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Graduate Connections- August 2007

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Graduate Connections



University of Nebraska–Lincoln

A Newsletter for UNL Graduate Students published by the Office of Graduate Studies

August 2007

Welcome to *Graduate Connections*, an electronic newsletter for graduate students at UNL (and for faculty and staff interested in issues important to graduate students). This quarterly publication provides information to help you make your way through your graduate school career, links you with news about events planned and organized just for you, provides timely information about deadlines and funding, and connects you with other graduate students at UNL.

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Navigating Graduate School

Events, advice and strategies to help you succeed in Graduate School at UNL

WELCOME TO UNL: TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln offers a variety of opportunities to ensure your success as a graduate student. All you have to do is take advantage of them.

Get to know your department. Visit your department as soon as you arrive on campus. Introduce yourself to the department staff and to your faculty adviser. If you'll have an office on campus, locate your mailbox. If you have an assistantship or fellowship, ask if you still need to complete any paperwork. Introduce yourself to faculty and students; make as many new connections as you can – this is your new family!

Familiarize yourself with your surroundings. Locate the buildings, offices, and departments that will be vital to your future success. Find a campus map at www.unl.edu/unlpub/tour/unlmaps/.

Attend the UNL Office of Graduate Studies New Student Orientation. Enjoy a day of meeting new students, great workshops, lunch and a resource fair. Many departments also organize orientation days for incoming students, usually the week before classes, to help them understand program procedures and expectations. Contact your department for more information.

Familiarize yourself with graduate policies and procedures. Take responsibility for your graduate studies. Know the rules and what is expected of you. Read the Graduate Studies Bulletin. Familiarize yourself with policies for course requirements, preliminary/qualifying exams and admission to candidacy. Learn deadlines for completing these requirements, at both department and university levels.

Once you know the policies, come up with a timeline for completing the milestones early in your program. You'll also feel more in control of your graduate career.

Meet early with your graduate adviser. An important key to success in graduate school is establishing a positive working relationship with your graduate adviser and setting up regular meetings, to motivate you to make regular progress, explore your research interests and keep your adviser aware of your work.

Prepare for your meetings with a list of topics to discuss, a summary of what you've done since your last meeting and questions you need answered. Afterward, e-mail your adviser a brief summary of the meeting to help prevent misunderstandings and provide a record of your academic progress.

Learn about funding opportunities. If you are currently enrolled as a graduate student at UNL, you may be eligible to apply for internal fellowship funding or numerous external fellowship opportunities. See the Funding Opportunities section of this newsletter for more information on fellowships.

Familiarize yourself with campus resources for graduate students. Attend the New Student Orientation information fair and learn more about these resources for graduate students:

The *Graduate Student Association (GSA)* (www.unl.edu/gradstudies/gsa/) promotes the intellectual community of graduate education, creates opportunities for social interaction among graduate students, and advocates for issues relevant to graduate students and graduate education.

The *UNL Student Health Center* (www.unl.edu/health/) is your first stop for all your healthcare needs.

The *UNL Libraries* (Love Memorial Library and six branch libraries; <http://iris.unl.edu/>), together with the Schmid Law Library, have a collection of over 2.9 million print volumes and more than 44,000 current serial subscriptions.

UNL Campus Recreation (<http://crec.unl.edu/>) provides a variety of facilities for reducing stress,

from yoga or pilates classes to massage therapy. Need more challenge? Try the indoor climbing wall. Or exercise on one of the many stationary bikes, treadmills, or elliptical machines. Any currently enrolled UNL student who is paying university program and facility fees is automatically a member of Campus Recreation and may use the Center by simply presenting a current UNL photo I.D.

Be an active, engaged learner. Attend department colloquia and seminars. Participate in the UNL GSA and/or your department's graduate student organization. Engage faculty in discussion of their research, whether or not it's in your area of interest, to gain a broader understanding of your discipline. Learn about the professional societies in your discipline; if there is a student chapter on campus, join it.

Manage your time. In general, what you're expected to accomplish and the work you're expected to produce in graduate studies is fundamentally different than what was expected of you as an undergraduate. In addition, commitments such as a research or teaching assistantship can take extra time in your schedule. So set up a reasonable work plan/schedule and establish priorities (e.g., your research/teaching responsibilities should override your need to go rock-climbing on weekends!).

