



Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

# THE GRADUATE SCHOOL QUARTERLY

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November 2008

## Dean Attoh's Welcome

Samuel A. Attoh, PhD, Associate Provost for Research and Centers  
& Dean of the Graduate School



On behalf of the Loyola University Graduate School staff, welcome to the inaugural edition of the Graduate School Newsletter. This is a special year for us as we embark upon a new strategic plan that will shape the Graduate School's goals and initiatives for the next 5 years. The plan will evaluate current academic policies, assessment procedures, cross disciplinary and campus opportunities, graduate student support services, research training opportunities, and the extent to which graduate education contributes in meaningful ways to undergraduate education. This newsletter serves as a resource for Loyola's graduate community. As such, please feel free to email or phone us with any suggestions or comments that you wish to share. †

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## The Graduate School Newsletter Debut

It's Official! Welcome to the first edition of our Newsletter, ***The Graduate School Quarterly***. We believe that many stakeholders would like to learn more about our students, our faculty, events, and initiatives at the Graduate School – what better way than to offer a communication tool that reaches across emails, the Graduate School website and hard copy to departments and schools. Our goal for every newsletter is to highlight students and graduate faculty who receive special honors, present at a national organization, and/or publish their work in scholarly publications. In addition, we aim to recognize faculty who are outstanding mentors for their students in our "Focus on Faculty Mentoring" feature as well as provide announcements about new Graduate School initiatives. We will also introduce everyone to an "Office you should know," a unit in the university who supports graduate students and graduate education. †

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*We invite you to send us information that you think should be shared – an outstanding student, faculty mentor, research initiatives and anything else that helps us improve how we spread the word about graduate education at Loyola.*

*The next edition will be published on January 16, 2009. **Send in your submissions by January 9th.** You can send information to [gradnewsletter@luc.edu](mailto:gradnewsletter@luc.edu).*

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## Welcome from Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC)

Jeanine Viau, GSAG President

As the representative body of the graduate student community, the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) strives to facilitate communication between students and university leadership, create spaces for interdisciplinary conversation, provide opportunities for service within the university and in the surrounding community, and assist graduate students financially. This semester, the council organized a Town Hall Meeting with the Deans of the Graduate School. We also organized a movie social, a service project with the Edgewater Community Council initiative, Edgewater Beautiful, and an interdisciplinary service resource forum. The schedule included a workshop on experiential pedagogy with Patrick Green, the Director for the Center for Experiential Learning. We look forward to continuing these community relationships and conversations in the coming year.

We recently elected a new executive board, whose terms begin in January. The new officers are Allison Fagan from the Department of English, President; Lee Krohn – Women’s Studies, Vice President; Susan Garneau – History, Secretary; Timothy Hazen – Political Science, Treasurer; and Mousumi Mukherjee, from the School of Education will continue as our Public Relations Liaison. Keep an eye out for announcements of upcoming funding opportunities and events, especially GSAC and the Graduate Alumni Group’s Second Annual Interdisciplinary Research Symposium this spring. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [gsacluc@gmail.com](mailto:gsacluc@gmail.com). We are grateful to serve the Loyola graduate community and we are looking forward to a great year.

## Welcome from Graduate Student of Color Alliance (GSCA)

Bhoomi Thakore, GSCA President

To further pursue Loyola’s mission of diversity, the Graduate Students of Color Alliance (GSCA) was established as an official university organization in 2008. The GSCA originally formed in response to the concerns of graduate students of color

on campus, specifically issues related to funding, mentoring and professional development. The GSCA represents a forum in which these graduate students can access professional and personal support targeted to them and their unique experiences.

The GSCA actively promotes and co-sponsors events on campus that bring attention to issues of diversity. Additionally, the GSCA encourages increased enrollment and retention of graduate students of color by organizing professional workshops, promoting mentoring and providing a social network for graduate students of color to meet and work with others who share their academic and personal interests. GSCA members actively participate in all events, and are welcome to petition future events throughout the year. Meetings are held 1-2 times every semester, and all members keep in regular contact through e-mail. Membership is open to all graduate students at Loyola University.

For more information or to join, contact Bhoomi Thakore, GSCA President, at [bthakor@luc.edu](mailto:bthakor@luc.edu).



