Last year was busy in the Graduate School. Here’s a review some of the new and not-quite-new changes coming out of David Boyd Hall.

**The Graduate Council**
Perhaps the major long-term change is that the Graduate Council is now a body elected by the graduate faculty of each college rather than appointed by the college deans (although some colleges already held elections on their own.) This change means that the Graduate Council now has the authority to recommend policy to the Graduate Faculty and to Academic Affairs. Major changes will still be presented at Graduate Faculty meetings.

**GRE (or equivalent) Score Requirement**
In keeping with national best practices, the Graduate School will no longer monitor whether or not prospective students submit GRE or similar placement scores, leaving it up to the departments and programs to keep track through the new Slate admissions software. This in no way impacts current department policies about these scores. Test score requirements are still determined by the programs. If a program or department wants to change its test score requirements for admission, those changes must first go through its faculty and then through the Graduate Council for approval.

**Council of Graduate Schools External Review**
The Graduate School had never had an external review, and in the spring the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), the major US professional organization for graduate schools, sent three long-serving deans to review the program. The report was delivered in late June and distributed to Academic Affairs, the Graduate Council, the Graduate Student Association, and the college deans.

**PS-27 Authorship Guidelines and Dispute Resolution**
The new PS-27, Authorship, has led to lively discussions about intellectual property, especially among advisors and their graduate students. The Graduate Council approved a form, Declaration of Authorship, for committees to determine students’ relative contribution to co–authored papers used as parts of theses or dissertations.

**Remote Participation Policy**
Policies about Remote Participation in defenses were clarified and somewhat broadened.

**Enrichment Program**
Funds for the long–running Enrichment program were moved from the Graduate School directly and permanently into the colleges. The Graduate School no longer has an account for those funds.

**PS-21 Graduate Assistantships**
A revised version of PS–21 (Assistantships) last revised in 2004, has been submitted to Academic Affairs. This version contains suggested revisions going back a decade. The revision will also have to be approved by the Graduate Council, so the process will not be fast.

**Climate Survey**
A Climate Survey of graduate student was completed by Interim Associate Dean Carol Wicks and the results have been distributed to the colleges. The results will be discussed this semester at an open forum for graduate students as well.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation**
A new format for GTA orientation was introduced this fall in which the orientation was conducted over three sessions by advanced PhD students. Our thanks to Professor Bill Wischusen of Biological Sciences, who lent his many years of experience in training new GTAs to the enterprise. We will evaluate the results and continue improving our orientations.
Graduation Workshops
Similarly, our Academic Services division is now holding regular Graduation Workshops for students and graduate advisors to walk everyone through the processes of graduation and answer questions.

Promoting Other Workshops & Seminars
In addition, the Graduate School promoted an extensive, year-long series of workshops and seminars about teaching, the events mostly pieced together from existing resources (CXC, Middleton Library, Center for Academic Success, Faculty Technology Center, etc.) and a new series on life coaching.

Final Dissertation Deadline Update
This is not a new change, but has been misunderstood in some quarters, so to repeat: the due date for the final, final version of dissertations has not been changed and is within days of what it has always been. The new policy instituted last year was about the date when the dissertation had to be submitted to the editor. These dates are posted on the graduate calendar many months in advance, so please make sure students and advisors are well aware of them.

Graduate Faculty Status for AgCenter Research Employees
Graduate Faculty status approval for AgCenter faculty has been re-codified and streamlined by Senior Vice-Provost Jane Cassidy.

Academic Renewal Policy
A new policy on Academic Renewal (formerly “academic bankruptcy”) has been implemented, allowing students to return to graduate school after two years with a clean slate, assuming they are willing to give up all previous graduate credits. One student has already taken this option.

New Template for Dual Degree Programs
A template is almost ready for dual degree programs for individual students, so that a student may acquire two PhDs, one at LSU and one at an international university. The agreement process will still be tortuous, but the template, which has been widely vetted, will be a sound starting point.

