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Graduate School News and Events

FALL 2000

Funding Workshop Offers Guidance

Every quarter, the Graduate School's Professional Development Program offers a three-part workshop intended to help graduate students and postdoctoral fellows locate, apply to, and fulfill the requirements for various sources of extramural funding.

Students in the course, listed in the UAB Class Schedule as GRD 709 under Graduate School, have their first meeting in Lister Hill Library (LHL). Martha Verchot and Nancy Clemmons of the LHL staff discuss aspects of the Community of Science Funding Opportunities database and a few of the other online services available through the LHL web site (www.uab.edu/lister). After this class meeting, students use the web to locate a funding source for which they are eligible, gather the announcements and application forms of the source, and begin to fill in the standard blanks on the forms.

In the second class meeting, held two weeks after the first meeting, students bring a copy of the application they're working on, as well as specific questions about that application. Dr. Julia Austin and Mr. Lee Griner of the Professional Development Program discuss with students writing issues as they relate to the narrative sections of the application and strategies for completing the application.

Finally, the third session of the class takes place in individual meetings between students and Dr. Austin or Mr. Griner. In these meetings, editorial issues such as organization, thoroughness, and clarity of language are addressed in the individual applications. Guidance on contacting people at the sources of funding is also available.

All graduate students and postdocs know the importance of a solid funding base for their continued research. This course helps to eliminate some of the mystique surrounding those dollars.

Graduate School, Hill University Center Suite 511
1400 University Blvd., Birmingham AL 35294-1150
205-934-8227, 800-975-GRAD (4723)
<http://www.uab.edu/graduate>





Graduate School Calendar: September-November 2000

Fall Term Professional Development Classes

GRD 700: Written Communication. For non-native English speakers.

GRD 704: Specialized Instruction. Individual meetings.

GRD 709A: Writing Fellowship Applications. Finding and applying for extramural funding.

GRD 706: How to Obtain Funding. Overview of funding process and writing guidelines.

GRD 720: English as Second Language. Interactive listening and speaking.

Fall miniterm:

Principles of Scientific Integrity (GRD 717), with Dr. Harold Kincaid.

See the UAB Class Schedule, visit the GRD web site (www.uab.edu/profdev), or contact Dr. Julia Austin at 975-6539 or jaustin@uab.edu for more details.

M	T	W	T	F
September				
		Aug 24-Sep 8 GRD 717 Principles of Scientific Integrity		1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14 *	15 * 16
18 *	19 *	20 *	21	22
26	26	27	28	29

MPH, MSPH, DRPH, and MSN students: Check with your Graduate Program Directors for other deadlines, which differ from those of the Graduate School.

Sept 5: Deadline to Apply as a Nondegree Student

Sept 11: Deadline to Change Residency

Sept 16: GRD 706: How to Obtain Funding (Saturday workshop; listed in UAB Schedule for June 23)

Sept 19: Staying Afloat While Preparing a Thesis or Dissertation, HUC 410

Sept 22: Deadline to Apply for Degree

Sept 22: Charting an Ethical Course, Bevill 170

Sept 29 and Oct 20: GRD 709A, Fellowship Writing

Oct 20: Last Day for Final Defense

Oct 30: Approval Version to Graduate School

Nov 10: Last Day for Receipt of Final Papers (Plan 2)

*** Indicates a date for Institutional Review Board training session.** The training is in two parts, but some sessions contain both parts. Students who use human subjects should attend. See www.uab.edu/uabra for more information.

M	T	W	T	F
October				
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

M	T	W	T	F
November				
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

Visit www.uab.edu/graduate for more on deadlines

Thesis and Dissertation News: The Graduate School cannot read a thesis or dissertation until after it has been successfully defended, but we can discuss formatting and editorial issues at any stage in the process. Contact Lee Griner (lgriner@uab.edu) or Randy Seay (rseay@uab.edu) for more information.



