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Welcome to Fall Semester 2015 at the University of Utah!

The Graduate School has had a number of staff changes since the last edition of GradNews. This semester we welcome our new Assistant Dean for Diversity, Araceli Frias, who joins us from the McNair Scholar Program at Westminster College. We also have two new Thesis Editors, Michelle Turner and Patrick Hadley, who have settled in to their positions and are already helping students with thesis and dissertation formatting and approval. Finally, we welcome Manuel Solis, Executive Secretary. As the staff member in charge of the front desk, Manuel is the new face of The Graduate School when you visit us in 302 Park. He also assists with student travel awards and other administrative tasks. Please stop by when you have a chance and meet all of our new staff members!

I’d like to remind everyone that Fall Semester brings many opportunities for graduate students to apply for fellowships and grants, as well as to participate in professional development activities. First- and second-year doctoral students in the STEM disciplines may wish to explore the possibility of applying for a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF_GRFP). The 3-year NSF-GRFP fellowships provide a $34,000 per year stipend and $12,000 in additional funds to support the graduate student’s studies. Applications are due the week of October 26, 2015; additional information can be found at http://gradschool.utah.edu/tbp/national-science-foundation-graduate-research-fellows/ and at http://www.nsfgrfp.org/. Application deadlines for University-wide fellowships and awards administered by The Graduate School are generally in December and January of each year; please see http://gradschool.utah.edu/tbp/graduate-fellowship-opportunities/ for details regarding these fellowships as well as many other external fellowship opportunities.

The Graduate School is an advocate for graduate and professional education at the University of Utah, with specific programs targeted to improving the success of students at every stage of their graduate and professional careers. The Fall edition of GradNews highlights campus resources for student well-being and success. GradNews also provides a handy reference for important upcoming dates for graduation, submission of manuscripts to the Thesis Office, ITA training, and fellowship and postdoctoral opportunities. We hope you will find the content useful, and please remember to visit The Graduate School’s website (gradschool.utah.edu) for more information. Also, If you “like” us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/UOfUGraduateSchool, you will receive notifications on a wide range of topics such as upcoming events, opportunities, awards and fellowships, theses/dissertations, and graduation.

Have a great Fall Semester and please let us know how we can help you!

Dave Kieda
Dean, The Graduate School
dean@gradschool.utah.edu
Our Mission

The Graduate School fosters excellence by providing administrative structure and leadership to maintain and enhance graduate education at the University of Utah. Our programs offer financial assistance, support innovative academic opportunities, and provide professional development to students, postdoctoral fellows, staff and faculty. We are guided by the principles of quality, diversity, and integrity as we build a community of scholars and leaders.

There is a wealth of information on our website, http://gradschool.utah.edu/. You can also visit us on Facebook.

Improving Health and Quality of Life is one of the strategic goals of the University of Utah. As Fall Semester begins, The Graduate School wants to help incoming and returning graduate students integrate that goal into their lives. Subsidized health insurance for graduate students is one of The Graduate School’s major initiatives. Please refer to the feature article in this issue of GradNews that provides important information on this program.

The various services offered by The Graduate School, in partnership with other departments and programs on campus, help facilitate and support important stages in the student life cycle – from admissions to graduation. Together, we like to think of these services as an ecosystem for student success. When all of the logistics run smoothly, we know it helps make the overall student experience more productive and enriching.
Center for Student Wellness
http://wellness.utah.edu/

Our mission is to create, nurture, and promote a University environment supportive of healthy life-long behaviors and enhance academic and personal success. We are here to assist students in skill development that will enhance their personal wellness and ability to succeed, not only in the classroom, but in all areas of life: intellectual, physical, social, spiritual, financial, environmental, and emotional.

The Center for Student Wellness is your portal for information, resources and solutions for wellness-related issues. We offer one-stop shopping vs. searching all over campus for available resources. We want to help you be successful here at the U and in all aspects of your life. If we don’t have what you are looking for, we will connect you with someone that does.

