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THE GRADUATE SCHOOL QUARTERLY

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Graduate School Interdisciplinary Research Symposium

Changing Landscapes: Global and Local

The Graduate School would like to congratulate both the Graduate Student Advisory Council and the Graduate Alumni Association as co-sponsors of the highly successful Second Annual Graduate Research Symposium, which took place on March 21, 2009 at Crown Center, Lake Shore Campus. The event drew a crowd of over 70 people who engaged with graduate students and alumni research, with a focus on the theme: **Changing Landscapes: Global and Local**. This theme provided a broad context for over 30 presentations, and 11 poster sessions from more than a dozen disciplines. Each presentation utilized this theme under the global Graduate School's mission to foster projects that work toward building community, promote social justice, address the complex problems confronting society, and promote global awareness.

Awards were given to seven groups of presenters this year for outstanding scholarly research that best linked the mission and goals of the symposium.



Changing Landscapes: Global and Local 2009 Research Symposium Award Section Winners

- ◆ Melissa Browning: "HIV/AIDS Prevention and Sexed Bodies: Rethinking Abstinence in Light of the African AIDS Pandemic" - Theology
- ◆ Elizabeth Hanna-Hanson: "Minor Passions: Asexual Regionalisms, Regionalist Asexualities" – English
- ◆ Amber Hewitt, Rabiatu Barrie, Gihane Jeremie-Brink: "Stereotypic Roles and Psychological Distress and Well-Being of African American Girls" – Counseling Psychology
- ◆ Maureen O’Conor: "Degree Attainment among Adult Learners “– Higher Education
- ◆ Amanda O’Dell: Poster Presentation- "The Role of Chronic Discrimination in Reducing African Americans’ Benefits from Daily Positive Events” – Developmental Psychology
- ◆ Julia Peters: "The Association between Air Pollution and Preterm Delivery in Chicago, 2000-2004” – Stritch School of Medicine
- ◆ Hajirah Saeed: "Building Bridges: Evolution of Violence Prevention in Maywood” – Stritch School of Medicine

Congratulations to all!

We look forward to next year’s Symposium. ✦

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GRADUATE STUDENT OF COLOR ALLIANCE MENTORING SYMPOSIUM

On March 27, 2009, the Graduate Students of Color Alliance (GSCA) held its 1st Annual B.R.I.D.G.E. Symposium at Loyola University. The primary goals of B.R.I.D.G.E. (Building Roads to Increase Diversity in Graduate Education) are to increase the number of minority students who enroll in graduate programs, and to provide information and mentorship for undergraduate students of color at Loyola University who are considering graduate school.

Approximately 30 undergraduate students, graduate students, and Loyola staff listened to graduate student panelists speak about navigating graduate admissions, deciding research interests, and surviving graduate school. Graduate School Dean and Associate Vice Provost Samuel Attoh began the ceremony with an opening statement regarding the GSCA's valuable role of bringing students of color together from across graduate disciplines. Assistant Professor of Sociology and GSCA Faculty Sponsor David Embrick presented the statement of purpose for the GSCA, a forum for graduate students of color to network and promote events on campus that address the greater issues of racism and diversity in society -- and the detailed the benefits that the GSCA has provided to current graduate students of color at Loyola.

Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL) Philip Nyden was awarded the 1st Annual Social Justice Award for his efforts in providing research and funding opportunities to graduate students of color through CURL, and for his dedication to mentoring graduate students and serving as a member on their dissertation and thesis committees. Junior Shelena Johnson won the 1st Annual B.R.I.D.G.E. Undergraduate Paper Competition with her essay on the state of diversity in higher education.



Graduate School Dean Samuel Attoh, Director of CURL Philip Nyden and GSCA Faculty Sponsor David Embrick at the 1st Annual B.R.I.D.G.E. Symposium.

For more information on the B.R.I.D.G.E. Symposium or the GSCA, contact Bhoomi Thakore, President at bthakor@luc.edu. ✦

GRADUATE STUDENT KUDOS



Artemus Gaye fled his home in Liberia during its civil war escaping an African nation founded by former American slaves with a complex and often contested history. As a living descendant of first generation Liberians Abduhl Rahahman and Isabella, two former slaves whose perilous but ultimately triumphant journey to freedom was immortalized in the PBS documentary, *Prince Among Slaves* (2008), Mr. Gaye is passionate about the recovery of their legacy and that of others long forgotten or lost.

