Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed your winter break. 2013 was an excellent year for graduate education at USC. We look forward to building on that success in 2014.

Graduate Student Day

Mark your calendars! USC’s 17th Annual Graduate Student Day will be held on **Friday, April 11, 2014**. All graduate students are invited to submit abstracts through GMS. Categories this year are oral research presentation, poster presentation, creative presentation, and the 3 minute thesis/dissertation speech. The deadline to submit proposals is **March 11**. Visit **gradschool.sc.edu/students/gsd.asp** for details and competition guidelines. In anticipation for Graduate Student Day, we’re also hosting the **2nd Annual Graduate Student Day Logo Competition**. All USC students, faculty and staff are invited to participate. The winning design will net a $100 prize and will appear on T-shirts, name tags, posters and other promotional materials. Visit **gradschool.sc.edu/post.asp?eventid=502** for competition details.
Nominations

Graduate director nominations are currently being accepted for the Presidential Fellowship and Trustee Recruiting Fellowships. Upcoming deadlines for both fellowships are January 31 (Round 2) and February 28 (Round 3). Nominations for several Graduate School administered fellowships and awards are due March 11:

• Dean’s Award
• Mortar Board Fellowship
• Trustee Fellowships
• Outstanding Thesis Award
• Outstanding Teaching Award

Accolades & National News

Graduate education at the University of South Carolina continues to command national attention. Nine graduate programs at USC ranked among the nation’s best in two separate 2013 U.S. News & World and Reports, while three online graduate programs have already made the U.S. News and World Report’s Best Online Education Programs list in 2014. This is in addition to the dozens of doctoral programs cited in the National Research Council’s latest (2010) report of top programs in the South and in the nation.

University of South Carolina remains the only university in the state and one of only a few dozen in the nation to receive the Carnegie Foundation’s highest research designation and to be named among the nation’s leaders in providing programs that benefit and engage communities.

Cited as a best value university by Princeton Review and Kiplinger’s Personal Fiance, Carolina was also named, for the second year in a row, a top university for diversity and inclusivity by INSIGHT into Diversity magazine (2012, 2103).

The Graduate School received the 2012-2013 Conference of Southern Graduate Schools/Electronic Testing Service Award for Excellence and Innovation in Graduate Admissions for its flagship recruiting program, the Presidential Fellowship. Also a highlight in 2013, USC added a new Ph.D. program in Sport and Entertainment.
Meet our New Staff

We have some new faces in The Graduate School, which we are happy to introduce to you.

Program Coordinator **Sarah Zilinsky** comes to The Graduate School with a bachelor's degree in media arts from USC. In her new position, Sarah will be working with the Arnold School of Public Health and oversee their many programs.

Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) Coordinator **Zach Lukemire** hosts formatting workshops and is responsible for the review and preservation of theses and dissertations. He recently earned a master’s degree in library and information science from USC.

**Libby Cross** is a former elementary school music teacher who has worked on various projects on campus since 2011. As an Executive Administrative Coordinator in the Graduate School, Libby provides support for staff, events and online degree applicants.

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Spring 2014 Deadlines

**Graduation Application**
February 3

**Format Check**
April 8

**Defense Deadline**
April 8

**Final Submission**
April 18

Graduation Ceremonies

**May 9**
**Master’s & Professional**
Colonial Life Arena 3 pm

**May 10**
**Master’s & Professional**
Colonial Life Arena 9:30 am and 3 pm

**May 10**
**Doctoral Hooding Ceremony**
Koger Center 1 pm

[commencement.sc.edu](http://commencement.sc.edu)
[gradschool.sc.edu/dochooding](http://gradschool.sc.edu/dochooding)

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Travel Grants Awarded in 2012-2013

**325**

The next travel grant cycle will open June 1, 2014

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**gradschool.sc.edu**
ETD Formatting Workshops
The Graduate School is offering **Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD)** formatting workshops for students graduating in **May or August 2014**. Zach Lukemire, The Graduate School’s ETD Coordinator, will guide students through the formatting process and answer questions about how to electronically submit your document. Even better, if you bring your computer, you can format your document on the spot! All sessions will be held in **Russell House 305**.

**Spring 2014**
- T February 18 10:00 am
- F February 21 1:30 pm
- W February 26 10:30 am
- TH February 27 2:00 pm
- T March 4 2:30 pm
- TH March 6 10:30 am
- M March 17 1:30 pm
- F March 21 10:00 am

**RSVP at lukemire@mailbox.sc.edu**

Hannah Spicher at hspicher@mailbox.sc.edu the following information:
- student name and email address
- graduation date
- advisor name and email address
- USC grad program
- hiring college/university and location

*A recognition event will be held April 29*. Details will be announced later in the semester.

**Student Services**
The Graduate School continues to add services and build bridges across campus to maximize opportunities available to graduate students. We’ve recently added:

- Safe Zone Allies
- Green Zone Ally
- Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper
- Graduate Student Ombudsman
- ETD Coordinator

We’ve also teamed up with campus offices to host career panels, entrepreneurial workshops, communication workshops, and salary negotiation workshops. We will host many of these again this spring. Look for updates on our website, Twitter and Facebook.

**Tracking Tenure Track Positions**
On behalf of Provost Amiridis, The Graduate School is assembling information on 2013-2014 USC graduates who secure tenure track appointments. This includes students who graduated or will graduate in **August 2013, December 2013, and May 2014**. Graduate directors and program administrators with candidates, please email gradschool.sc.edu

**Help us get 1,000 Likes!**

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Center for Teaching Excellence
sc.edu/cte

Office of Fellowships & Scholar Programs
sc.edu/ofsp

USC Career Center
sc.edu/career