The two major initiatives taking place in the Graduate School, that have impact for all graduate programs, are the restructuring of the Finance/Funding area, and the implementation of the campus-wide Strategic Plan’s Goal 2 for Graduate Education. These two initiatives are mutually dependent, as we position the Graduate School to serve you better in a changing national and campus context.

In the past, the functions of finance, fellowships, and data were housed in three separate divisions of the Graduate School. In the current environment of performance-based incentives and strategic investment, these three functions need to be closely interwoven. For that reason, we eliminated the staff positions across all three areas, and created a new structure overseen by new Associate Dean for Funding, Finance and Analytics, Dr. Kevin Sarge (on 50% assignment from his Biochemistry faculty assignment). In order to distinguish between the two portfolios, Dr. Brian Jackson’s title has been changed to Senior Associate Dean for Academic Administration (overseeing Admissions, Recruitment, & Diversity, Academic Services, and Graduate Council, in addition to student-related academic issues); his is also a 50% assignment, from his faculty position in Physiology.

We are pleased to have filled all remaining staff roles, with Informatics Analyst Mark Cruse (whom many of you may know from Tableau classes), fiscal officers Stacy Gaylor and Ossilyn McQuesten, along with STEPS fiscal officer Satjanun (Nan) Griffey, and incoming budget officer Amber Moreland, who joins us as of 9/21 from KCTCS’ central budgeting office. We have also hired Communications & Marketing manager Hilary Brown, formerly of the College of Design, to support your and our recruitment initiatives.

These changes are designed to move the Graduate School from a processing role to a more collaborative partnership, and to create the flexibility that you need across 90 unique graduate programs. This alignment will also situate us to respond to the strategic plan’s call for investment tied to performance metrics.

The strategic plan calls for selective growth in graduate programs, as well as a focus on competitive recruitment packages for students who are most likely to complete on-time degrees. We will emphasize diversity, as well as alignment with UK’s areas of research excellence. We appreciate your patience as we build the structure that can best serve those goals and your own ambitions, for the strong graduate programs that are so critical to UK’s position as the state’s premier research institution.

The year ahead

by Susan Carvalho, Interim Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

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ANNOUNCING THE NATIONAL NAME EXCHANGE MEMBERSHIP

BY PATRICIA BOND

The Graduate School’s application for membership in the National Name Exchange was accepted in April 2015 and announced at the NNE Annual Meeting in Chicago. The National Name Exchange is a consortium of nationally recognized universities which collects and exchanges the names of talented underrepresented ethnic minority students in their sophomore, junior, and senior year of undergraduate studies.

As a new member, the University of Kentucky extended an invitation in May to our qualified undergraduate students encouraging them to submit their names. In total, over 9000 names have been submitted to the National Name Exchange and will be made available to the member institutions. In the very near future, the GS Office of Admissions, Recruitment and Diversity will send the names and contact information of students in relevant undergraduate disciplines to each graduate academic program here at UK for prospect consideration.

Workshops will be offered in the Graduate School on September 10 to help directors of graduate studies and administrative staff members develop related recruitment communication plans. A member of the NNE consortium, Derrick Manass from the University of Minnesota Office of Diversity and Graduate Education will lead the workshops and share best practices in successful recruitment of underrepresented ethnic minority students. Since space is limited, sign-up will be available at the annual DGS meeting on September 9. For questions or more details, contact the office at 257-2771 or pat.bond@uky.edu.

INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTION TO VERSATILE PHD

BY MORRIS GRUBBS

In order to support doctoral students who are exploring and preparing for careers beyond the professoriate, the Graduate School now has an institutional subscription to the premium-content version of the website The Versatile Ph.D.

Among the materials available are insightful narratives into a wide range of doctorate-friendly careers written by Ph.D.s in those careers; authentic résumés and cover letters that got Ph.D.s their first post-academic jobs, with detailed narratives describing the hiring process step by step; and inspiring first-person stories by experienced post-academics describing their career trajectories. The website also provides networking opportunities for students to connect with successful post-academic Ph.D.s.

Accessible resources are currently aimed at students in the humanities and social sciences. The Graduate School will collect feedback at the end of the year to see if the subscription should be renewed as well as expanded to include resources related to STEM disciplines.

GPS/SAP DEGREE AUDIT

BY JONATHAN GARRETT

The Graduate School has joined UK’s GPS project, to allow graduate students to track their remaining degree requirements online. We will roll out these new Degree Audits for two Master’s programs this fall: Mechanical Engineering Plan A (thesis) and Library Science Plan B (non-thesis). Several students from each program will test the new functionality as part of a pilot, as well as advisors and Graduate School staff in Room 106 Gillis.

