

# Miami University Graduate School



**2023 Annual Report**





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# Greetings from the Dean

**Michael Crowder, Ph.D.**

Hello Miami Graduate School alumni, partners, and friends! It has been an exciting year in the Graduate School, and I am pleased to share our third Annual Report with you. As you will see in the coming pages, our graduate students, faculty, and staff made tremendous positive impacts at Miami and beyond in 2023. We are a community devoted to driving positive change, whether through pioneering educational initiatives, groundbreaking research, scholarship, and artistic endeavors, or through our commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion. I hope you enjoy learning more about the Graduate School, and please reach out to me if you have any feedback, ideas, or interest in getting more involved with graduate education at Miami.

# About the Graduate School



The Graduate School at Miami University offers a full selection of master's, specialist, doctoral, and certificate programs in a wide range of disciplines. Serving as a platform for discovery, creativity, innovation, and collaboration, the Graduate School is an ambitious body of faculty and graduate student scholars committed to producing new knowledge and promoting best practices.

# The current Graduate School staff are:



**Michael Crowder, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School**  
[crowdemw@MiamiOH.edu](mailto:crowdemw@MiamiOH.edu)

Chief administrative officer for the Graduate School. Chair of Graduate Council and member of the Council of Academic Deans. Responsible for budget management and policy development and implementation. Serves as resource and advocate for all students, faculty, and staff members involved with graduate education.



**Meggan Davison**  
**Assistant to the Dean and Manager of Graduate Student Services**  
[davisomj@MiamiOH.edu](mailto:davisomj@MiamiOH.edu)

Assists with day-to-day operations of the graduate school. Processes graduate students' theses and dissertations. Provides counsel to students on the full range of policies and procedures for graduate students. Responsible for commencement planning and providing support to planning of other events. Processes awards and scholarships for graduate students.



**Christie Keller**  
**Program Associate**  
[kellermh@MiamiOH.edu](mailto:kellermh@MiamiOH.edu)

The Graduate School's first point of contact for visitors to the office or telephone. Processes questions about Domestic Grant-in-Aid (GIA) awards, change of major requests, and credit transfer approval and also maintains the Graduate faculty level standing records.



**Amity Noltemeyer, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Dean of the Graduate School**  
[anoltemeyer@MiamiOH.edu](mailto:anoltemeyer@MiamiOH.edu)

Oversees scholarships and awards, communications, professional development for graduate students, policy development/implementation, Graduate Education Forum, and assists Graduate Council.



**Elise Radina, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Dean of the Graduate School**  
[radiname@MiamiOH.edu](mailto:radiname@MiamiOH.edu)

Leads DEI efforts in the Graduate School. Assists with development and revision of new and existing graduate programs. Provides support to graduate directors. Advises student organizations.

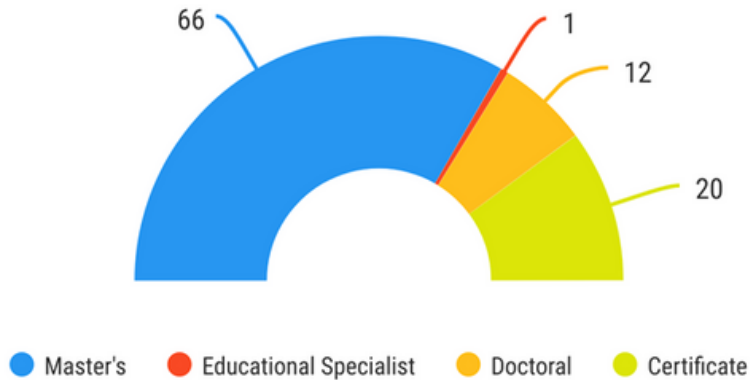


# Overview of Graduate Programs



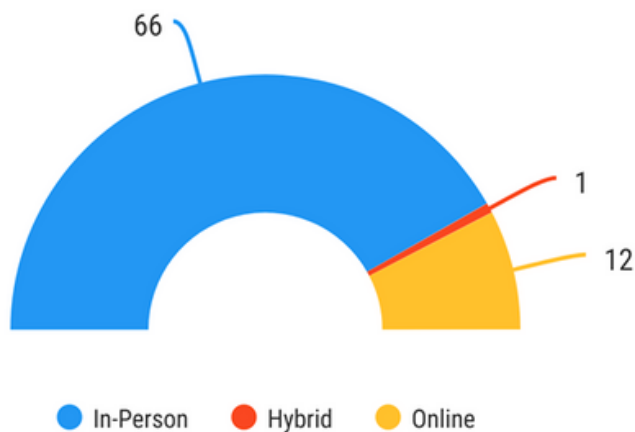
**MIAMI UNIVERSITY OFFERS A VARIETY OF MASTER'S, EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST, AND DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMS, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF GRADUATE CERTIFICATES:**

Programs Offered



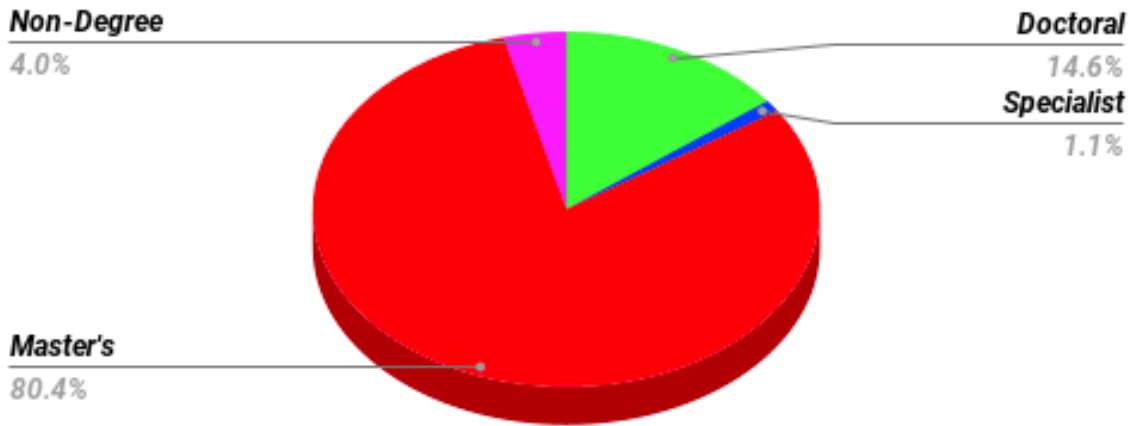
**THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS AT MIAMI UNIVERSITY ARE DIVERSE, INCLUDING IN-PERSON, HYBRID, AND ONLINE MODALITIES:**

