As part of its commitment to graduate level research, the Graduate School piloted a mentored research experience at the Master’s level during the spring of 2013. Under the guidance of a faculty member, students had the opportunity to enhance their ability to articulate research objectives, design experiments, collect data, and present results in oral and written formats. The Graduate School selected Jessica Hagen (Public History), Matthew Jagger (Applied Statistics), and Jonathan Reinhardt (English) as its inaugural REM fellows.

Working with Dr. Kyle Roberts on the late nineteenth century Chicago book trade, Jessica learned how to design a research methodology and to apply bibliographical and digital strategies to library and book history. Jessica’s analysis took her through the theology section of Loyola’s earliest surviving library catalog (c.1878). She utilized BatchGeo to create maps of the catalog to provide an interactive way to explore publication information. According to Jessica, the “maps will provide a vital visual component for the 2014 exhibition and conference, Crossings and Dwellings: Restored Jesuits, Women Religious, American Experience, 1814-2014.”

Matt Jagger worked with Professors Tim O’Brien and Changwon Lim on research to develop an optimal design for multicategory response data. The process combined code development, tests, and modeling. Ultimately, the collaborators hope to submit this work to an appropriate journal. Matt presented their early findings at the Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Symposium, which he described as a “great experience.” Matt, one of the symposium award winners, found that the “symposium allowed [him] to discuss what we had worked on throughout the semester with other people”.

Jonathan Reinhardt worked with Dr. Pamela Caughie on Man Into Woman (1932), the first transsexual memoir. Jonathan focused his energies on the book’s first publisher in Germany, the Carl Reissner Velag located in Dresden, and on references to the publication in German newspapers and magazines. Along with Pamela Caughie, Niamh McGuigan, and Anthony Bertori, Jonathan presented “Recreating Lili Elbe: The Search for the First Transsexual” at the Society for Textual Studies conference in March 2013.
Michelle Nickerson is Associate Professor of History at Loyola University Chicago. She teaches courses on the history of women and gender, U.S. politics, social movements, cities, and suburbs. She is a member of the Organization of American Historians’ Distinguished Lecturer Program and co-convener of the Newberry Library’s monthly Women and Gender Seminar.

Nickerson developed an interest in the history of American social and political movements as an undergraduate at Rutgers University, where her work at the Women’s Center immersed her in feminist activism and the history department introduced new worlds to her. After graduating from Yale with her Ph.D. and completing a fellowship at the Huntington Library, Nickerson taught for five years at University of Texas at Dallas before joining the faculty at Loyola in 2011.

In spring 2013, Nickerson began working with History major Pedro Regalado as his research mentor in Loyola’s McNair Scholars Program. Part of the requirement of the McNair Program is that all students have a research mentor whose responsibility is partly to guide the student in the research project, assist in writing a research paper, help find a graduate program that best fits her/his needs, and provide guidance through the undergraduate career.

We asked Nickerson some general questions about her own experiences in graduate school, as well as her time mentoring Pedro.

**Why did you decide to pursue a doctorate?**
In college, I loved American history and admired my professors. I never wanted to leave the university. It was good fortune that my state university, Rutgers, had such outstanding research faculty who could lead me in the right direction.

**What were the biggest obstacles to obtaining your Ph.D.?** My perfectionism, insecurities about my work, and the negotiation of family versus professional decisions. I am sure I don’t need to point out to your readers that these issues are endemic to graduate student life. I just wish I could find a way to help my students feel assured that it gets easier and better.

**How did you get involved with McNair Scholars Program?** Pedro Regalado, a student in my upper-level writing-intensive history class, "Rebels and Reformers in American History", told me about the program and asked if I would be his advisor. It sounded like a perfect idea, since I knew that Pedro wanted to go to graduate school.

**What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?** This is a hard one…the most "rewarding" changes all of the time. I think seeing progress and improvement. When you see students making it, when they rally…that’s the best. This is the main reason it’s been so great to work with Pedro; working with him has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. It is wonderful to see an undergraduate take full advantage of a generous program. I certainly made myself available as an advisor, but the best part was watching Pedro mature intellectually into an independent research scholar.

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**WHAT’S SO FUNNY ABOUT MONEY?**
Don’t think finances are hilarious? Let us change your mind! Comedy Improv and 45 Kings meets Financial Aid in this entertaining and enlightening look into financial literacy for undergraduate and graduate students. Join us in the Damen Student Center for some laughs about loans. Free pizza while it lasts!