SAP Degree Audit will offer more functionality than APEX provided, and the user interface is currently being developed to support the audits. Following the rollout, the Graduate School will coordinate the development of SAP Degree Audits for all graduate programs to support graduate student advising and degree certification.

GRADUATE COUNCIL

BY BRIAN JACKSON

Three policy modifications are in place for the upcoming academic year:

Change in Doctoral Committee Structure: The advisory committee has a core of four members. This core must include a minimum of two faculty members from the graduate program (with one being the major professor as chair or co-chair), and one representative outside of the graduate program. All members of the core must be members of the Graduate Faculty of the University of Kentucky and three (including the major professor) must possess full Graduate Faculty status.

Change in Doctoral Student Time Extension Request Procedure: All degree requirements for the doctorate must be completed within five years following the semester or summer session in which the candidate successfully completes the qualifying examination, but extensions up to an additional 5 years may be requested for a total of 10 years. Extensions up to one year may be approved by the Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Requests for extensions longer than one year must be considered by Graduate Council. All requests should be initiated by the Director of Graduate Studies and must include a recommendation on whether or not a re-take of the qualifying examination should be a requirement of the extension. If requested, failure to pass the re-examination will result in the termination of degree candidacy.

Change in University Scholar Classification: The primary classification of University Scholars will be undergraduate until they have completed all requirements for their undergraduate degree, and undergraduate tuition rates will be applied to the 12 hours (or less) of graduate level coursework designated for dual credit in this program.

NEW STAFF

IN THE UK GRADUATE SCHOOL

Hilary Brown
Manager of Communications & Marketing

Mark Cruse
Informatics Analyst

Linda Davis
Enterprise Applications Manager

Meghan Duffy
Academic Services

Stacy Gaylor
Fiscal Officer

Amber Moreland
Budget Officer

John Perrin
Graduate Assistant

Kevin Sarge
Associate Dean for Finance

Marthann Sheldon
Admissions & Administrative Support

FACULTY LUNCH & LEARN

Watch for details coming soon about a Faculty Lunch & Learn Series on “Effective Mentoring of Doctoral Students”. This community-of-practice series will use notable new books as discussion springboards, including The Professor Is In: The Essential Guide to Turning Your Ph.D. into a Job and The Graduate School Mess: What Caused It and How We Can Fix It. Faculty who commit to attending the full series will receive copies of the books, compliments of the Graduate School.
As UK’s international footprint has continued to grow, so has the importance of considering best practices when it comes to overseas travel under UK’s auspices. The University’s office of International Health, Safety & Security (IHSS) was formed in February of 2015 to assist faculty, staff and students with a wide variety of issues they may face abroad. Before leaving the United States for any activity being pursued in the course and scope of their academic career at the institution, graduate students who attend international conferences or conduct research abroad should register with the IHSS office.

The new IHSS travel registry allows the International Center to quickly liaise with UK personnel in the event of an overseas emergency, and ensures that all registrants are covered under the University’s new comprehensive travel medical insurance and evacuation policy. The travel registry and additional information may be accessed at https://ihss.uky.edu.

As indicated in AR 4:9, advising students to undertake work abroad, without the risk-management support of IHSS, assigns unacceptable risk to your department, your college, and your students. Graduate students will benefit from having the travel medical coverage, as well as general orientation materials, provided through their IHSS registration.

In addition, students planning to travel to countries under U.S. Department of State Travel Warnings are required to work with the UK International Center before their departure in order to be in compliance with UK regulations. AR 4:9 applies to all UK students, including graduate students enrolled in dissertation residency credits. Faculty members should never advise a student to undertake academic work in a Travel Warning country without the involvement of the UK International Center.

The new IHSS policies have an additional benefit: faculty and staff who travel abroad on UK business now also have coverage for a wide range of international emergencies (travel medical insurance, emergency evacuation, etc.). Faculty and staff are also encouraged to register their international travel with IHSS, at https://ihss.uky.edu, in order to receive information about accessing this coverage.

If you have any questions regarding the new international travel registry, insurance coverage abroad, or international travel in general, especially to Travel Warning countries, please do not hesitate to contact Jason Hope, UK’s Manager of International Health, Safety & Security, at jasonhope@uky.edu.

