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NEW INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
provide stipend and research support, as well as professional development courses, workshops, and now internship awards to build skills for success both in graduate school and in postgraduate careers.

In this issue of GradMatters, I am happy to celebrate our strengths and to appeal to our alumni and friends to help us to sustain these worthy initiatives in the face of difficult budgetary times.

Celebrations
A key function of the Graduate College is to help students financially negotiate the costs of graduate school. We have several outstanding graduate students who win our competitive stipend and research awards. I invite you to enjoy the profiles of a rising epidemiologist (page 3) and a former winner of both the Provost and the Chancellor’s Award (page 4).

We help students to successfully negotiate graduate school and to prepare them for their future careers, in and outside academia. Theresa Christenson-Caballero provides useful networking tips (page 5) and we successfully piloted a new internship program (page 8).

Farewell
Days ago we said good-bye to Marie Khan, who served faithfully as External Fellowship Coordinator and then took on most of the internal awards and fellowships, as circumstances forced job consolidation. We wish her well in her new endeavors in New York City.

Concerns
As you are well aware, the Illinois state budget crisis has left public universities with tremendous shortfalls. Without funding for two years, UIC continues to weather the crisis better than many of our other colleagues in the state; however, the Graduate College and UIC graduate students have already felt the impact with the elimination of one fellowship program and uncertainty about the funding of others.

Fortunately, the Graduate College has been able to continue to support graduate student stipends and research, but honestly, our ability to support students has never matched our peers, especially in Chicago. Those students who win our awards are amazing, but there are many more incredible students that deserve funding.

Final Request
With the state budget crisis and likely cuts to any future funding to the university, our graduate students need your help more than ever to fund their education and research. Please consider donating to the Graduate College at http://grad.uic.edu/giving to support graduate student fellowships and our other initiatives. Your donations can help to diversify the future faculty of America, fund internships, and support tomorrow’s innovators and scholars.

Karen J. Colley
Dean and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics

2017 Student Research Forum
Faculty and alumni judges assessed 300 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students’ research from all disciplines at the Forum on April 3rd.

Kayleigh Tovar, PhD student in Microbiology & Immunology under the mentorship of Michael Federle, took second place in the Graduate/Professional Life Sciences division with her poster entitled “Elucidating Rgg-mediated quorum sensing networks in Streptococcus pneumoniae and testing their contributions in pathogenesis,” and Vineeth Kumar Gattu, PhD student in Civil and Materials Engineering under the mentorship of J. Ernesto Indacochea and president of the Graduate Student Council, took first place in the Business/Computer Science/ Mathematics+Engineering/Physical Sciences Division with a poster entitled “Long-Term Electrochemical Corrosion of a HT9 Based Alloyed Nuclear Waste Form Form.” Brava!

Summer! A time to recharge the intellectual batteries, spend an afternoon at the beach, indulge in pleasure reading, travel... and to congratulate our new graduates!

UIC is the city’s only public research university and it is tied for third in the nation for student diversity, even as our student body grows. We are committed to excellence in research and scholarship, service to our local and global communities, and embrace the diversity of all our students as essential to our intellectual framework. With these core values in mind, the mission of the Graduate College is to support the next generation of innovators, scholars, and world changers. To do this, we...
TILLING “HALLOWED GROUND”

By Emma Boylan, PhD Candidate, Epidemiology (SPH)

It is a refrain I have heard at many talks during my time as a student here: UIUC is uniquely situated to find solutions to clinical and public health problems through collaboration among our health science programs and with our urban community. Our diversity and commitment to social justice also make UIUC an exciting place to be if you are concerned, as I am, about health inequities. When she visited in February to discuss her book, Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care, Professor Dayna Bowen Matthew movingly described our campus as “hallowed ground.”

Of course, it is easy to be moved by the kind words of an admired speaker. But by the time I attended her talk, I already had reason to believe her assessment was correct.

I came to UIUC in 2014 after four years of clinical research at Lurie Children’s Hospital. At that time, my entire post-undergraduate career had been hospital based and I expected to return to hospitals after graduating with an MS in epidemiology. Attending the School of Public Health, with its close ties to the medical center and other health science schools, would play to my strengths. Furthermore, my years of interaction with patients and their families, along with my personal reading on the history of medicine in America, convinced me that addressing inequities is essential to the ethical practice of medicine and research. That progress cannot be accomplished in clinic alone.