**Wednesday, November 20th, 2013 – 4:00-6:00pm**
Damen Multipurpose Room (2nd Floor)
The Graduate School Outreach Services (GSOS) is a program designed to foster and encourage community outreach along with service learning and engagement opportunities for graduate faculty, staff, students, and alumni. GSOS also works with organizations and shelters that are diligently serving and meeting the needs of the families in their communities, making a difference one step at a time.

The Graduate School Outreach Services program was launched in May 2012 and since that time has become a beacon of light to this community and abroad. Through the outpouring of generosity and strong desire to give back to our community shown by Loyola University Chicago faculty, staff, students, and alumni from May 2012 through the present, we were able to lend a helping hand to over 600 families, providing life sustaining necessities and contributing more than 900 community service learning hours.

For more information, please visit: http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/graduateschooloutreachservices/
Dr. William Germano: From Dissertation to Book

The Graduate School, in partnership with the University Libraries, hosted a talk with Dr. William Germano, Professor of English Literature and Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Cooper Union Institute on October 25th as part of ‘Open Access Week’. Dr. Germano discussed his book, From Dissertation to Book, 2nd Edition, and highlighted both the importance of a dissertation but more so the need to view it as just the beginning in one’s academic career. He believes that the future of academic writing is in the hands of young scholars who must create work that meets the broader expectations of readers, rather than the narrow requirements of academic committees. The University of Chicago Press hosted a book signing directly following the talk.

2013-2014 Professional and Academic Workshops

The Graduate School holds workshops to support the academic and professional endeavors of graduate students.

Workshop topics for this past fall 2013 included:
- “Life Beyond the Ivory Tower”
- “Conducting Human Subject Research”
- “External Funding Opportunities”
- “Graduate Student Writing”
- “What’s So Funny About Money?”

Workshops for spring 2014 will include:
- “Marketing Your Skills Outside the Academy” with Career Services
- “Working with the Institutional Review Board” with Office of Research Services
- “Graduate Student Writing: Part II” with English instructor, Michael Meinhardt
- Additional Financial Literacy Events

Dates and times for future workshops will be announced through the Graduate School listserv and updated on the workshops website at http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/workshops.shtml. We are always looking for new ideas for topics. If you would like to suggest a topic related to professional development, personal development, or academic success, drop us an email at gradschool@luc.edu.

St. Albert’s Day of Research

The 34th annual St. Albert’s Day celebration of research was held at HSC on October 24-25, 2013. It was the largest celebration yet with more than 300 posters submitted from The Graduate School, Stritch School of Medicine, Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, Loyola University Chicago’s Lake Shore Campus, and Loyola University Medical Center residents and fellows.

Congratulations to all participants and the St. Albert’s Committee for making this important event such a great success. Plans are already starting for next year, so be sure to save the dates: Oct. 30-31, 2014.

Applied Statistics Career Night and Pizza Party

Approximately forty people attended this semester’s Applied Statistics Career Night and Pizza Party on Monday, October 21, 2013. As an aid to our current M.S. students, recent graduates of Loyola’s M.S. program in Applied Statistics discussed their current jobs, the job-search process, the transition from graduate school to full-time employment, important courses to take to prepare oneself for a career in applied statistics, internship opportunities, and other practical tips.

Ms. Magdalena Bielaski discussed how her studies at Loyola helped her obtain, and to excel in, her job as Statistician at PepsiCo in downtown Chicago. Mr. Nam Nguyen emphasized how his M.S. degree in Applied Statistics at Loyola prepared him for his role as Senior Statistical Analyst of Panel Sciences at comScore Inc. and as a freelance biostatistical consultant. After their presentations, Magdalena and Nam were joined on a five-person panel by fellow alumni: Ms. Tan Fong Chan, Advanced Statistical Modeler at Blue Cross Blue Shield; Mr. George Mavrelis, Associate Strategist at Leo J. Shapiro & Associates Strategic Research; and Ms. Sara Ring, Product Intelligence Consultant at Allstate Insurance Company.

