

# THE ADVOCATE

*promoting and supporting the recruitment and retention of  
underrepresented graduate students*



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## WELCOME DAY FALL 2017

The School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies held their 3rd Annual Diversity, Faculty, Staff and New Graduate Student event on August 16th, 2017 in Bigelow Hall. The event highlighted and celebrated the diversity that makes up the University of Louisville.



**Dear Advocate Reader,**

The University of Louisville's School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies (SIGS) is committed to diversity and inclusion. Our goal is to cultivate an enriching graduate experience for all students through education and inclusive excellence. This mission reflects the institution's shared message of "You Belong". Therefore, SIGS strives to ensure that students of all backgrounds, identities and perspectives feel welcomed, supported, and respected.

To that end, *The Advocate* newsletter will serve to inform, engage, and inspire all students, but places continued emphasis on the recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups. By remaining strategic and intentional about increasing diversity beyond the numbers, *The Advocate* will,

- 1) streamline graduate diversity efforts of students, staff, and faculty at the University of Louisville through research, academic programming and outreach
- 2) share internal and external community opportunities that promote diversity and inclusion in meaningful ways
- 3) centralize graduate diversity efforts to help foster a collaborative culture

We hope that all of our readers will be inspired to join the work and to remain steadfast in helping to spur change in the area of diversity with one student, one staff, and one faculty member at a time.

*Latonia Craig*

**Director**  
Graduate Recruitment and Diversity Retention  
School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies



## *A Message from the Dean*

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Advocate*, our newsletter promoting the recruitment and retention of underrepresented graduate students.

Whether you are a returning graduate student, a new student in a University of Louisville graduate program, or a potential student still seeking a spot in one of our many programs, we welcome you and hope that you'll find the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies (SIGS) a second home on campus, a place where we will not only learn your name but also your professional goals—and we will help you succeed in reaching those goals as you earn your masters or doctoral degree from the University of Louisville.

Our mission at SIGS is to advocate for graduate students, graduate education, and interdisciplinary programs and collaborations. We advocate for graduate students in part by offering an extensive array of professional development opportunities through our nationally recognized PLAN program, from individual workshops on topics such as time management and backwards design to semester long academies on grant writing, community engaged research, and teaching. As a graduate student at the University of Louisville, you'll get to chart your own professional development course, taking workshops that help you gain the skills you know you need.

SIGS also partners with programs to fund graduate students (the majority of graduate funding supports doctoral students, although limited funding is available for some masters students). We run a robust and competitive University Fellowship program, a Diversity Assistantship program, and we support some additional funding opportunities for professional development for Presidential Diversity Fellows, for research and travel through the Graduate Student Council, and for dissertation completion awards for doctoral students.

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We also encourage graduate students to learn leadership skills while at the university. SIGS provides advisors for the Graduate Student Council (GSC), the governing body for all graduate students, as well as for the Multicultural Association of Graduate Students (MAGS), and we regularly advocate for graduate student representation on important university committees, such as the Tuition and Fees Setting Committee, and university administrative search committees.

And of course, we advocate for an inclusive educational experience for all students. SIGS provides support for our Diversity and Presidential scholars through Dr. Latonia Craig's Check-in-and-Connect program, a retention program designed to help underrepresented students get the degree for which they came. One focus of SIGS for 2018 will be inclusive mentoring—and we are hard at work developing a program to make sure that our faculty and staff are providing supportive and inclusive mentoring to all of our students.

Finally, UofL and SIGS are committed to supporting all members of our university family, including those who are undocumented students. We have a campus Undocumented Student Resource Council that meets monthly, and our Cultural Center's office of Hispanic/Latino Initiatives offers support and resources to these students. We know that the DACA program has allowed many extraordinary young people to contribute to our university and to positively impact the broader society and economy. We will continue to urge Congress to find a permanent solution that will allow the Dreamers to stay, to realize their dreams, and to contribute their talents to our nation.

