the qualities of outstanding graduate mentoring. For submission details on each award, visit the Graduate School website.

GPD Brown Bag Training Opportunities and Workshops

Brown Bag Workshops have been changed a bit so that staff from both graduate admissions and enrollment management and graduate academic affairs will be on hand at each session. Please join us for the following GPD training opportunities and workshops. Support staff are also welcome. Each session will include a brief presentation from staff, followed by open discussion of any topic. RSVP online.

Best-Practices in Mentoring
October 30th, 10:30 - EPIC 1249
Dean Robin Coger, College of Engineering, NC A&T
Sponsored through the Chancellor’s Diversity Grant and co-hosted by the Graduate School, College of Engineering and ADVANCE.
Dean Coger has received awards for outstanding mentoring. She will host a conversation with faculty to talk about the challenges and opportunities in graduate mentoring.
Early Entry
Friday, November 20th, 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Cato Hall 228
Staff will discuss current issues regarding Early Entry. Program faculty who currently offer Early Entry and those who hope to add it in the future are both encouraged to attend.

Recruitment/Admissions/Funding
Friday, December 11th, 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Cato Hall 228
Staff will discuss recruitment, admissions and funding.

Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Curricular Practical Training (CPT) Workshops
Several workshops offered throughout the fall semester; see the link for details and to RSVP. The ISSO is hosting several immigration-based informational workshops this semester to provide information on the requirements and application procedures for both OPT (Optional Practical Training) and CPT (Curricular Practical Training).

While these workshops are held to inform and educate international students on the procedures and regulations involved in applying for employment authorization, the ISSO welcomes Graduate Program Directors to attend a workshop so you and others in your department may learn more about these opportunities. http://isso.uncc.edu/international-students/information-current-international-students/employment-ssn-and-taxes/employm-3

Recruitment, Admissions, Funding and Enrollment Management Updates

Reminder - New Graduate Admissions Website
Be sure your website is up-to-date! Graduate Admissions’ website is http://gradadmissions.uncc.edu The eGrad applicant portal is https://mygradschool.uncc.edu. If you have any questions, please contact Karla Stanchina, Manager of Communications, the Graduate School.

Recruitment Resources
Graduate School Admissions Counselors are available to support your recruitment efforts. Many program directors offer information sessions, open houses, GRE searches, and much more, and the counselors can provide guidance on how to implement successful events. Please reach out to one of the individuals listed below:

Maryanne Maree-Sams, Graduate Admissions Counselor, 704-687-7243, mmareesa@uncc.edu
Marianne Williford, Graduate Admissions Counselor, 704-687-7245, mwillif4@uncc.edu
Allison Brinkley, Graduate Admissions Counselor for Business Programs, 704-687-7267, abrinkley@uncc.edu

Guide to the Use of GRE Scores

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) provides details on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test as well as acceptable use of scores:

Use Multiple Criteria: Regardless of the decision to be made, multiple sources of information should be used to ensure fairness and to balance the limitations of any single measure of knowledge, skills or abilities. These sources may include undergraduate grade point average, letters of recommendation, personal statement, samples of academic work and professional experience related to proposed graduate study. A cut-off score (i.e., a minimum score) should never be used as the only criterion for denial of admission or awarding of a fellowship.
Use of multiple criteria is particularly important when using GRE scores to assess the abilities of educationally disadvantaged applicants, applicants whose primary language is not English and applicants who are returning to school after an extended absence. Score users are urged to become familiar with factors affecting score interpretation for these groups as discussed in this publication. (page 10)

**GRE Factoids**

http://news.ets.org/assets/content/LO03_GRE_repeat_info_FINAL.pdf

1 out of 4 people take the GRE more than once

- The number of people of took the GRE a second time grew 15% in 2014
- Most people who took the GRE a second time scored higher

### 2015 Graduate Applications Snapshot as of 10-27-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Status</th>
<th>FALL 2016 (census)</th>
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<th>SUMMER 2 2016 (census)</th>
<th>SPRING 2016 (census)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Does Not Intend to Enroll</td>
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<td>579</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funding and Assistantships**

The following staff members are your contacts should you need assistance or information:

**Assistantships**

Tequilla Bennett, TCBennett@uncc.edu, Admissions and Funding Specialist

**Funding**

Melissa "Missy" Peterson, MelissaPeterson@uncc.edu, Admissions and Funding Specialist