Take good care of yourself. We highly recommend the UNL student health insurance policy. It provides very good coverage at a low cost. The student health center offers a full range of medical and dental care. (See page 9 of this newsletter for more information on the student health insurance policy.)

Do the "right thing" – always! Make a commitment to the highest standards of academic integrity and professionalism. Incorporate the ethical standards of your discipline into everything you do, so that academic integrity becomes central to who you are as a scholar. And, if you ever have any doubt about doing the "right thing," talk to a trusted faculty mentor.

NEW GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION: A WELCOME EVENT FOR NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS, AUGUST 24

The Office of Graduate Studies will welcome new graduate students to the University of Nebraska – Lincoln at its annual New Graduate Student Orientation 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fri. Aug. 24, at the Lied Center, 12th and R Streets.

Dr. David Manderscheid, new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is scheduled to speak at the event. He and other presenters, Dr. Joan Giesecke, dean of university libraries; Toni Hill-Menson, doctoral student in child, youth and family studies; and Dr. Ellen Weissinger, executive associate dean of

graduate studies and associate vice chancellor for research, will share their unique perspectives on how life is different when you are a graduate student.

Following the program, a complimentary lunch will be catered by Jimmy John's and the UNL Dairy Store, and an information fair will feature over 30 campus and community organizations.

In addition, students are eligible to win hundreds of door prizes, including two grand prizes: a 1GB silver iPod Shuffle with clip, dock, 12-hour rechargeable lithium battery and earphones; and a \$100 gift certificate to the University Bookstore.

The orientation event offers a great opportunity for you to meet fellow graduate students and to acquire some information on your department and community. All new graduate students are encouraged to attend. You may register online at the [Graduate Studies Web site](#).

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION AUGUST 23

Fall 2007 orientation for new and transfer international students will take place Thursday, Aug. 23, at the City Campus Union. Activities begin with check in from 8 to 10 a.m., followed by various presentations and orientation activities, including a session sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies.

The day includes a lunch with cultural ambassadors and concludes with a welcome dinner at 5:30, followed by evening activities with cultural ambassadors. A bus tour of the city of Lincoln also is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 24, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

More information is available from [International Affairs](#).

NOTE: If you are a new international student, you must check in with Graduate Admissions before you are eligible to register for courses. You can drop by the Office of Graduate Studies in Seaton Hall to do so, or can visit with a graduate admissions representative at the orientation check in.

Essential Connections

Critical information about the fundamentals of graduate study at UNL

WHAT EVERY GRADUATE STUDENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT UNL'S EXPECTATIONS FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

By Ellen Weissinger

The Office of Graduate Studies is declaring 2007-2008 the "Year of Academic Integrity." You will frequently see information and events this year intended to cause all of us to think more deeply about our obligations to be honest and ethical.

Complete integrity is the hallmark of the global academic community. A shared commitment to the highest standards of academic integrity is held across all disciplines and all kinds of higher education institutions.

How's Your Connection?

You can read **Graduate Connections** on the Office of Graduate Studies Web page, receive notification of the latest issue from your department, or have issues delivered directly to you via e-mail. To subscribe, send a message to gsapd2@unl.edu with [subscribe GC] in the subject line and your name and e-mail address in the body of the message.

We invite your feedback and comments about **Graduate Connections**. Can you use the kinds of information you find in this issue? What else can we include to help you make the right connections in the course of your graduate career? Are you engaged in research or other scholarly activity that you want to share with readers of **Graduate Connections**?

Please share your thoughts with us so we can bring you a relevant, lively and useful quarterly publication. Send e-mail to gsapd2@unl.edu.

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As a necessary condition of our membership in the academic community, we agree to identify the source of the ideas or words or images that we borrow. We agree not to cheat on exams. We agree to accurately and fully describe the methods and results of our research. We agree to protect the rights of the participants in our studies. We agree to deal honestly with the content of our courses and fairly with the students in our care.

Because integrity is essential to our community, we hold very high expectations for every graduate student at UNL, each of whom is required to be aware of and adhere to the student code of conduct (available at <http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/>, UNL's Student Affairs Web site).

