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THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

THE GRADUATE MENTORING CENTER

Indiana University Bloomington

The GMC Newsletter

January 2021

For Graduate Students, Faculty, and Staff

Dear Graduate Mentoring Center Community,

2021: No easing into this year at all. And, it is hard to believe that January is over. Yet, here we are, once again dreaming of spring.

Before writing anything else, I want to acknowledge that many of us – myself included – are grieving and mourning the best ways we know how. It may be hard to be present and even harder to pretend about anything this semester. 2020 stripped us down to the bare bones of who we are at our most dire and desired moments. Still, I am certain that we will move out of this dimension. Maybe not at warp speed, but little by little we are finding our way back to ourselves and each other, out of isolation, pain, and fear.

Thank you to all the people who offer small acts of joy when least expected: delivery of chocolate chip cookies at 9 pm, boxes of chocolate, hot bread, eggs, a book, a phone call, a card, a text, silence for sighs when words no longer have meaning.

Tending to the reality of our lives is still a priority. Here are some [resources](#) for food, shelter, and additional information for students with children. Thank you to Academic Advisor Eric Beckstrom (Center for Students in Transition). Please stay up-to-date on pandemic information and guidelines [here](#). As always, if you need to talk to someone, [please contact CAPS](#).

Reminder: Don't forget to check out resources from the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity [here](#). Check out the webinar Every Semester Needs a Plan [here](#). There are other great webinars that may be what you need at this moment.

SPRING 2021

In addition to our monthly cohort meetings, workshops for departments or other campuses, we offer the following programs.

Reminders/Approaching Deadlines

February 4 (Thursday)

3:30 pm

Find more information [here](#).

Co-Sponsored Talk. We are happy to co-sponsor the Folklore and Ethnomusicology talk with Dr. Ana-Maurine Lara, These Words Are My Ofrenda

February 5 (Friday) Submission Deadline. *Three Minute Thesis.* Participation in 3MT will give you the opportunity to share your research with a general audience. You'll practice and develop public speaking skills (and performing on video!) as well as connect with employers, alumni, and colleagues from across the university community. Get more information [here](#).

February 10, 2021 (Wednesday)

12 pm -1 pm

Reflecting on Mentorship - Register [here](#).

Center of Excellence for Women & Technology Empowerment Series – Part 1

Description. Developing mentoring relationship(s) takes trust and communication. Mentee and mentor must commit time to know each other in a respectful manner. But, before you can trust someone, you must **reflect** on what you need in a mentor, what expectations you have of this person and yourself (and why), what it means to trust, and what types of communication you need. To get the mentoring you need, reflect first on what makes you, the mentee, the person who you are. Then ask yourself: What type of mentor can help me be/become the person I have yet to imagine.

February 17, 2021 (Wednesday)

12 pm -1 pm

Initiating a Mentoring Relationship – Register [here](#).

Center of Excellence for Women & Technology Empowerment Series – Part 2

Description. After reflection, you have decided that you want to be in a mentoring relationship with a specific person and/or you are willing to mentor someone. Good mentoring changes lives. Now is the time to **initiate** a conversation with your mentor to learn if this is the right step for you and, if so, begin planning your journey.

February 18, 2021 (Thursday)

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Join us – to read or to listen - any time during the 90 minutes.)

Drop In and Read Awhile – Register [here](#).

A celebration of the lives and works of Audre Lorde and Toni Morrison. Join us for the second annual read-in of the works of Audre Lorde and Toni Morrison, who were born on the same day – February 18 – three years apart. This year, we invite you to also share with us your favorite works of Alice Walker, born February 9. Select your favorite poem, story, novel, or essay (or re/discover one). Choose an excerpt, drop in, and read awhile.

Spirit & Place Opportunities

Spirit & Place is seeking an individual to support its work with faith-focused institutions. The post is available through the Interfaith Engagement Corps Americorps program of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation. 30 hours a week; a living allowance and other benefits are provided. Tasks include research and program design. Click [here](#) for more information.

Ongoing Programs

Drop In and Write On

Wednesdays – Begins February 3

5:30-7:30 pm

Register [here](#).

Thursdays – Begins February 4

9:00-10:30 am

Join [here](#).

Sitting for Peace

Fridays – Begins February 5

11 am-12 pm

Register [here](#).

Trailblazers and Innovators

February – April

Every spring, The GMC offers the Trailblazers and Innovators series, an opportunity for students to meet with a scholar of color to discuss their research during a one-week period. We have re-visioned the series to accommodate current distancing protocols.

We are happy to welcome [Dr. Mintzi Martinez-Rivera](#), one of the center's first faculty mentors, as our Trailblazers scholar-in-residence. Beginning in February, Dr. Martinez-Rivera will meet with us once a month. Thank you to faculty in Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Latino Studies, and the Social Science Research Commons for collaborating with us in this effort. Dates and registration information are below.

February 24, 2021 (Wednesday)

1 pm – 2:30 pm

Dr. Martinez-Rivera and Dr. Nana Amoah-Ramey will discuss the importance of mentoring in their lives and how they have negotiated the mentoring stages of separation and redefinition. Register [here](#).

March 24, 2021 (Wednesday)

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Dr. Martinez-Rivera and Dr. Solimar Otero will discuss their new co-edited book: *Theorizing Folklore from the Margins: Critical and Ethnical Approaches* in advance of its release by IU Press. Register [here](#).

March 26, 2021 (Friday)

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Workshop in Methods – Decolonial Qualitative Approaches

Register [here](#).

April 21, 2021 (Wednesday)

2:00 pm-3:30 pm

Tales from the Field Roundtable: Working in Conflict Zones

Dr. Martinez-Rivera and Dr. Abegunde will discuss with students what it is like to conduct research in a conflict zone. We invite students who have conducted fieldwork or who plan to do so in the future to join us.

Register [here](#). If you would like to share a story, please register and complete [this survey](#).

Maria Hamilton Abegunde, Ph.D.

Founding Director



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