When I arrived at UIUC, I was very fortunate to become involved early in projects with a public health and health policy focus. As a research assistant at the Institute for Health Research and Policy, I worked on the evaluation teams for We Choose Health and the Illinois Prevention Research Center. Each of these projects incorporate multiple innovative public health policies and interventions, and exposed me to the type of population-level thinking that was new to me with my clinical background. They also allowed me to see a common thread in current public health thinking: a turn away from individual risk factors and behavior, and toward the policy and built environments.

In 2015, I joined the Chicago Prostate and Colorectal Cancer Survival Study under my advisor, Dr. Vincent Freeman, and started my thesis research in earnest. The project seeks to evaluate the contributions of clinical and neighborhood factors to cancer survival disparities between African American and white Cook County residents. Its unique dataset includes the residential address and treatment facilities of cancer cases collected by the Illinois State Cancer Registry; linkage to the National Death Index; and detailed hospital survey data.

Thinking back to the challenges faced by my patients and their families, I decided to evaluate Chicagoland’s spatial access to health care by both driving and public transit. While spatial access to health care by car had been measured previously and, in some cases been found to be related to cancer outcomes, this relationship did not seem to hold in urban areas. Yet I knew Chicago to be a highly segregated city with an uneven distribution of health care resources. I remembered my own patients missing appointments because of transportation problems. And it seemed unreasonable to measure spatial access to resources in an urban environment without including public transit—particularly in a population burdened by serious illness and disparities that might remove the option of driving.

To do this, I needed to figure out how to measure both driving and public transit trips in a way that would be comparable and meaningful. I needed a lot of high quality public data about transportation systems, much of it from the city’s excellent open data platform. I needed to learn to use a geographic information system (GIS), too. The College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs is sometimes called “the other School of Public Health” on campus. Their courses in GIS, taught by staff from the Urban Data Visualization Lab, made my project possible. Because they encouraged us to select an independent project related to our outside work, I could build a GIS network model of the Chicago public transit system while having the structure of a class if I needed help. The courses also introduced me to other students and faculty working at the intersection of public health and planning.

My thesis project has met with success and a whole new set of questions. Among Chicagoleans with colorectal cancer, only the difficulty of using public transit—not driving—to reach the hospital was associated with survival. However, more burdensome trips were associated with improved survival and did not account for racial or ethnic disparities. Validating and understanding this relationship is my next task, now as a PhD student in cancer epidemiology. I am still with the Chicago Prostate and Colorectal Cancer Survival Study and the Institute for Health Research and Policy, which have supported me as a student here and kept me busy with other applications of GIS to public health.

Several months later, I still think about Professor Matthew’s words often because they are true. UIUC possesses a stunning collection of resources to promote health and well-being, including its many health science programs, interdisciplinary collaborations, and location in a complex and vibrant urban area. But there is one more resource of which we are acutely aware: need. Chicago’s segregation and inequities are severe but, sadly, not unique. Successful public health programs like Cure Violence have demonstrated that interventions developed among Chicagoleans can be translated to help people all over the world. Through service to Chicago and Illinois, we have the opportunity to promote health and justice for all people.
ANDREA HICKS, PhD SEEKS SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

By Taylor Kasper, Assistant Director of Communications, OVCA

In this edition of GradMatters, the Graduate College collaborated with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Advancement to highlight a recent alumna.

An 18-year-old Andrea Hicks chose to major in Environmental Engineering at the very beginning of her academic career with only one goal in mind: she wanted to help people.

“At the time, this wasn’t a really well-formed idea," Dr. Hicks said. "I just knew I wanted to be in a position to help people in a big way, and solve problems on a really large scale.”

Dr. Hicks began her engineering education at Michigan Technological University as an undergraduate, and took interest in the environmental aspects of engineering. This interest continued through her master’s program, and was ultimately the focus of her PhD research at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

When asked about what made UIC special for her, she said it was a multitude of things. For one, its students were like her parents, who were the first generation in their families to get college degrees—her dad went to a commuter college and her mom attended college at night.

Her PhD study in civil engineering was all about how we as a society use energy-efficient lightbulbs, and by extension, how our tendency to overuse more efficient products might create a “rebound effect” on the environment. The idea is that as our society creates consumer products that are friendlier to the environment, like energy-efficient lightbulbs or hybrid cars, we may feel entitled to use them more frequently in comparison to products that are harsher on the natural world, which would render these more efficient products counterproductive in terms of energy savings.