Please be aware that the publication of the student code of conduct is considered sufficient "forewarning." Ignorance of our expectations is never a valid excuse. If you are uncertain about whether a planned action is ethical, stop and seek the advice of a trusted faculty member before you act.

Professors at UNL expect every student to be completely honest on every academic requirement. There is no small act of dishonesty for graduate students, and it is never a victimless act. The victims of academic dishonesty include professors, classmates and

the university itself. Most of all, the dishonest student loses, selling her or his integrity at an embarrassingly low price and missing out on an opportunity to advance through real effort and accomplishment.

The punishment for graduate students who engage in any kind of academic dishonesty is harsh – suspension or expulsion are the most common sanctions for graduate students who choose to violate the code of conduct. The official transcript of an expelled student is appended with a permanent statement that notes the student was dismissed for violation of the student code.

Dr. Matt Hecker, UNL's dean of students, recently summarized his perspective this way: "Every member of our academic community should be aware of and willing to abide by our standards, including both academic and personal conduct. The rules apply to everyone from our chancellor and most senior scholars to our newest students. They apply to our online students and even to non-degree-seeking students taking a single class. UNL holds academic integrity to be sacrosanct. That is to say, we believe there is never a circumstance or situation that justifies an act of academic dishonesty."

Conduct your academic life, and your entire life, with integrity. I promise that you will have a happier and more satisfying career if you do.

Professional Development Network

Events, workshops, tips and strategies to give graduate students a leg up in launching a professional career

TEACHING AT UNL: 17TH ANNUAL FALL WORKSHOPS FOR GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS, AUGUST 21

The campus-wide TA workshops, now in their 17th year at UNL, always offer something new and useful to TAs, whether you've just recently come to teaching or are an old hand. Not only do the workshops answer many questions about how to handle the responsibilities of teaching at UNL, they also offer a great chance to get to know other TAs who will become your friends and colleagues over the next few years.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Delaney Kirk, Professor of Management at Drake University. An expert in classroom management, Dr. Kirk is happy to share her tips for effective teaching, and also will lead a concurrent session on managing your classroom to create an effective learning environment.

Other workshops include a session on planning your professional development from the very beginning of your graduate experience, as you navigate your own unique path toward a fulfilling professional or academic career.

In another session, you'll have a chance to view several video scenarios that illustrate potentially difficult classroom situations, then engage in discussion about how to handle – or prevent – such situations in your own class.

A series of three roundtable discussions on ethical issues that arise in teaching will complete the agenda.

Teaching Tip

NEW! [Online Handbook for Graduate Teaching Assistants](#)

As is the case at most major research universities, teaching assistants at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln play a significant role in the undergraduate teaching mission (currently, UNL employs approximately 800 graduate teaching assistants). Graduate teaching assistants serve as facilitators, counselors, mentors, tutors and advisers to young people at a critical time in their lives. By engaging students in the learning process and providing the guidance they need, graduate teaching assistants become an essential component shaping students' paths to success.

To help you build and strengthen your teaching skills, we've developed an [online handbook](#) for graduate teaching assistants at UNL. The information here provides a foundation for you to build upon as you gain experience. Use it to supplement the advice and feedback you receive from your mentors, colleagues and, most important, your students.

This guide will help you explore new approaches to teaching and reassess older methods. We hope the information in the handbook will inspire you to think about why you teach the way you do and how students can best learn from you. As you review the material presented online, including the supplemental links and resources, let us know what you think. Are there specific strategies or methods you've used that have been particularly successful? If so, [share your ideas with us](#).

All registrants will receive an accordion portfolio filled with gifts and resources from the Office of Graduate Studies. And at various points throughout the day, we'll be awarding door prizes, too (how does a 60GIG iPod sound?). Registration also includes free food – a light breakfast, buffet lunch and afternoon snacks.

Please register at www.unl.edu/gradstudies/gsapd/programs/ta/ **no later than Aug. 16 at 5 p.m.** If you have questions about the campus-wide TA workshops, contact us at gsapd2@unl.edu.

TEACHING DOCUMENTATION PROGRAM

Increasingly, search committees charged with making decisions about faculty appointments ask candidates to provide evidence of both teaching development efforts and teaching effectiveness; further, candidates often are asked to discuss teaching strategies and philosophies, as well as research interests, during the interview process.