As one of the most important aspects of the IHSS policies, the new IHSS travel registry allows for better communication with students and faculty, ensuring that all registrants are covered under U.S. Department of State Travel Warnings are required to work with the UK International Center before their departure in order to be in compliance with UK regulations. AR 4:9 applies to all UK students, including graduate students enrolled in dissertation residency credits. Faculty members should never advise a student to undertake academic work in a Travel Warning country without the involvement of the UK International Center.

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The Graduate School, UK College of Education, The Preparing Future Faculty Program, and the Council of Graduate School in cooperation with TIAA-CREF Financial Services present

Any Kamenetz
Author, Blogger, and Lead Education Reporter for NPR

Generation Debt
What you should know (and do) about your financial future
Thursday, September 10
7pm
Singletary Center | Recital Hall

The Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition to be held in November and early December will provide students with an opportunity to practice distilling and presenting their research. The skills gained in 3MT directly relate to interview skills for both academic and non-academic careers, so we encourage DGSs to promote this opportunity to students.

The Center for English as a Second Language (CESL) is offering two sections of a new course specifically for graduate students, ESL 095: Academic Writing for International Graduate Students. At press time, 20 students are enrolled. The course is aimed at students early in their programs to improve writing skills prior to entering the thesis or dissertation stage.

INTERNSHIPS, RECRUITMENT, AND DIVERSITY

As continuation of our focus on recruiting students from all backgrounds, we have established a Graduate Diversity Advisory Council, with representation from all colleges, to share best practices in outreach, National Name Exchange use and follow-up of prospective students, and Graduate School resources for recruitment.

We hope to increase the number of students in University Scholars programs, by allowing them to retain undergraduate tuition status until the undergraduate degree requirements have been met.

Hobson’s Connect allows for better communication with prospects and applicants, and we will be working on the narratives that will help DGSs do this more efficiently and effectively.
CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

BY SEAN MADDEN

Over the past few months, we’ve reconnected with alumni who have used the advanced degrees they have earned at the University of Kentucky to establish themselves in fields of scholarship and innovation.

PAUL BOULOS
P.H.D. ’89 CIVIL ENGINEERING

A native of Beirut, Lebanon, Dr. Paul Boulos is an award-winning global authority on drinking water distribution engineering. He is the President, COO, and Chief Technical Officer of Innovyze, Inc., one of the world’s leading providers of water, wastewater, stormwater and river modeling and simulation technology. Currently over eighty percent of the largest cities in the United States, as well as many of the world’s utilities, run on Innovyze software.

“Getting your graduate education is essential in today’s economy. Graduate work prepares you for the unprecedented challenges of today’s business environment and the ever-evolving job market. It takes you beyond sheer academics and teaches you how to think, view challenges, and solve problems more effectively.”

RUTH DYER
P.H.D. MECHANICAL ENGINEERING ’80

Dr. Ruth Dyer is the senior vice provost for academic affairs at Kansas State University. When Dr. Dyer joined the College of Engineering faculty at KSU in 1983, she was the only female faculty member with a Ph.D. in Engineering. It has since been Dr. Dyer’s mission to encourage women to choose careers in engineering, and also help women secure tenure-track faculty positions in the field.

Dr. Dyer’s experience working on collaborative projects began at UK. “I had the opportunity,” says Dyer, “to work on interdisciplinary research projects as part of my graduate program at UK, and the skills I learned in working with students, faculty and staff from a variety of disciplines has served me extremely well throughout my academic career.”

SENTHIL SUNDARAM
P.H.D. COMPUTER SCIENCE ’07

After graduate school, Dr. Senthil Sundaram took a job with Microsoft, where he worked for four years on the search engine, Bing, as a research software development engineer. He was one of the original developers of the team that built Cosmos, a distributed storage and execution platform that helps process data generated by Bing and other large-scale Microsoft systems. Currently, he works as a lead staff software engineer on the LinkedIn Search Team, and has five software patents pending.

“Information retrieval is at the heart of search systems,” says Sundaram, “and in graduate school, the research I did on several information retrieval techniques gave me a head start in understanding search problems and identifying solutions.”

MICHAEL VASSALOS
P.H.D. AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ’13

A native of Greece, Dr. Michael Vassalos is an assistant professor of agribusiness at Clemson University’s Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, a position he has held since graduating from UK. Vassalos’s research interests lie primarily in the areas of farm and agribusiness management and production economics. He is interested specifically in economic research that focuses on farm decision-making and the influence of risk on growers’ choices.

“Follow your passion. Graduate school is no easy endeavor; feeling stressed and frustrated is a part of the experience. But whatever program you enter, give it 100%. Graduate school will equip you with more than enough tools to help you succeed in your future career.”