*Graduate School New Student Orientation August 2008*

## Graduate School Alumni Association

*Once a Student. Forever an Alum.*

Pamela Kibbons, Ph.D., GSAA President

The Loyola University Graduate School Alumni

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# Meet the Graduate School Staff

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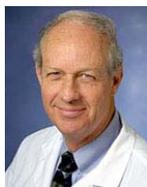


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## GRADUATE STUDENT KUDOS



The Graduate School congratulates its 2008 *President's Medallion Winner*, **Melissa D. Browning**. Melissa is a Ph.D. student in Christian Ethics at Loyola University Chicago. Her primary research areas include Feminist theology and ethics, sexual ethics, bioethics, and HIV and AIDS. Her dissertation project focuses on the ways in which abstinence as a prevention method for HIV and AIDS affects African women and girls. She will be doing fieldwork in Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya for this project beginning this summer. Melissa has worked in relief and development with street children and refugees in Nairobi, Kenya and has also completed academic fieldwork and study in the region. Melissa is also the International Coordinator for Loyola University Chicago's upcoming Kenya Immersion program, which will bring new feminist theologians from both Africa and the US to Nairobi, Kenya for a dialogue on the importance of solidarity in global feminist theologies. She has published in several journals and is currently co-editing a book on HIV/AIDS, Religion and Health with the African Association for the Study of Religion. According to one of her professors, few studies exist that have "attempted what Melissa proposes to do—interweaving ethics, theology, and qualitative research—in exploring HIV-AIDS prevention in Africa. And the work is desperately needed given how many millions in Africa are HIV positive and how many more will be infected with year."

**Meghan Burke**, a doctoral candidate in Sociology, received an \$18,744 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund the collection of her dissertation data as well as the first award provided by the new RIAGS (Research Incentive Awards for Graduate Students, see pg. 3) program to stimulate research grant activity within the graduate student community. Her dissertation, entitled "White Activism in Diverse Communities: A Contextual Examination of White Self-Concept," explores white racial action and discourse, the sustainability of diversity in urban settings, and the politics of racial justice. In collaboration with the Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL), Meghan's close examination of the struggle for minority homeownership, retention of affordable rental housing, the structure and impact of local grassroots organizations, and initiatives to strengthen these communities will provide key insights for policymaking that may continue to nurture and support diverse neighborhoods in the future. Congratulations, Meghan!

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*Extraordinary lives in action.*

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## AN OFFICE YOU SHOULD KNOW...

### WELLNESS SERVICES FOR GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

Students currently attending classes are eligible for services at Loyola's Wellness Center. Services include a wide variety of mental and physical wellness and care, including clinical services such as testing, diagnosis, and preventative care, health education, nutrition counseling, short-term mental health services and referrals, and support groups. Of particular interest is the **dissertation and thesis support group** specifically for graduate students in the process of writing a thesis or dissertation. This group is facilitated by a clinical psychologist, and membership opens each semester. Watch your email for information about the Spring 2009 group, or contact **Tari Mellinger at 773-508-2530** for more information.

A complete list of current groups is available at <http://www.luc.edu/wellness/fall.shtml>.

You are also welcome to use the Wellness Center's online screening and informational tools, including self-care information, nutritional advice, and mental wellness tools. You can find several links at <http://www.luc.edu/wellness/resources.shtml>.

Students on the Maywood Campus should also visit this page for additional resources: <http://www.meddean.luc.edu/depts/camplife/handbook/services.htm>.

The Graduate School has also partnered with the Wellness Center to perform a large-scale assessment of graduate and professional students' mental wellness needs. This survey aims to assess students' knowledge and use of mental wellness services, their needs for new or revised services, their overall mental wellness, and any correlations between academic environment and problems such as anxiety, depression, and alcohol abuse. We hope that the results will help us to provide both better care and the best available academic training to graduate and professional students. ✦

### NEW GRADUATE SCHOOL INITIATIVE

#### **RIAGS (Research Incentive Award for Graduate Students)**

The Office of Research Services and The Graduate School announce a new program, the Research Incentive Award for Graduate Students (RIAGS), which became effective August 1, 2008. It consists of an award of \$300 for any Loyola graduate student submitting a proposal for external funding to a Federal or private agency, as well as a bonus award of \$1000 for any approved proposal.

This new initiative is meant to create an incentive for Graduate School students to apply for substantial external funding to support their scholarly and research activities. Such external funding benefits the student both by directly supporting the student's research and by providing experience in the crucial skills of grant-writing.