The University Counseling Center
http://counselingcenter.utah.edu/about/index.php

The purpose of the University Counseling Center (UCC) is to facilitate and support the educational mission of the University of Utah. We provide developmental, preventive, and therapeutic services and programs that promote the intellectual, emotional, cultural, and social development of students, staff, and faculty. We consistently strive to integrate multiculturalism into the everyday functioning and structure of our agency, including the individual, service, training, organizational, and administrative levels. We advocate a philosophy of acceptance, compassion, and support for those we serve, as well as for each other. We aspire to respect cultural, individual and role differences as we continually work toward creating a safe and affirming climate for individuals of all ages, cultures, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, languages, mental and physical abilities, national origins, races, religions, sexual orientations, sizes and socioeconomic statuses.

Student Life Center
http://studentlifecenter.utah.edu/


Located just west of the George S. Eccles 2002 Legacy Bridge and adjacent to the Fort Douglas TRAX stop, the Center will connect student life with academic life and create a more engaged campus community.

Graduate Student Housing
http://housing.utah.edu/

Married/Family Housing
http://apartments.utah.edu/
Center for Child Care and Family Resources
http://childcare.utah.edu/

Our mission is to support and coordinate information, program development and services that enhance family resources as well as the availability, affordability and quality of child care for University students, faculty and staff.

Helping University students, faculty and staff select a quality program for their child is a priority for the Center for Child Care and Family Resources. We offer a comprehensive guide to child care resources and information that supports parents in their search for child care services. This includes:

- Child care options that exist both on and off campus
- Quality program checklist
- Financial and educational resources
- Special programming for children and parents
- Locations of diaper changing stations and lactation rooms

Personal Money Management Center
http://personal-money-management.utah.edu/about/index.php

The Center exists to provide an exceptional resource, as part of the Division of Student Affairs at the University of Utah, for the primary benefit of the diverse student body, where all are provided education, guidance and counseling in matters of personal finance. This we accomplish in an atmosphere of safety, confidentiality, competence and trust.

Veterans Support Center
http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/

What is the Veterans Support Center all about?

Transition to campus life can be challenging for nontraditional students such as Veterans. These challenges are even more pronounced for student Veterans who are often returning from the strict regimes of combat service abroad to the unfamiliar environment of campus and classrooms. The Center is staffed by student Veterans who are committed to providing their fellow Veterans with the most useful and current information available to assist them with this transition. The Center maintains relationships with university counseling, tutoring centers, and ASUU to ensure that student Veterans have a personal contact within these organizations when they find that they are in need of services.

Office of Assistant Dean for Diversity in The Graduate School
https://gradschool.utah.edu/diversity/

The University of Utah Graduate School is dedicated to collaborating with university entities to create a campus climate that accommodates all members of the graduate community. The Office of Diversity in The Graduate School partners with graduate academic programs to achieve these goals. At the University of Utah, we want all graduate students to feel respected and free to participate in graduate education and achieve their highest potential.
The Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence
http://ctle.utah.edu/

Join us for six special graduate student and postdoctoral fellow workshops

**All dates are Fridays, and workshops are from 9:30-11:30 am with the exception of the Fulbright Workshop, which begins at 10:00 am. All workshops are held in 1705 Marriott Library (Faculty Center).

September 25 - WELCOME - MEET & GREET - Meet faculty and staff from The Graduate School, Library, Writing Center, and CTLE and enjoy some refreshments!

October 30 – Fulbright Program Information Session with Howard Lehman and Jolyn Schleiffarth (Fulbright Program mentors).

December 4 – Making Research Relevant and Understandable, with Francine Mahak (Career Services).

January 29 – Developing a Teaching Portfolio and Philosophy, with Ali Froehlich and Sheena Stack.

February 26 – Title IX Information Workshop with Krista Pickens (OEO).


April 1 – Mentoring and Being Mentored – Panel discussion with recipients of the Outstanding Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Mentorship Award.

University Writing Program
Offers Campus-wide Writing Courses
http://humanities.utah.edu/writing/graduate/grad-classes-spring-2014.php

Improve your writing: Take a graduate writing class.

The University Writing Program offers several graduate writing courses designed to help you learn to write different types of documents, improve your writing style, and increase your writing productivity. Classes are limited to 12-15 students so you receive individual attention.

Our classes offer you an opportunity to draft, revise, and edit a document that is important to your educational and professional goals, such as a dissertation chapter, capstone report, journal article manuscript, or grant proposal. You’ll receive expert feedback as you revise your document for its intended audience.