But what Dr. Hicks found was that it would take a lot of leaving energy-efficient lightbulbs on for extended periods of time in order to have a rebound effect on the environment.

Her research on the adoption of new lighting technology managed to combine the three pillars of sustainability: social impact, environmental impact, and economic impact. “Her [UIC] research […] was quite interdisciplinary, drawing on concepts from the science of nanostructured materials, lighting technology and applications, behavioral and environmental economics, life cycle assessment, product chain management, and industrial ecology,” wrote Dr. Theis in an email.

While attending UIC, Dr. Hicks received awards for her interdisciplinary research, including the Provost Award and the Chancellor’s Graduate Research Award, which provided the funds she needed to supplement her research and to travel overseas.

“I got to go to Switzerland and present a poster at the Gordon Research Conference on Industrial Ecology,” Dr. Hicks said. “I wouldn't have had that experience without the financial support from these Graduate College awards.”

Traveling around the world is something Dr. Hicks hopes all people working in STEM get to experience, especially women. The STEM world tends to be male-dominated, she noted, as evidenced by her undergraduate college’s student body consisting of 75 percent men.

Dr. Hicks is now an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is in a perfect position to fulfill the goal she set for herself as a teenager. She hopes that she can continue to engage students and help them understand the intricacies of how technology can have major implications on the natural environment, as well as empower more women to enter the world of STEM.

“STEM is interesting in that it’s kind of its own little microcosm,” Dr. Hicks said. “Working in a STEM field has taken me places I never thought were possible. I’ve had the opportunity to work on really exciting research with all sorts of people in all sorts of places and institutions. There is so much potential to be on the forefront of science. I hope that I can be a role model for younger women looking to go into a STEM profession.”

Andrea Hicks’ big idea came in the form of a lightbulb. Really.

Assistant Professor Andrea Hicks
(Photo courtesy of the Dr. Hicks)

“Andrea is a gifted engineer, an ardent environmentalist, an effective advocate for sustainable solutions to complex problems, and an articulate spokesperson for UIC.” – Prof. Thomas Theis, Director of the Institute for Environmental Science & Policy

But there was something—or someone—UIC that had other programs did not.

Dr. Hicks came to UIC after moving to Chicago to take a post-master’s position through the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) program co-managed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy. UIC had a leg up on a few other programs for one very specific reason: Hicks wanted to work under Dr. Tom Theis, Director of the Institute for Environmental Science and Policy.

“There are only a handful of people in a handful of places," Dr. Hicks said, “and I really wanted to work with Dr. Theis.”

Dr. Theis served as her PhD advisor, a role that molded her experience at UIC. His work focused on tackling broad scale ideas, which is what he constantly challenged Dr. Hicks to do under his tutelage. “He really gave me the freedom and resources I needed to pursue the big ideas I was curious about,” Dr. Hicks said.

Assistant Professor Andrea Hicks
(Photograph courtesy of the Dr. Hicks)
Fellowship winners for AY2017-2018:

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Graduate College announces the fellowship winners for the academic year 2017-2018. These fellowships are intended to provide the most promising students with extra financial support for their academic pursuits. The number of fellowships varies each year, based on the recommendations of the department. Up to five top-off to a teaching or research assistant-fellow will receive one year of a $10,000 fellowship provided by the department. The goal of the Abraham Lincoln Fellowship is to increase the excellence and diversity of the graduate student body by attracting applicants who have overcome obstacles to achieve academic success, like President Lincoln himself, who by his words and actions forged the framework for America’s pursuit of freedom, equality, and justice. All applicants must be nominated by their departments.

1. Ask questions and listen: Most people love to talk about themselves. Becoming an excellent networker requires asking good questions and active listening. Asking a lot of questions, being genuinely interested, and curiosity will help you build your network.

2. Be intentional: When you go to a conference, read the agenda ahead of time and view the list of attendees. Think about who you would like to meet and be intentional about connecting with them. Who are the 2-5 people you want to talk to at this conference? Go to their presentations and ask well-crafted questions during discussion periods.

3. Share your passion: Are you a sports fan, a music enthusiast, a foodie? Love volunteering, photography, travel? Be enthusiastic and leave an impression. Tell a story about why you enjoy your work, hobbies, etc. Talking about something you are excited about can be contagious. When people share their passion, it makes for a more memorable and dynamic conversation.