Artemus Gaye and the 9th Circuit Court judge and former Roman Catholic professor, John T. Noonan are collaborating to produce a PBS documentary film based on Judge Noonan's book, *The Antelope*, which involves the history of a group of African slaves who were captured and brought to the United States and whose fate was ultimately resolved by the United States Supreme Court. The project is expected to begin in the fall of 2009.

Artemus Gaye is President of the Board of Directors for the prince Ibrihima and Isabella Freedom Foundation (www.piiff.org) and is currently pursuing his PhD in Theology at Loyola. ✦

BELATED KUDOS

Third-year PhD student Julia Daniel (formerly, Barrett), a Crown Fellow in the Department of English, won the Anthony and Melanie Fathman Younger Scholars Award at the T. S. Eliot Society's annual meeting in September 2008. This award recognizes the best presentation given by a graduate student or new PhD, as determined by the Society's Board of Directors at the end of the conference. Julia won for her paper "'Or it might be you': Audiences in and of *Sweeney Agonistes*," which was originally written for Verna Foster's "Dramatic Theory" course. ✦



NEW MENTORING ACTIVITIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE



The Political Science department launched a series of new mentoring programs for graduate students beginning in fall 2008 under the direction of new Graduate Program Director, Professor Peter J. Schraeder. These programs hope to generate a greater sense of “community” among all-levels of graduate students and connect Political Science graduate students with opportunities both within and outside the department and the university in general.

The series began with the first annual department orientation session in September 2008, followed by a joint reception with 25 new graduate students with 15 faculty members. This event provided an opportunity to introduce graduate students, both new and those at the dissertation stage, to each other, the faculty, and the teaching and research expectations of the discipline. Additionally, the Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA) was resurrected under the leadership of Erin McCullough (President), and Timothy Hazen (Treasurer) of the university-wide Graduate Student Advisory Council.

Ongoing efforts included the creation of an email “alert system” to make all graduate students aware of internal and external grant opportunities, as well as graduate opportunities in general. Thanks to this effort, our students applied for grants for which they were previously unaware, such as Katherine Cioch, who received a Community Steward’s Fellowship for the spring 2009 semester as part of her work with the Chicago office of Amnesty International.

The Department of Political Science also initiated a new teaching mentor’s program that linked four teaching graduate students with four faculty mentors during the fall 2008 semester. As part of this process, the faculty mentors review the syllabi of the student teachers, visit their classes, assess their student evaluations, and undertake a teaching dialogue with the graduate student, who typically is teaching for the first time.

At the end of the semester, all students and faculty mentors were joined by Drs Alan Gitelson, Claudio Katz, and Susan Mezey for a luncheon seminar to discuss the experience. The discussion included assignment and grading strategies, how best to stimulate discussion and analysis of the readings, and the effectiveness of using films and other electronic classroom aids.

Professor Williams captured the sentiment of the group when he noted that it was the first time that such a group of Political Science faculty and graduate students had ever sat down together as colleagues to engage in a discussion over teaching strategies. This sentiment was echoed by graduate student Nelson Wainwright who underscored how appreciative he was to be treated as a colleague. Indeed, this discussion of teaching strategies with our graduate students reminded me of my own amazing first experience as a graduate student teacher in the 1980s, and how the love of teaching has remained with me ever since. ✦

Office of Student Diversity

The Office of Student Diversity’s Fifth Annual Diversity Banquet was held on April 17, 2009. Several graduate students, faculty and staff were recognized and awarded for their “academic, spiritual, cultural, and professional contributions to diversity at Loyola.”

Outstanding Faculty Award:

- Dr. David Embrick, Sociology Department

Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award:

- Emily LaRee Alvelo, Higher Education

Outstanding Professional Staff Award:

- Marcela Gallegos, Graduate Student Life Coordinator, The Graduate School

Congratulations Dave, Emily, and Marcela! ✦

Graduate Program Updates

- Theology -

- Kenya Immersion Project - This June (2009), Loyola's Department of Theology will send five doctoral students and post-graduates to Kenya to join five Kenyan doctoral students for an immersion project on global feminist theologies. This project will not only provide participants with a deeper understanding of global feminist theologies, but will allow an intimate connection to the issues facing women globally, as participants engage local communities through fieldwork and experiential learning. To learn more about the Kenya project, visit the website at www.kenyaimmersion.com and come out and support us! The project will host a fundraiser Sunday April 19, 2009 at 6pm at Ethiopian Diamond Restaurant (6120 N Broadway). To buy tickets, stop by the Theology department or purchase tickets online.
- Look for Brock Bingham's article, "Learning from Left Behind? A Call for Coherent Accounts of Scripture," appearing in *Anglican Theological Review* May 2009.
- Theresa Calpino's paper, "Paul's Use of Creation Imagery: Romans 8:18-30," was accepted for the 2009 Annual Meeting program's unit on Ecological Hermeneutics. The meeting will be held from 11/21/2009 to 11/24/2009.
- Congratulations to Alexander Lucas. Alec recently won "Best Graduate Paper" at the Midwest Society of Biblical Literature Conference for his paper "Evocations of the Characteristic Calf Rebellion: Romans 2:5-11, Exodus 32-34, Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22, and Wisdom of Solomon 15: 1-6 "
- PBS Collaborative Documentary Project: Artemus Gaye – See Page 2 †

