



## September 2020

Congratulations on completing the first month of the Fall 2020 semester! The realities of life in a pandemic, plus a particularly active hurricane season have made this as challenging a beginning as any we have seen in our years at Tulane. Whether this was your first month of graduate education or you are preparing to defend your dissertation, we know that there have been many challenges that you have already faced this year.

We know, however, that not all problems you might face as graduate students or postdoctoral fellows are big and dramatic. Sometimes they are small and seem like they might impact only you. It could be a shuttle schedule that makes you late to class or a software license you need to do your research. These are problems that OGPS can help you solve! We have, collectively, more than 40 years of service to Tulane University, and with that tenure we have a certain knowledge of the university that we are happy to use to help grad students and postdocs.

Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are some of the most independent, capable, and resourceful people at Tulane. You are good at advocating for yourselves and solving your own problems as they come up. OGPS cannot replace your ingenuity and drive, but we do want to remind you that we are here to help. You can reach us by email or through Canvas, and we have regular appointments for you to come talk to us.

Sincerely,

OGPS



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Assoc. Provost for  
Graduate Studies  
and Research



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**Briana Mohan**,  
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## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Call for Applications - OGPS Fellows

The Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies will be hiring three (3) "OGPS Fellows" for this academic year.

We envision this role to be primarily project-based and extend from October 2020 through May 2021. We also expect that Fellows will serve as observant eyes and listening ears to the graduate student and postdoc populations at Tulane.

Strong preference will be given to applicants who are in programs that OGPS directly serves (PhD students and those in research-based masters programs in SSE, SLA, SOM, and SPHTM) and, to ensure a diversity of perspectives, we expect to select Fellows from different schools at Tulane.

Each fellow will work on multiple projects that are a combination of identified needs of OGPS and the fellows' own projects that they identify and develop.

Additional details are [here](#) and an application can be found [here](#).

**Deadline for applications is Monday, Oct. 5, 9 AM.**

### Call for Participants in Tulane's Annual 3 Minute Thesis Competition - Wed., Nov. 11



**2019 Tulane 3MT Winners** - **Steve Fromel**, People's Choice Award; **Rachel Wise**, Grand Prize Award

This year's [3 Minute Thesis competition](#) for Tulane PhD students will take place virtually on Wednesday, November 11 at 1:00 PM. This event is open to students from any discipline who are in the final one or two years of their program. With a strict three minutes and one PowerPoint slide, the competition provides participants an opportunity to cultivate academic, presentation, and research communication skills. A Grand Prize winner is selected by judges; a People's Choice winner is voted on by audience members. Both awards come with cash prizes and the Grand Prize winner advances to a regional competition.

If you are interested in participating in this year's competition, please email Briana Mohan at [bmohan@tulane.edu](mailto:bmohan@tulane.edu) by **Monday, Oct. 5, 9 AM.**

### Student and Postdoc Highlights

This month, we're highlighting **Keisha Cook**, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Mathematics and **Patricia Lagarde**, a PhD candidate in Art History and Latin American Studies. Keisha's research focuses on modeling intercellular movement; you can read about that and the other projects Keisha is passionate about on our [student and postdocs highlights page](#). Patricia was recently awarded a Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and you can read more about the research and fellowships she has done on our highlights page!

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

### Career Resources

- The [Carpe Careers](#) column in *Inside Higher Ed* is a weekly career advice column for PhDs and postdocs. A recent article by Victoria McGovern has wisdom (thankfully, not platitudes) to share with PhD students in "The World Changes, and We Grow."
- I recommend this youtube video, [Depression in a New Country? How I Rebuilt my Peer Support System](#) by Vera Bin San Chan. It addresses mental health issues faced by new graduate students and postdocs, especially those making international moves, and includes some helpful reflective exercises.
- [The Black Doctoral Network](#) welcomes current undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students, and post-doctoral scholars of all racial backgrounds in any discipline to participate in their online poster session at the 8th Annual Black Doctoral Network Virtual Conference, to be held on October 29-31, 2020. Final deadline to submit an abstract is Sept. 30.
- Through "Tell Us Your Story", the National Postdoc Association would like postdocs to share their voices and part of their stories of how bias, discrimination, racism, and social inequities have impacted not only their postdoctoral experiences, but their career pathways as well. NPA encourages postdocs to share their story anonymously [here](#).