CINDY ISENHOUR
P.H.D. ANTHROPOLOGY ’10

Dr. Cindy Isenhour describes her graduate research at UK as an examination of “the cultural and historical construction of contemporary consumer culture” and an exploration of “the environmental and cultural impacts of its diffusion internationally.” Upon graduation, she was awarded a two-year Associated Colleges of the South/Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Environmental Studies. Today she is an assistant professor at the University of Maine.

“One cannot go wrong,” she says, “with additional education at a reputable graduate school.” “[I’m amazed at how graduates] utilize the critical thinking skills and open-minded approach that the study of Anthropology fosters in a wide variety of careers.”

PAUL WAGNER
M.A. COMMUNICATION ’72

Paul Wagner is the principal officer of Paul Wagner Productions, Inc. and of American Focus, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the creation of independent films about subjects in American culture. He has produced and directed more than forty documentary and dramatic films, including the 1985 Oscar-winning documentary, The Stone Carvers. His latest film, tentatively titled Black in Blue, will tell the story of the four UK football players who first integrated the SEC.

“The greatest benefit of my graduate program and the professors at UK was to stimulate my awareness and appreciation of learning and the life of the mind. In the College of Communication, I began to care about learning, fellow students—who were excited about ideas and that was tremendously energizing for me.”

AMY WONG
P.H.D. CHEMISTRY ’94

As a student, Dr. Amy Wong was most interested in the application of analytical and radiochemistry techniques to solving environmental problems. Today, Wong works to find solutions to aging laboratory infrastructure and workforce problems as a program manager of Plutonium Strategy Infrastructure at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Over the course of her career, she has been involved with the production of the plutonium-238 heat source program for the missions to Saturn (Cassini), Mars (Rovers), and Pluto (New Horizons).

“Graduate school taught me how to think and resolve issues based on my technical training and experiences. The experience continues to provide the formula for my success in everything I do.”

Working with professors, past and present directors, chairs, and deans, we have contacted graduates to find out how their studies at UK influenced their careers. Over two dozen alumni responded, sharing photos, testimonials, and anecdotes about their time at UK. They told us about their first jobs out of grad school, and offered advice to current graduate students.

As the project continues, we would like to enlist your help in reaching out to alumni. Please forward the contact information of students who have achieved success in the fields of innovation, research, academics, government, or the arts to Hilary Brown, at hilary.brown@uky.edu. These stories will be shared on our website, social media, and future publications.
GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS

DGS-NOMINATED COMPETITIVE FELLOWSHIPS

Lexmark Fellowship
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, October 6, 2015
Decisions will be released by October 23, 2015

Lexington Herald-Leader Fellowship
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, October 13, 2015
Decisions will be released by October 30, 2015

Dissertation Year Fellowship
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, January 6, 2016
Decisions will be released by January 22, 2016

Presidential Fellowship
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, January 19, 2016
Decisions will be released by February 5, 2016

Multi-Year Fellowship
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Decisions will be released by February 19, 2016

Cralle Foundation/Joan Cralle Day Fellowship
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, February 9, 2016
Decisions will be released by February 26, 2016

Graduate Fellowship for Selected Areas
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, February 9, 2016
Decisions will be released by February 26, 2016

Daniel R. Reedy Quality Achievement Fellowship Award
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Decisions will be released by March 11, 2016

Northern Ky/Greater Cincinnati UK Alumni Club Fellowship
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, March 8, 2016
Decisions will be released by March 25, 2016

Jeffrey Fellowship for Tobacco Research
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, March 15, 2016
Decisions will be released by April 1, 2016

McNair Fellowship
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, April 12, 2016
Decisions will be released by April 29, 2016

Self-Nominated Competitive Fellowships

UK Woman’s Club Endowed Fellowship
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, October 20, 2015
Decisions will be released by November 6, 2015

Association of Emeriti Faculty Endowed Fellowship
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, October 27, 2015
Decisions will be released by November 13, 2015

Matthews/Singletary/Wethington Fellowship
Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Decisions will be released by February 19, 2016

DGS-Nominated Allocated Fellowships

Max Steckler Fellowship
Nomination Deadline: Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Graduate School Academic Year Fellowship
Details to be announced

Kentucky Opportunity Fellowship
Details to be announced

DGS-Nominated Recruitment Fellowships

Lyman T. Johnson Awards
Renewal Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, March 1, 2016
New Nomination Deadline: Tuesday, April 6, 2016

This newsletter is a biannual publication of the University of Kentucky Graduate School and is brought to you in part by:

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Interim Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

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