This event was sponsored in part by a grant from the American Statistical Association.
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We invite you to send us information that you think should be shared — an outstanding student, faculty mentor, research initiative, and anything else that helps us improve how we spread the word about graduate education at Loyola. Send your submissions for the next GSQ to gradnewsletter@luc.edu by January 31, 2014.

Stay connected with the Graduate School
Visit the Graduate School blog at: http://blogs.luc.edu/gradschool/
‘Like’ us on Facebook here: http://www.facebook.com/LoyolaGradSchool

Dean’s Message
Dr. Samuel Attoh, PhD
Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost for Research

Welcome back, everyone! I hope your academic year is off to a great start. This past year was quite a remarkable one for the Graduate School. We were presented with the 2013 Award for Excellence and Innovation in Graduate Education by the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools and received an honorable mention award from the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS). The Graduate School also received the largest amount of extramural funding in its history to support several projects, including the Doctoral Initiative for Minority Attrition and Completion (DIMAC), Diversifying Faculty in Illinois, the McNair Scholars Baccalaureate Achievement Program, and Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships. Moving forward, we will focus our energies on these and other academic projects.

However, one project I wish to mention is a grant we received from the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) to develop a financial education program for graduate and undergraduate students at Loyola. The grant was awarded as part of the groundbreaking CGS best practice program, Enhancing Student Financial Education, co-sponsored by TIAA-CREF. We will work collaboratively with the Office of Financial Services to use passive, active, and interactive modes of delivery to maximize student participation throughout the year. Several innovative, interactive, and digital approaches, including peer-to-peer workshops with finance-based board games, extensive online tools and games, a new Comprehensive Financial Education website, interactive improvisational theater presentations, and comic improvisation events will be utilized. Students will use the financial education game, “MindBlown Life”, an immersive and social career simulation mobile game that provides students with an interactive and engaging financial experience. In the game, players create a fully-customizable avatar, role-play working professionals, and earn resources through physics-based mini-games. They make numerous decisions throughout the course of gameplay and experientially learn everything from basic budgeting and financing college to managing their credit score and effectively dealing with debt. The Graduate School is working together with MindBlown Labs, the creators of this game, for beta-testing and full-scale implementation. Graduate students will also be receiving a survey from the Council of Graduate Schools to share their perspectives on their exposure to financial education resources. I encourage students to complete the survey; the more responses we can gather, the better informed we become in addressing your financial needs.

Have a great semester everyone!
Samuel A. Attoh

Commencement 2014 Schedule
The President’s Cabinet recently approved the calendar of Commencement ceremonies for May 2014. The new calendar was developed to better accommodate the numerous ceremonies, liturgies, and associated events that take place on campus throughout Loyola’s Commencement season, as well as provide greater hospitality to the 20,000+ guests who visit the Lake Shore Campus during this time.

Graduate students whose degrees were conferred in December 2013 and those who submit an application to receive a degree for May and August 2014 are invited to participate in the Graduate School Commencement Ceremony on Wednesday, May 7, 2014. You will receive an email to your LUC email account from "Loyola University Chicago" <commencement@luc.edu> about registering for the ceremony. (Note: This is different than applying for graduation.)

As plans develop, everything you need to know about Loyola Commencement and the Graduate School Ceremony will be available at http://www.luc.edu/commencement/ and http://www.luc.edu/commencement/schedule/2014commencementceremonies/.

Sunday, May 4
School of Continuing and Professional Studies
1:00 p.m. – Mundelein Auditorium

Wednesday, May 7
School of Education
1:00 p.m. – Gentile Arena
Graduate School* & IPS
3:00 p.m. – Gentile Arena
*(Including PhD, DBe, MA, MS, MPP, and MPH)

Thursday, May 8
Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing
10:00 a.m. – Gentile Arena
School of Social Work
3:00 p.m. – Gentile Arena
Friday, May 9
Arts & Sciences (ARTS) (undergraduates)
9:30 a.m. – Gentile Arena
Baccalaureate Mass
12:30 p.m. – Gentile Arena
Arts & Sciences (SCIENCES) (undergraduates) & IES
3:30 p.m. – Gentile Arena

Saturday, May 10
School of Communication
10:00 a.m. – Gentile Arena
Quinlan School of Business
3:00 p.m. – Gentile Arena
School of Law
1:00 a.m. – Gentile Arena
Stritch School of Medicine
4:00 p.m. – Gentile Arena