**Dr. Beth Boehm**

Dean of the SIGS and Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs

***"We welcome you and hope that you'll find the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies (SIGS) a second home on campus, a place where we will not only learn your name but also your professional goals."***

# MEET THE UNIVERSITY OMBUDS

Mindy Eaves, MSW, CSW, Doctoral Candidate is the Ombuds for the University of Louisville. Formerly, Ms. Eaves founded the Office of the Ombudsman for the 27th largest school district in the country, and served as faculty at Western Kentucky University and Spalding University. Ms. Eaves earned a bachelor degree in Sociology with Certificates in Pan African Studies and Criminal Justice Administration, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Master of Social Work degree, and holds a certified

social work license granted by the Kentucky Board of Social Work. Her areas of interest include self-care, bullying, intersectionality, and self-care.

Ms. Eaves is a Kentucky Court of Justice KLEO scholar; a member of International Ombudsman Association, Phi Alpha Honor Society and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.; a recipient of the Award of Excellence and Social Worker of the Year granted by the Cabinet for Health & Families Services.



*Mindy Eaves  
University Ombuds*



## HOW CAN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDS HELP ME?

By: Mindy Eaves

The Office of the Ombuds serves graduate assistants with workplace concerns related to their employment at the University of Louisville. The Office of the Ombuds adheres to the International Ombudsman Association ethical principles which are: **confidentiality, impartiality, informality, and independence**. As a graduate assistant, concerns at work can be overwhelming and difficult to think through critically.

Consider accessing the services of the Office of the Ombuds for assistance. You can share your concerns, evaluate your situation, and plan your next step - if you want to take a next step. Additionally, there are a great deal of self-help resources available on the Office of the Ombuds website. The Self-Help resources include various topics such as: *The Power of an Apology, Resistance vs. Cooperation, Ombuds Recommended*

*Readings, and Workplace Bullying.* The Office of the Ombuds takes appointments Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The University Ombuds, Mindy Eaves, is willing to talk in the office, over a cup of coffee, by phone, in one-on-one sessions or in small groups. The Office of the Ombuds may be reached at (502) 852-7359.



# 2017-2018 PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWS

*The Presidential Diversity Fellows Scholarship is an award reserved for doctoral students nominated by their program directors as a direct response to the national trend of underrepresentation of minorities within academia. This disparity is even more apparent among African Americans and Hispanic Americans. Eligible students must already receive program funding and should contribute to diversity of their academic program/discipline in some way. The Presidential Fellow award gives an additional \$1000 a year, for a total of four years, to be used by the student for professional development opportunities (e.g. travel to academic conferences, software, books). Recipients of the award are required to be participants in the Check-in-and-Connect monthly professional development seminar series, which provides students with cohort support and mentoring. Upon graduation, scholars are to submit a professional portfolio that includes a synopsis of their professional development opportunities, publications, curriculum vitae, and other academic highlights that will help market students for academic positions. The School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies plans to award 10 Presidential Fellow Awards a year.*



**Name:** Zakariah A. Henn

**Program:** IPIBS – Microbiology and Immunology

**Degree:** PhD

**Where are you from?** Richmond, IN

**Educational Background:**

B.A. – Biology

**Why did you choose to pursue your degree at UofL?**

"Return to and advance in academics, develop career options/plans, and to develop technical and theoretical expertise."

**Research Interests:** Immunotherapy and cancer studies



**Name:** Tytianna Smith

**Program:** Education and Human Development

**Degree:** PhD

**Where are you from?** Detroit, MI

**Educational Background:**

B.A. – English and Pan-African Studies

M.A. – Pan-African Studies

**Why did you choose to pursue your degree at UofL?**

"My passion for all students from disenfranchised communities and underrepresented groups."

**Research Interests:** Black Education, Afrocentric praxis in Black homeschooled and community schools

# 2017-2018 PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWS

## (cont.)



**Name:** Malcolm A. Muhammad  
**Program:** Entrepreneurship  
**Degree:** PhD  
**Where are you from?** Inkster, MI  
**Educational Background:**  
B.S. – Business Administration  
**Why did you choose to pursue your degree at UofL?**  
"The reputation of the faculty and the entrepreneurship program."  
**Research Interests:** Minority entrepreneurship



**Name:** Consilee Karangwa  
**Program:** IPIBS – Microbiology and Immunology  
**Degree:** PhD  
**Where are you from?** Fairfax, VA  
**Educational Background:**  
B.S. – Biology  
**Why did you choose to pursue your degree at UofL?**  
"The amazing research being conducted in microbiology and immunology and the great, friendly faculty that are really supportive of their students' success."  
**Research Interests:** Vaccine and other therapeutic developments for infectious diseases



