MARCH 2020
Spring is just around the corner! Don’t forget to “spring forward” an hour on March 8 for the start of Daylight Savings Time!
---
The Grad School Help Desk Newsletter is here to help you with dates, funding opportunities, upcoming workshops, and graduate events. Let us know if there is anything you’d like to see or anything we missed.
Sincerely,
The Graduate School

CALENDAR
Mar 16-20 Spring Break (no classes; offices open)
Apr 10 University Day Holiday (no classes; offices open)
Apr 21 Last day for comp exam or thesis/dissertation defense for Spring 2020 graduates
Apr 21 ETD Approval Deadline
WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

**Three Minute Thesis Competition**
*Monday, March 2, 5pm – 7pm*
*Where: Procrastinator Theater*

The College of Letters and Science of Montana State University will host the first annual Three Minute Thesis competition. Refreshments will be provided.

Graduate students representing American Studies, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, History, LRSI, Materials Science, Microbiology, Physics, Plant Science, Psychology and Statistics will compete in front of a public audience and a panel of judges. With the aid of a single presentation slide, the twelve finalists will have three minutes to give an engaging explanation of their research to a non-specialist audience. The competition as a whole celebrates and encourages growth in the communication skills of graduate students across disciplines.

**Free Tax Help: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program**
*March 4, 9, 11*
*Where: Jabs Hall 211*

Accounting students from Montana State University’s Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship are offering free help preparing tax returns for MSU students and individuals who made less than $54,000 last year. [Schedule a VITA session](#) on Schedulicity.

**Montanathon 2020**
*Saturday, March 7, 2pm – 8pm*
*Where: SUB Ballroom*

Join Montanathon in their second ever Dance Marathon to help raise money for Shodair Children’s Hospital. Learn more about [Montanathon](#) and how to support their cause.

**Provost Distinguished Lecturer Series**
*Tuesday, March 10, 7pm – 9pm*
*Where: Museum of the Rockies, Hager Auditorium/Lobby*

Bill Wyckoff, a professor in the Department of Earth Sciences in the College of Letters and Science, will look back on his career documenting the West in the fifth lecture of this academic year’s [Provost’s Distinguished Lecturer Series](#).

The lecture, "[Taking a Second Look: Rephotographing the Western American Landscape](#),” is an opportunity for Wyckoff to reflect on various projects and speak about the trajectory of his life and career to the university and broader public. Dr. Wyckoff has a doctorate in geography from Syracuse University and has been teaching at MSU since 1986. He spent this year’s fall semester on sabbatical, living in Denver while working on his next book, another repeat photography project focusing on the city’s African American community.
**ETD Workshop**  
Wednesday March 11, 9am – 10am  
Where: Innovative Learning Studio (1st Floor Library)

If you’re writing a thesis or dissertation, you can join a discussion with the MSU Library, The Graduate School, and The Writing Center to learn about how your research is archived at the Library and other library data services. The workshop will also be live on Webex. Contact the Formatting Advisor at the Graduate School with any questions.

**Career Management and Networking**  
Thursday, March 12 from 4:30pm – 6pm  
Where: SUB 168

The Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success will be hosting a Career Management and Networking workshop.

**Writing Center online tutoring during Spring Break**  
Monday, March 16, 9am – 3:45pm  
Tuesday, March 17, 9am – 3:45pm  
Wednesday, March 18, 9am – 11:45am  
Online

Online tutoring for graduate students will be available during Spring Break. Writers can sign up using our online scheduler. A tutor will be available at the days and times listed above.

**NCUR 2020 Needs Graduate Student Moderators!**  
Moderator Application Deadline: Ongoing  
NCUR 2020: March 26-28

Consider applying; it could look great on your CV! A moderator’s primary function is to ensure that an oral presentation session runs smoothly. This means keeping every presenter on schedule, facilitating the question and answer section as necessary, and acting as the primary point of contact to resolve any issues that may arise.

Each session is 1 hour, made up of three 20-minute presentations; with specific timeslots for each presenter. Typically a Q&A session occurs for the last five minutes of each session. Presenters may cut their talk short, but cannot take more time. Your job will be to enforce time limits when necessary. Attendees are encouraged to stay for an entire hour-long timeslot, but realistically, many attendees quickly move from room to room to see particular presentations. This is acceptable.

Please follow the link to sign up for a role as a Moderator. If you have any questions, feel free to email Gregory Young. Follow the link for further information on NCUR 2020.
Learning Opportunity: Sample Fellowship Applications from NIH
Information for current PhD Students
If you are applying to an NIH fellowship, or will apply for similar graduate research or other fellowships in the future, you may find it helpful to review these NIH Sample Applications. NIH has posted three sets of Summary Statements and Full Applications from top-scoring applicants that may help you prepare your next application.

AccessLex Institute/AIR Grant
DEADLINE: March 2, 2020
Are you interested in researching issues regarding access, affordability, and the value of graduate and professional education? If so, apply now for an AccessLex Institute/AIR Grant* and advance your research agenda.

Two grant levels are available to support year-long research projects:
- $50,000 Research Grants (available to faculty, practitioners, and scholars)
- $25,000 Dissertation Grants (available to doctoral students)

Don’t delay! Applications are due March 2, 2020.

*Membership to AccessLex Institute or AIR is not required for grant eligibility.

Contact AIR staff at grants@airweb.org with questions or for assistance.

Great Plains IDEA Student Excellence Award
DEADLINE: March 24, 2020
The Great Plains IDEA Cabinet will grant five (5) $1000 awards annually for a total of $5000. Students can apply annually, however preference will be given to students who have not received previous financial support from Great Plains IDEA. Application materials should be submitted through the online application system.

The official announcement, and details about the application qualifications and process, are on the Great Plains IDEA website. Applications are now being accepted. All applications must be submitted by Sunday, March 24th at 11:59 p.m. All faculty endorsements must be completed by this deadline as well. 2020-2021 Great Plains IDEA Student Excellence Award Application.

Any questions regarding the awards or application process may be directed to Amanda Burris (ajburris@ksu.edu).

For more funding opportunities, visit MSU’s Research Funding Opportunities or the Graduate School’s Funding & Fellowships webpage.