Modalities Offered

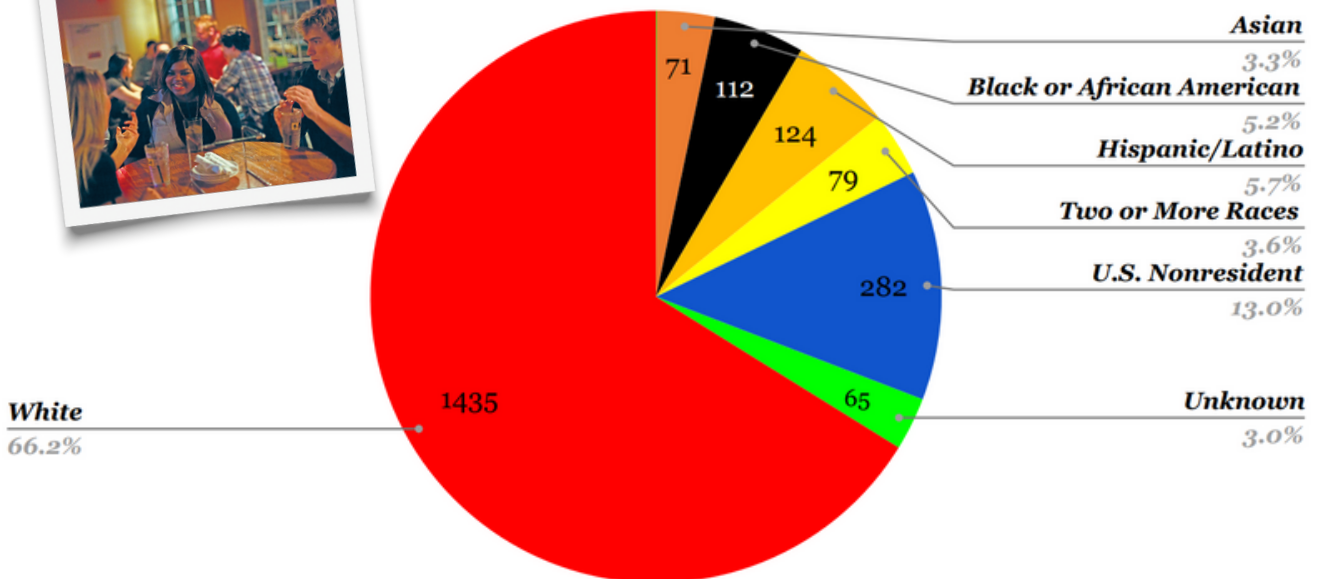


# Graduate Students At-A-Glance

## *Fall 2023 Graduate Enrollment by Degree*

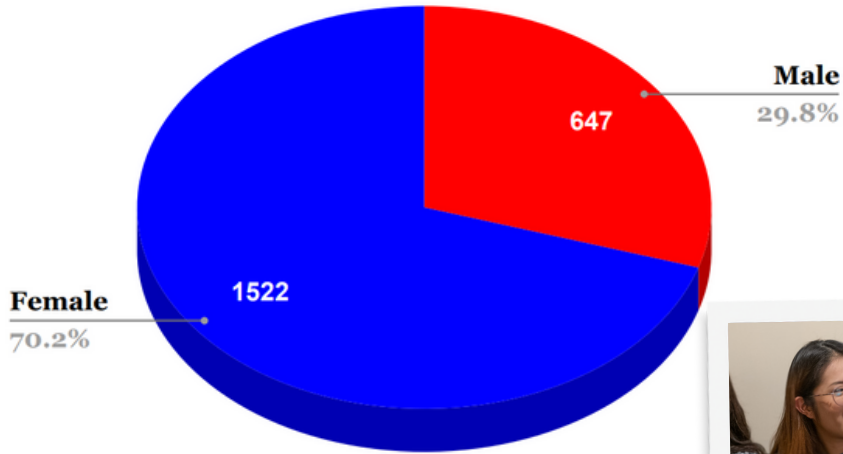


## *By Race/Ethnicity*

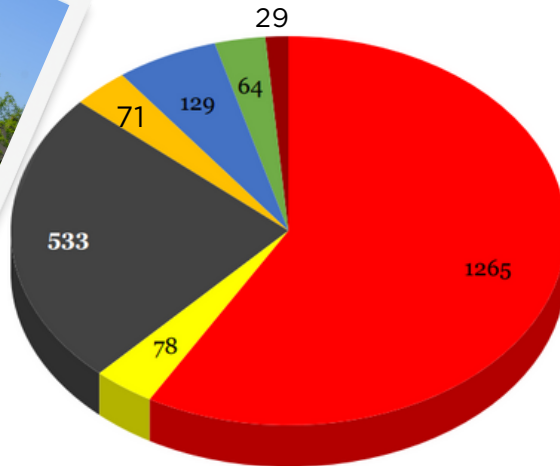




## Gender



## Division

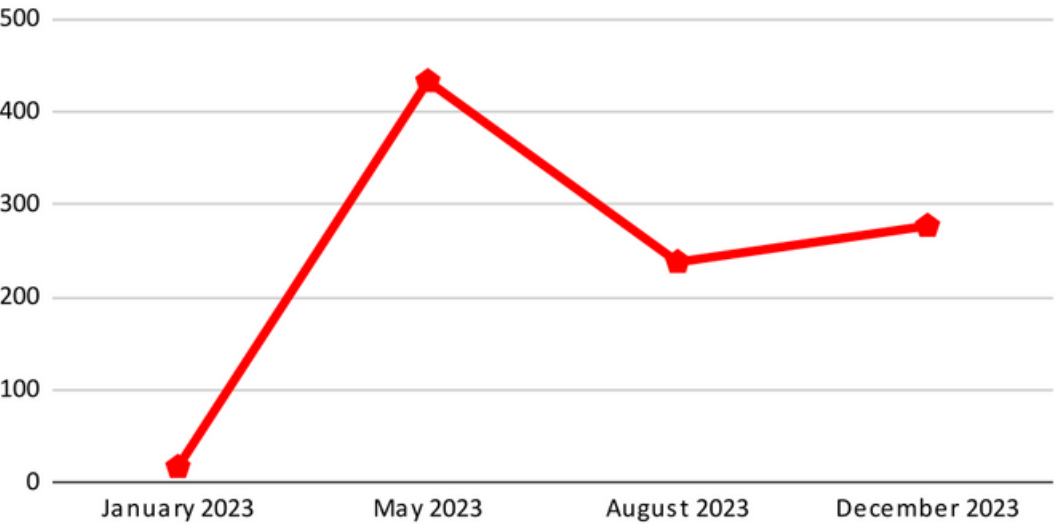


- Arts & Sciences
- Creative Arts
- Education, Health, & Society
- Engineering & Computing
- Business
- No specific division
- Liberal Arts & Applied Science

# Student Status



# Graduated Students 2023



# Commencement

In 2023, the Graduate School celebrated the accomplishments of 938 students who met the requirements for their graduate degree.