**Name:** Brigitte Burpo  
**Program:** Sport Administration  
**Degree:** PhD  
**Where are you from?** Birmingham, AL  
**Educational Background:**  
B.S. – Sales & Marketing  
M.Ed. – Administration of Higher Education  
**Why did you choose to pursue your degree at UofL?**  
"The faculty in my department are well-known and well-versed in their areas of research. I felt I would be best supported here after my interactions with several faculty members. My program also has a 100% employment rate after graduation which is very important to me."  
**Research Interests:** Development of life-skill programs for student athletes in revenue generating sports; recruitment and retention of women of color in athletic administration



# Multicultural Association of Graduate Students (M.A.G.S.)

## Executive Board



**Jarrod Druery**  
*President*



**Antron Mahoney**  
*Vice-President*



**Jakia Marie**  
*Secretary*



**Nannie Croney**  
*P.R. Coordinator*



**Daniella Prince**  
*Parliamentarian*



**Maame Geary**  
*Treasurer*

The Multicultural Association of Graduate Students (MAGS) is a student organization aimed at engaging and empowering UofL graduate students of color across academic disciplines to help students persist towards graduation. It is our goal to create a space and culture of advocacy, support, collaboration, sense of belonging, and success among students. This is evident through the number of yearly academic and social events hosted by the organization to meet the needs of graduate students. Both current and past MAGS members have characterized the

organization as “a home away from home” for students from minoritized backgrounds. Created in 2014, MAGS is continually growing and developing each year. We would love for you to connect with us and experience what MAGS is all about.

If you would like to become a member, please email [uoflmags@gmail.com](mailto:uoflmags@gmail.com). Please follow us on Facebook ([@uoflmags](https://www.facebook.com/uoflmags)) for more information about future events. You can also contact MAGS President, Jarrod E. Druery, at [jarrod.druery@louisville.edu](mailto:jarrod.druery@louisville.edu).



# SCHOLARSHIPS

- **American Association of University Women**

AAUW offers a variety of fellowships and grants to women pursuing an advanced degree or certificate. Fellowships and project grants for international students are also available

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/>

- **The Howard Mayer Brown Fellowship**

Intended to increase the presence of minority scholars and teachers in musicology, the fellowship supports one year of graduate work for a student who is a member of a historically underrepresented group. Eligible students should have completed at least one year of graduate work and be pursuing a Ph.D. Winner receives a \$20,000 award.

<http://www.ams-net.org/fellowships/hmb.php>

- **The American Physiological Society Minority Programs**

APS Minority Programs are designed to increase the overall participation of minorities from those racial and ethnic groups which are currently underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields in the United States. Available awards include travel awards, graduate fellowships, abstract-based fellowships and Postdoc awards.

<http://www.the-aps.org/mm/Education/Minority-Program>

- **Social Science Research Council**

SSRC's varied fellowships and prizes share a core commitment to improving conditions for social science knowledge production worldwide. Programs engage themes ranging from global issues facing the United States and Japan to security in Africa and Latin America.

<https://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/>

- **Hispanic Scholarship Fund**

The HSF Scholarship is designed to assist students of Hispanic heritage obtain a college degree. Awards are based on merit; amounts range from \$500 to \$5,000, based on relative need, among the Scholars selected.

<https://www.hsf.net/scholarship>

- **American Political Science Association Minority Fellowship Program**

The Minority Fellows Program (MFP) is a fellowship competition for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds applying to or in the early stages of doctoral programs in political science. Deadline to apply is November 17, 2017.

<http://www.apsanet.org/mfp>

# INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE TO *THE ADVOCATE*?

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Article length should be approximately 500 words or less
- Include at least one picture(with a caption)
- Include(separately) information about the author(program,department,education,etc.)
- Please submit as either a PDF or Word document
- Submit articles by January 9, 2018 to [sigsdiv@louisville.edu](mailto:sigsdiv@louisville.edu) for our February issue
- Please note that submission DOES NOT guarantee publication