Staff Increase
The Graduate School staff has increased, thanks to Academic Affairs, and we are now reaching national norms for staff workloads. Turn-arounds should be accordingly faster. Several staff members left for other jobs toward the end of the summer, and we are pleased that all positions except one have been filled by well-qualified professionals, and the last position should be filled this month.

New Admissions Software
The roll-out of the new Slate admissions software has been successful, and the Radius system will be shut down at the end of this semester. Departments still needing Slate training should accordingly contact us immediately. So far Slate has lived up to its reputation as being far more sophisticated and flexible than Radius.

Graduate School Dean Search
Finally, a search is beginning for a new Dean of the Graduate School. The search was postponed while waiting for the results of the CGS review were known, but a committee is being formed and a new dean should be in place by July 1, 2020.

Sincerely,

Milton Richardson
The Graduate School congratulates all of the 2019-20 awardees.

## Dissertation Year Fellowships
Dissertation Year Fellowships support outstanding Ph.D. students with a GPA of 3.5 or above during their final year of study and when they dedicate full time to writing their dissertations.

**2019-20 Awardees**
- Alex Cole - Political Science
- Alyssa DeVito - Psychology
- Barnali Mazumdar - Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Caleb Doan - English
- Carly Rubin - English
- Elizabeth Brault - Sociology
- Juan Guevara Pinto - Psychology
- Pragathi Darapaneni - Chemical Engineering
- Saurin Rawal - Chemical Engineering
- Tara Fife - Mathematics

## Economic Development Awards
The EDA assistantships are to be awarded to faculty members whose research will directly affect the economic development of Louisiana.

**2019 2020 Awardees**
- Anas Mahmoud - Computer Science & Engineering
- Ashok Srivastava - Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Bhaba Sarker - Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
- Dandino Rao - Petroleum Engineering
- Daniel Kuroda - Chemistry
- Hsiao Chun Wu - Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Jim Wang - Plant, Environmental, & Soil Sciences
- Qian Sun - Entomology
- Xiuping Zhu - Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Ying Wang - Mechanical & Industrial Engineering

## SREB Fellowships
Support from the Board of Regents and the Southern Regional Education Board support a culturally and ethnically diverse graduate student body.

**2019-2020 Awardees**
- Imani Carr - Nutrition & Food Sciences
- Joshua Burgos - Music
- Nia Nicks - Social Work

## Huel D. Perkins Fellowships
Support from the Board of Regents for the Huel D. Perkins Fellowships enhance the diversity of our graduate population.

**2019 2020 Awardees**
- Anthony Robinson - Psychology
- Barbara Maldonado - Mathematics
- Cassie Lilly - Sociology
- Clayton Maddox - Music
- Courtney Williams - Sociology
- Sydney Green - Psychology
Graduate School Staff Spotlight

Gretchen Cade
Document Imaging Coordinator
Hometown: Metairie, Louisiana
Favorite Outdoor Activity: Beach Volleyball.
How She Balances Career & Family: I used to teach 8th grade; nothing seems very stressful after that experience.

LaToya Collins
Admissions Officer
Hometown: Port Allen, Louisiana
Something She Wants Learn How To Do: Re-learn how to play the piano.
The First Thing She Would Do After Winning The Lottery: Take a vacation

Jorge Garza
Admissions Officer
Hometown: Guadalajara, Jalisco in Mexico
Best Place He’s Traveled: Lake Panajachel in Guatemala.
Three Words To Describe LSU: Education, nice-people and…. Geaux Tigers!

Eugene B. Johnson
Admissions Officer
Hometown: Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Greatest Fear: Living without happiness
Surprising Fact About Eugene: He is a former All-District/All-State athlete in 3 sports.

Ryan McNeil
Document Imaging Coordinator
Hometown: Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Favorite Place To Be: At the side of a friend.
Weirdest Job Ryan Has Ever Had: Cleaning out a coffee shop basement of boxes full of decade-old receipts.

Katelyn Richard
Academic Officer
Hometown: Tiverton, Rhode Island
Favorite Outdoor Activity: Kayaking
First Thing She Would Do After Winning The Lottery: Pay off her student loans and then travel the world!