4. Avoid your friends: Instinctually, the first thing we want to do while enjoying complimentary drinks at an event is to talk with people we already know. While comfortable, you will not get much networking done.

5. Slow your roll: Sometimes when people get nervous they overcompensate by talking too much. No one likes the person who commandeers the discussion and leaves everyone silently nodding. Take a breath and remember tip #1. The most successful networkers are good at making other people feel heard and important.

6. Body language: When it comes to networking, body language is very important yet often overlooked. Smile, keep good eye contact, be conscious of your arm movements. Smiling when entering a room or conversation puts others at ease and will attract others to you. Make good eye contact during conversations and avoid standing with your arms folded or behind your back.

7. One hand open: If you have the conference agenda, a plate of food, and a glass in your hands, it will be hard to meet people. Try to have only one item in your hand at a time.

8. Online presence: Increasingly, people are using social media to connect professionally, instead of exchanging business cards. To be prepared, consider what social networking tools work best for your career field and keep your profile up-to-date. LinkedIn and Academia.edu are popular sites for professional social networking.

9. Clear goals: Networking is not random; it is strategic. Walking out of an event with 25 business cards and no memory about any of the people you met is a waste of time. Set a measurable goal. A good goal to start is meeting three people and following up with them within 48 hours.

10. Following up: One of the most important keys to networking is the follow up. The connection is only the beginning; ask your contact the best way to stay in touch (email, phone, social media). Contact the person within 48 hours to continue the conversation. Reference one of the things that you talked about. Think about how you can add value for this person. Send them articles, information, let them know about events, programs or anything that will help them with their career or network.

Recognizing Outstanding Achievements

The Graduate College offers a number of fellowships and awards to students. Fellowships carry a stipend (currently $22,000, except where noted) with a tuition and partial fee waiver, and are used for both recruitment and retention. Recruitment fellowships provide up to two years of stipend and two years of “topping off” of the home department’s funding. Smaller awards promote research and/or highlight the home department’s funding. Smaller fellowships provide up to two years of funding at $28,000 per annum plus tuition of fellowships and awards to students.

Abraham Lincoln Fellowship

• Ashley Vance, Anthropology
• Joshua Williams, Philosophy

The goal of the Abraham Lincoln Fellowship program is to increase the excellence and diversity of the graduate student body by attracting applicants who have overcome obstacles to achieve academic success, like President Lincoln himself, who by his words and actions forged the framework for America’s pursuit of freedom, equality, and justice. All applicants must be nominated by their departments. Selection criteria include academic achievement, promise, and alignment with the goals of the fellowship. Fellowship winners for AY2017-18:

• Jesbanírs Bas Concepión, Chemistry
• Ivan Guzman, Museum & Exhibition Studies
• Antonio Perez, Physics
• Luna White, Sociology

Winners of 2017-2018 Retention Awards:

• Alanna Conder, Medicinal Chemistry
• Rowena Crabbe, Sociology
• Erin Grant, Museum & Exhibition Studies
• Ramona Meza, Policy Studies in Urban Education
• Melissa Pergande, Chemistry

Dean’s Scholar Fellowship

The Dean’s Scholar Fellowship is a one-year, non-renewable award in recognition of a student’s scholarly achievement. The fellowship is intended to provide the most distinguished, advanced-level students with time dedicated solely to the completion of their degree. The Dean’s Scholars are nominated by their program. Fellowship Winners for AY2017-18:

• Aritra Ghosh, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
• Janet Page, MSCS
• Subbulakshmi Karthikeyan, Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy
• Dulari Jayawardena, Biopharmaceutical Sciences
• Shan Xing, PSOP
• Mohammad Reza Karim Hadisi, Philosophy
• Lisa James, Hispanic and Italian Studies
• Mary Hale, English
• Marissa Baker, Art History
• Caitlyn Yantis, Psychology
• Alexandra DeLeon, Anthropology
• Tünde Cserpes, Sociology

University/W.C. Deiss Fellowship

University Fellowships aim to recruit outstanding students newly admitted to graduate programs at UIC. PhD recipients are eligible for an additional year of support when they begin their dissertation research. In the second year (for a master’s recipient) and the second and third years (for a doctoral recipient), the student’s academic program must provide a 50% FTE nine-month appointment or equivalent. University Fellow-
Graduate Faculty Mentoring Award
The Graduate Mentoring Awards are designed to encourage and award excellence and innovation in all aspects of graduate mentoring. Awards are given annually. This year’s winners are:
- Colleen Corte, Associate Professor, Health Systems Science
- Lisa Cushing, Associate Professor, Special Education
- Ying Liu, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering
- Dianna Niebyski, Professor, Hispanic and Italian Studies