American Indian Resource Center (AIRC)
http://diversity.utah.edu/centers/

The AIRC serves as a home away from home for American Indian students, provides support, tutoring, scholarships, computers for research, and a place for meetings, classes, and events.
Career Services

http://careers.utah.edu/contact/index.php

Career Services is the centralized department at the University of Utah charged with educating students and alumni in the discovery and realization of meaningful careers. Our services develop greater self-understanding, expand awareness of career opportunities, and foster effective job search practices that can be applied throughout a lifetime. We bridge the world of work for students/alumni by building relationships with a variety of employers in a diverse and dynamic workplace.

Dean of Students Office

http://deanofstudents.utah.edu/

The Office of the Dean of Students coordinates the Student Conduct Administration processes, serves as an advocate for students facing challenges to their success as students, and advises several student leadership organizations. We have staff ready to assist students, staff, faculty, family members, and community members with student issues and concerns.

The Arts on Campus

http://www.utah.edu/arts/

The U is home to an arts and culture scene that features the state’s flagship fine arts museum, an arboretum that doubles as one of the most happening summer concert venues in the West, theaters that attract Broadway-quality performances, and a natural history museum that has been lauded as one of the best in the country. Learn more about the arts and culture opportunities at the University of Utah below.

Arts Pass

http://www.finearts.utah.edu/arts-pass

The U Arts Pass is what makes it possible for you (yes, you) to use your student ID as a free ticket to the hundreds of arts events on campus each year.

This is open to all University of Utah students and includes screenings, performances, concerts, and exhibitions by our students and faculty, and also provides free or discounted access to the professional arts organizations on campus: Kingsbury Hall, Pioneer Theatre Company, and the Utah Museum of Fine Art.
Women's Resource Center (WRC)
http://womenscenter.utah.edu
The WRC serves as the central resource for educational and support services for women. Honoring the complexities of women's identities, the WRC facilitates choices and changes through programs, counseling, and training grounded in a commitment to advance social justice and equality.

Center for Ethnic Student Affairs (CESA)
http://diversity.utah.edu/students/cesa
The living mission of CESA is to provide support to students of color at the U. While primarily serving the needs of African American, American Indian, Asian American, Latina-Latino, and Pacific Islander students, CESA promotes an environment of acceptance that honors all forms of diversity.

Dissertation Writing Boot Camps
http://postdocs.utah.edu/dissertation-writing-boot-camps/

Dissertation Writing Boot Camps
- Fall Break, October 12-16, 2015
- Spring Break, March 14-18, 2016

Dissertation Boot Camp: What is it?
The Dissertation Boot Camp is a free program sponsored by The Graduate School and the Marriott Library that gives you a chance to make some serious progress on your dissertation during Fall and Spring breaks. You must commit to showing up ready to write, every weekday during breaks from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. (You may, of course, stay later. The library closes at 6 pm during breaks.)

We provide quiet, comfortable writing spaces and provide you with a nourishing breakfast each day. The library offers workshops that will help prepare you as you research your dissertation, and will also provide referrals to subject matter experts if you require additional research help.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Center
http://lgbt.utah.edu
The LGBT Resource Center seeks to provide a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members to promote, educate, and develop programs centering on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Center for Disability Services
http://disability.utah.edu
The Center for Disability Services is dedicated to students with disabilities by providing the opportunity for success and equal access at the U. We are committed to providing reasonable accommodations as outlined by federal and state law. We also strive to create an inclusive, safe and respectful environment.

Office for Equity and Diversity
http://diversity.utah.edu
The Office for Equity and Diversity is proud to lead the University’s efforts to support the success and achievement of faculty, students, and staff who self-identify as African American, Latina/o or Chicana/o, Asian American, Pacific Islander, American Indian, members of the Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning community, and women in underrepresented fields.
My first year as a graduate student in the Coordinated Program in Dietetics and Nutrition has taught me a lot about wellness, providing excellent preparation for my second year. Let me share with you what I’ve learned. There are four main ingredients to wellness: nutrition, exercise, a social life and adequate sleep. Wellness does not require perfection of each ingredient, but rather balance. Finding balance will enable you to achieve greater academic success and enjoy your time as a student.

