Humanities Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellows Announced

Last fall, the provost sent invitations to program chairs for nominations for a new program. The Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship Program in the Humanities provides two awards for a one-year appointment, with option for renewal, beginning August 15, 2012. The program is designed to provide Loyola undergraduates with recently trained doctorates who are well-acquainted with the latest pedagogies and are better able to connect with the undergraduate psyche. Fellows may have the opportunity to network with funding agencies such as the American Council of Learned Societies and the Mellon Foundation. There is potential within this program to extend the fellowship to other AJCU institutions, foster intellectual discourse and interdisciplinary dialogue within and beyond humanities programs at Loyola, and to formalize mentoring and professional development during the postdoctoral experience which may enhance job placement opportunities for future fellows.

Those awarded the fellowship were chosen by a panel comprised of faculty members from a variety of disciplines in The Graduate School of the College of Arts and Sciences. This year’s fellowships were awarded to Elizabeth ‘Liz’ Matelski, PhD 2011, English and Andrew Pierce, PhD 2010, Philosophy. They may also elect to participate in and help facilitate graduate student orientations and teaching effectiveness seminars.

The Humanities Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellowship is generously supported by the Office of the Provost, the College of Arts and Sciences, and The Graduate School.

Dr. Liz Matelski

Fall 2011 Community and Global Stewards Fellows

The following students were awarded the Fall 2011 Community and Global Stewards Fellowship. Community Stewards engage in scholarship that connects the social, civic and ethical problems in our communities and world with the intellectual resources of their disciplines:

- Lydia Billatos, Sociology
- Hoon Choi, Theology
- Christina Fiorito, Criminal Justice
- Aliza Gilbert, Higher Education
- Melissa Howell, Sociology
- Nathan Kittle, Bioethics
- Emma Klosterman, Medical Sciences
- Linda Louis, English
- Ashley Velcheck, Public Policy

Congratulations Students!
Robyn Mallett
Social Psychology

I had no idea how to succeed in graduate school. As a first generation college student, I found myself without a sense of how to select a program or mentor. I followed my passion for social justice issues when selecting a program and was fortunate to identify several mentors. My inexperience meant that I struggled the first few years. Once I realized my mentors did not expect me to know everything and that asking questions was not a sign of weakness, my confidence grew.

My mentors made me who I am today. When I was an undergraduate, they inspired my love of psychology, told me about graduate school, and insisted that I apply. When I was a graduate student, they taught me about responsibility, critical thinking, and perseverance. Following their example, I learned how to be a researcher, a teacher, and a mentor to my own students. As a postdoctoral fellow, they helped me develop independence and taught me how to manage the responsibilities of being a faculty member. As a faculty member, they continue to help me grow as a scholar and professional.

My own mentoring style is a work in progress as I learn from experience working with my students. Each student has a unique skill set, personality, interests, and personal background and I attempt to adjust my advising accordingly. For each student, however, I try to maintain three practices.

1. Establish myself among a network of mentors. Each faculty member has many responsibilities, including teaching, service, maintaining an active program of research, and mentoring multiple graduate students. Having multiple mentors increases the likelihood that students get what they need in terms of training and support. It also allows students to capitalize on each mentor’s strength and avoid being entirely dependent on one person to make progress in the program.

2. Develop projects that are mutually interesting and beneficial. Having a good fit with one’s primary advisor is essential. Some of this depends on the personalities of the student and mentor, but a big part of ensuring a good fit is developing a project that is appealing and rewarding for both parties. I always have more obligations than I can meet—especially now that I am a parent! Although I would love to give every project equal attention, I must prioritize projects that fit my area of expertise and are likely to result in publication. Students benefit from my enthusiasm about their projects by receiving prompt feedback on drafts of their proposals, thoughtful attention when it comes time to designing studies and analyzing data, and active involvement in the process of writing manuscripts.

3. Be clear about timelines and expectations. One important lesson that I learned in graduate school was that, despite her amazing academic talents, my advisor could not read my mind. I discovered that it was important to set clear expectations for what I would provide to her and what I would like her to provide to me. This process would often result in a negotiation where I would share my timeline to reach a goal (e.g., defending my thesis) and she would tell me what type of support she could provide to me, given her other obligations. Based on this experience, I ask my students to develop a timeline for each project so I have a sense of when they will need the most attention. When I receive drafts of their work that require feedback, I let them know when I will be able to respond and add that item to my calendar. Doing so keeps projects moving forward, reduces feelings of frustration that the other party is not doing her or his part, and allows for adjustments in the timeline as complications arise.

