



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Graduate Education

A Note to Students

Dr. James Ahern, Vice Provost and Dean of the School of Graduate Education

Congratulations to the entire UW graduate education community on making it through another academic year!

The School of Graduate Education will be two years old this coming September. While the reestablishment of the graduate school is done, our work is far from complete. We continue to take steps to better support the UW graduate community, including the launch of our Graduate Student Milestones Initiative last September. The Milestones Initiative involves significantly better tracking of graduate students' progress and better communications surrounding next steps toward their degrees. The first part of the Milestones rollout has been to send out targeted communications to graduate students reminding them of the next steps that they need to take to complete their degrees (and sending them reminders if they have missed a step!). The second part of the Milestones rollout that we are currently working on will be a dashboard for faculty and staff to use to check on students' progress in their graduate programs.

Some other actions we've taken to better support graduate students have been to launch a **Graduate Student Resources** website and to transition graduate forms to being truly electronic. As of now, two forms (Exceptions, Committee Assignment Form) are now electronic, and additional forms will be transitioned over the coming months.

The university requires that all colleges and schools have bylaws. Work on the School of Graduate education's bylaws began in 2022. These bylaws have been reviewed by Graduate Council (who also helped develop them), Faculty Senate, and Deans Council. They will go to Provost Carman for final review and approval before they are implemented this coming summer. One of the most significant parts of the bylaws is the reestablishment of the UW Graduate Faculty.

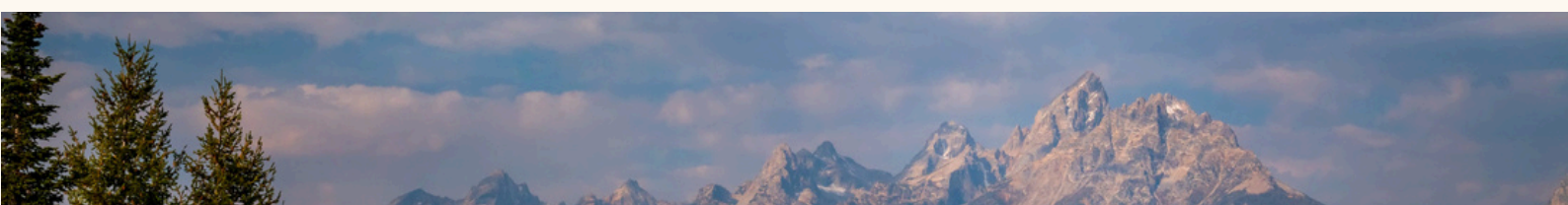


DR. JAMES AHERN
VICE PROVOST &
DEAN OF GRADUATE
EDUCATION

[Graduate Student Degree Timeline](#)

[Carlton R. Barkhurst Writing Fellowship Applications Now Open](#)

[Graduate Student Success Resources](#)



Finally, thanks to the advocacy of President Seidel, Provost Carman, Board of Trustees Chair John McKinley, and others, the Wyoming Legislature has appropriated \$3 million (\$1.5m for each year of the biennium) to the university for graduate assistant raises. This raise money will make a significant difference in improving graduate assistant financial security and will make UW's graduate recruitment more competitive. The details of these raises will be released before the end of the Spring semester.

I know most of you will manage to stay very busy over summer, but I encourage you to find time to rest, recharge, and have fun. As you do so, I recommend seeing more of the state and enjoying its beauty and wonderful people. Some of my personal favorite getaways are soaking in the hot springs of Saratoga or Thermopolis, hiking to Crater Lake in the Snowies, and camping in the Red Desert. I hope you get out and enjoy Wyoming!



University Resources

Disability Support Services

Disability Support Services (DSS) works diligently to highlight & uplift the unique knowledge that students with disabilities bring to the University of Wyoming!

The mission of DSS is to empower students and ensure equal opportunities to thrive at UW. DSS is dedicated to providing the necessary accommodations and support to create an inclusive and accessible learning environment for all individuals.

The DSS team is ready to assist students every step of the way. Whether you require accommodations in academics, housing, or other aspects of university life,

DSS is committed to working together with you to meet your needs and help you succeed.