Let’s start with nutrition. With so many different diets and constant media focus on nutrition it’s hard to decide what to eat. Unless you must follow a specific diet for a medical condition, special diets can be expensive. Rather than following diets, limiting foods and whole food groups, be practical and incorporate a variety of foods into your diet. Focus on moderation, particularly when it comes to foods high in saturated and trans fat and sugary treats. Planning meals ahead of time is cost effective and saves preparation time. That said, I wash lettuce, vegetables and most fruit well ahead of time, making it easy to toss a quick salad, and to bring fruits and vegetables as snacks to school. Try making chili, soups, and pastas in larger quantities ahead of time. The Olpin Union offers a Food Court with a variety of choices, including Panda Express, Chop’d, Au Bon Pain Soups, and Grab-n-Go Items, as well as Einstein Bros. Bagels and Jamba Juice. My favorite on-campus dining option is the food trucks parked in front of the Marriott Library. Here you can find delicious Japanese, Vietnamese, Thai and Mexican food. Keep in mind when eating out that portion sizes are large and dishes are typically high in sodium. Eat out as a treat or for a special occasion, rather than as a regular habit. As you can imagine, I place importance on nutrition, but from experience have come to realize nutrition is just one of the ingredients in overall wellness. Nutrition and physical activity work in unison to increase your energy and maintain a positive attitude.

Let’s talk about physical activity next, the second of the four ingredients of wellness. Physical activity has a significant positive impact on quality of life. Not only will regular exercise improve health and decrease your risk of certain diseases -- Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease among others -- it also feels good! Taking a quick twenty-minute study break to do something active will clear your head and provide you with a fresh perspective. The Salt Lake City area has incredible trail access for hiking, running, biking and skiing. I’m particularly drawn to those between the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, Millcreek Canyon, and Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. The George E. Eccles Student Life Center is a fantastic resource. It offers exercise classes, gyms, swimming pools, basketball courts and Outdoor Adventures (OA), which operates a climbing gym with bouldering, top rope and lead climbing. Additionally, OA has the nation’s largest collegiate outdoor equipment rental for any type of human powered event. It also offers year-round cost effective outdoor trips. Student leaders are highly trained and skilled and trips are cooperative, meaning students have the opportunity to participate in daily tasks such as navigation and cooking. These trips are also a great way to meet people and to provide needed vacation.

Making time for a social life outside of school is important, and the third ingredient of wellness. Moving to a new city to start a graduate program can be daunting. I found that many of my classmates were also new to Salt Lake City and eager to make new friends, and locals were excited to expand their social network. Attend the extracurricular hikes and dinners offered by each department. You will get to know your peers and will quickly be making plans with them outside of school. You may be surprised by the “friends of friends” you are soon connecting with. I was. With so many accessible outdoor activities -- farmers markets, live music, and amazing places to explore within a four-hour radius -- it will be easy to find friends with like interests eager to join in your explorations.

Between classes, studying, cooking, exercising, and spending time with friends and family, don’t forget to get adequate sleep: 7-9 hours per night. Sleep is the final ingredient of wellness. Studies show that getting enough sleep helps your brain to function...
properly and improves learning and productivity. I know you will agree this is critical in graduate school. Additionally, getting enough sleep benefits your mental and physical health and safety. Graduate school culture often implies that committed students should work endlessly and sacrifice sleep. In actuality, adequate sleep is one of the best things you can do to enhance learning and productivity.

In conclusion, when starting a graduate program, school is inevitably your first priority. If you want to be successful, it’s also important to include health and wellness in your plans. That means balancing nutrition, exercise, a social life and sleep. The tools you need are available on campus and in our beautiful surroundings, so get started and enjoy!

### Three Minute Thesis

The prospect of life after graduate school can be daunting and stressful as competition for jobs increases and research funding dollars decrease. Graduates are under increasing pressure to explain the value and impact of their research to a variety of nonspecialist audiences. 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) is a program designed to help students develop the skills necessary to quickly articulate the how and why of their research to potential employers, funders, and others outside of their field. The Graduate School is committed to ensuring the well-being of students not only during their programs, but also after graduation; 3MT is a unique program that aims to assist students in the development of the communication skills they will need in the search for employment, research funding, and as higher education activists after graduation.

Over a 4-week-long workshop students will develop the nonspecialized communication skills necessary to quickly and effectively communicate the purpose and value of their research to audiences outside their field. Finally, they will get the chance to compete against their workshop peers at the Second Annual 3MT Competition.