More details and eligibility guidelines are available at <http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/RIAGS.shtml> or contact Dr. Nicole Lassahn at [nlassah@luc.edu](mailto:nlassah@luc.edu) or Caroline Kappers at [ckapper@luc.edu](mailto:ckapper@luc.edu) ✦



*First Interdisciplinary Research Symposium for Graduate School Students and Alumni - April 2008*

## Graduate Student Funding Opportunity:

Applications are now being accepted for

### Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellowships

*"The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others." -- Dr. Albert Schweitzer*

Now in its thirteenth year, the Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program addresses the health and well-being of underserved and vulnerable communities throughout Chicago. Annually, 30 graduate students are selected from diverse fields to become Fellows who will design and implement year-long direct service projects aimed at improving health and strengthening communities. For example, last year Adrienne Hampton, a medical student from Northwestern University, taught prenatal yoga classes at the PCC Wellness Health Center to alleviate some of the stress experienced in pregnancy. Deresha Gibson, a Loyola University social work student, worked with Heart to Heart to create a network among seniors to help reduce loneliness and isolation.

The Fellowship has a secondary objective: to cultivate a cadre of aspiring professionals to embark on a lifelong path of service. In addition to 200 hours of direct service, other elements of the Program are designed to inspire and inform the Fellows, and to reinforce their commitment to humanitarian service. These include monthly meetings, symposia on pertinent public health issues and service days. Fellows receive a \$2,000 stipend for their participation.

This Program is one of 11 Schweitzer Fellowship Programs that have been established around the US. Nationally over 1800 Schweitzer Fellows in the fields of medicine, nursing, law, public health, psychology, social work, pharmacy, occupational therapy, music and others have followed Dr. Schweitzer's example and "made their lives their argument."

**Information about the program may also be found online at <http://www.schweitzerfellowship.org>, or you may send an email to [rwang@hmpg.org](mailto:rwang@hmpg.org) or call 312 372-4292 ext. 24. †**

## Focus on Graduate Student Mentoring



*Dr. David Embrick, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology - Graduate Faculty Mentor*

Mentoring, to me, is a combination of establishing good rapport with students and being able to provide them with sound advice (and support) on academic, social, career, and emotional matters. It is the ability to get students to believe in themselves during times of difficulty and reminding them of their responsibilities during the not so difficult times. I do not know if I am anywhere close to being a model of a good mentor. However, I do know the importance of having a great mentor. If I had not met my advisors in graduate school when I did, I most likely would not be here today. In fact, I probably would never have gotten my Master's degree, let alone my Ph.D. They provided me with more than just the tools I needed to be a good researcher. In a high intensity environment where research and prestige went hand-in-hand, they found the time to talk to me about office and academic politics, about the importance of networking, and about marketing strategies. More importantly, they made the time to give me the emotional support that I needed to stay in school. These are the folks that I think of when I think of great mentors.

It is interesting that as scholars we sometimes fail to see the faces in front of us. That is, many of us—sociologists especially, but not exclusively—know the research on poverty and life chances. We know that poor and working class students tend to have more financial difficulties compared to their middle class counterparts, and that for many of them one economic setback could mean the difference between graduating and not graduating. Moreover, poor and working class students at many colleges and universities must often navigate the hidden injuries of class—the psychological consequences of poverty. We

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## RECENT EVENTS

**African Women in America Inaugural Conference: “The Voice of African Children: The Mission of Women”** -- On October 17-18, Loyola University Chicago along with several university departments, hosted the inaugural conference of the African Women in America (AfWiAm). The goal of the conference was to bring together distinguished African Women in the United States, AfWiAm and other important dignitaries to begin the dialogue on AfWiAm and the Human Rights for the African Children.

**Graduate Student Service Project** -- GSAC hosted its fall service project on Saturday, October 13. Members helped with mulching garden beds for the Edgewater Community Garden. Volunteers said it was a beautiful day of fun, service and community building!

**Town Hall & Movie Night** -- On Friday, October 24, GSAC hosted a Graduate Student Town Hall Meeting with Deans Attoh, Mooney-Melvin, and Horowitz. They answered questions from the graduate student audience and addressed issues graduate students are facing. Attendees said it was a great opportunity to voice their questions and concerns directly to the Graduate School Administration. Following the Town Hall meeting, students mingled over pizza and ended the evening with a movie, *The Visitor*.

