



## June 2020

*A message from Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Research Michael Cunningham -*

Like many of you, I am exhausted, anxious, and unsure of what the "new normal" will be as we make plans to come back to campus. I am exhausted in realizing that the color of my skin and my assigned gender can be seen as threatening and weaponized. I am anxious as we embark on a life associated with trauma, tragedy and too many deaths associated with COVID-19. I am unsure of the new normal. Although I must plan, I am unsure if my plans will come to fruition. The combination of a world health pandemic and heightened racism in the U.S. has left me with more questions than answers. My exhaustion is heightened by the recent events of killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor and many more. These few examples are the latest in what feels like an unending assault on the lives of African Americans. This perceived assault is exacerbated by Christian Cooper's experience in Central Park, which illuminates the sense of privilege and superiority that impinges on liberty and underscores much of the violence that has been meted out against African Americans. These events, and far too many others beforehand, are the latest chapter of the series of injustice, racism, and violence against Black lives that continues to persist within the United States.

But how do I turn my exhaustion into hope and action? First, on behalf of the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (OGPS), I acknowledge the pain, frustration, and trauma that too many members of our Tulane community are feeling. Second, I reaffirm our unwavering commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Collectively, we unequivocally condemn the continued violence against Black individuals as well as others, regardless of race, ethnicity, faith, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity or the intersectional combinations that make us who we are. We join in the many vigorous calls for justice and change. Please know we remain here to support you and will not remain silent under any grievous or egregious circumstances that may arise. Racism, bigotry, and hate have no place within Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, and the nation. I may not have answers to all of your questions, but I am willing to work with you and to make sure that Tulane is a welcoming and supportive place to learn, grow, and advance scholarship that can make a difference in the lives of all.

On behalf of the OGPS Staff,  
Michael Cunningham



Michael Cunningham,  
Assoc. Provost for Graduate  
Studies and Research



Jennifer O'Brien-  
Brown, Program  
Manager



Briana Mohan,  
Sr. Academic and Career  
Advisor

## IN MEMORIAM



Jefferson Huggins

The Tulane Brain Institute mourns the loss of graduate student Jefferson Huggins, who passed away on May 10, 2020. Jefferson had just finished his first year in the Neuroscience PhD program. He was a member of the Daniel Lab and was actively involved both on Tulane's campus and within the New Orleans community. With a curious mind and an open heart, Jefferson was beloved by all. We offer our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. – *written by fellow student, Nina Baumgartner*

We urge all Tulane students, faculty and staff members in need of assistance to contact our support services. Counseling is available to students 24/7 through The Line at 504-264-6074. Students may also contact Case Management 24/7 at 504-920-9900. Staff at CAPS, 504-314-2277 and Student Resources and Support Services, 504-314-2160 will be available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. The Employee Assistance Program is available for faculty and staff seeking counseling or support. Information about EAP can be found [here](#).

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



### New GSSA Officers

The Graduate Studies Student Association (GSSA), which represents graduate students in SLA and SSE, has elected their officers for the 2020-2021 Academic Year. The new officers are:

- President - Ron Koshita  
Physics and Engineering Physics
- Vice President - Sophie Delsaux  
French and Italian
- Treasurer - Maura Sullivan  
Linguistics
- Secretary - Amanda Reusch  
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

### Student and Postdoc Highlights

This month we are starting a new Highlights section to showcase some of the remarkable graduate students and postdoctoral fellows at Tulane! First, [we have the president and vice president of GSSA, Ron Koshita and Sophie Delsaux](#).

If you are interested in submitting a story for this section, please use [this form](#).

### Career Resources

- The University of Chicago has an extremely helpful, multi-part [GRAD Guide to Career Planning During Covid - 19](#).
- For job seekers, LinkedIn is maintaining a [list of companies that are continuing to hire](#) new employees.
- Biomedical studies students can access a recording of the recent 13th Annual NIH Career Symposium [here](#).
- Check out the brand new [Career Resources pages](#) on the OGPS site, especially the library of articles.
- Briana Mohan continues to conduct 45-minute confidential, individual consultations. The appointment calendar can be accessed [here](#) and meetings will be conducted by zoom.

### Unemployment Benefits Eligibility

The state of Louisiana has implemented new measures concerning the special circumstance of COVID-19 as it relates to unemployment insurance. If your hours have been reduced due to COVID-19 or you are unable to work remotely due to the nature of your position, you may be eligible for unemployment insurance. Please note these considerations do not apply to student employees who are working remotely or working on premise and continue to be paid.

Please review the website below for the special circumstance of COVID-19 for which you may apply for unemployment insurance.

The link to Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) response is [www.laworks.net/PublicRelations/COVID\\_19\\_Information.asp](http://www.laworks.net/PublicRelations/COVID_19_Information.asp).

In order to file a claim, please visit [www.louisianaworks.net/hire](http://www.louisianaworks.net/hire) or by calling the LWC Claim Center at 866-783-5567.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Fall Postdoctoral Travel Award Applications Due July 15

Postdocs presenting at conferences in the Fall of 2020 (September 1 through December 31) can apply for travel funding from OGPS here. Please see our [website](#) for more details about eligibility and funding levels. Awards may not be used if the university has restricted non-essential business travel.

### New Webpage for Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Opportunities

OGPS is notified periodically of opportunities for Tulane graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. These can range from part time work-study jobs to assistantships, to full time employment opportunities after graduation. This month we have received information about a number of graduate assistant positions as well as a new full time role with Beloved Community. Please check our [new webpage](#) frequently as we will try to update this page when we learn of new openings.

[Learn More](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Training for Teaching Assistants and Instructors of Record for Fall 2020

In lieu of the *Ready, Prep, Teach* workshop, the Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching (CELT) and the Innovative Learning Center (ILC) have created resources tailored specifically to the different roles graduate TAs may fill this fall. If you will be an instructor of record for a course this year, please register for Facilitated Online Teaching Training by June 19, a five week training in the foundations of online/hybrid/HyFlex teaching. The course begins on June 29.

The syllabus for Facilitated Online Teaching Training can be found [here](#), and the registration form [here](#). Please register by June 19.

TAs who will be assisting instructors, and particularly those supervising lab sections, are encouraged to complete the self-paced Online Teaching Training, and can register by emailing [Liv Newman](mailto:Liv.Newman). CELT and the ILC will also be offering pedagogy and technology training in August to help all TAs and instructors be comfortable with the unique content delivery and enhanced technology they may need for their courses.

### The Postdoc Academy's free 6-week course starts June 22

The [Postdoc Academy](#) is a digital and in-person professional development program designed specifically for postdocs, and is now open for registration! The free online course, titled "Succeeding as a Postdoc", will begin on June 22nd. Register [here](#).

### Beyond the Professoriate - Free webinars

*Working From Home* - June 11; and *What To Do If You're Going on the Academic Job Market* - June 19. Register [here](#).

### First day of the Fall Semester - August 19

The fall semester will begin earlier than usual this year; mark your calendars! Please check the updated [Academic Calendar](#) for more important dates in the fall semester.