Workshops will be held in September-October and the final competition will be held in late October. Interested students can contact Francine Mahak at 801-585-9076 or fmahak@sa.utah.edu for more information.

[http://gradschool.utah.edu/3MT/](http://gradschool.utah.edu/3MT/)

### Greek Salsa

The University of Utah will host its 8th annual campus Farmers Market during Fall Semester 2015. The market links local growers and artisans with the campus community and provides access to fresh, healthy, local produce and unique arts and crafts. [http://sustainability.utah.edu/resource-center/get-involved/farmers-market.php](http://sustainability.utah.edu/resource-center/get-involved/farmers-market.php) Follow us on Facebook for regular updates!

#### Getting to the Market

Where: Tanner Plaza, between the Student Services Building and the Union
When: Thursdays, Aug. 27 - Oct. 8, 2015, 10 am-2 pm

We encourage you to ride the shuttle, take UTA, walk, or bike to the market. The closest Blue, Red, and Green Shuttle stops are at the Park Building or Union. Car parking is limited! Vendors and market managers do not validate parking. Please bring your own bag to help cut down on waste.

Here is a fresh, healthy recipe for a different twist on salsa from **Abigail Ririe** – Coordinator of Center/Institute/Bureau Reviews and Executive Secretary in The Graduate School.

- 2 vine tomatoes chopped
- 1 medium ripe avocado chopped
- 1/4 C. red onion finely diced
- 1 clove garlic minced
- 4 oz feta cheese
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 Tbsp balsamic vinegar (can use plain red or white vinegar)
- 1 Tbsp fresh chopped parsley
- 1 tsp dried or 1 tsp fresh oregano (Italian)

Happy Cooking! (except it’s not really cooking, so Happy Mixing!)
Atmospheric Sciences Students Monitor Air Quality

While Wasatch Front residents dread the gray skies and poor air quality evident at times during the winter, air quality on sunny summer afternoons can be equally unhealthy. A team of students and staff from the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Utah have collaborated this summer with researchers from Utah’s Division of Air Quality, Utah State University, and Weber State University to assess the Great Salt Lake’s role in these air pollution episodes. Abundant sunlight fosters photochemical reactions that transform common urban pollutants into ozone that can trigger a wide range of health problems, particularly for children, the elderly, and those susceptible to asthma. While high levels of ozone near the ground are common throughout the West during the summer, the Great Salt Lake helps modulate local wind patterns, driving urban pollutants towards the lake at night and creating afternoon lake breezes that carry ozone formed over the Lake back towards the Wasatch Front.

Atmospheric Science students helped deploy sensors to monitor ozone levels and local wind patterns continuously near the Great Salt Lake over the entire summer. More intensive observations by the students during several days each month relied on sensors carried on University vehicles, including the heavily instrumented “Nerdmobile,” a UTA TRAX light rail car, and the KSL traffic helicopter. Brian Blaylock and Ansley Long, graduate students in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, have helped coordinate this field project with Professor John Horel and others in the Department. Brian is from Spanish Fork, Utah, and earned his BS degree in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Utah in 2014. His love for studying Utah weather and personal experience with Utah’s air quality inspired him to study air quality in graduate school. Ansley is from Atlanta, Georgia, and earned her BS degree from the University of Georgia in 2014. The unappealing views down into the Salt Lake Valley while visiting Utah during earlier family ski trips piqued her interest.

Ansley hopes this research will allow public officials to improve air quality information available to the public, particularly those individuals sensitive to ozone levels. Preliminary analysis of the data indicates linkages between wind patterns affected by the Great Salt Lake and ozone levels that will be very helpful to Utah Division of Air Quality personnel who are tasked to estimate ozone levels 1-2 days in advance. Brian says that the unprecedented amount of data collected this summer will help researchers and air quality forecasters understand the complex spatial and temporal variations in ozone over and near the Great Salt Lake.