In addition to participating in the December and May commencement ceremonies, the Graduate School also hosted a Doctoral Hooding Ceremony in August, during which 29 doctoral graduates were hooded.

**Congratulations to all of the 2023 graduates!**

The Miami University Commencement Ceremony is a beloved tradition — a culminating celebration of the accomplishments of our graduates and those who were with them along the way...we look forward to coming together, not only to recognize the hard work, dedication, and commitment that leads up to this day; but also to reflect on the special journey — the Miami Experience — unique to each graduate, yet also shared by all Miamians.





IN 2023, THE GRADUATE SCHOOL CELEBRATED THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 965 STUDENTS WHO MET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THEIR GRADUATE DEGREE:

- JANUARY 2023 - 17 GRADUATES
- MAY 2023 - 433 GRADUATES
- AUGUST 2023 - 238 GRADUATES
- DECEMBER 2023 - 277 GRADUATES



## DOCTORAL HOODING CEREMONY

In addition to participating in the December and May commencement ceremonies, the Graduate School also hosted a Doctoral Hooding Ceremony in August, during which 42 doctoral graduates were hooded.

Congratulations to all of the 2023 graduates!

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# Programs and Curriculum

**NEW PROGRAMS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN DECEMBER 2023**

- Biomedical Engineering - Master of Engineering
- Chemical Engineering - Master of Engineering



## PROGRAM REVISIONS IN 2023

- Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Economics - Master of Arts
- History - Master of Arts
- Master of Entrepreneurship and Emerging Technology
- Reading Endorsement Certificate
- Social Work - Master of Social Work
- Speech-Language Pathology - Master of Arts and Master of Science
- Sport Psychology Certificate
- Sport Analytics - Master of Sport Analytics
- Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Certificate

# NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS IN 2023

- Dynamical Systems and Mathematical Modeling Graduate Certificate

# PROGRAMS DISCONTINUED IN 2023

- Master of Science in Nursing - suspension of the Nurse Educator track
- Master of Fine Arts in Experience Design



# Policies

- The Graduate School works with Graduate Council and other campus groups to update and revise policy to more effectively and consistently guide practice. The following Graduate Policies were revised in 2023:
  - Probation Policy
  - Graduate Student Organizations Policy
  - Registration Policy
  - Support for Research and Travel Policy
- All of our graduate student policies can be accessed in [the Miami University Policy Library](#).

# Research, Scholarship, and Artistry



## GRADUATE RESEARCH FORUM

The Graduate Research Forum (GRF) provides an opportunity for Miami graduate students from all departments to share their scholarly work with the university community.

The 15th annual GRF took place on November 3, 2023. Almost 100 graduate students participated in in-person and online synchronous poster presentations, oral presentations, and art presentations. Presentations were evaluated by alumni and faculty judges, and top presenters received awards of professional expense funds.

### TOP ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Runcie Chidebe, doctoral student in Social Gerontology  
Alfredo Ascanio Moreno, doctoral student in Ecology,  
Evolution and Environmental Biology  
Prachi Wele, doctoral student in Biology

### TOP POSTER PRESENTATIONS:

Jabale Rahmat, master's student in Biology,  
Amanda Reichert, master's student in Psychology  
Anil Upreti, Ph.D. Candidate in Cell, Molecular, and  
Structural Biology





We would like to extend a special thank you to our alumni and faculty judges, who volunteered their time and talents to provide feedback to our graduate student presenters:

Adam Conway  
Biff Rocha  
Caitlyn Thomas  
Callie Maddox  
M Carlotta Lively  
Christine E. Pacewicz  
Christine R. Habib  
Dave Gorchoy  
Elizabeth Gleason  
Emily Cain  
Jaelyn Bean  
Janelle Allen  
Jason Abbitt  
Jeffrey H. Sherman  
Jennifer Kinney  
Jessica Riley Beebe

Jim Clark  
John N. Alumasa  
Ken Switzer  
Lance N. Franke  
Lorin DeBonte  
Megan Jackoby  
Patrick McLean  
Perry Stein  
Phillip Long  
Sara Jane Ainsworth  
Simran Kaur-Colbert  
Susan Scheib  
Tadd Franke  
Tyler Gilligan  
Vicky Unger  
Vince Billock  
Wei Chen



# Three Minute Thesis

**THE THREE MINUTE THESIS (3MT®) IS AN EXERCISE THAT DEVELOPS ACADEMIC, PRESENTATION, AND RESEARCH COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH STUDENTS' CAPACITY TO EFFECTIVELY EXPLAIN THEIR RESEARCH IN THREE MINUTES IN A LANGUAGE APPROPRIATE TO AN INTELLIGENT BUT NON-SPECIALIST AUDIENCE.**

The 3MT® is sponsored in loving memory of Dr. Gerald Sanders, Chair of the Department of Communications, Miami University, 1981-1992.

**In 2023 the 3MT® was held on Feb. 13 at 4 p.m..**

**2023 3MT® Competition Winners were:**

**First Place: Natalie Tyrey Garvin, Speech Language Pathology**

**Second Place: Rachel Arbor, Biological Sciences (Project Dragonfly)**

**Third Place: Wylie Brace, Psychology**

**People's Choice: Nanci Reyes-Guzmán, Geology and Environmental Earth Science**

**The 2024 3MT® Competition final event is scheduled for Feb. 26 at 4:00 pm in Shriver Center (Heritage Room). Preliminary rounds (to select finalists) will be held the week of Feb. 12.**

Monetary prizes are awarded to the 1st Place (\$1,000), 2nd Place (\$750), and 3rd Place (\$500) presentations selected by a panel of judges. An additional award of the People's Choice (\$1,000) selected by the audience is also awarded. Donors include Dr. Guorong Jiang and Hongyan Tang.

# GRADUATE SUMMER

## FELLOWSHIP

The purpose of the Graduate Summer Research Fellowship is to provide financial support for full-time graduate students to engage in meaningful scholarly activities during a 6-week summer period. The summer research fellowship is intended for students who have no additional means of summer support during the six-week summer period (e.g., grant-funded assistantship; external, paid internships; teaching assignments, etc.). Two hundred and fifty five students received a Graduate Summer Research Fellowship in 2023.