UAB and NASA Select Graduate Fellows

Thomas H. Barker (Biomedical Engineering) and **Marc D. Fries** (Physics) have been named as the recipients of the year 2000 Graduate Fellowships, offered annually by the Alabama Space Grant Consortium (ASGC).

The ASGC invites applicants for NASA Space Grant Fellowships, which support studies in fields related to space study and exploration.

Read about this funding opportunity and other Alabama fellows at the ASGC web site:
<http://www.uah.edu/ASGC/>

The Fool-Proof Job Conference will be held on September 16, 2000. Sponsored by the UAB Career Center, the event will be held at the Continuing Education Center (1919 University Blvd.). Donald Asher, a nationally known career specialist, speaker, and author of *The Fool-Proof Job-Search Workbook*, will be the speaker. The fee to attend is \$40 and includes luncheon and a copy of the workbook. For more information and to register (before Aug. 25), contact the Career Center at 934-4324 or visit their web site: <http://www.careercenter.uab.edu>

Classes Offer Unique Chances to Learn English

UAB is lucky to have a diverse student population. American-born students have one advantage because English is their native language. International students, on the other hand, must learn not only the materials and procedures necessary for their course and lab work, but also the English language as it is spoken in central Alabama and southern culture. To address this need, the Graduate School Professional Development program offers a course every term in English as a Second Language (ESL).

Most international graduate students have studied English for years, but the English they've studied isn't usually the language being spoken around them. Ya know? It's, like, totally foreign. Bummer. The ESL classes are taught by Ms. Nancy Abney, who has her master's degree in teaching ESL. She says that although her students have various backgrounds, their needs are the same: They need to communicate more effectively and comfortably with native American speakers.

That communication takes many shapes, both professional and social: from stating an opinion in a lab meeting to ordering a meal in a restaurant, from amicably disagreeing with a superior at work to figuring out what's so funny about *Seinfeld*, and from paraphrasing a quotation for a paper to simply getting a word in edgewise in a conversation among native speakers.

The ESL classes are held on Wednesday nights, 6-9 p.m., and registration is required. The courses are listed as GRD 720-723 under Graduate School in the UAB Schedule. It's not necessary to be a student at UAB to register, but the classes are not designed for beginners. (Beginners, people with little or no English, should contact UAB Special Studies or the Smolian International House.)

The GRD classes are student-centered, and Nancy puts much effort into analyzing her students' needs and shaping the courses to meet those needs. If you or someone you know might be interested in taking advantage of this unique opportunity to work on formal or conversational English skills, contact Nancy Abney in the Graduate School (Hill Center 511; 934-8129; nabney@uab.edu). Register early; class size is limited to 15 students each term.

Graduate Student Orientataion will be on Tuesday, September 12th from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Green and Gold Room of the UAB Bartow Arena. To help familiarize new students with Birmingham and UAB, representatives will be present from banks, campus travel and parking, intramural sports, student life, Industry Roundtable, and Student Health. Door prizes will also be given. See you there!

Office of Postdoctoral Education: On a Mission to serve

The Office of Postdoctoral Education of the University of Alabama at Birmingham serves the University's postdoctoral community by fostering an environment in which research excellence, leadership qualities, and independent thinking are cultivated.

To address its mission, the Office of Postdoctoral Education provides opportunities for the postdoctoral scholar to identify and acquire skills needed for successful career development.

The Office also seeks ways to enhance the postdoctoral experience by promoting intellectual growth and facilitating the goals of mentors and scholars.

To learn more, visit the office's website at www.uab.edu/postdoc, contact Sharon Johnston at 975-7020, or drop by the office: Administration Building, 701 20th Street, Room 770L.



Dr. Etty (Tika) Benveniste

(Associate Dean, on right) **and Ms. Sharon**

Johnston (Program Coordinator, on left) tend to needs and issues for postdoctoral fellows through the Office of Postdoctoral Education.

UAB Graduate School
HUC 511
1530 3rd Ave S
Birmingham AL 35294-1115

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