**Post An Assistantship Position**

If your department/school/college office would like to post a graduate assistantship position to the Graduate School's website, please send a PDF copy of the position description including submission guidelines to Karla Stanchina (kstanchi@uncc.edu). Positions are posted within five days of receipt and kept active on the Graduate School website for 30 days.
Graduate School Adds More Assistantships for Veterans

Three additional veterans assistantships will be available starting in the fall 2016 to newly accepted graduate students who are veterans. Each two-year assistantship is valued at $36,000 to $45,000 and includes tuition, health insurance, and a stipend. The assistantships are available to veterans from any branch of the military with an honorable discharge who are admitted to any master’s or doctoral program. Assistantships may involve teaching opportunities and/or helping with faculty research projects. The award requires up to 20 hours per week commitment and recipients may not be employed on or off campus. Recipients must enroll each semester for at least 6 credit hours (typically two courses). For additional information visit [http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/funding/graduate-school-opportunities](http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/funding/graduate-school-opportunities) or contact Dr. Gil Hageman, Faculty Associate to the Graduate School.

PEO International Peace Scholarship

The PEO is an international organization committed to increasing educational opportunities for women. The PEO International Peace Scholarship provides a maximum of $10,000 annually and is awarded to women from countries other than the US or Canada. Students must have a full year of course work remaining (master’s or PhD), be enrolled for the entire year of the scholarship, and plan to return to their home country to apply what they have learned in graduate school in order to make a difference. Eligibility must be established before application materials are sent to applicants. The eligibility information is available from at any time but the completed form will be accepted electronically in the IPS Office only between September 15 and December 15, 2015. March 1, 2016 is the last day to submit completed application materials from applicants already enrolled in a graduate program. April 1, 2016 is the last day to submit completed application materials from applicants not yet enrolled in a graduate program. The announcements of awards will be made in May, 2016. Please have eligible students apply at [http://www.peointernational.org/about-peo-international-peace-scholarship-ips](http://www.peointernational.org/about-peo-international-peace-scholarship-ips).

Graduate Enrollment Management Outreach and Planning

**Graduate Enrollment Management** [GEM] is managed at UNC Charlotte by a collaborative work group whose mission is to help develop, communicate, and evaluate well-planned strategies to proactively shape graduate enrollment at UNC Charlotte in an effort to meet established enrollment goals. In support of Graduate Program Director efforts to recruit, enroll, retain, and graduate a diverse and exemplary graduate class, members of the Admissions and Enrollment Management staff are available for one-on-one and/or group meetings to support efforts to develop program-specific GEM Plans.

Based on the Graduate School's long-range enrollment report was developed over the course of the 2013/14 academic year in cooperation with UNC Charlotte's colleges and an outside research company, Eduventures, a primary recommendation in the report was to use enrollment plans as a foundation for integrating graduate education into the University's long-range strategic planning, budgetary requests, and annual reporting.

Graduate Academic Affairs Updates

**Graduation Clearance**

With the reorganization of the Graduate School and training of staff members who are new to the role of graduation clearance, we are manually clearing students for graduation. We have asked that all doctoral students submit a Plan of Study that has been approved by their Graduate Program Director. The Plan of Study will map out a student’s completion of required courses, making it easier to reconcile the Candidacy form. Using the Plan of Study will reduce the number of emails and questions and will expedite the graduation clearance audit. A student’s Plan of Study can be submitted in any format approved by their department. Thank you for your patience during this transition.

For the Fall 2015 term, graduation will be managed by:

Doctoral students - Julie Green; gradgraduation-doctoral@uncc.edu
Doctoral Committees - Graduate Faculty Representatives

Students and faculty often recommend a faculty member to serve as “Graduate Faculty Representative” on a doctoral committee. While recommendations are appropriate, it is important that the purpose of the GFR be kept in mind. The GFR role is intended to ensure that the process if fair and consistent. It may be difficult for a non-tenured junior faculty member to effectively serve this role on a committee, depending on the composition. Please consider whether or not the recommended faculty member can serve this function.

Degree Works: A Campus-Wide Initiative

Academic Affairs has decided to adopt the Graduate School’s recommendation to implement Degree Works. An executive committee, chaired by Chris Knauer, will develop a comprehensive plan for campus-wide implementation. However, since the Graduate School has already laid the foundation, we still expect to launch the Graduate School programs as a pilot this Spring. The pilot will give faculty and staff access to student audits in Degree Works. Students will be given access when the graduate programs to live in Summer.