The Graduate School asked all recipients of the 2023 Graduate Research Fellowship to provide a one paragraph description of what they accomplished during their fellowship. Although each student's accomplishments were unique, students reported conducting literature reviews, completing IRB applications, participating in internships, visiting archives, making progress on their thesis or dissertation, traveling to data collection sites, presenting at national conferences, writing journal manuscripts, mentoring undergraduate students, preparing or collecting data, conducting experiments, and submitting publications and presentations. Furthermore, many students commented that the financial support they received was instrumental to their being able to fully immerse themselves in their research in these ways.

### **ADRIAN PARKER, DOCTORAL STUDENT IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

"During the time of Graduate Summer Fellowship I was able to travel and give a presentation at the Curriculum Studies Summer Collaborative in Savannah, GA. Additionally, I served as a reviewer for the Critical Race Studies in Education Association. Lastly, I was able to pay for classes and complete half of my comprehensive exam in the time given."

### **MAHMUD KARIM, MASTER'S STUDENT IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

"This summer, I have written a book chapter on Electrical Discharge Machining (EDM) Technologies in the Aerospace Industry. My research is to reduce machining time by designing different types of graphite electrodes in Electrical Discharge Machining (EDM). I have conducted around 30 experiments which includes making electrodes in Milling machine, taking images on an optical microscope, recording data of weight and dimension of electrode and workpiece before and after machining and finally EDMing on die Sink EDM where the workpiece was Silicon."



**BENJAMIN AKANDE,  
DOCTORAL STUDENT  
IN BIOLOGY**

"My research is aimed at using zebrafish embryos to elucidate the cellular and molecular mechanisms underpinning cardiovascular development. Before this fellowship, I had constructed a transcriptomic (RNA-seq) library from genetic samples of three-day-old zebrafish embryos. Analysis of the library allowed me to shortlist putative genes accounting for the defect associated with congenital heart defects. With this fellowship, I have been able to investigate the putative genes to which outcomes are interesting and ready to be shared with the public. Also, I was able to prepare surgeries on three-day-old zebrafish to isolate their hearts to further understand the molecular pathway that is impeded by the putative genes. To this, hearts samples will be used to construct another RNA-seq library to answer the above questions on molecular pathways. In addition, I collaborated with an undergraduate student, partaking in the NSF REU program, to investigate the effect of stamp sand on zebrafish embryonic development. This project focused on treating zebrafish embryos with varying concentrations of stamp sand to determine the effect on hatching, sensory cell degeneration, and regeneration, and facial development of zebrafish embryos."

**MADELINE BEDNAR,  
MASTER'S STUDENT IN  
BOTANY**

"I was able to complete my leaf tissue sample collection trip. I was able to collect about 342 samples for my research. I then was able to extract the DNA from all of the leaf tissue I collected. This DNA will be sequenced so I can learn the genetic diversity of my plant of study (Sweet Gulfcoast Pitcherplant). This rare endemic to Florida is being petitioned by US Fish and Wildlife. My research is providing the genetic analysis for USFWS. I was able to complete a large part of this research during my graduate summer fellowship."

**MASTANO N. DZIMBIRI,  
DOCTORAL STUDENT IN  
EDUCATION  
LEADERSHIP**

"During my Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, I traveled to Malawi, Africa, where I undertook a study on the geography of school poverty and social justice education. This research delved into the intricate interplay of identity politics in shaping educational policy decisions and their profound consequences on ensuring fair access to educational resources across Malawi. Employing a phenomenological approach, I devoted substantial time to engaging in in-depth interviews with key participants, including both students and teachers, selected from various school districts within my hometown of Mzuzu in northern Malawi. As a culmination of my efforts, I have crafted a comprehensive report and I am planning to channel my findings into a manuscript that I intend to submit for peer review by October 2023."



# NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

The purpose of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) is to ensure the quality, vitality, and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce of the United States. GRFP seeks to broaden participation in science and engineering of underrepresented groups, including women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and veterans.

In addition, the Graduate School is committed to preparing our students for applying for the NSF GRFP. In August-October 2023, we offered a GRFP Application Support program to mentor students in preparing and submitting successful applications.



MIAMI WAS HONORED  
TO HAVE FIVE ACTIVE  
RECIPIENTS OF A GRFP  
IN 2023.



# Graduate Student Recognitions

Graduate students at Miami University have accomplished many things in the classroom, laboratory, workplace, profession, and community. In 2023, the Graduate School started recognizing graduate students for their accomplishments through our [Graduate Student Spotlight](#). See below for a sample of our Graduate Student Spotlights and follow us on social media to see all of them!



## Graduate Student Spotlight

### Danielle Nehring

Doctoral student in Educational Leadership

Research Interests: Play, School-Home Collaboration, and Risk

"At this year's 44th International School Psychologist Association Conference, Chin Lee and I presented our team's (including Makenzie Theiss & Adam von der Embse) research on parent involvement within U.S. Latino and Asian immigrant and refugee populations. Our findings explored conceptual and operationalized definitions of parental involvement in these communities. This research identified key barriers for families and suggestions on how schools may address them to better serve students in these populations. Thank you to Drs. Bush, James, and Noltemeyer for their guidance and support!"

Danielle is spotlighted for her presentation at the 44th Annual Conference of the International School Psychology Association (ISPA).



## Graduate Student Spotlight

### Kelsey Nolin

Master of Fine Arts, Studio Arts

Research Area: The study of alternative methods of making photographs.

Kelsey is spotlighted for being one of the recipients of Miami University's Graduate Student Achievement Award, 2023.

"I owe much gratitude to my faculty advisors. They have both challenged and encouraged me throughout my time in the program, and my creative practice will continue to be shaped by my time at Miami long after graduation."



## Graduate Student Spotlight

### Amanda Kaufman

Master's Student  
SLAM (Sports Leadership and Management) Department

Research Interests: Making Sport More Accessible and Welcoming to Those who are Historically Left out of the Sporting Space.

"This grant would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of the SLAM department faculty. Everyday I go to class and have the opportunity to learn from such incredible scholars such as Dr. Robin Vealey, Dr. Christine Pacewicz, and especially my wonderful thesis advisor Dr. Callie Maddox. Every day these women inspire me to be the best scholar of sport I can be and receiving this grant is just one example of what doors my time in the SLAM department has opened up."

Amanda is spotlighted for being one among the top five students to receive the NCAA Graduate Research Grant.



## Graduate Student Spotlight

### McKenna Burns

Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology  
(Ph.D. Candidate)

Research Area:  
Comparative Physiology

McKenna is spotlighted for being adjudged one of the recipients of Miami University's Graduate Student Achievement.

