Welcome Back! A Message from the Dean

Deborah Smith-Howell, Ph.D.

Welcome! I hope your fall semester is off to a great start. It is fun and exciting to see the energy on campus as students and faculty begin a new academic year. I am delighted to share with you the news in this issue of Grad News.

Grad News is a key communication tool for the Office of Graduate Studies. We will send this by email at least once a month and more frequently as needed. Issues will also be available on the Graduate Studies Graduate Faculty Resources page: gradstudies.unomaha.edu/faculty

I’m truly looking forward to the new year. We had an incredible welcome event for new graduate assistants and new graduate students on Thursday, August 22. Thanks to the many offices across campus that made that successful—the Resource Fair was tremendous!

I’m also excited for you to meet the new people in Graduate Studies and re-introduce you to everyone in new roles and responsibilities.

Our focus in UNO Graduate Studies is to provide exceptional support to prospective and current graduate students and all the faculty and staff in our graduate programs. If you have ideas and suggestions or questions for us, please let us know.

Have a great semester!

Graduate Program Chair Breakfast w/ SVC Sacha Kopp

Nicole Kersten

As a new semester begins, we look forward to hosting all graduate program chairs and advisors to the Fall GPC Breakfast on Wednesday, September 18, 8:30-10 A.M. in the MBSC. Chancellor’s Room. We look forward to hosting Senior Vice Chancellor Kopp and discussing important topics. Please save the date for the Spring 2020 GPC Breakfast on Wednesday, March 4.
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NEW LEADERSHIP & STAFF STRUCTURE IN GRAD STUDIES
Richard Larson

After several months of analysis and planning with Human Resources, the Office of Graduate Studies started the 2019-2020 academic year with a new leader and a new staff structure.

Juan Casas, Ph.D., associate professor for the Department of Psychology, was named associate dean for Graduate Studies. With almost 20 years of service and involvement at UNO, we look forward to having Juan join our team to provide additional leadership and strategic support.

In addition to the new associate dean position, Graduate Studies also completed an internal staff restructuring process to better serve students and stakeholders. The office is now organized around three teams, working collaboratively with one another to achieve its goals. The teams and directors include: Enrollment Services, led by Brittney Knowlton; Recruitment, Marketing and Events, led by Richard Larson; and Operations and Support, led by Penny Harmanley.

With this restructuring effort, we hope to provide more effective service and support to prospective and current students, faculty and staff, and community partners.

The full staff roster (right) and contact information is available near the bottom of the Graduate Studies website. Please do not hesitate to reach out for assistance.

I-20 PROCESSING ISSUANCE FOR NEW STUDENTS
Brittney Knowlton

As part of the application and admissions process for international students, all official transcript evaluations and exam scores are required prior to I-20 issuance.

In order to issue an I-20 for newly admitted international students who are outside of the U.S., we request that all official documentation be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies by the following dates:

- Spring Semester: November 15
- Fall Semester: July 1
- Summer Semester: April 15

These dates should allow students to receive their I-20, schedule their Visa appointment, and arrive for the start of the semester. It is highly unlikely that students will arrive for the start of the semester if I-20s are issued after the above mentioned dates.

GRADUATION INFORMATION
Brittney Knowlton

October 18
Last day for filing applications for degrees to be conferred in December 2019

December 5
Last day to submit Comprehensive Exam results, all Incomplete and In Progress grades from previous terms, and final copies of theses, thesis-equivalent projects, Ed.S. field projects, and dissertations.

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
MBSC COUNCIL ROOM
2:30 - 3:30 P.M.