

Wolfstein Award

*Fine Arts Grad Students
Given a World-Class Experience*

The Isabel Meta Wolfstein Foundation, which has been in place as an endowment to DAAP's **Department of Fine Arts** for over 20 years, funds travel grants for first-year graduate students (and some undergraduates). Each year the department awards between \$15,000 and \$20,000 from this fund, with a significant portion allotted for travel (this year we funded seven trips). Students can propose to travel wherever they wish, and each receives up to \$2500 in support. We also fund two longer-term summer residencies each year, one in Prague and the other in Budapest.

Graduate awardees never fail to be deeply influenced by their travels. Chris Hammerlein, who explored archaeological sites in Egypt, Jordan and Syria, says, "The trip certainly became a life metaphor for me that continues to find form in my drawings." Anthony Wolking believes his visit to China, where he investigated contemporary and traditional manufacturing practices and systems, has had a similar impact on his life: "The rich history, traditions and



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1



2

generosity of the Chinese culture will forever inspire me to make thoughtful and meaningful work that expresses the universality of our shared, yet vastly different circumstances." "I was amazed at the abundance of art in Rome," says Emily Howard, "especially what I was able to experience outside of the museums."

By promoting a culture of curiosity and adventure throughout the fine arts department, these experiences benefit not only the students who travel, but also their peers.

Denise Burge
Associate Professor
School of Art

1 Martin Zeinway wearing his art on the streets of Prague

2 Nicole Davis at the Venice Biennale

3 Chris Hammerlein in Egypt, at the Stepped Pyramid of Saqara

Letter from the Associate Dean

The **Graduate School** annually reviews its activities to determine which are effective and should be maintained and which initiatives could be implemented to add value to graduate education at UC. Some projects apply to all graduate students; others are targeted at specific populations. The **Dissertation Completion Fellowship**, which began last year and will continue this year, is one example. Here are some 2009-2010 initiatives in their varying stages of progress:



Robert Zierolf,
Associate University Dean
of the Graduate School

We have added a Facebook page to improve and increase communication with graduate students. Access it from the Graduate School's website, www.grad.uc.edu. Important announcements will be made through this page and via Blackboard and the graduate listserv. (We can only capture your UC email address. If you prefer a commercial address, please forward your UC email to your preferred address.)

We are tracking degree completion rates for all graduate students and for various disciplines and groups, assisted in part by a grant from the Council of Graduate Schools. When reliable data is available, we will devise interventions for those with low graduation rates and time-to-degree periods.

The preparation and monitoring of graduate teaching assistants varies widely across campus. By the end of fall quarter I will convene a committee of three graduate students and three faculty to devise a "best practices" manual for GTAs and their supervisor-mentors. I will supply the committee with surveys, results of focus groups, and other material, but if you have any items or ideas to contribute, please email them to me at robert.zierolf@uc.edu. A manual for graduate research assistants will be developed

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Tucker's Restaurant:

An Over-the-Rhine Neighborhood Staple

Most UC grad students don't know that Tucker's Restaurant exists, let alone that it was recently recognized as [one of the 9 best Midwestern restaurants](#) (the only one from Ohio) in **Gourmet Magazine**. To unsuspecting passers-by, Tucker's looks like a hole-in-the-wall diner on Vine Street, but the restaurant is actually a 63-year-old family-owned business with plenty of flavor and flare—and it's just a short ride over the hill.

Tucker's second-generation owner and chef, Joe Tucker, believes that aside from the food, **one of the best things about the spot is its customers—old and new—who range from politicians to ex-cons to the Sunday after-church crowd.** “Tucker's is one of the only places in this city, except for college,” Joe explains, “where you get folks from every walk of life all hanging out in one place having a good time.”

No doubt the restaurant's delicious and inexpensive food draws this patchwork quilt of loyal patrons. Besides serving the [best veggie chili in the city](#), Tucker's offers a great selection of breakfast, brunch and lunch favorites, from goetta to shrimp and grits to BLT's. **Vegetarians take notice: Tucker's is a rare gem in this Porkopolis.** It offers vegetarian versions of many old favorites, such as huevos rancheros and various burgers. The price helps too. Typically you can get a full plate of food and a drink for under \$10.

So when you need a morning refuel after late-night studying or lab research, head on down to Tucker's Restaurant at 1637 Vine Street in Over-the-Rhine (ph. 721-7123). It's open Monday through Saturday 9-3 p.m. and on Sunday 10-2 p.m. for brunch. Tucker's caters breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well.