"I was lucky to be included in the Fulbright program, a rewarding and eye-opening fellowship. The photo included is of me at the 2022 Nobel Awards, of which I was in attendance due to my Fulbright. It was an unbelievable experience."





## Graduate Student Spotlight Anthony Patrick

Senior, Undergraduate Bachelors of Science,  
Accountancy  
Master of Accountancy  
(Combined BS/MAcc)

Anthony is spotlighted for being featured as One (out of 100) of Poets and Quants 2023 Best & Brightest Business Major. In his interview, Anthony specifically mentions his MAcc coursework.

"What I love most about being in the MAcc program is its incredible ability to evolve my business competency and strategic thinking while intimately enabling me to fall in love with accounting all over again! The MAcc does not merely develop skilled accountants, but multifaceted business professionals capable of applying executive-level thinking to problem-solve in a dynamic business world. Through the passion of my professors, the value of each and every assignment, and constantly being surrounded by a community of inspiring peers, I could not help but fall in love all over again with accounting."



## Graduate Student Spotlight Alex Dunahoo

Ecology, Evolution, and  
Environmental Biology PhD  
Program

Research Area: Conservation  
genomics of freshwater mussels

**Alex is spotlighted for being one of the recipients of Miami University's Graduate Student Achievement Award, 2023.**

"I am extremely grateful for Miami to award my achievement of receiving a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. This award will greatly contribute to my professional development as a researcher."



## Graduate Student Spotlight Chiquita M. Hughes

Doctoral Student in the Department of  
Educational Leadership

Research Interests: Educational Equity and  
Advocacy, Culturally Responsive Curricula, and  
Engaging the Voices of Black Parents and  
Families in Educational Spaces

Chiquita is spotlighted for her presentation at the 44th Annual Conference of the International School Psychology Association (ISPA).

"ISPA 2023 was the most memorable experience. The conference was beneficial to me personally, academically, and professionally. Post-session questions and conversations with international scholars have inspired me to conduct more research on cultural considerations of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), integration with children's books, and to create more resources and tools for using children's books to teach SEL"



## Graduate Student Spotlight Will Chesher

Doctoral Student in English:  
Composition and Rhetoric

Research Interests: Exploring how we use our  
expertise as writing studies scholars outside of  
higher education, research methods and  
methodologies, and program design in higher  
education

"I'm excited to digitize this archive of interviews of Writing Across the Curriculum scholars so that others can access and use them in an open-access digital archive!"

Will is spotlighted for being awarded "Emergent Researcher Award" for 2022-2023, with an accompanying grant of \$10,000 by the Conference on College Composition and Communication, a premier national Writing Studies organization.



# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

## **CROSS-CULTURAL MENTORING PROGRAM**

The goals of the cross-cultural mentoring program are:

- Creating relationships that foster the sharing of diverse life experiences so that mentoring pairs may learn from one another.
- Assuring that graduate students have a point person, preferably from outside their academic program, that they can go to with questions or concerns.
- Providing support to graduate students who may experience stress or conflict.
- Promoting improvement in teaching skills and performance (if applicable).
- Increasing research skills and productivity (if applicable).

In 2023, 24 graduate students and 27 faculty/staff from five academic divisions participated. This program uses a combination of one-to-one and group mentoring.

# BOOK CLUBS

The purpose of the book clubs for this year are to facilitate discussion about leadership with a specific focus on leadership perspectives that represent female-identified perspectives.

- The Spring 2023 book was “Dismantling Institutional Whiteness: Emerging Forms of Leadership in Higher Education” (edited by M. Cristina Alcalde and Mangala Subramaniam). This book is a collection of essays by women of color who are leaders in higher education. The authors reflect on their experiences as leaders and offer insight into navigating the systemic challenges to leading as a woman of color.
  - 34 students participated in online and in-person discussions
  - In addition to book club discussions, the Graduate School partnered with the Office for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and the Center for Teaching Excellence to host a virtual panel discussion with the editors and some of the chapter authors.
- The book for Fall 2023 was “All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis” (edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson). This book is an anthology of 60 contributions that focus on the climate movement and highlight how leadership in this effort is characteristically feminine/feminist by its foundational values of compassion, connection, creativity, and collaboration.
  - 19 students participated in online and in-person discussions



# DEI STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD



The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Graduate Student Advisory Board is a group of graduate students from across the university who help shape the Graduate School's collaborative efforts to cultivate an equitable, affirming, and inclusive graduate education experience in which graduate students across all aspects of diversity including race, ethnicity, gender identity, citizenship status, language, religion, socioeconomic status, nationality, sexual orientation, and ability-difference can successfully learn and grow.



Scan to learn more

[miamioh.edu/graduateadvisoryboard](https://miamioh.edu/graduateadvisoryboard)



# 2023-24 DEI Student Advisory Board Members

"Diversity, equity, and inclusion are very important to me as a Latinx woman in STEM. I am looking forward to contributing my ideas in DEI to Miami University, but am particularly excited about hearing the ideas, stories, and viewpoints of the students and faculty I will be working with on the DEI Student Advisory Board."



**VIVIANA MORENO**

Project Dragonfly, Advanced Inquiry Program

"Creating a home that can sustain life is a core value of my community. Higher education has a history of excluding many from its home. Yet I see efforts of healing that history, and since I study here, I want to support it."



**NOEMÍ (MIMI) LUCERO**

Biology

LOVE  
AND  
HONOR

"I feel motivated by hearing the stories of others, and find myself subsequently driven to support the creation of spaces that welcome individuals to tell their stories. The DEI Student Advisory Board is an opportunity to connect with others from across campus who share a vested interest in creating a campus culture that welcomes, engages, and supports its students in a way that values the whole person. As a proponent of community, I also look forward to using my skillset to give back to the graduate student community that I am a part of."



**ALLISON SEARS**

MA Social Work

"Complaining about the inequity and non-inclusion in our community is great, however, getting involved to improve diversity, equity and inclusivity is powerful. I joined the Miami University Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Graduate Student Advisory Board to support the university in making the necessary changes and speak up for my community."

**RUNCIE C.W. CHIDEBE**  
Ph.D. Social Gerontology



"I'm excited for the opportunity to help the Graduate School better serve students from diverse backgrounds at a PWI."

**AMANDA MEYER**  
Clinical Psychology



"Participating on the DEI students' advisory board allows me to learn and offer my own unique perspective towards advocating and championing the need for equity and inclusion for students from different walks of life to feel welcome and valued."

**EMMANUEL ACHEAMPONG**  
Educational Leadership



Advisory Board membership reflects students who have consistently demonstrated a commitment to enhancing diversity, inclusion, access, and equity in higher education. In 2023-2024, there are 10 DEI Student Advisory Board Members. A major goal of this committee is to advise fostering a climate of inclusion that celebrates diversity across graduate programs at Miami.