To get started, please reach out to a DSS team member. You can connect with them online at www.uwyo.edu/udss or contact them directly at 307-766-3073 or via email at udss@uwyo.edu. They are eager to partner with you on your academic journey to ensure that you have the support needed to excel at UW.



Visit Graduate Student Resources for additional student services.

University Resources

Graduate Student Degree Timeline

It's important to be aware of the various forms and tasks that must be completed as you navigate your graduate degree. Review the graduate degree timeline often to ensure you are on the right track!

Visit the [Graduate Student Degree Timeline](#) webpage for more information.

Mental Health

University Counseling Center (UCC)

Located in Knight Hall, the UCC is open Monday-Friday from 8 am- 5 pm. They offer short-term, **free** support for full-time students. Telehealth and in-person services are available. Visit the [UCC](#) for more!

WellSpring

Available to most in the university and the broader community. Services are **free**, and a variety of times are offered during the week. Visit the [WellSpring](#) website for more.

Psychology Center

Offering affordable services to the university and surrounding areas. Services include psychotherapy, assessment, and diagnostic clarification. Review the [Psychology Center's page](#) for more information.



UW Food Share Pantry

The [UW Food Share](#) is open to anyone associated with the university. University of Wyoming, Knight Hall, Room 106.

Hours of Operation:

Monday and Thursday | 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Saturday | 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Wellness

Wellness Center

Found in Half Acre, The Wellness Center offers many opportunities to destress and feel better, including:

- Puppy or kitten play dates
- Wellness and stress management groups
- Massage chairs
- Personal training

Half Acre

Offering something for everyone, [Half Acre](#) promotes physical wellness. **Bonus: Even brief exercise can improve mood, concentration, and sleep!**

Student Health Center

The Student Health Center offers various services, including a full-service pharmacy, treatment, support for multiple illnesses and injuries, and preventative care.

To review more information, view [Student Health's website](#).

[Visit Graduate Student Resources](#) for additional student services.

Carlton R. Barkhurst Writing Fellowship Applications

The Carlton R. Barkhurst Writing Fellowship is made possible by a generous gift from the late Irene Ahlbom Barkhurst.

The Carlton R. Barkhurst Writing Fellowship is intended to help PhD and master's candidates finish their dissertation/thesis in a timely manner. Up to eight Barkhurst Writing Fellowships will be awarded each academic year.

Awards will be limited to a single semester of funding. The single-semester awards will comprise of the following:

- Fellowship of \$8,919
- 1 Credit Hour of Tuition
- Optional Student Fee Package
- Student Health Insurance (if selected)

Eligibility requirements:

- Ph.D. candidate (preliminary exam passed within four years prior to Anticipated Date of Graduation). Other graduate or professional students are not eligible.
- Master's student in their last semester, completing thesis. Other graduate or professional students are not eligible.
- Must be an U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (see: studentaid.gov) Eligibility Requirements with unmet financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Information on how to submit a FAFSA can be found here: uwyo.edu. Please be sure to complete the application for the appropriate aid year (for example, Fall 24/Spring 25 – complete AY24-25 FAFSA application).
- Anticipated Graduation Date form must be on file with the Office of the Registrar.
- For fall awards, student must be graduating in December of the current year. For spring awards, student must be graduating no later than August of the current year.
- Must be in good academic standing
- Must be eligible for the Optional Student Fee Package (an approved Optional Student Fee Package form must be on file with the Office of the Registrar prior to awarding the Fellowship).



Barkhurst Fellows may not hold any form of employment with the University of Wyoming during their fellowship semester. Furthermore, as fellowship recipients, Barkhurst Fellows are not employees and will not have any work expectations associated with their fellowship other than conducting their own research and writing their dissertation/thesis.

A nomination of an eligible student ideally should come from the student's dissertation/thesis advisor, but could come from another faculty member. The nomination must include a letter of nomination and recommendation.