The photo accompanying this article shows my (graduate and undergraduate) students and I attending a Cubs game. It is one example of how I show my appreciation for their hard work and dedication. I find that organizing these events—in addition to giving awards for outstanding effort—builds morale and encourages mentoring among the students in my lab.

The following graduate students applied and were chosen to participate in the 2012-2013 Research Mentoring Program (RMP). The RMP pairs graduate and undergraduate students in graduate research:

- Nisha Barretto, Biochemistry
- Stephanie Grunewald, School Psychology
- Diana Guelespe, Sociology
- Andrew Kilianski, Microbiology & Immunology
- Daniel Kassel, Chemistry
- Peter Kotowski, History
- Megan Mull-Polanin, Counseling Psychology
- Brittni Qualizza, Chemistry
- Celia Quinn, Social Work
- Valerie Ray, Microbiology & Immunology
- Sophia Rodriguez, Cultural and Educational Policy Studies
- Jennifer Smith, Social Psych
- Andrew Volk, Molecular Biology
- Dana Wagner, Social Psych
- Devon Wallace, English
- Amanda Ward, Clinical Psych
- Nancy Wyss, Developmental Psych

“Each student has a unique personality, skill set, interests and personal background and I am learning how to adjust my advising accordingly.”
GSAC would like to welcome back all graduate students from their Winter Break as we begin the Spring Semester of 2012. This spring is lined up to be a great semester for GSAC as we are excited to be hosting the 5th Annual Interdisciplinary Research Symposium on April 21st at the Lakeshore Campus. Make sure to submit your research papers/posters abstracts to gsac@luc.edu by March 2nd!

Also, the hilariously-popular and frighteningly-true, PhD Comics Movie will be making its way onto Loyola’s campus for a special showing for Graduate Students in the upcoming months! The exact date and venue has not yet been finalized, but once everything is confirmed, all the details will be sent out on the GradSchAnnounce emails. The event will provide graduate students with an opportunity to take a break from the semester grind, to socialize with other graduate students, and to provide funds and money to a local charitable organization.

GSAC is looking forward to a great 2012 Spring Semester. If you are interested in participating in GSAC or would like to learn more about the organization, please do not hesitate to email Tim at gsac@luc.edu.

History Graduate Student Conference

On November 5, 2011, the History Graduate Student Association hosted the Eighth Annual History Graduate Student Conference at Loyola’s Water Tower Campus. Traditionally held during the spring semester, the shift to November brought great success to the conference. This year, Loyola received over seventy paper proposals, more than double the number received for the previous year’s conference. From these submissions, thirty-six papers were selected. They represented a range of topics, including the role of digital media in the study of history, the historical construction of space, and contestations of power in the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Atlantic World. Not only did the conference include an assortment of diverse topics, but it also expanded its geographic reach. Students attended from places such as Harvard University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Yale University, the University of California at Berkeley, and George Mason University, among many others. For the fourth consecutive year the conference featured a keynote address during lunch. Dr. Linda Clemmons, a professor of history at Illinois State University, presented her work on missionary efforts among the Dakota tribe. The Eighth Annual History Graduate Student Conference was a celebration of scholarship and collegiality between graduate students. The History Graduate Student Association appears well positioned to build on this success for subsequent graduate conferences.

~Dr. David Dennis, History

WEEKEND of EXCELLENCE
Celebrating Transformative Education

Call for Abstracts
2012 Graduate School Research Symposium

The Graduate School will host its interdisciplinary research symposium as part of Loyola’s university-wide Weekend of Excellence on Saturday April 21, 2012 at the Crown Center on Lake Shore Campus from 9 AM to 5 PM. The symposium serves as a forum for Loyola graduate students to present their scholarly work and to provide participants with an appreciation of how Loyola Graduate students are incorporating the Jesuit ideals within their research.

The theme of this year’s symposium is Pursuit of Truth: Jesuit Ideals in Graduate Research. We invite students to display their research exemplifying one of the six Jesuits ideals of the university: Faith & Spirituality, Social Justice, Ethics & Values, Global Awareness, New Approaches & Methods, and Community & Service.