Chris Colizza recently completed a two-year term as a [Peace Corps](#) volunteer in Ethiopia. This once-in-a-lifetime experience came about through the School of Planning's (master's [International Program](#)), in which students work for the Peace Corps between their first and second years of study. “The idea is that your first year of coursework gives you international development theory, which makes you a better Peace Corps volunteer, and in turn, your experience as a volunteer makes you a more-informed student your second year,” he explains. “Additionally, you have the opportunity to conduct your thesis research while abroad.”

Along with his wife, Liz, Chris worked on various projects, including Save the Children's preschool education initiative. His thesis research involved examining first-hand the interpersonal dynamics of rotating savings and credit associations (ROSCAs), or savings groups. “I had read in academic literature about the importance of trust within these groups,” he says, “and I wanted



Chris Colizza
Community Planning, MCP

to see how that trust manifested itself in conversation at group meetings.”

Currently an intern at [Smart Money](#), where he works with business and home ownership programs, Chris plans to earn his degree this year and move on to a position in community planning or development.

LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN, *Cont.*

in winter quarter by three graduate students and three faculty.

In an effort to address issues of particular interest to women, the Graduate School is initiating information sessions that may lead to the formation of a women's graduate student association.

Next summer the Graduate School will conduct a fully funded mentoring program that matches current graduate students with outstanding undergraduates at UC and other institutions for an eight-week “seminar” devoted to intensive research and creative work. Undergraduates will

be given a chance to develop their ideas and skills in a collaborative, carefully monitored environment with the hope that they will enroll at UC post-baccalaureate. Graduate students will benefit from a mentoring opportunity that is in keeping with training for the professoriate. An announcement of the program's requirements, along with applications, will be sent in early December.

An office for off-campus housing of graduate and married students has been established at the university. It will assist these students in finding off-campus housing.

I will provide periodic reports on the progress of these activities and initiatives in future Gradcaster issues.

Q&A

Questions:

I want to know if graduate assistants are required to work during official university breaks, and what requirements I must fulfill in order to graduate.

Where can I get answers to these and other questions about graduate education policy?

Networking via Email

Surveying of graduate students and postdocs across a wide spectrum of disciplines reveals that the professional skill most coveted is the ability to network effectively. But who doesn't feel intimidated at the prospect of striking up a conversation with some worthy at a major meeting? To help you, the [Graduate Professional Development Center \(GSDPC\)](#) will be offering a workshop, Networking 101, this spring. Keep an eye on our workshop [website](#) for details.

Here's an alternative approach that may be less daunting: **Try contacting major players in your field by email.** Of course, you have to think of a specific question worth raising, but the advantages are clear—you can take plenty of time to compose what you will say, allowing you to introduce yourself thoughtfully and favorably, and you can pique your contact's interest by asking about an intriguing aspect of their work. I recently had an opportunity to put this advice into practice. For several years, I have taught a course

Answer:

The [Graduate Handbook](#) outlines UC graduate education community policy and procedures for everything from grades to basic graduation requirements. Graduate academic programs may have more stringent requirements, so it is best to also check with your program. Check the [Policy Change Guide](#) for a quick overview of policy changes that apply to this current academic year.

BTW: A graduate assistant is not required to be available during break periods unless given additional compensation (pg 27).



in which students complete group research projects using primary data from a published study co-authored by a "big shot" in the field. We had been puzzled by one choice the authors made in how to present their data, so I recently wrote to the senior author, asking him about the basis for this choice. My email prompted a friendly and thoughtful reply: "Dear Bob, it's pleasing to hear that this work is useful in a student training setting :) To answer your question, we ... Best Regards, Lance." Now if I see this guy at a big meeting, I certainly would not hesitate to introduce myself.

Try it!