The Teaching Documentation Program (TDP), an initiative offered through UNL's Office of Graduate Studies, helps graduate students teach better, now and in the future, and prepares them for the job search process by helping them document their teaching development efforts. Last fall, approximately 30 students participated in the TDP. The TDP offers you an early opportunity to reflect on the link between teaching and student learning outcomes and to formally document your teaching development activities. You'll work closely with a consultant in the Graduate Studies Office, typically in a five-stage process:

Initial Interview. At this meeting, you can help the consultant understand the content and cognitive level of your course and work with him/her to design a personalized plan for documenting your teaching.

Student Feedback and Observation: Data Collection. The consultant will collect data about your teaching by observing you teach and/or administering the Teaching Analysis by Students (TABS), a student survey that addresses your relative teaching strengths and development needs.

Individualized Consultation: Data Review and Analysis. You and the consultant will review the collected data. Collaboratively, you'll identify your strengths and development needs.

Planning and Implementing Changes. The consultant will help you identify three or four improvement goals and can help you design and implement strategies to meet these objectives.

Evaluation and Documentation. You and the consultant will evaluate the success of the process. The consultant will prepare a formal letter of documentation describing your teaching development efforts; provide you with a copy of the letter for your academic portfolio; and return all confidential materials generated in the TDP process.

To learn more about the teaching documentation program, contact Dr. Richard Lombardo, rlombardo2@unl.edu (2-5334).

Other Professional Development Services Available from the Office of Graduate Studies

Fall campus-wide workshops for TAs
Institute for International Teaching
Assistants
Preparing Future Faculty Program

Professional development workshops
Professional development courses
Teaching Documentation Program
Individual consultation on teaching,
careers, job searches

Assistance gathering student feedback
Advice on creating an academic career
portfolio
Teaching resource library

Interactions

Personal achievements of graduate students, research reports, teaching successes, calls for collaboration, and student-to-student interaction

GRADUATE STUDENTS HONORED AT APRIL 2007 RESEARCH FAIR

Kudos to these graduate students recognized for excellence in their research presentations at the April 2007 Research Fair sponsored by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies:

Amanda Struthers, Psychology
Carolina C. Ilie, Physics and
Astronomy
Chiew Hui Kaw, Food Science
and Technology
HarshDeep Dogra, Veterinary
and Biomedical Sciences

J. D. Burton, Physics and
Astronomy
Jane Okalebo, Agronomy
Jeremy Penn, Educational
Psychology
Jesse McConnell, Architecture

Manmeet Waria, Natural
Resources
Margaret Ortmann,
Psychology
Sabyasachi Sarkar, Chemical
and Biomolecular Engineering
Sony Soman, Chemistry

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

Hello from your Graduate Student Association (GSA)—a voice for graduate students at UNL. Please visit our Web site www.unl.edu/gradstudies/gsa for details on these news items and other events throughout the year!

Meet the Executive Committee

You can reach the 2007-2008 Executive Committee at gsa@unl.edu or contact members directly.

Amber Epp, executive chair, aepp@unlserve.unl.edu

Lindsay Burford, vice chair, internal affairs,
lburford2@unlnotes.unl.edu

Marcus Natta, vice chair, external affairs,
mnatta1@unlserve.unl.edu

Frank Moore, vice chair, finance,
fmoore@math.unl.edu

Sunita Gupta, vice chair, public relations,
sgupt1@unlnotes.unl.edu

Lee Dunham, vice chair, legislative affairs,
ldunham2@unlnotes.unl.edu

Kara Poovey, vice chair, information,
poovey@bigred.unl.edu

Come Out and Play

GSA will host several events to celebrate the start of the new academic year.

- Aug. 21: Social hour at Brewsky's in the Haymarket (201 N. 8th Street); GSA will cover appetizers (up to \$250) from 4-6 p.m.
- Aug. 25: Picnic at Holmes Lake Park between 62nd and 70th Streets (time TBA)

Get Involved

GSA Legislative Assembly members are elected/appointed by their respective departments. If you wish to serve as your department's representative, email us (gsa@unl.edu) or contact the graduate chair in your department. Assembly members serve as your department's voice and liaison to the GSA executive committee, so we know what you need and want as a graduate student. The Legislative Assembly meets the second Tuesday of every month in the City Union, beginning in September.