Students can present their work in the form of either a paper presentation or as a poster presentation. Papers will be presented as part of a panel session followed by questions and answers from the audience. Poster presentations will be informal throughout the day.

Any current graduate student of the Graduate School is welcomed to submit. Students should rank which of the Jesuit ideals (up to three) they think best exemplify their research. Monetary awards will be given to the top paper presenters and poster presenters.

Submissions are due Friday, March 2, 2012 at 5:00pm and should be submitted electronically to GSAC@luc.edu. Submissions should include keywords that broadly describe the research particularly paying attention to individuals not familiar with the discipline. In Word format, please include an abstract (maximum 250 words) and a brief bibliographical statement (50-100 words). Selected paper and posters will be notified by March 23, 2012.

Questions can be sent to GSAC@luc.edu.
Professional Accolades

Presentations


Moff Hudec, Amy (Boston University) and Courtney Irby, Sociology, “Sexual Abstinence as Women’s Responsibility: Expectations within Evangelical and Latter-day Saint Communities.” at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion’s Annual Conference, Milwaukee, WI, October 2011.


Rebecca West, Sociology, and Bhoomi Thakore, Sociology, “‘They All Look Alike’: Racial Perception, Popular Culture and American Girl Dolls.” at the annual meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology, Evanston, IL, October 2011.

Awards


Brian Dennert, first place in the Midwest Region of the Society of Biblical Literature’s Graduate Paper Competition in the category of Hebrew Scriptures/Ancient Near East Studies for his paper “When a Song Is Not a Song: A Reexamination of Isaiah 27:2-6”

Tara Flanagan, best paper award for “The Broken Body of God: Moving Beyond the Beauty Bias in Ecological Ethics” presented at the Zygon Student Symposium on Science and Spirituality.

Publications


Julia Brinski, English. “Vanity Fair’s Ethic of Readerly Emotion” in Victorians: A Journal of Culture and Literature (Issue 120, Fall 2011, pages 118-128). The article was part of a special issue commemorating the 200th anniversary of William Makepeace Thackeray's birth.

Kristine E. Harkrider, Sociology, with Christopher G. Ellison (U of Texas at San Antonio), Andrea K. Henderson (U of Texas at Austin), Norval D. Glenn (U of Texas at Austin) “Sanctification, Stress, and Marital Quality,” Family Relations 60 (October 2011): 404 – 420.

Kasey Henricks (Sociology) and Ana Moreno "No Papers, No Problem: Uncle Sam Wants You," in the Association for Critical Sociology's new digital journal Synkrisis.


O’Brien, Sean P. “In company let us hope with better qualities’: The Use of Invoked Readers in Vanity Fair.” Victorians/VCL 120, Fall 2011.

Placements

Laurie Stoll, PhD, Sociology 2011, tenure track position at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse.

Grant Funding

Dr. Tracy DeHart, Psychology, received a $150,00.00 grant from the NSF for her proposal, “Relations Between Perceived Discrimination and Romantic Relationship Functioning Among African American Couples."
Community and Global Stewards Fellowship
Spring 2012 Competition

The Graduate School announces the 2011-2012 Community and Global Stewards Fellowship competition. Community Stewards are encouraged to engage social issues and challenges generously and to embrace a scholarship of engagement that connects our intellectual resources to the pressing social, civic, and ethical problems in our communities and the world. As community stewards, LUC graduate students will be provided with opportunities to demonstrate how their graduate study and research connects with a larger public by partnering with community groups, grassroots organizations, local businesses, and industries to help address societal needs.

Fellowships of $2000-$3000 each will be awarded on a competitive basis to outstanding students who have a demonstrated record of academic excellence and community service. The awards can be used for a variety of purposes, including internship and community-based research support. Criteria for eligibility for a CGSF include:

1. Students enrolled in a program housed in the Graduate School.
2. Master’s or doctoral students who have completed one semester of coursework at the time of application.
3. Applicants must not be funded from other university sources or previously held a CGSF award.
4. A minimum GPA of 3.3.
5. A letter of application in which applicants must demonstrate that their internship, field experience, practicum, or research represents an integral part of their degree requirement.
6. A one-page statement that demonstrates how their internship, field experience, practicum, or research reflects community or global stewardship. (12pt. Times New Roman font and double-spaced)
7. A letter of support from the applicant’s Graduate Program Director.