To this end, the Graduate School will be scheduling individual program meetings to introduce Degree Works and begin the process of validating program requirements and student audits with the departments. We will begin with the doctoral programs and hope to present all doctoral programs before the end of October. As those presentations are scheduled, Graduate Program Directors will be notified. Additional information about what to expect will be provided as the meetings are scheduled. Any questions can be directed to Janet Morse, jmorse9@uncc.edu.

Suggested Plan of Study forms

Last year, the Graduate School created plans of study for each graduate program in a fillable PDF format. While we are not maintaining those plans of study, they are available to be used as a template for anyone who might wish to use them. You are welcome to save them, edit them, and use them as you wish. Please understand that these were built using the best information we had at the time. If you would like your plans of study resent to you, just let us know.

Deadlines

Dissertation Deadlines

**November 4, 2015...Doctoral dissertation defense deadline*.**

**November 5, 2015....Deadline to submit the following documents to the Graduate School:**

- Dissertation Defense Report
- Title Page
- ETD Signature Form
- Survey of Earned Doctorates

**November 15, 2015....Deadline for dissertation to be approved for submission.**

**November 16, 2015...Last day to submit doctoral dissertations electronically for December 2015 graduation.**

Submission form with formatting fee of $30 due to the Graduate School.

*If students cannot defend by the deadline, they need to apply for Spring graduation.

Thesis Deadlines

**November 23, 2015...Master's thesis formatting deadline.**
December 2, 2015......Master's thesis defense deadline.
December 9, 2015......Last day to submit master's thesis for December 2015 graduation.

Center for Graduate Life Updates

For Students

Ombudsman for Graduate Students
The Ombudsman for graduate students is available to meet with students on a confidential basis. The Ombudsman provides guidance on process and policies, while directing students to appropriate resources. Dr. Julie Goodliffe, Interim Director of the Center for Graduate Life, currently serves as Ombudsman. She can be reached through the CGL.

November Professional Development for Graduate Students
This month is packed with excellent workshop offerings. Please encourage your students to attend!

Improving Your American Accent: Suggestions for International Graduate Students
Wednesday, November 4, 12:30pm-2:00pm, Center for Graduate Life, Cone 268
Facilitated by: Dr. Judith Krauss, Graduate Faculty, Center for Graduate Life and Jeffrey Krauss, MS,CCC-SLP, Au.D, Speech Language Pathologist and Audiologist.

International students who speak American English are often proficient in their use and comprehension of the language but may find their accents make it difficult for them to be understood. This workshop will offer some strategies to assist with their pronunciation of American English. The field of accent coaching approaches spoken language from a practical viewpoint, and provides suggestions for speakers from many different language backgrounds. Register

Building Real World Skills to Land Your Dream Job
Thursday, November 5, 3:30pm-5:00pm, Center for Graduate Life, Cone 268
Facilitated by: Ms. Maryalicia Johnson, Executive Director of External Relations, Computing & Informatics.
As a graduate student, you are often immersed in your particular field of study, and rarely leave your research lab. What you learn in class is only part of what’s necessary to land your dream job. These days employers are looking for applicants who possess not only content knowledge, but also a certain level of people-oriented soft skills. Are you doing what you need to be doing in order to be successful in your professional life? Find out by joining professional speech coach, Ms. Maryalicia Johnson, for a unique workshop on improving your chances to land your dream job. Register

Dissertation Day: Overcoming Perfectionism
Friday, November 6, 10:00am-4:00pm, Center for Graduate Life, Cone 268
Dissertation Days are offered on the final Fridays of each month. These writing retreats provide an opportunity for doctoral students to devote focused time and attention to one goal—making progress on their dissertations. Dissertation Days provide structured writing time, offer writing-related support and resources and promote community among dissertation writers. Register by November 2 to reserve your spot! Register

Effective Leaders for Effective Teams
Tuesday, November 10, 10:00am-12:00pm
Dr. Dipti Misra-Patel, Executive in Residence, Center for Graduate Life, Cone 268
What is effective Leadership? What is the difference between leading and managing? What does leadership look like – or what could it look like – in your work environment every day? In addition to gaining a clear use and understanding of the difference between leadership skills and management skills, participants in this workshop will learn how to build highly successful leadership teams and assess their own leadership skills and identify areas for personal growth. Participants will also learn the characteristics of behavioral styles and how to work with
different styles, develop strategies for problem solving, practice proven delegation strategies and practice empowering team members. Register