# 2023-24 DEI Student Advisory Board New Member Alert!



"I wanted to be a part of the DEI Student Advisory Board because I love staying engaged, expanding my growth mindset, building community, and doing my part in making this nation and world a better place for others."

**DORMETRIA ROBINSON THOMPSON**  
Educational Leadership

DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Student  
Advisory Board Member



"I wanted to be a part of the positive DEI changes that Miami is striving towards. I believe that the only way to see change in the world is to dedicate your time and efforts towards the change you wish to see."

**SAMUEL VAN VLEET**

Social Gerontology  
DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Student  
Advisory Board Member



"I wanted to be a member of the DEI Student Advisory Board to help make a real difference in the climate and community of Miami's campus for all students, particularly marginalized students. I think DEI is a good way to make that impact!"

**WREN BURKS**

English: Composition and Rhetoric  
DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)  
Student Advisory Board Member



# CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES







# Student Organizations

## GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA)

### President:

Nanci Reyes-Guzman, Doctorate student in Geology, College of Arts and Sciences

### Highlights:

- Monthly meetings with the graduate student community
- Change of executive board (May-August)
- Increment of travel fund award (up to \$200) and update of the GSA constitution

### Events:

- Grad student appreciation week (April), and social ice cream
- Social events in partnership with GSCA, IGSA, and GSPA
- Welcome pizza and Gradsgiving



# GRADUATE STUDENTS OF COLOR ASSOCIATION (GSCA)

## President:

Wilnelly Ventura-Valentin,  
Doctorate student in Geology,  
College of Arts and Sciences

## Events:

- Incoming Graduate Student Orientations
- Halloween Movie Night
- Finals Week Coffee and Destress
- Semester -End celebration ‘Sip and Paint’



## Highlights:

- Visit to the Railroad Museum
- Cincinnati Reds Game



“Spring and Fall 2023 was full of events where we built community and got to detach a bit from the stress of the semester.”

Wilnelly Ventura-Valentin

## GRADUATE STUDENT PRIDE ASSOCIATION (GSPA)

### Co-Presidents:

- Katie Stahlhut, Doctorate student in Botany, College of Arts and Science
- Ella Amaral Lavoie, Doctorate student in Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

### Highlights:

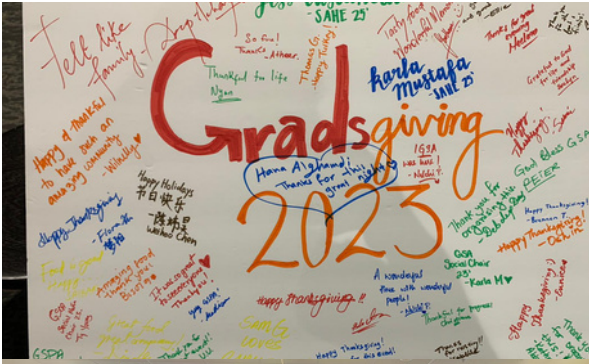
- Monthly meetings and monthly social events
- Meet and greet over LGBTQ+ sandwiches
- LGBTQ+ Rights and Fights with the ACLU
- October Horror Movie Night
- Pottery. Painting Social.

“We collaborated with the other graduate orgs to host the Graduate Welcome Event and Gradsgiving! Also, many of our members went to MBLGTACC in Lexington, Ky., in November.”

Katie Stahlhut



# INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (IGSA)



## President:

Nelchi Prashali, Doctorate student in Biology, College of Arts and Sciences.

## Events:

- IGSA Reception (Spring & Fall 2023) organized by ISSS
- General Meeting Spring & Fall Semester
- Hosted a table at the Graduate Student Welcome Event
- IGSA Spook-fest '23
- Hosted a table at the Graduate Research Forum
- End of Semester Coffee and Donuts
- Gradsgiving - A Thanksgiving-themed potluck style dinner co-hosted with GSA, GSPA, and GSCA

## Highlights:

- "End the Semester Artfully", First-Ever IGSA Merchandise distribution
- Candle Craft: A "scent-sational" way to end the semester! - IGSA's first out of Oxford event! Fall 2023 end of semester event at Petals & Wicks, Hamilton, where attendees crafted their custom "scent-sational" candles.



# Professional Development Series and Opportunities

The Graduate Student Development Series offers graduate students the opportunity to learn strategies for personal and professional growth in one-hour sessions facilitated by Miami University faculty, staff, and/or invited guests.

## **SPRING 2023**

- 12 sessions were offered
- Students participated in-person and on Zoom
- Topics included: work-life balance, personal financial budgeting, alumni networking, joining an academic conversation, microaggressions and how to turn conflict into opportunity, and others!

## **FALL 2023**

- Nine sessions were offered, with an average of 19 students attending each session
- Students participated remotely and in-person. Topics included ; Speed Networking (Virtual), Speed Networking (Hybrid), AI and Writing, Racial Equity, Writing a Strong Cover Letter, Sustainability, The Power of Counter-Narrative, Understanding and Leveraging your Clifton, Budgeting and Personal Finance.
- eight students received a "Commitment to Professional Development" recognition for attending six or more sessions in the spring 2023 semester, and 10 students received this recognition for the fall 2023 semester.

# QUOTES FROM SPRING 2023 GRADUATE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT SERIES ATTENDEES

“The session Understanding and Leveraging your Clifton Strengths survey helped me identify some of my personal strengths and was really insightful as I can now better utilize my skills at work and grad school.”



“I found the Budgeting and Personal Finance session particularly enjoyable and valuable. As a science student, these topics are not often covered in the classroom or in my everyday discussions. The insights shared during the session were enlightening, providing me with a wealth of information on investment, saving, and budgeting.”

“The Speed Networking was such a good session. Learned a lot about how to network and present myself. It was great to speak with other graduate students and it helped expand my scope.”

“Exploring these financial aspects was not only interesting but also immensely useful. The session went beyond conventional academic subjects, offering practical knowledge that is often overlooked in my academic pursuits. Learning about new facts and strategies related to managing finances has broadened my understanding about the topic.”



## GRADUATE STUDENT WELLNESS DAYS

- Three day-long opportunities in Spring 2023 for students to get their CV reviewed, health topics, networking opportunities, chair massages, free lunch, and writing with peers.

## MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

- Arranged for nine graduate directors/staff to attend a daylong session hosted by SCS and the Rec Center in January 2023
- Arranged for two different daylong sessions on Feb. 25, 2023 for graduate students. Thirty-nine graduate students completed the entire training.
- Arranged for a daylong session for graduate students on Oct. 14, 2022. Twenty-nine graduate students participated.