Application Deadline: Applications must be submitted electronically to Dr. Patricia Mooney-Melvin (pmooney@luc.edu), Associate Dean of the Graduate School, by March 1, 2012. Graduate Program Directors: Please submit your letter of support (part 7) electronically to Dr. Patricia Mooney-Melvin by March 1, 2012 as well.

Fifth Annual Dissertation Boot Camp/Intensive Writing Workshop

Need some assistance in scheduling time for your writing? Need a little ‘kick’ to get you going? Think about participating in the Graduate Schools’ Boot Camp/Intensive Writing Workshop – a week-long, all-day program designed to support you in completing your dissertation, run by Dr. Dina Berger, History Department.

- Participants in this workshop will get a taste of completion while working in a group environment that is meant to be both motivating and supportive.
- Participants will take away the work habit of designating specific time in a day to writing. The sometimes painful but mostly rewarding process of writing is as much a habit as exercising or procrastinating.
- Participants will engage in a schedule and in a writing method that, if practiced well after the workshop, will result in a completed doctorate and, yes, employment!
- Participants will come to the workshop prepared to put fingers to keyboards in order to reach a specific goal: complete the dissertation proposal (in draft or final form) or complete a dissertation chapter (in draft for final form).

This workshop is open to all students of The Graduate School. More information including how to apply and specific days/times for the workshop will be announced in February on the Graduate School website.

Questions? Contact Dr. Jessica Horowitz, Assistant Dean at jhorow@luc.edu

Seeking Student 2012 Commencement Speaker!

Students interested in delivering the Graduate School Student Commencement Speech for the 142nd annual commencement should apply by Friday, March 30, 2012. The student should be a part of the graduation ceremony on May 10. The speech should reflect on the experiences of graduates at a Jesuit university.

The student speech is between 3-5 minutes in length which is equivalent to about 700-850 words. Interested candidates should send a letter of intent, along with a draft of their speech and a brief resume to Marcela Gallegos, mgalle2@luc.edu. Please include a daytime phone number and email address where you may be contacted during the semester. The Commencement Committee will select and notify student speakers in late April 2012.

Desmond Odugu, PhD
Student Commencement Speaker 2011
Welcome back, and a happy and healthy new year to all of you! I invite you to participate in the numerous activities and events we have planned for this semester. The 5th Annual Interdisciplinary Research Symposium for Graduate School Students, scheduled for April 21, 2012 focuses on the Pursuit of Truth: Jesuit Ideals in Graduate Research. Students are encouraged to explore how Jesuits ideals and traditions, such as faith & Ignatian spirituality, social justice, ethics, and global awareness are reflected in their research. Our staff is working hard to organize a series of professional development workshops on professional writing, career planning, teaching effectiveness, and grant funding. Also, don’t forget to take advantage of our travel award programs, research incentive awards, and community and global stewards fellowships. For doctoral students seeking advice and tips on proposing or completing a dissertation, our popular dissertation “bootcamp”/intensive writing workshop will be offered in the summer.

In an effort to formalize and institutionalize our community outreach and engagement activities, we plan to launch the Graduate School Outreach Services (GSOS) program. We hope that this new initiative will further enhance graduate faculty and student volunteerism and cultivate effective partnerships with charitable organizations. You will receive more information on this once an advisory committee is in place.

Finally, our research project, Completion and Attrition in STEM Master’s Programs, sponsored by the Council of Graduate Schools and the Alfred Sloan Foundation, is progressing very well. We had an opportunity to present our preliminary findings to a nationwide audience at the Council of Graduate Schools conference in Scottsdale, Arizona last December. Results from this study will help us make better informed decisions about graduate student support services and educational outcomes. We will keep you posted on further developments.

Best wishes for a fruitful and productive semester.

~ Samuel A. Attoh, Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost for Research

Graduate School Grad Assistant wins MPA Research Award

Dana Wagner, Social Psychology doctoral candidate and graduate assistant in the Graduate School was awarded the Midwestern Psychological Association’s Graduate Student Research award. The MPA Research Award is a national competition and is awarded to five graduate students each year. Each award represents an area of psychology. Dana received the award based on her first authorship of a project based on her master’s thesis work, “Men’s Positive Reactions to Being Confronted as Sexist Result from a Liking Goal.” Kala Melchiori, M.A., and Assistant Professor Dr. Robyn Mallett are also authors of this project.

Dana will accept her award at the MPA annual convention on Friday, May 4th.