



Dean's Column

I've just returned from the Southern Regional Educational Board's annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring (see story within), and am thinking about those two key dimensions of university life, so integral to what we do as faculty and students that, paradoxically, we sometimes forget how important they are, just as we forget the air we breathe. We're startled to awareness when either turns toxic or when we suddenly note an exhilarating freshness. My students and my colleagues give me bracing doses of the latter, and mercifully little of the former.

Learning is the breath of our intellectual life. We learn always, and we learn that teaching isn't in opposition to learning, but rather its complement, and that mentoring too is a reciprocal relationship. Probably one of the most difficult polarities to balance is the oscillation between individual and collective intellectual work, the recognition that one is part of a community of scholars that extends across time as well as space. Dead poets and scientists speak to scholars across centuries in voices as warm and present as those in the next room. But what we do in our own room--the intellectual "room of one's own" upon which Virginia Woolf so famously insisted--is crucial. We must have that room, but once we get it, we must make use of it. We must think alone, write alone before, restored, we can leave that room to join others in re-thinking and re-writing, bringing what we've learned to others so that we can be taught by them in turn.



Graduate Dean, Michelle Massé

For graduate students, that first long time alone is usually the dissertation. Dorothy Day, the great social activist, stated: "We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community." The love that is part and parcel of our scholarship is often unstated, a silent passion that nonetheless fuels our lives, and that we recognize in others.

As you get ready for the end of the semester, please join us in this month's events that bring us into community. Grad Gen 1, which brings together first-generation students (whether at undergraduate or graduate level), meets for the second time on November 9, 2017 from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at David Boyd, Room 123. "Professional Development: Preparing for the Job Market" takes place on November 17, 2017 from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. (place TBA). And, as always, I welcome your visits on Fridays at noon for "Conversations with the Dean."

Cordially,

Michelle A. Massé

Important Dates

November

- 9th - Grad Gen 1 meeting, 3:00 p.m. at 123 David Boyd
- 16th - Thesis and Dissertation Approval deadline, 4:30 p.m. All degree requirements must be met, including final defense reports, document submission to the Graduate School, and the completion of all follow-up editing requested by the document editor. Final defense reports are also due on this date for non-thesis students.
- 17th - Professional Development Workshop: Preparing for the Job Market, 3:00 p.m. at 123 David Boyd
- 22nd - Thanksgiving Holiday begins, 12:30 p.m.
- 27th - Classes resume, 7:30 a.m.

For more important dates and deadlines, please view the [Graduate Calendar](#) for Fall 2017.



RESISTANCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

EXERCISING OR ABUSING FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS

 <p>CHRIS SLAUGHTER ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, WAFB NEWS</p>	 <p>DERAY MCKESSON CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST; HOST, POD SAVE THE PEOPLE</p>	 <p>SEAN ILLING WRITER, VOX; POLITICAL SCIENCE PH.D. FROM LSU</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 9 7 P.M. HOLLIDAY FORUM LSU JOURNALISM BUILDING</p> <p>TO RSVP, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT WWW.LSUREILLYCENTER.COM</p>  <p>ALL ARE WELCOME!</p>
 <p>CASEY RAYBORN HICKS PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, EBR SHERIFF'S OFFICE</p>	 <p>BRUCE HAMILTON ATTORNEY, LOUISIANA ACLU</p>	 <p>JINX BROUSSARD BART SWANSON ENDOWED PROFESSOR, LSU MODERATOR</p>	

LSU Office of Diversity

IN HONOR OF THE LATE DUSTIN HOWES
LSU POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT FACULTY MEMBER

LSUanship School of Mass Communication
Reilly Center For Media & Public Affairs

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT.

[READ MORE](#)

In The Spotlight

A. Mackenzie Roberts



MacKenzie Roberts

A. Mackenzie Roberts is a master's student at the School of Library & Information Science. She aspires to become an audio and visual archivist, and was drawn to the MLIS program, which has an archive specialty.

With the degree being completely online, Roberts has the “flexibility and the freedom to work during the day and study at night.” For the past two semesters, she has interned at National Public Radio (NPR) for the Research, Archives, and Data Strategy (RAD) team in Washington, D. C. “This experience is helping to supplement my education with hands-on experience that I wouldn't have otherwise been able to have since my MLIS is online,” she says.

[Read more about Roberts's interests and her experience with pursuing a degree online.](#)

Professor Lori Martin

Lori Martin is an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, where she also serves as the Director of Graduate Studies. Professor Martin also teaches classes for LSU's African and African-American Studies Program. She primarily conducts research on race and ethnicity, particularly in racial wealth inequality and black asset poverty.

Professor Martin expressed her passion for supporting students. “I am really passionate about supporting historically underrepresented groups in higher education, including graduate education,” she says. “Providing students of color with the tools, resources, mentoring, and other forms of support required for success in graduate school and beyond is an important part of what I do and who I am,” she says.

[Read more about Professor Martin, her involvement with the graduate student community, and more.](#)



Professor Lori Martin

Rodney Goldsmith joins the Graduate School

Rodney Goldsmith has joined the Graduate School staff as Assistant to the Dean. Goldsmith received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Southern University and a Master's in Public Administration from Louisiana State University.