Honors College and Graduate College Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring
Now in its fifth year and co-sponsored by the Honors College, the Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring highlights the most outstanding, creative, and hardworking graduating undergraduate students who mentor undergraduates. The 2017 winners are:
- Elsa Anderson, Biological Sciences
- Kimberley Garza, Anthropology
- Sarah Hernandez, Psychology
- Negar Kamali Zonouzi, Civil Engineering
- Laura Manning, Biological Sciences
- Beenish Manzoor, Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes, & Policy
- Lain Mathers, Sociology
- Jill Quarles, Hispanic Studies
- Hillary Rowe, Psychology
- Michal Wilczewski, History

Honorable Mention: Rebecca Clendenen, Political Science; William Dalessandro, Philosophy; Timothy George, Psychology; Ramin Anbarani, Civil Engineering

Image of Research (Fall 2016)
Static image category: Viktor A. Mateevitsi (Computer Science), “SpiderSense” (first place); Cecilia Villarruel (English), “Aberrations” (second place); Benjamin Linder (Anthropology), “Cosmopolitan Space in Kathmandu” (third place).


Outstanding Thesis Award
This new annual award honors the most outstanding research master’s theses in the College’s four divisions, while also acknowledging the research advisor. The 2017 winners:
- Timothy George (Psychology), Forgetting the Literal: The Role of Inhibition in Metaphor Comprehension. Advisor: Jennifer Wiley.

Moving image category: Mao Miyamoto (Biomedical Visualization), “X Inactivation - Genetics of Calico Cats” (first place); Ada Terman (Occupational Therapy), “ScreenABLE: Knowledge Translation Collaboratives to Promote Cancer Health Equity among Women with Disabilities” (second place).

Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the Arts and Humanities (ICAH) Award
Created in 2014, the ICAH foster projects in the arts and humanities. Each collaboration between one graduate student and one junior (untenured) faculty collaborator receives an award of $5,000 for travel, research, etc. Co-sponsored this year by the Digital Humanities Working Group (Institute for the Humanities), the 2017 winning collaboration is Kaveh Mohammad Rafie, PhD student in Art History, and Atef Said, visiting assistant professor of sociology for “Arts of Dissent: The Fate of Unfinished Revolutions from Green Movement to Occupy Movement.”

Outstanding Dissertation Award
This annual award honors the most outstanding doctoral dissertations in the College’s four divisions, while also acknowledging the research advisor. The 2017 winners are:
- Aleksander Antanasijevic (Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics), Biophysical Studies of the Interactions Between Small Molecule Inhibitors and Viral Target Proteins. Advisor: Michael S. Caffrey.

Outstanding Thesis Award
This new annual award honors the most outstanding research master’s theses in the College’s four divisions, while also acknowledging the research advisor. The 2017 winners:
- Timothy George (Psychology), Forgetting the Literal: The Role of Inhibition in Metaphor Comprehension. Advisor: Jennifer Wiley.
With continuing budgetary instability, however, the Graduate College has been forced to reduce the number of fellowships and awards it offers each year. Whenever possible, it utilizes gift funds to augment or create new learning opportunities. Here are a few examples:

- The W.C. and May Preble Deiss Fund provides grant support to graduate students performing clinical or basic medical science research.
- The Dorothea Fleming Student Research Fund and L.J. and M. Allen Cancer Research Fellowship Fund both support cancer-related research projects.
- In 2014, the Graduate College used gift funds from a local bank to create the new Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the Arts and Humanities (ICAH) Award to facilitate innovations in two-person teams (one graduate student and one untenured faculty member). Completed projects have included a documentary film, a seminar at an international conference, and books.
- The pledged UIC Kevin G. Barnhurst and Richard Doherty Graduate Student Award Fund will provide supplemental travel awards for graduate students presenting original work reflecting LGBTQ studies.
- The Goodwin Foundation has endowed the College with a $1,000-$3,000 Graduate Research Awards--Sponsor a student in one of two annual competitions.
- A $5,000: Fund a collaboration between a graduate student in the arts or humanities and a junior faculty member; or fund an off-campus internship.
- A $25,000: Provide current use monies to support a matriculating student or offer a year of writing support; or, fund five summer internships.
- A $50,000: Endow a travel or research award; underwrite a workshop series; or sponsor the Image of Research for three years.
- A $250,000+: Endow and name a fellowship that enables graduate students to focus on their scholarship for a year instead of juggling research and a part-time job.