# Graduate Student Orientation and Welcome Event

There were two orientation and welcome events  
for new graduate students for Fall 2023.



## ONLINE EVENT

The new graduate student orientation was held on Monday, Aug. 21, from 4-6p.m. via Zoom. This goal of the orientation was to help new students learn more about graduate student resources, opportunities at Miami. It was an opportunity to meet the Graduate School staff, hear from the current student panel, receive the duty to report training required for Graduate Assistants (GAs/TAs), and have the opportunity to ask questions.



## IN-PERSON EVENT

An optional in-person event was conducted to welcome all graduate students (including returning graduate students) on Aug. 25, 3-4:30p.m. in the Shriver Center Heritage Room. Light refreshments were served, there were opportunities for networking, and information was made available on various graduate student organizations and campus resources.





# Investment in Graduate Education

We are grateful to all of the donors who have supported various Graduate School initiatives in 2022 through financial donations, volunteering their time, and sharing their expertise.

# #MoveIn MIAMI

our annual day of giving

The Fall 2023 #MoveInMiami campaign focused on raising donations for the Graduate School Emergency Fund. The purpose of this is to support the continued academic progress and well-being of students experiencing short-term financial hardship that cannot be funded by other means.

The Graduate School Emergency Fund meets an essential need for those students who might not otherwise be able to continue their studies due to unexpected financial needs. This may include expenses like those for travel relating to emergencies (such as the death of a family member), replacement of stolen goods, emergency medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance, temporary housing due to displacement by fire or flood, and similar expenses. The Graduate School sees the availability of these funds as central to its mission to reduce barriers for students in completing their hard-earned degrees.

- Total Donations: \$2,482
- Fall 2023 distributions: \$600 to two graduate students facing financial hardship

# OTHER GRADUATE AWARDS



## MARJORIE POST FARRINGTON AWARD

Three students were selected to receive the Marjorie Post Farrington Award in 2023. This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a full-time graduate student based primarily on merit and secondarily on financial need.

## GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

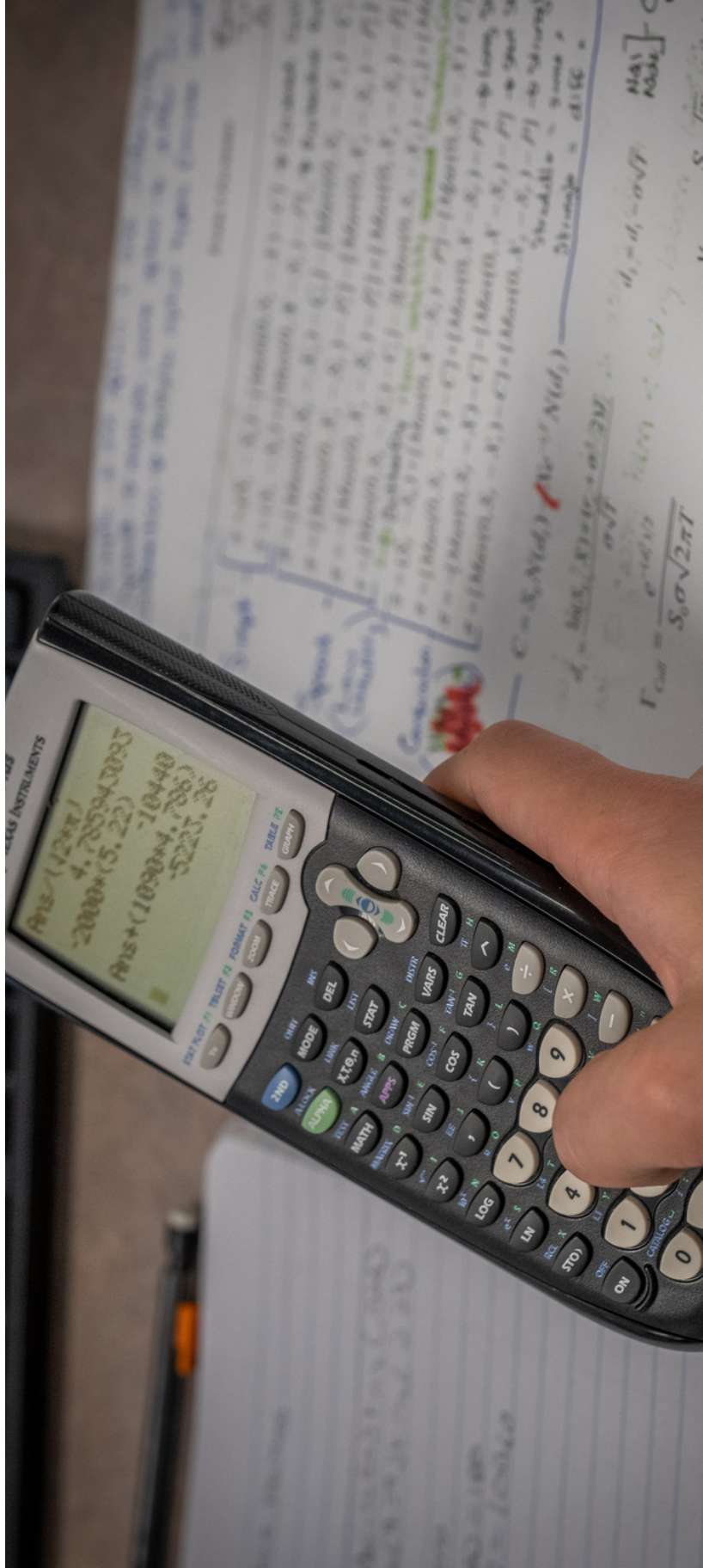
In 2023, 11 students from eight different programs earned a Graduate Student Achievement (GSA) Award. This award recognizes a significant achievement in a research or creative activity. Achievements in 2023 included peer-reviewed publications, externally funded grants, and earning fellowships.

## INTERNATIONAL GRANT-IN-AID (IGIA)

The International Grant-in-Aid (IGIA) award is intended to attract diverse international students to Miami's graduate programs, through a 100% tuition waiver. Sixteen students received the IGIA in 2023.

## DISSERTATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Nine students received Dissertation Scholarships in Spring 2023 and eight students received them in Fall 2023. These scholarships provide a stipend and tuition waiver for select students engaging in full-time study related to their dissertation.