Erik Crosman, who was promoted from Postdoctoral Research Assistant to Assistant Research Professor

Variations in ozone levels during the last 5 days of June 2015 near the Great Salt Lake (each colored line represents a different measuring site). The current EPA standard for unhealthy exposure levels over an 8-hour period is indicated by the dashed line (75 ppbv). Exposure levels considered unhealthy could be lowered soon by the EPA to 65 ppbv, which is denoted by the dotted line.
during this summer’s ozone field project, is also involved in coordinating graduate and undergraduate student research on the Great Salt Lake summer ozone project. Erik has a career-long interest in the Great Salt Lake, and has studied the meteorology of the GSL for over 10 years. Erik is excited to be a part of this multifaceted and interdisciplinarian study, which he believes will provide a unique data set that will further both air quality and meteorological science in the Great Salt Lake basin and help answer basic scientific questions relating to ozone transport within urban, mountainous, and lake environments worldwide.

More information about the Great Salt Lake Summer Ozone Study can be found on the project’s website at http://meso2.chpc.utah.edu/gslo3s/. Current air quality forecasts issued by the Division of Air Quality can be found at http://air.utah.gov/forecast.php.
Library Space for Grad Students

Do you need a quiet location for studying, thinking, and writing? Did you know that the J. Willard Marriott Library has a special space for graduate students? The room is available for quiet study and is open the entire time the Marriott Library is open. You may bring food into the Graduate Reading Room (GRR) and the GRR is adjacent to Mom’s Café. There are even some lockers in the GRR that may be rented by the semester. And the Graduate Writing Center is accessible via the GRR. The Graduate Student Reading Room is available to registered graduate students at the University of Utah. Go to the service desk at the Level 1 entrance to the Marriott Library and register to use the room. There is no fee. For more information about the use of the room go to: http://www.lib.utah.edu/services/graduate-student-reading-room.php

Marriott Library Workshops for You!

Take a look at the schedule for workshops and classes at the Marriott Library. These are free to all University of Utah students. We offer topics such as “What’s New at the U,” “New to the U for Grad Students,” “Managing Citations,” and workshops on advanced research in different disciplines. These are currently being planned for Fall 2015.

- Thesis Office and What We Can Do for You!
- Selecting a Citation Manager: an Overview
- How to do a Literature Review
- Thesis and Dissertation Formatting in Word 2013 (Mac version and PC version)

Spring semester

- Advanced Research in the Social Sciences
- Advanced Research in the Humanities
- Advanced Research in the Sciences
- Economics and Business Research
- Using Ivivo for Qualitative Research
- Write Your Dissertation/Thesis Faster and Better
- Editing Your Dissertation/Thesis

Continue to regularly check the workshop listings. New offerings from the Graduate Writing Center will soon be added. For more workshop possibilities, check the link for workshops offered by the Research Administration Training Series at https://education.research.utah.edu. Check this link: https://eventregistration.tools.lib.utah.edu/ to learn about what is being offered to register. You are also invited to tell us what you need for your success! Email Linda St. Clair at linda.stclair@utah.edu or give her a call at 801-585-9499.

Graduate Student Social Hour

This Fall semester, please mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 15. The Marriott Library will welcome all current graduate students to a social hour from 11:30 am - 1 pm. This is an informal way to relax, mix with peers, enjoy some light refreshments and meet librarians who can answer questions about library services and collections. This event will be held in the Graduate Reading Room on Level 1. No prior registration to enter the building is needed for this gathering.
Esteemed Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to announce that I am the new Assistant Dean for Diversity at The Graduate School. My name is Araceli Frias and I am originally from Washington State, although I have lived in Salt Lake City for over two and a half years. Before coming to the U, I was the coordinator of the McNair Scholars Program at Westminster College, which also serves students from the University of Utah. Recruiting prospective McNair Scholars from the U allowed me to build connections with multiple offices and individuals on campus, which makes my professional transition a seamless one.

I earned my PhD in Education with a specialization in cultural studies and social thought from Washington State University. My passion for diversity in graduate education is evident in the design of my dissertation where I developed and piloted a critical race curriculum for graduate school preparation. With this curriculum, I engaged undergraduate scholars in building a critical comprehension of academia and in reconstructing the discourse of graduate school preparation. My personal experience growing up in a working class family, being a Latina and being a McNair alumna inform my views about the value and importance of diversity in graduate education. I am especially interested in developing retention initiatives that are grounded in the literature about the needs of historically underserved graduate students as well as creating services that reflect the needs of graduate students at the U.