Fall 2024 semester application opportunity is open from April 1, 2024 and closes on June 30, 2024. The application must be submitted and all noted requirements must be met by June 30, 2024, this includes the faculty submitted letter of nomination and the completion and submission of the FAFSA application. Please remember, if you have not completed the general scholarship application in WyoScholarships, you will need to do so before you can apply to this fellowship opportunity. Information can be found on the [UW Student Financial Aid Scholarships & Opportunities](#) web page.

Graduate Student Health Insurance

As a reminder, graduate student health insurance eligibility is based on enrollment. This means that if a graduate student is not enrolled in summer courses, but is enrolled for the Fall semester, has paid the insurance fee for the Spring semester, or health insurance is included with an assistantship, they will have insurance coverage over the summer if the amount of enrolled credits meets the full-time requirement. For more information about student health insurance [please visit the Risk Management website.](#)



2024 | Graduate Awards |

The achievements and contributions of every member of the University of Wyoming community provide the foundation of a unique learning environment. The School of Graduate Education would like to send sincere congratulations to all graduate award winners being celebrated, as well as those graduating this spring. Each of you has worked incredibly hard to give back to this institution and to your respective fields. Please take a moment to celebrate your achievements! The School of Graduate Education wishes you the best as you take the next steps into your future.

The University of Wyoming's School of Graduate Education and the Graduate Council have selected the 2024 graduate student and mentor award winners for outstanding teaching and research.

The **Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award** recognizes outstanding faculty commitment to graduate student mentoring.

The **John P. Ellbogen Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Awards** go to graduate teaching assistants to honor their excellence in teaching.

The **Outstanding Master's Thesis Award** recognizes a graduate student for an exemplary master's thesis.

The **Outstanding Dissertation Award** is granted to a graduate student for an outstanding doctoral dissertation.

The **Distinguished Service Award** recognizes exceptional service to graduate students by a UW administrator or staff.

The **Early-Career Graduate Faculty Mentor Award** and the **Mid-Career Graduate Faculty Mentor Award** are given to faculty members for their commitment to mentoring graduate students.

The **Early-Career Graduate Faculty Mentor Award** is presented to a faculty member with less than six years of an academic career at UW.

The **Mid-Career Graduate Faculty Mentor Award** is given to a faculty member with six to 10 years of academic career at the university.

2024 | Outstanding Dissertation | Tayler LaSharr, Ecology

MAKING A LIVING IN A HARSH WORLD: NUTRITION, ENVIRONMENT, AND LIFE-HISTORY INFLUENCE THE FITNESS OF A LONG-LIVED HERBIVORE

"Nutrition is the foundation of life—without enough resources, animals do not have the capacity to survive and reproduce. Despite its importance in understanding questions of fitness it is often overlooked when considering factors that regulate population dynamics. Here, we highlight how nutrition underpins most aspects of the ecology of mule deer; nutrition influences everything from the ability of a mother to raise offspring to their own survival....The condition of a mother during gestation, and the time she initiated migration (and thus, left summer range) both influenced survival of her juvenile during winter when resources become scarce."

-Tayler LaSharr



2024 | Outstanding Master's Thesis | Chooikim Lau, Architectural Engineering

INVESTIGATING THE LIFECYCLE PERFORMANCE AND TECHNO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF COAL-DERIVED CARBON BUILDING MATERIALS FOR LOW-RISE BUILDINGS

"The aim of this thesis is to evaluate the cradle-to-grave of the life cycle assessment (LCA) and conduct a techno-economic analysis on the coal-derived carbon building (CCB) materials using Wyoming coal. Two demonstration houses are constructed to investigate the performance of CCB materials, particularly the pyrolyzed char bricks (PCB). It is anticipated that the lighter, stronger, and noncorrosive CCB units will reduce the construction duration and cost and facilitate the acceptance and application of CCB products in the building industry.... Finally, a market potential analysis was conducted to explore the potential commercialization of the char bricks. The results indicate that the char products have the capability of being used as bricks and other building materials."

-Chooikim Lau



2024 | Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Award | Lena Newlin, Creative Writing

"I see students as whole people. While I have a specific curriculum to teach, I understand that students have lives outside of the classroom. I understand that if students are struggling with issues related to health, poverty, violence, racism, and other social challenges outside of my classroom, they may not be able to learn and perform academically at their highest potential. I work to build relationships with students so that I can understand and be sensitive to their non-academic needs."