If you would like to get involved in other ways, there's a place for you with GSA. Please visit the [GSA Web site](#) to check out the committee opportunities.

Logo Contest

GSA needs a NEW logo and we want YOU to be a part of this process! We are offering **\$300** to the graduate student who comes up with the best logo for the UNL Graduate Student Association. Preference will be given to entries that are consistent with the “unified look” of

other university logos, but also incorporate the mission of the GSA. All submissions must be received by **Fri. Oct. 12**, and the winning logo will be announced at the January 2008 Legislative Assembly meeting. For contest rules and more details, go to the [GSA Web site](#) or email us at gsa@unl.edu.

Research News

Research tips and other information for graduate researchers

GRANT WRITING SEMINAR OFFERED BY UNL OFFICE OF RESEARCH

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies is pleased to host “Write Winning Grants,” a research grant writing seminar for university faculty and staff, post-doctoral research fellows and graduate students, to be held Oct. 23 in the East Campus Union from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This seminar comprehensively addresses both practical and conceptual aspects important to the proposal writing process. Emphasis is given to such things as:

- idea development
- identification of appropriate granting agencies

- how to write for reviewers
- tips and strategies of proven value in presenting an applicant's case to reviewers

[Register online](#) to participate in this no-cost seminar.

Note: The Office of Research is pleased to present this seminar at no cost to UNL faculty, staff and graduate students. However, if you register and later learn you will be unable to attend, kindly call 402-472-2851 at least 48 hours in advance to cancel your registration. Thanks for your cooperation!

GRADUATE STUDENTS AND POSTDOCS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN NURAMP, UNL'S NEW RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Office of Research will launch a comprehensive research administration education program this fall with a workshop series for UNL faculty, staff, postdocs and graduate students who conduct, support or administer research projects.

Called NURAMP (Research Administration Management Program), the goal is to ensure that UNL research continues to move forward in compliance with funding requirements and in support of the principles of institutional integrity and credibility. NURAMP provides the latest information on research regulations, policies and procedures, and access to resources and contacts for further assistance in managing research projects and programs.

NURAMP educational activities and resources are available for any university employees, postdocs or graduate students engaged in research and creative activity, as well as administrative staff who support research at the program, department or college levels in planning, managing and/or administering grant-funded or sponsored projects.

NURAMP eventually will provide a variety of additional training and educational tools and resources. The program begins Sept. 5 with a workshop series for anyone involved in research management or administration. This six-week series of eight workshops will be repeated during spring semester.

Topics include: research funding sources and searches, proposal development tips, routing proposals, preparing proposal budgets, conducting research responsibly, receiving and administering an award and protecting intellectual property.

All sessions will be offered twice to make participation as convenient as possible. Presenters are experts from various units in the Office of Research – Sponsored Programs, Proposal Development, Research Responsibility, Technology Development and the Vice Chancellor's Office. For complete information and to register (registration opens Aug. 3), go to <http://research.unl.edu/nuramp>.

Funding Opportunities

A sampling of information on fellowships, scholarships, competitions, and other funding prospects

GRAD STUDIES WEB SITE NOW INCLUDES LINKS TO EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS

The Graduate Studies Web site now includes a page with information about more than 600 different external fellowships. The files are organized in table format with fellowship titles, descriptions, deadline dates and Web addresses. You can search subject areas or view the entire collection in one file. The site can be accessed at www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/funding-external.shtml.

To view research grants and other external fellowship announcements from the Office of Sponsored Programs, go to www.unl.edu/research/sp1/, then click on current or previous Funding Announcements under Funding Opportunities. Updated announcements are posted each week; many of them include fellowships of interest to graduate students.

For additional fellowship assistance, contact Jane Schneider at jschneid@unlnotes.unl.edu.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

One of the world's largest sources of funding exclusively for graduate women, the AAUW Educational Foundation supports aspiring scholars around the globe, teachers and activists in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers,

and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented. Applications for grants to be awarded for the 2008-2009 academic year are now available and due Nov. 15. For more information visit the AAUW online.

SPENCER FOUNDATION DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Program encourages a new generation of scholars from a wide range of disciplines and professional fields to undertake research relevant to the improvement of education. These fellowships support individuals whose dissertations show potential for bringing fresh and constructive perspectives to the history, theory, or practice of formal or informal education anywhere in the world.