An Introduction to Tableau (Part I) - Sponsored by Project Mosaic
Thursday, November 12, 3:00pm-5:00pm, Center for Graduate Life, Cone 268
Tableau represents the new-generation visualization software that cater to the broader user-base of analytics, especially to the non-technical users who wish to build effective visualizations and conduct easy data explorations. While Tableau is primarily geared towards the business environment, Project Mosaic sees significant utility of Tableau in social science research because it is user-friendly, code-free and scalable. In this workshop, we aim to help social science researchers get familiar with Tableau, build simple and complex visualizations, work with databases, and conduct visual data exploration of large datasets. There are no pre-requisites. Please bring your laptop. Registration coming soon.

A Deeper Look Into Tableau (Part II) - Sponsored by Project Mosaic
Thursday, November 19, 3:00pm-5:00pm, Center for Graduate Life, Cone 268
Registration coming soon. Please bring your laptop.

Using LinkedIn to Build Your Professional Profile
Wednesday, November 18, 12:30pm-1:45pm, Center for Graduate Life, Cone 268
Facilitated by: Ms. Jennifer Harkey, Associate Director of the Graduate Center, The Graduate School. This presentation is the first of a three-part networking series. It is designed primarily for students who do not have a LinkedIn profile and are interested in creating a professional online presence using LinkedIn. Students who are anxious to improve their current LinkedIn page will also benefit from the session. Bring your laptop and be prepared to interact during this fun and casual workshop. Register

Individual Weekly Sessions for Students
Improve Your Methodology and Data Analysis - Meet with a Project Mosaic Consultant!
Mondays: 9:00am – 12:00pm, Wednesdays: 4:00-6:00pm, Center for Graduate Life, Cone 268
This fall, the Center for Graduate Life has partnered with Project Mosaic to provide consultation to graduate students in need of assistance with their research projects or thesis/dissertations. The service is focused on advising and improving the methodology and data analyses in graduate research. No appointment needed.

Writing Assistance in the Center for Graduate Life
Center for Graduate Life, Cone 268 – Mondays-Wednesdays: 2:00-5:00pm, Thursdays: 2:00-4:00pm.
Meet individually with a Senior Writing Assistant to discuss your writing project at any stage of development. The goal of the writing assistance is not to fix or edit papers, but to develop better writers. The CGL has a dedicated computer but feel free to bring your own laptop. Book an Appointment

Monday Mindfulness
11:00am-12:00pm, Center for Graduate Life, Cone 268
Facilitated by: Cara Blevins, Health Psychology Doctoral Student
Looking for a way to stay healthy and centered throughout the semester? Please join us for a complimentary 45 minutes of Yoga followed by 15 minutes of guided mindfulness meditation every Monday! You will have the opportunity to practice Asanas and guided breathing with a certified Yoga instructor as well as engage in mindfulness practices that are related to reductions in stress and increased well-being. Please bring a towel or your own mat. No registration required.

Weekly Professional Speech Coach Appointments are Full for the Fall Semester. Email ceohara@uncc.edu to be placed on the waitlist.

Graduate Life Fellow Events - Open to all Graduate Students (See more info at gradlife.uncc.edu/events).
Habitat for Humanity Build
Saturday, November 7, 8:00am-4:00pm (two shifts)
The CGL’s Graduate Life Fellows, the Graduate History Association (GHA), the Master of Architecture Student Society (MASS), and the Communication Studies Student Association (CSSA) invite you to join them for the construction of home for a local Charlotte family, which will also include a conversation about poverty housing with former CEO of Habitat for Humanity Charlotte and current Director of Strategic Relations, Bert Green. Grab a hammer and do something concrete about social issues in our city! Educate our leaders regarding outreach, social justice, and empowerment in our communities.

Work Well Day
Friday, November 13, 2015 - 9:00am - 5:00pm, Center for Graduate Life, Cone 268
Are you are the point in the semester that you are stressing about upcoming projects due? Do you find yourself having a tough time concentrating on your work and need support staying on task this time in the semester? Pop by the Center for Graduate Life for a few hours (or all day) to join other students working hard to stay on task with coursework! No pressure to be at any certain point- you can be working on a paper, project, presentation, thesis or dissertation- we'll help keep you from distracting yourself with Facebook and Netflix. Bring your laptop, we'll bring the coffee and bagels. Stress-management resources will be provided. Come and go quietly as you please! Email Emily at eteague4@uncc.edu with questions. No RSVP needed.