If you would like more information on how to support the College, please contact Benn Williams, Assistant Director for Interdisciplinary Programs and Development, at (312) 413-2389 or bwilli7@uic.edu. To give online, please visit [http://grad.uic.edu/giving](http://grad.uic.edu/giving) and give to:

- The Dean’s Fund - donations will be used in the area of greatest need, as determined by the Dean of the Graduate College, or,
- The Graduate Fellowship Fund - to support fellowships through the Graduate College.

Consider giving back to UIC’s Graduate College to give forward: help to diversify future faculty, fund internships, and support tomorrow’s innovators and scholars. Thank you for your support!

It is with great sadness that the Graduate College reports the passing of a tremendous friend and ally. Dave’s warmth and loyalty will be missed. He had a unique viewpoint on nearly every topic and was not shy about sharing it. His commitment to his graduate students was well known. Dave was broadly trained. A neuroscientist who studied genes that control glutamate receptor abundance, he began his career as an artist before pursuing science (zoology, toxicology, and neuroscience). After a postdoc at the University of Utah, Dave and his wife, Janet Richmond, joined the Department of Biological Sciences.

In his 15 years at UIC, Dave became one of the most creative and successful scientists and celebrated teachers. He was so successful that his chosen faculty mentor eventually decided it might make more sense to reverse roles, or just have lunch and talk science. Caring deeply about his department, he worked creatively and thoughtfully in a variety of administrative roles at UIC. The Graduate College remembers Dave for his tireless (and witty) work as a reviewer of awards, for training neuroscientists, and for initiating, organizing, and bettering a conversation on “alternative academic” careers that was hugely appreciated by graduate students.

To honor him, a scholarship in his name has been established. If you wish to contribute to the David E. Featherstone Memorial Scholarship Fund, make a check payable to the “University of Illinois at Chicago” and in the notes section write “DEF Scholarship Gift.” Please mail or deliver the check to Thomas Lagen, Director of Finance, UIC-Biological Sciences, MC066, 845 W. Taylor St., Rm. 3370 SES, Chicago, IL 60607.

There is a memorial website to share comments, pictures and memories. (Adapted from an obituary by faculty in biological sciences and used with permission. For the original text, please visit [http://bios.uic.edu](http://bios.uic.edu))
As graduate students increasingly seek employment outside of the professoriate, the Graduate College has greatly enhanced its career and professional development offerings. Designed to help graduate students consider new career options and to build translatable skills, the Chancellor’s Graduate Internship (CGI) Award Program incentivizes graduate students to independently identify short (3-month) internship opportunities that might lead to employment following graduation.

This new internship program is limited to full-time students, in good academic standing, who are in a PhD or terminal master's program that does require an internship or similar experience.

The inaugural competition yielded seventeen applications from master's and doctoral students in the arts, sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. Potential host agencies included governmental agencies (state and foreign), world-class museums, a small theater, campus units, and important educational and advocacy organizations.

Although jurors wanted to fund all of the applications, current funding levels permitted four awardees to represent the Graduate College and to receive $5,000 each.

Jamie Goldsborough is pursuing a dual program, MArch and an MA in Design Criticism, and she will intern in the department of Architecture and Design at the Art Institute of Chicago, where she will assist three curators in preparing a landmark exhibition entitled “Past, Present, and Future: Architecture and Design from the Collection.”

Pursuing a PhD in Criminology, Law, and Justice, Anne Kirkner will provide research assistance on two projects at the Center for Victim Studies which is part of the Research and Analysis Unit of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, a state agency seeking to improving the administration of criminal justice.

A basic scientist, Joy Peplinski, PhD student in the Ecology & Evolution program (BioS), will have the opportunity to translate knowledge into constructive action as part of the Andes-Amazon group in the Keller Science and Action Center at the Field Museum of Natural History.

Neighborhood high schools matter! During his internship with the Chicago Community Trust, Alexis Rosario-Moore, PhD student in Policy Studies in Urban Education, will conduct research, analyze policy, and develop evaluation-based programs as part of the organization’s Generation All initiative, which advocates for vibrant public high schools in the city.