-Lena Newlin

"Part of what sets Lena apart from other fine instructors in our program is her recognition that strong teaching involves commitment and community. Lena's steadfast professionalism, reliability, and collegiality have affirmed the importance of our shared commitment to one another as instructors. She is a leader by example who recognizes the work to be done and commits her time and talents to the good of all."

-Michael Knievel & Ashley Burchett



2024 | Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Award | Jonathan Lautenbach, Ecology

"As a teacher, I like to foster an environment that teaches the general principles of the subject but then allows students to think critically about these subjects and ask questions. By helping the students understand the general principles and combining this with real-world experience and skills, this helps prepare students for their futures and more broadly, understand how the scientific process works. This is especially important in ecology and biology where there is no single correct answer. By allowing students to design their own research and ask unique questions, this allows them to develop those skills as well as an understanding of the broader fields of biology and ecology."

-Jonathan Lautenbach

"Overall, he shows exemplary and compassionate teaching, and it has been a pleasure to teach with Jonathan."

-Liana Boggs Lynch



2024 | Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Award | Aimee Gray, Kinesiology & Health

"As an educator, I am committed to creating an inclusive and engaging learning environment that empowers students to reach their fullest potential. I believe that education should be student-centered, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning. By incorporating diverse learning activities, reflective practices, and authentic assessments, I strive to foster an environment that facilitates learning for all students."

-Aimee Gray

"There is a reason Aimee's peers and students seek her mentorship, why she is already published in the area of teacher effectiveness, and why her list of accomplishments, awards, and scholarships is more consistent with that of a seasoned doctoral student – she is simply an exceptional graduate teaching assistant and reflects the best of the UW."

-Derek Smith



2024 | Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Award | Gerardo Freyre, Civil Engineering

"A professor once told me: 'A good student will learn without a teacher, with a teacher and in spite of the teacher'. Now, I do not know if there is such a thing as a 'good student'. Definitely, as teachers, we will have the luck to have students who are already engaged with whatever topic the class is about. On the other hand, there will be students who might not be as motivated by the class subject. It is here where I think the duty of the teacher becomes of greater importance. I like to make my classes as relatable as possible to create student engagement."

-Gerardo Freyre

"Gerardo exceeded our expectations in every dimension. In my judgement, the students in this course had learning outcomes and experiences equal-or-better to those in prior courses taught by [other instructors]. Throughout the semester, I overheard students talking positively about Gerardo; they clearly respected his authority as the instructor and his command of the material."

-Anthony Denzer



2024 | Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Award | Christopher Cannon, Psychology

"I believe it is my role to assist in students' ability to critique, challenge, and understand rationale in clinical psychology... Clinical psychology and mental health research are universally relevant to all students, and can contribute to better mental and physical healthcare for themselves and their peers. As an instructor, I strive to instill a strong understanding of research and theory, and why these concepts matter to each individual."

-Christopher Cannon

"Christopher has a true passion for teaching psychology so that students can be critical consumers of scientific information... This is important, not just for students who may enter the field, but to prepare them for living a healthy and productive life."

-Sean McCrea



2024 | Distinguished Service | Zebadiah Hall, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Zebadiah Hall has been awarded the inaugural UW School of Graduate Education Dean's Distinguished Service Award for his support for graduate students and improvements to graduate education. His commitment to going above and beyond in his role as a UW administrator has set a standard for exceptional service. Through his efforts, he has made a significant impact on the graduate student community, fostering a supportive and enriching environment for all. The UW School of Graduate Education Dean's Distinguished Service Award is a well-deserved recognition of Zebadiah's invaluable contributions to graduate education at the university. His passion for helping students thrive and succeed is truly commendable and serves as an inspiration to all who have had the privilege of working with him.



2024 | Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor | Conxita Domenech, Modern & Classical Languages

"One can only admire and be motivated by Conxita's strong, spirited, and powerful mentoring, teaching, and research. Undoubtedly, she sets a superb example for all of us. She truly is a role model for anyone who wishes to become a successful professional, mentor, and scholar; yet, she is humble, generous, and widely shares her knowledge, talents, kindness, sense of humor, and laughter."