**Graduate Service Resource Forum** -- On Friday, November 7, GSAC hosted its first service resource forum. The goal of the event was to create an interdisciplinary space for graduate students, university leadership, and local service organizations to share resources for integrating service and activism with professional development, research, and pedagogy. The initiative reflects a desire to ground research and pedagogy in commitments to social justice and renewal in graduate student scholarship.

**Dr. Ron Hall Lecture** -- GSCA hosted a lecture on November 13 with Dr. Ron Hall, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at Michigan State University entitled *The Bleaching Syndrome: Manifestations of Racism in the 21st Century*. GSCA found that the lecture brought together graduate student scholars who study issues of diversity at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

**“Coming to America”: Social Justice and Global Education** -- Held in conjunction with International Education Week, this event was sponsored by the Graduate

School, the Office for International Programs, the Office of Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, and various student organizations. The international celebration was designed to create mutual understanding and build community at Loyola. Students, staff and faculty discovered the accomplishments of Loyola undergraduate and graduate students while enjoying great food, festive cultural performances, and student presentations. The events were held on November 19 & 20.

## SAVE THE DATE

### ***December Celebration***

The Graduate School invites you and a guest to attend a reception honoring our August and December 2008 Graduates: Master of Arts, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 6:00 pm at Piper Hall, Lake Shore Campus, Chicago, IL . RSVP by December 5 with the Graduate School at 773.508.3396.

### ***Graduate School Interdisciplinary Research Symposium***

The Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) in conjunction with the Graduate School Alumni Association (GSAA) and The Graduate School will hold the first interdisciplinary research symposium for current graduate students and alumni on Saturday, April 11, 2009, Crown Center Auditorium at the Lake Shore Campus. The research symposium will serve as a forum for Loyola graduate students and alumni to present their work to their peers. Look for more details in the next issue of the newsletter.

### ***The 139th Loyola University Chicago Commencement***

The Graduate School will host its 2009 commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. in the Gentile Center at the Lake Shore Campus. Visit the University's official commencement website for updated information at <http://www.luc.edu/commencement>. ✦



Association has been in existence since 2006. The purpose of the organization is to advance the alumni community of scholars, as a group of individuals, who reflect the Jesuit heritage of Loyola University

Our goals reflect the following areas:

1. Promote a professional networking group among Graduate School alumni.
2. Recruit, retain, and support the development of students through mentoring and other collaborative endeavors in the Jesuit tradition.
3. Encourage, promote, maintain, and perpetuate the friendships and personal associates established by attendance and pursuit of study at LUC.
4. Promote a collegial professional development and graduate student mentoring infrastructure for ongoing knowledge cultivation and potential research opportunities with Graduate school Alumni Association membership.
5. Foster a continuous a relationship between the alumni and the Graduate School’s respective academic programs.

In support of our goals, several activities and events are planned that embrace the above initiatives. Please check the Graduate School Alumni website at [http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/alumni\\_welcome.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/alumni_welcome.shtml) for current events and activities. For further questions please feel free to contact Pamela Kibbons, Ph.D., Graduate School Alumni Association President at [pkibbons@luc.edu](mailto:pkibbons@luc.edu). †



know that in many academic settings, women do not receive tenure at the same rates as men. We also know that female graduate students will more likely than not face gender bias in the classroom. We know that students of color continue to be plagued by racial microaggressions, from both their professors and their peers. These microaggressions impair minority students’ academic performance in a multitude of ways. We know all of these things as scholars, yet sometimes we tend not to think about how many of our own students are impacted by racial, gender, or class inequalities. A good mentor, in my opinion, is able to recognize how our students’ lives are affected by the structural and institutional inequalities that exist in our society.

Finally, good mentoring is not necessarily found in individuals but in environments that collectively facilitate good mentoring practice. Although I am able to point out those invaluable mentors who deeply inspired me in graduate school, I also recognize how important it was for me to belong to a department that fostered not only academic excellence, but social and mental well-being. Thus, while I hope to follow in the footsteps of those folks who I consider to be great mentors, I also recognize that I am only able to do so because I work in a department that not only cares about its students, but is also filled with great mentors. †

*“...good mentoring is not necessarily found in individuals but in environments that collectively facilitate good mentoring practice.”*

**The Graduate School Quarterly**

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