I look forward to being a champion for diversity in graduate education and welcome the opportunity to meet graduate students across various programs on campus. If you find yourself near the Park Building, please stop by and say hello.

With warm regards,

Araceli Frias, PhD
Assistant Dean for Diversity

Excellence Through Diversity Fellowship

The Excellence Through Diversity Fellowship is awarded annually to incoming historically underrepresented graduate students. Below are the 2015-2016 fellowship recipients.

Annette Mehr is a master’s student in the Art MFA program.

Kritzianel Morales is a doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology program.

Emerging Diversity Scholars Fellowship

The Emerging Diversity Scholars Fellowship is our new fellowship designed to support and retain historically underrepresented graduate students. Below are the 2015-2016 fellowship recipients.

‘Ilaheva Tua’one is a doctoral student in the British and American Literature program.

Crystal Tulley-Cordova is a doctoral student in the Geology program.

Celebrate Diversity Mini-Grant

The Celebrate Diversity Mini-Grant helps support activities that value contributions of traditionally underrepresented students in graduate school through a limited number of grant awards up to $1000. The Fall semester deadline is September 30, 2015. For more information, please visit: [https://gradschool.utah.edu/diversity/celebrate-diversity-mini-grant](https://gradschool.utah.edu/diversity/celebrate-diversity-mini-grant)
The University of Utah has partnered with United HealthCare StudentResources to offer one health insurance plan for all eligible graduate and undergraduate students. In some cases, the University subsidizes the premium for graduate students. Regardless of whether you are a subsidized graduate or are paying the full premium, the student plan offers a competitive premium rate and a range of helpful benefits, including the recent addition of prescription coverage and an unlimited maximum benefit.

The student health plan is available to all graduate students enrolled for at least 3 credit hours. Available at a reasonable rate, the plan covers sickness and injury for students and their dependents. To obtain detailed information about the policy, visit http://www.uhcsr.com/utah.

A Note for International Graduate Students: International students are automatically enrolled in the health insurance plan and billed for the full premium, unless a student obtains comparable health insurance coverage and completes the waiver process through the Student Insurance Office. The Student Insurance Office can be reached at 801-585-6949.

Subsidized Insurance Plan through the Tuition Benefit Program (TBP)

To be eligible for subsidized health insurance, a student must be a TA or an RA (or a combination of the two) earning 100% tuition benefit (TBP eligibility is required). If you are eligible and wish to enroll, please contact your academic department’s tuition benefit coordinator. When you complete the Graduate Tuition Benefit Approval Form at the beginning of Fall and Spring semesters, there is a column for health insurance that indicates your enrollment choice (Y – yes, enroll; N – no, decline). If the information on the form is incorrect, contact your academic department’s tuition benefit coordinator to update your choice before you complete the approval.

The enrollment period for the subsidized plan ends at 3 pm on September 14, 2015 – no changes can be made after that time. A Q&A for subsidized grads can be found online here: http://gradschool.utah.edu/tbp/insurance-qa/. For students on the subsidized insurance plan ONLY, dates of coverage and premium rates are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Type</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Premium Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Subsidized Plan</td>
<td>8/16/15 – 2/14/16: $190.40</td>
<td>October 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Subsidized Plan</td>
<td>2/15/16 – 8/15/16: $190.40</td>
<td>February 19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For all other students, the coverage periods are aligned with Fall, Spring, and Summer semester periods.

Frequently Asked Questions

**Are prescription drugs covered under the student health plan?**

Yes. The benefit for prescription drugs reimburses the students for 50% of the cost of prescriptions. Contraceptives and generic prescription drugs are reimbursed at 100% at any pharmacy, and both brand and generic are covered at 100% when filled at Madsen Pharmacy.

**Where can I find benefit information for the student health plan?**

Covered services are described in the plan booklet and online at www.uhcsr.com/utah. Per the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the student insurance plan has no overall maximum dollar limit (per insured person, per policy year).

**If I have a spouse and/or dependent children, can they be added to my student plan coverage?**

If you wish to add coverage for spouse and/or children, you must enroll them online and pay the appropriate premium at your expense. Click “Request Dependent Coverage” at www.uhcsr.com/utah during the open enrollment period.
to reserve coverage for your dependents. The
premium rates for adding spouse or children
to the subsidized plan are available at the
beginning of the plan brochure found at

If I am qualified on the subsidized plan for just
a single semester (Fall or Spring) during the
academic year, what happens to my insurance
coverage for the next term and for the summer?