-Sonia Rodriguez Hicks

"With ample experience observing Conxita in action, I can confirm that the gifts she bestowed on me are the same gifts that each and every student of hers receives. Should you enter a classroom tended by Dr. Domènech—under the buzz of excitement and participation and groupwork and camaraderie—you will find two dimensions of her practice that make her classes an example to follow."

-Olivia Womack



2024 | UW Early-Career Graduate Faculty Mentor | Corrie Knapp, Haub School

"Her exacting standards for her mentees, although difficult, ensure that we become better researchers and collaborators. She recommended me for a different climate adaptation project, too, offering me a very fulfilling and fun interdisciplinary opportunity to learn and work with different University of Wyoming scientists. Her support and care carry on after graduate school and into life, as I seek a career in natural resource management. I recommend her for this award in recognition of her stellar and significant research and mentorship contributions."

-Emily Donaldson

"Through her research journey, Dr. Knapp has demonstrated exceptional mentoring skills and leadership. The Haub School's graduate student body is robust, diverse and thriving due to her guidance."

-John L. Koprowski



2024 | UW Mid-Career Graduate Faculty Mentor | Randa Jabbour, Plant Sciences

"From the beginning of my PhD career, Dr. Jabbour's guidance has been pivotal. Her personal attention and counseling have been a crucial support system, not just for me but for the graduate students in the department. Her approach to interacting with students has been instrumental in helping us achieve our academic milestones in a timely manner, demonstrating her dedication to our success. Dr. Jabbour's mentorship extends beyond academic advising, as reflected in the open communication during regular meetings and in-person conversations. Her insightful advice, based on her experiences in research and pedagogy, has helped me evolve into a growing researcher and an organized course instructor. Her feedback on navigating the challenges of graduate studies and research, such as finding resources for my research in the alfalfa field or sharing lab instruments, has eased my research activities significantly."

-Chandan Shilpakar



2024 | UW Mid-Career Graduate Faculty Mentor | Evan Johnson, Kinesiology & Health

"Dr. Johnson models strong leadership, building trusting and respectful interpersonal relationships, and positive student mentorship that prioritizes student and team success. Within this culture, he demonstrates care, empathy, recognition for work ethic, approachability, and interdisciplinary teamwork. Having had the privilege to serve on some of his graduate student committees, I have witnessed the exceptional quality of his mentorship and commitment to rigorous graduate education standards."

-Derek Smith

"Dr. Johnson possesses a remarkable ability to foster an environment of respect and autonomy for his students. He strikes a balance between providing guidance when needed and allowing students the freedom to explore and develop their own ideas. This approach has been instrumental in creating a conducive learning environment that nurtures independent thinking and academic growth."

-Kevin Miller



Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations, Spring 2024 graduates on reaching a significant moment in your lives! Take a moment to soak in and reflect on all the hard work, dedication, and perseverance that have brought you to this occasion. Your achievements are a testament to the cowfolk spirit.

As you embark on the next phase of your life, embrace the opportunities that come your way. Where ever you are off to next, keep nurturing your passion, exploring new horizons, and challenging yourself to grow.

As you move forward, carry with you the knowledge and wisdom you have gained during your time at UW. Remember the lessons learned, the friendships made, and the experiences that have brought you here.

The world is waiting for you to make your mark. Embrace it with courage, passion, and a sense of adventure. Congratulations!



Crisis Support

University Counseling Center- 307-766-2187

AFTER-HOURS CRISIS- 307-766-8989

WellSprings Counseling- (307) 766-6820

Laramie Suicide Prevention Hotline

Call or Text: **307-977-7777**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Call: **988**

Crisis Text Line

Free 24/7 line: Text HELLO to **741-741**

Important Dates

May 2024

- 1** Last day to defend thesis/dissertation
- 3** Last day to submit graduate paperwork
- 3** Last day of classes
- 6-10** Finals Week
- 27** Memorial Day

Please refer to the [Registrar's Office](#) calendar/deadlines for other important dates and deadlines.