## GRANT-IN-AID (GIA)

The Grant-in-Aid (GIA) award provides a 100% tuition waiver to high performing students demonstrating financial need. In 2023, 23 graduate students received tuition waivers for 41 semesters.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL SCHOLAR ASSISTANTSHIP (GSSA)

The Graduate School Scholar Assistantship (GSSA) is an assistantship used to attract and matriculate highly capable graduate student researchers. Six students received the GSSA in 2023.

## DIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT PATHWAY (DEP) AND RONALD E. MCNAIR PROGRAMS

The Diversity Enhancement Pathway (DEP) and McNair Graduate Assistantship Program aim to attract and retain diverse domestic students to Miami with a funded stipend and tuition waiver. In 2022, 60 semester assistantships were awarded to students through these programs.

## AANCHTAAKIA GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

This graduate fellowship through the Myaamia Center is designed for scholars motivated to make positive change in tribal communities and to share their research or interests on Miami University's campus.

## GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH SUPPORT AWARD

This award funds expenses associated with a student's research for the master's thesis or the doctoral dissertation. The Graduate School funded \$5,200 in requests to 11 students in March 2023, and another \$4,550 in requests to 17 students in November 2023.

**WE ALSO RECEIVED FEEDBACK IN 2023 FROM SEVERAL STUDENTS WHO EARNED THESE AWARDS IN 2022. THE IMPACT OF THE AWARDS CAN BE SEEN IN THE FOLLOWING QUOTES:**

“I used the funding to care for the animals during the length of the study...This funding is impactful for helping pay for animal care, but it is also a statement of support from the Graduate School. It helps me feel confident in research and publication knowing I have the University's support.”

“I used the funding I received from the graduate school to purchase Amazon gift cards which I used as incentives for my research participants. This helped advance my project by generating a bit more interest in completing the survey we used for data collection, and thus helped us achieve a valuable sample size...This funding was impactful because it can be difficult to gain participants, especially when your desired population is very busy and has little time to participate. By offering a small incentive as gratitude for participation we were able to encourage more people to engage in our study. I am very grateful to have had the support from the graduate school to make that small token of appreciation possible.”

# Distinguished Teaching Award

The Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Graduate Instruction and Mentoring is given to faculty who demonstrate outstanding impact on graduate students and graduate education.



The 2023 recipients were Dr. Joel Malin (Educational Leadership) and Dr. Heather Claypool (Psychology).



Presented to

# OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

In 2023, we continued efforts to communicate and share successes and information with internal and external constituents. A few examples are noted below:

## Social media

The Graduate School continued sharing information and opportunities through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Please connect and engage with us on these platforms!

## Newsletters

We continued weekly graduate education newsletters for graduate faculty/staff and monthly newsletters for graduate students.



**MIAMI UNIVERSITY AND ITS GRADUATE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN CELEBRATED IN MIAMI UNIVERSITY NEWS STORIES. HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES WE THOUGHT YOU WOULD ENJOY!**

**“GFP graduates awarded Grosvenor Teacher Fellowships and embarked on Lindblad voyages aboard the National Geographic Explorer. GFP graduates Susan Dorsey '19 (left) of Baltimore, Maryland, and Katie Mauro '22 of Brookfield, Connecticut, were named 2021 Grosvenor Teacher Fellows by Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic...”**



Scan to learn more

[miamioh.edu/grosvenorteacher](https://miamioh.edu/grosvenorteacher)



Prachi Weli, Ph.D. student in Biology, was awarded the prestigious Sigma Xi Grants in Aid of Research. This fund from the National Academy of Sciences starting in January 2023 allows her to conduct research on sex-dependent differences in obesity-induced colorectal cancer.



**“AS AN INTERNATIONAL PH.D. STUDENT AT MIAMI UNIVERSITY, RECEIVING THE SIGMA XI GRANTS IN AID OF RESEARCH HAS BEEN A TRANSFORMATIVE HONOR, ENCOURAGING ME TO DELVE DEEPER INTO MY ACADEMIC PURSUIT. THE GRANT PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT ENABLING ME TO CONDUCT IMPACTFUL RESEARCH, CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO THE WORLD, AND UNDERSTAND COLORECTAL CANCER BETTER.”**

**A DAUGHTER'S DECISION ADVANCES HER MOTHER'S DREAM;  
MOTHER AND DAUGHTER HANAA AND ATHEER ALGHAMDI ARE  
SIMULTANEOUSLY PURSUING MASTER'S DEGREES AT MIAMI.**

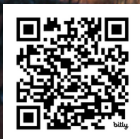


Scan to learn more

[miamioh.edu/daughtersdecision](https://miamioh.edu/daughtersdecision)



**MIAMI GRADUATE  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAM RISES  
NEARLY 40 SPOTS.**



Scan to learn more

[miamioh.edu/bestgraduate](https://miamioh.edu/bestgraduate)

# HISTORY OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

1946

- Graduate School established as a separate academic division.



1953

- Horace A. Irvin Hall the first location of the Graduate School Office. Prior to 1953 there was not a official location of a formal office.



1961

- The office moved to the Administration Building Roudebush.

2023-Present

- In Fall 2023, the Graduate School Office moved to Laws Hall.



# Goals for the Future

As we look forward into 2024, the Graduate School will be prioritizing several goals, including:

- Continue efforts to propose and implement new degree programs in high need/demand areas, and revise existing programs to be more marketable and impactful.
- Increase revenue to be able to better support graduate education.
- Enhance recruitment and retention of diverse and under-represented populations.
- Improve the reputation of our graduate programs by improving program quality and metrics as well as effectively sharing and marketing successes.
- Provide graduate student support and enhance the graduate student experience.



# How Can I Get Involved or Help?

**WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN GRADUATE EDUCATION AT MIAMI UNIVERSITY. PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Alumni- Please join [Miami Alumni Connect](#), a career and mentoring platform that helps students succeed during and after their Miami experience. Once registered, click on "GROUPS" in the top bar and join the new group "Graduate School."**

**Email ideas, feedback, questions, or updates to us at [gradschool@miamioh.edu](mailto:gradschool@miamioh.edu). We would love to hear from you!**

**Make a financial contribution to support graduate education and graduate students at Miami. Make a gift [here](#). Keep an eye out for our 2024 #MoveInMiami campaign in August.**

**If you are in a position to hire a graduate student or Graduate School alum, please let us know so we can be of assistance.**

**Volunteer as a judge at our 2024 Graduate Research Forum (see some of the volunteers from the 2023 event in image to the right). Interested? Email us at [gradschool@miamioh.edu](mailto:gradschool@miamioh.edu). If you are in a position to hire a graduate student or Graduate School alum, please let us know so we can be of assistance.**

**Follow us on social media to keep up-to-date on Graduate School news. See page 15 for links to our social media accounts.**