Nov. 09 Calendar

11/15

[Deadline for GSHI](#)

Health Insurance Award A

11/16

[Workshop:](#)

[Academic Career Development](#)

11/20

[ETD Deadline \(09A Graduation\)](#)

[Workshop: Selecting and Working with Your Thesis/Dissertation Chair and Committee \(Physical Sciences & Engineering Students\)](#)

11/29

[December Commencement Reservations](#) Close: All 09U & 09A Master's Degree Graduates-- Reserve Your Seats

December

12/4

[Prior Quarter Grade Changes DUE \(09A Graduation\)](#)

12/12

[December Commencement Ceremony \(& 09A Graduation\)](#)

12/18

[Waiver Requests and Online Certification DUE \(09A Graduation\)](#)

January

1/4 | 2010

[Yates Scholars Award 1st Round Call for Nominations Out](#)

1/4

[First Day to Apply for Graduation \(10S Graduation\)](#)

1/8

[Editorial Assistantship Award Applications DUE](#)

1/8

Next GradCaster Published

Student Accomplishments

[Manuel Iris \(A&S\)](#)
[Jay Mittal \(DAAP\)](#)

Campus Crowd

November and December bring excitement to Main Street

Late fall and early winter are great times for indoor activities, like watching movies at the [MainStreet Cinema](#). Aliens from **District 9** invade the cinema starting Tuesday, Nov. 20, and Quentin Tarantino's **Inglorious Basterds**, starring Brad Pitt, begins the same day. **Tickets are \$2 with your UC student ID.** Movies run Tuesdays and Fridays starting at 7 p.m. Check the [website](#) for show times.

Brad Pitt won't be the only bastard let loose on MainStreet this November. The Catskeller is entering Stone Brewing Company's "Most Arrogant Bar in America Challenge. Come to TUC and enjoy a competitively priced Arrogant Bastard Ale while you relax and shoot pool or play shuffleboard. Arrogance begins on Nov. 7 and rolls through Nov. 13. Finally, **Mick and Mack's will host a tasting of holiday wines on Dec. 3.** Savor an assortment of sparklers, dessert wines and ports served with beef Wellington, Alaskan salmon en bellevue, and crepes suzette. The tasting starts at 5 p.m. and costs only \$10. Reservations preferred.

Stuart Revis
Manager, Catskeller / Mainstreet Cinema

Resource of the Month

Postdoctoral Fellow Association Website

Looking to start a career in academe? Many in the STEM and other disciplines will likely need to spend some time as a postdoctoral fellow. The UC Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and **Postdoctoral Fellow Association (PDFA)** have developed a [website](#) to help grad students and postdocs transition into new postdoctoral positions. It focuses on maximizing your postdoctoral experience through goal setting, networking, professional development, finding good mentorship, and career advancement. Not planning to do a postdoc? The website also has suggestions for maximizing the postdoctoral experience whether at UC or elsewhere. Visit the website to start planning your next career step today!

President's Corner

Dear UC Graduate Students, Please join me in welcoming Greg Williams, JD, PhD, as the university's new president and thanking Interim President Monica Rimai, JD, for her work with and recognition of graduate students. **During the last Board of Trustees meeting, President Rimai attributed the success of the university's research efforts in part to the outstanding work done by UC's graduate students.** GSGA officers have met with Dr. Williams a number of times (in addition to being represented on the search committee) and are impressed with his enthusiasm for research and [GSGA](#) objectives.

Later this month, GSGA officers will attend the [National Association of Graduate-Professional Students](#) (NAGPS) annual conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. **The NAGPS is a graduate student advocacy group that operates on a national level by lobbying Congress and gathering graduate student groups from around the nation to share experiences.** This conference is a great opportunity to learn how other groups interact with their universities. Russell Best, our campus representative, will present and lead a discussion on how students can work with university administrators regarding sustainability efforts.

Good luck in your endeavors.

Sincerely,
Jim Bowen
President of GSGA



09-10 Dissertation Completion Fellows, **Sumeda Nandadasa and Feay Shellman Coleman**, talk frogs and early US history (subjects of their respective research) at the award dinner last week. They and 3 other UC graduate students each earned a \$20,000 stipend and a full tuition scholarship for the last year of their doctoral study. For more about the award and its recipients, please see [here](#).

Announcements and Awards Nov. 09

[Darwin Sesquicentennial Celebration Symposium: "The Vision and Legacy of Charles Darwin"](#)

11/23/09, 12-5 pm, TUC

This event is one of many being held as part of UC's year-long [Darwin Celebration](#).

[Sustaining the Urban Environment Named an Advanced Energy Center of Excellence at the University of Cincinnati](#)

[Geology Graduate Students Busy with Research and Presentation](#)

[Check out the Career Development Center](#)

From mock interviews to CV/resume development, the center is here to serve graduate students too.