-History-

- The Crown Center was alive with historians on Saturday, April 24 for the 5th annual Chicago history conference put together and run by the LUC History Graduate Student Association. The conference drew over 80 graduate students from institutions such as Loyola, the University of Cincinnati, Miami University of Ohio, Claremont

Graduate University, Western Illinois University, Iowa State University, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Eastern Illinois University, University of California, Berkeley and Goldsmiths, University of London. Sessions included papers examining the built environment, the American Civil War, Witches and Witchcraft, "Food" history, the Atlantic World, bishops and explorers in medieval history and race in the 20th century.

- Maria Reynolds and Laura McDowell presented posters at the spring conference of the National Council on Public History held in Providence, Rhode Island.
- The LUC History Graduate Student Association has sponsored a series of workshops for History Graduate Students this academic year. The most recent, held this past March, focused on the creation of professional C.V.'s and resumes.
- History graduate students continued their support for the Chicago Metro History Fair Program, a Chicagoland initiative that engages middle and high school students in a variety of different history-related projects. Winners at the Chicago level go on to compete at state and national competitions. Each March the History Department hosts a session where graduate students judge history research papers. Other graduate students judge exhibit and media entries at various sites in Cook County. †

Graduate School Administrators Present

Dr. Mooney-Melvin, Associate Dean in the Graduate School and Dr. Jessica Horowitz, Assistant Dean presented at the annual Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Graduate Meeting in Baltimore, MD in late March. They discussed several new initiatives that focus on the synergies between Graduate and Undergraduate education at Loyola.

Dean Samuel Attoh presented at the 65th Annual Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools in Kansas City, MO on April 2, 2009. His panel discussion centered on the unique benefits and challenges of interdisciplinary programs at the graduate level, including barriers, and research potential for both students and faculty. †

139TH LUC Commencement

The Graduate School commencement ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 12:00 pm in the Gentile Center at the Lake Shore Campus. Please continue to check your luc.edu email account and check it frequently for updates and information. You can also refer to the University's official commencement website for updates at www.luc.edu/commencement. ✦

Farewell, Dr. Kniss

Dr. Fred Kniss, Chair of Sociology and former Interim Dean of the Graduate School is leaving Loyola this June. He has accepted the position of Provost at Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia. Dr. Kniss has been at Loyola for 18 years and has been an outstanding teacher and researcher, and a vocal advocate for both graduate and undergraduate students. We wish to thank him for his years of service and wish him much success in his new position. He will be greatly missed by all. ✦

Graduate Faculty of the Year Award

Congratulations to Dr. Pamela Caughie, Professor and Graduate Program Director in the Department of English, on receiving the Graduate Faculty Member of the Year Award. Dr. Caughie has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to graduate students and graduate education at Loyola. She will be honored at both the New Alumni Reception for Graduate Students on May 6th and the Graduate School Commencement ceremony on May 7th. ✦

Dissertation of the Year Award

Congratulations to Tory V. Pearman, Doctoral student in the English Department on receiving the outstanding dissertation of the year award for her dissertation titled: "Twinned Deviance: Women and Disability in Medieval Literature" Dr. Pearman will be honored at the Graduate School Commencement ceremony on May 7th. ✦

Student Commencement Speaker 2009

Congratulations to John Laukitis, doctoral student in Cultural and Educational Policies program on being chosen as the student speaker at the Graduate School's Commencement ceremony. ✦

Format Deadlines for Theses and Dissertations

For August 2009 conferral:

- June 1st – Format Check
- July 1st – Final Copies due to Graduate School

For December 2009 conferral:

- October 1st- Format Check
- November 1st- Final Copies due to Graduate School

Questions? Please contact Elizabeth Hoffman Ransford at formathelp@luc.edu. ✦

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 August 28, 2009. Please send your submissions to gradnewsletter@luc.edu by August 18th.

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