Prior to joining the Graduate School, Goldsmith worked at a nonprofit organization as the Special Projects Manager and later as Executive Administrator. In this role, he successfully coordinated a national anti-stigma campaign and an after-school literacy program. Goldsmith enhanced his community efforts by establishing and maintaining partnerships with local elected officials in both Baton Rouge and Morgan City of Louisiana, and Jackson, Mississippi.

Goldsmith is a Louisiana native, originally from Ruston. His personal hobbies include traveling across the country, hiking various nature trails, and cycling. Goldsmith is also an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, where he dedicates time to community service efforts.



Rodney Goldsmith

Graduate School News

Aubry Kyle wins first place in graduate student poster competition of SWAAG Conference



Aubry Kyle, a doctoral student at LSU's Department of Geography and Anthropology, recently traveled to Huntsville, Texas to participate in the Southwest Association of American Geographers (SWAAG) Conference. There, she competed in the graduate student poster competition, where she won first place for her poster, *Between Risks: Assessing Perceptions of Evacuation Support Services in New Orleans, Louisiana*.

The poster illustrated both qualitative and quantitative research conducted in two New Orleans neighborhoods that were adversely affected by severe flooding on August 5th, 2017, and were also anticipating a possible evacuation in advance of Hurricane Harvey and more potential flooding. Results demonstrated a need for a

new vulnerability index tool that is more rapid, dynamic, and considerate of personal perceptions than the standard Social Vulnerability Index currently used in providing targeted emergency support services.

SREB Fellows attend 2017 Institute for Teaching and Mentoring

In October, 11 Board of Regents (BoR)/SREB Fellows and Michelle Massé, Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and PI for LSU's BoR/SREB grants, attended the Southern Regional Education Board's 2017 Institute for Teaching and Mentoring. The Institute is a national gathering that brings together SREB-State Doctoral Scholars, McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Scholars, NSF Alliance for Graduate Education and Social Behavioral Sciences Scholars, as well as Gates Millennium, NASA Fellows, and Sloan Ph.D. Program Scholars.

Designed to provide scholars with the skills necessary to succeed in graduate studies and prepare them for success as faculty members, the four-day conference is the largest gathering of minority Ph.D. scholars in the country. This year's Institute was held in Atlanta, Georgia.

LSU's SREB fellows attended presentations ranging from "Student-Centered Teaching," through "How to Thrive in Graduate School," to "Negotiating Your First Faculty Position." The Fellows returned to campus re-energized and with actual SREB backpacks as well as a satchel of new ideas for teaching, research, and service.



Back Row: SREB in Atlanta, 2017: Back Row: Phillip Richard (Psychology), Toni Walker (Psychology), Abigail Issarraras (Psychology), Michelle Massé (Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Studies), Rachel Correll (Environmental Science), Giancarlo Restrepo (Geology). Front Row: Cristian Nuñez (Sociology) and Louis Garcia (Geology). Also attending the Institute: Kimberlye Dean (Psychology), Maretta McDonald (Sociology), and Kareem Wall (English)

Graduate students attend “Psychological Well-Being” workshop

The Graduate School recently hosted a “Psychological Well-Being” workshop, commencing the fall workshop series of the 2017-18 school year. Based upon student comments, we focused the workshop upon a broad concept of “grief” because this semester has brought us grief caused by natural disasters, human disasters, and individual losses, as well as the kinds of grief that include past and anticipated future losses or life changes.



Tracy Blanchard

Each year, the Graduate School hosts a series of workshops on topics including professional development, the nuts-and-bolts of graduate education, balancing professional responsibilities and personal stresses, and more.

Tracy Blanchard from LSU’s Office of Student Advocacy & Accountability facilitated the first workshop, discussing skills and coping mechanisms for dealing with grief. “Graduate students in particular are susceptible to grief and anxiety, considering family, adulthood, and other personal responsibilities,” said Blanchard. “Human disasters and natural disasters have an effect on us, too. We need to understand the impact that our world has on our state of mind, comfort, and well-being.”

She also explained how many mental health problems, like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and phobias are traced back to anxiety in some shape or form. Students can treat anxiety

and stress by improving sleep and eating habits, and eliminating or reducing stressors.

LSU has a number of resources for students, with most available through the Student Health Center (SHC) and LSU Cares. The **SHC** offers a number of mental health services, including individual and **group counseling**. Recently, however, the SHC has dealt with a high volume of requests for mental health services, resulting in a wait period of at least two months for new patients. **LSU Cares**, a university initiative dedicated to the well-being of students, works with students to empower them to use campus and community resources. In addition, staff with LSU Cares can connect students with off-campus therapy services, with **some services costing as low as \$10 per session**.

Learn more about taking care of yourself, and what resources are available.

FALL 2017 GRADUATE STUDIES WORKSHOP SERIES



SCHEDULE OF WORKSHOPS

Tue., Oct. 24 | 2:30 PM-4:00 PM | Himes 129
Psychological Well-being: Grief, Loss, & Trauma

Fri., Nov. 17 | 3:00-4:30 PM | Music & Dramatic Arts 103
Professional Development: Preparing for the Job Market

Mon., Dec. 11 | 10:30 AM-12:00 PM | Himes 129
Professional/Personal Balance: Coursework

Upcoming Workshops in Spring 2018:
Navigating the Institution: Graduate Student Rights
Professional/Personal Balance: Exams, Thesis/Dissertation, Defense
Navigating the Institution: Understanding University Fees, Stipends, & Loans

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