### OPPORTUNITIES

#### Support for Postdocs to Attend the National Postdoctoral Association Conference

The NPA is pleased to offer multiple types of assistance to postdoctoral fellows who would like to attend their annual conference next spring (April 16-18, 2021) in Philadelphia. Postdocs can apply for [travel grants](#) and [childcare grants](#) to support their participation in the conference.

#### 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 pre and postdoctoral fellowships in global health from the UJMT Fogarty Global Fellows Program. Please check our [new webpage](#) frequently as we will try to update this page when we learn of new openings.

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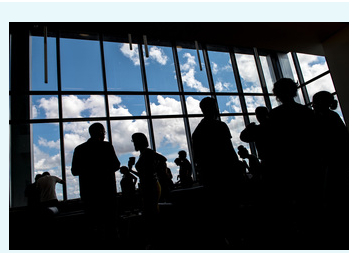
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 3 Minute Thesis Competition - Wed., Nov. 11, 1 PM

[This annual competition](#), hosted by OGPS, cultivates students' academic, presentation, and research communication skills. One of over 900 similar competitions held in 85 different countries, Tulane's PhD students effectively explain their research in three minutes, in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience. This year's competition will be conducted virtually via Zoom. All members of the university and general community are invited to attend, so please mark your calendars! If you are interested in competing, please see details in the News & Announcements section.

### OGPS Career and Academic Support Events

Registration, details, and Zoom information for the following events are all available through the **OGPS Career Support** or **OGPS Academic Support** Canvas courses.

**Tues, 9/29, 4 PM** - Academic Support Workshop - What is the best way to take notes?

**Wed, 9/30, 10 AM** - Career Discussion #3 - "Whither goeth the academy & what does that mean for me?"

**Wed, 10/7, 10 AM** - Professional Resumes and Cover Letters

**Wed, 10/7, 4 PM** - Academic Support Group Discussion - topic TBD

**Mon, 10/12, 10 AM** - Career Discussion #4 - Where do you find the support you need for your career questions?

**Wed, 10/14, 4 PM** - Academic Support Workshop - What are the basic principles of academic research writing?

**Tues, 10/20, 11 AM** - Academic Support Discussion - Topic TBD

**Wed, 10/21, 10 AM** - Interview Skills and Preparation

**Wed, 10/28, 2 PM** - Career Discussion #5 - Topic TBD

### Make-up Days on October 10 and 11

Due to the university closure on September 14 and 15, Tulane has "activated" the make-up days scheduled for October 10 and 11. If you are a student in a class that was cancelled, your instructor may be emailing you soon about an additional class meeting or work to stay on schedule. If you are an instructor of a course that had to be cancelled, please contact your Director of Graduate Studies to determine what steps you need to insure you have adequate contact hours.

### Free the PhD Career Design Summit, Oct 25 - Nov 1

[This event](#) is dedicated to helping PhDs effectively explore diverse job opportunities, practice networking and informational interviewing with guidance, get inspiration from seasoned PhD professionals, and take practical action for their futures in actionable workshops.

[Tickets](#) are \$47 for the Career Design Workshop Day, \$67 for access to all sessions across the 7 days.

### PhD and Dissertation Progress Group - begins Sept. 28

The Counseling Center is organizing an Uptown PhD and Dissertation Progress Group. The group will meet on Mondays from 2:00 to 3:00 via Zoom, beginning next Monday, September 28. Group size is limited! For more information, [click here](#).