Although the dissertation topic must concern education, recipients may be in any academic discipline or professional field. Candidates should be interested in pursuing further research in education once the doctorate is attained. For more information, go to the Spencer Foundation's [Dissertation Fellowships](#) page. Applications are due Nov. 2, 2007, for fellowships that can begin as early as June 2008.

FORD FOUNDATION DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIPS

The Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships seek to increase the ethnic and racial diversity of the nation's college and university faculties, to maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and to increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students. The Fellowship grants awards at the predoctoral, dissertation and postdoctoral levels to students who demonstrate excellence, a commitment to diversity and a desire to enter the professoriate.

The 2008 fellowships competition is currently scheduled to open in early September. Please continue to monitor the [Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships](#) Web page for further announcements regarding the 2008 competition as updated information becomes available. Program guidelines for the 2007 fellowships competitions are currently available for general program information purposes.

Announcements

News of note for graduate students

HEALTH INSURANCE AVAILABLE TO ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate students will be getting more services for less money than last year! This year's student health insurance plan covers health, dental and prescription services. Details regarding insurance can be found at

www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/health-faq.shtml.

For students holding graduate assistantships, the university will pay 79% of the premium price.

FULLTIME CERTIFICATION FORM GOES ONLINE!

Doctoral students who have been granted candidacy and Master's students who are completing a thesis and in their final semester are eligible to use the Certification of Fulltime Status form. If you are not required to be enrolled for fulltime hours and are

eligible to file a fulltime status form, you may now do so via the Internet. You must know your adviser's e-mail address and must be pre-registered for the semester/summer you wish to use the form. The form is located at <http://research.unl.edu/gradstudies/fulltime/>.

SYLLABUS POLICY

According to Regents' Bylaw 4.1, all instructors are required to "inform students concerning the requirements, standards, objectives, and evaluation procedures at the beginning of each course." UNL requires that this information be conveyed to students via a written syllabus at the beginning of each course.

Any syllabus should also clearly communicate the instructor's name, office location, contact information, and office hours.

For a sample syllabus or a syllabus template, see [Teaching Tips](#) at the Grad Studies Web site.

NEW 2007-2008 UNL GRADUATE STUDIES BULLETIN

The 2007-2008 UNL Graduate Bulletin will be available in early fall. We're making a major advancement this year and will no longer be producing a printed version of the bulletin. The new bulletin will be available online in two styles accessible at the Graduate Studies Web site. An official archived version will be static and specific to academic years, like the old printed version. Archived bulletins will be permanently stored on our Web site for those who

need to refer to course work or requirements that were in effect during specific academic years. The dynamic version will be updated periodically throughout the year as new curriculum is approved and policies change. Both versions have a very user friendly format and are easily searchable. Watch the UNL Announcements and the Graduate Studies Web site for a definite go-live date. With questions about bulletin information, please call 472-2875.

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AVAILABLE AUGUST 30

The Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award honors a UNL graduate teaching assistant who has demonstrated special effectiveness in teaching undergraduates. *The Graduate Research Assistant Award* recognizes the excellent quality of research carried out by a UNL graduate student. Recipients of each award receive a plaque and \$500 cash, and are honored at a special awards luncheon in January.

The Graduate Studies Office will accept online nominations beginning Aug. 30. If you're interested in being considered for either award, your first step is to talk to a faculty member qualified to assess your teaching or research and creative activity and willing to submit your name in nomination. Because nominations for both awards must be submitted online, you should begin developing your nomination materials now, making sure they are easily converted to

electronic format, and delivering them to your faculty nominator in time to meet the Oct. 30 deadline.

For both awards, you must provide a brief CV. Graduate teaching assistants also must submit a statement of teaching philosophy and a summary of teaching evaluations (both qualitative and quantitative) from at least two courses or labs. Graduate research assistants also must submit a brief summary of the

research project or activity, written by the nominee in non-specialized language, emphasizing the project's timeliness, significance and uniqueness.

Professional development staff members in the Office of Graduate Studies are available to advise you about submitting a nomination. The call for nominations will appear Aug. 30 on the Graduate Studies website (www.unl.edu/gradstudies/).

EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE EDUCATION AWARD

The Excellence in Graduate Education Award honors two faculty members whose dedication to graduate students and commitment to excellence in graduate mentoring have made a significant contribution to graduate education at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. One award will go to an assistant or associate professor and the other to a full professor. The recipients will be honored at an awards luncheon and will receive a plaque and a cash award of \$1,000.

Online nominations from students, faculty, administrators and alumni should include:

- A letter of nomination
- Three letters of support written by current graduate students or graduate alumni
- One letter from a peer graduate faculty member (if the nomination is prepared by a faculty peer, this item can be omitted)
- The nominee's curriculum vitae

The call for nominations and the online nomination form will be available on the [Graduate Studies Web site](#) on Aug. 30. Due date is Oct. 30.

Calendar

Keep connected with the Grad Studies Calendar – important deadlines, dates and dealings you need to know about. For other deadlines related to graduation and degree completion, go to www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current.

WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

August 17	Doctoral hooding ceremony, 3:30 p.m., Kimball Recital Hall	August 23	New International Student Orientation
		August 24	New Graduate Student Orientation
August 21	Campus-wide Workshops for Graduate Teaching Assistants	October 23	Grant Writing Seminar

DEGREE DEADLINES

[Doctoral Degrees](#) to be conferred December 2007

Sept 28	Application for advanced degree	Dec 6	Oral examination
Nov 15	Application for final oral exam (or waiver); preliminary copy of dissertation/abstract; incomplete grades removed	Dec 7	Dissertation deposit; dissertation grades; final fees; final forms
		Dec 21	Doctoral hooding ceremony
		Dec 22	Commencement

[Masters Degrees](#) to be conferred December 2007

Sept 28	Application for advanced degree	Dec 6	Oral examination
Nov 8	Final examination report form	Dec 7	Thesis deposit; final examination report form; payment of binding fee
Nov 15	Incomplete grades removed		
Nov 21	Preliminary copy of thesis	Dec 22	Commencement
Nov 29	Results of written comprehensive exam and/or option II paper		

Readers' Corner

Interesting reading for graduate students

THE ART OF LEARNING: A JOURNEY IN THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE by Josh Waitzkin

[Available from Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0062518000)

Although Waitzkin's "Art of Learning" isn't a typical how-to book for graduate students or graduate teaching assistants, it provides a unique perspective to help both learners and those who guide them. From Amazon.com's description:

Josh Waitzkin knows what it means to be at the top of his game. A public figure since winning his first national chess championship at the age of nine, Waitzkin was catapulted into a media whirlwind as a teenager when his father's book *Searching for Bobby Fischer* was made into a major motion picture.

After dominating the scholastic chess world for ten years, Waitzkin expanded his horizons, taking on the martial art Tai Chi Chuan and ultimately earning the title of world champion.

How was he able to reach the pinnacle of two disciplines that on the surface seem so different? "I've come to realize that what I am best at is not Tai Chi, and it is not chess," he says. "What I am best at is the art of learning."

In his riveting new book, *The Art of Learning*, Waitzkin tells his remarkable story of personal achievement and shares the principles of learning and performance that have propelled him to the top -- twice. He explains in clear detail how a well-thought-out, principled approach to learning is what separates success from failure.

Waitzkin believes that achievement, even at the championship level, is a function of a lifestyle that

fuels a creative, resilient growth process. Rather than focusing on climactic wins, Waitzkin reveals the inner workings of his everyday method, from systematically triggering intuitive breakthroughs, to honing techniques into states of remarkable potency, to mastering the art of performance psychology.

Through his own example, Waitzkin explains how to embrace defeat and make mistakes work for you.

Does your opponent make you angry? Waitzkin describes how to channel emotions into creative fuel. As he explains it, obstacles are not obstacles but challenges to overcome, to spur the growth process by turning weaknesses into strengths.

He illustrates the exact routines that he has used in all of his competitions, whether mental or physical, so that you too can achieve your peak performance zone in any competitive or professional circumstance.

In stories ranging from his early years taking on chess hustlers as a seven year old in New York City's Washington Square Park, to dealing with the pressures of having a film made about his life, to international chess championships in India, Hungary, and Brazil, to gripping battles against powerhouse fighters in Taiwan in the Push Hands World Championships, *The Art of Learning* encapsulates an extraordinary competitor's life lessons in a page-turning narrative.