If you are supported for a single semester on
tuition benefit and subsidized insurance, you are
couraged to enroll in the voluntary plan for
the subsequent semester(s) to keep continuous
health insurance coverage. Please contact Jolyn
Schleiffarth in The Graduate School to avoid
coverage gaps.

I am a Graduate Fellow (GF) or a Graduate
Assistant (GA), categories that are not provided
a Graduate School health insurance subsidy, but
my department wishes to pay the premium for my
health insurance plan. What must be done?

Check with your department to find out how they
would like to handle payment. The department
could pay United HealthCare directly by check
for your insurance, or they may ask you to pay up
front and be reimbursed. If they ask you to enroll
first, you can do so at http://www.uhcsr.com/utah.

If I am covered by the subsidized plan for both
Fall and Spring semesters, who pays for Summer
semester?

When a graduate student participates in the
subsidized plan for both Fall and Spring semesters,
Summer semester is automatically included for
the full 12-month coverage. See coverage periods
above.

If I am on the subsidized plan through the Tuition
Benefit Program, should I enroll online at http://
www.uhcsr.com?

No. If you are on the subsidized plan, your
department tuition benefit coordinator will
submit your enrollment along with your tuition
benefit enrollment. Subsidized students should
not pay their own premium online (with the
exception of paying for dependents). If you do
so you may end up waiting several months for a
refund.
Are you looking for ways to maximize your postdoctoral experience? Do you have questions about how to balance your life as a postdoc? Would you like to have some extra money for conference travel? Or do you just want to connect with the postdoctoral community?

Please join us for the following Postdoc Appreciation Day events, organized by the Utah Postdoctoral Association (UPDA) and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs.

**Wednesday, September 16, 2015**

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm  **Keynote Faculty Panel**
Award-winning faculty will provide expert advice on work-life balance, mentorship, and finding a job. Come prepared with questions to make the most out of this moderated panel discussion.

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm  **Poster Competition**
Win a $500 travel award for best poster!

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm  **Professional Development Workshops**
Topics to include interview skills, tips and tricks for CV/resume writing, effective presentation techniques, and advice on how to use an individual development plan to make the most out of your postdoctoral experience.

Further details and registration for the workshops and poster competition are available at [http://postdocs.utah.edu](http://postdocs.utah.edu) and upda.utah.edu.

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**International Teaching Assistant Program**

The 2015 International Teaching Assistant Program (ITAP) is in full swing. Approximately 100 students took part in the August ITA Training. Representing 21 countries and studying in 16 different departments, these international graduate students contribute to the teaching mission on our campus as well as increasing global understanding and cooperation.
Events and Deadlines

Distinguished National & International Awards Info Session & Open House

Thursday, October 8, 12:30 pm - 2 pm, Hinckley Caucus Room, OSH 255

September 14, 2015
Deadline to complete Graduate Tuition Benefit Approval in CIS

September 16, 2015
Postdoc Appreciation Day

September 18, 2015
Underrepresented Graduate Student Social (6 - 8 pm Mestizo Coffeehouse)

September 21 – October 3, 2015
Student portion ($190.40) of subsidized insurance due to Income Accounting

September 30, 2015
Diversity Mini-Grant application deadline

October 9, 2015
Dissertation Boot Camp application deadline

October 12 – 16, 2015
Dissertation Boot Camp (Marriott Library)

October 23, 2015
Last day department-approved submissions over 200 pages will be accepted

October 30, 2015
Last day submissions will be accepted to begin the format approval process

November 20, 2015
Registration deadline for Spring 2016 International Teaching Assistant Program

November 30, 2015
Stockham Medal for Conspicuously Effective Teaching nominations due

November 30, 2015
Garr Cutler Energy Award submission due

December 7, 2015
Last day approved manuscripts will be accepted to begin the thesis release process

January 11, 2016
Marriner S. Eccles Graduate Fellowship applications due

January 15, 2016
Steffensen Cannon Fellowship applications due

January 22, 2016
Graduate Research Fellowship applications due

January 29, 2016
University Teaching Assistantship (UTA) applications due

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