

GRC NEWSLETTER

THE Graduate School @ Bowie State



November 3, 2025

Issue 9

ABOUT THE GRC

The Graduate Research Center's mission is to transform the graduate student experience. We cultivate a dynamic academic environment in which graduate students engage in innovative research, receive tailored academic support, and leverage resources for both academic and professional development. We are dedicated to nurturing emerging scholars, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and empowering individuals to excel in their academic pursuits through mentorship, fellowship opportunities, and transformative services.



NOVEMBER EVENTS

- November 1st: Homecoming
- November 7th: Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of 'W' or Audit a Course (2nd 7 Week Session)
- November 8th: Saturday Session Dissertation Workshop
- November 13th: GRC reMIX
- November 20th: Research Reading Club Engaging with Socially Just Research Methods
- November 26th - 28th: Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)



@BSUGradCenter



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Center for Business & Graduate Studies
Thurgood Marshall Library, 1185

Tailored Academic Support

GRADUATE WRITING SERVICES



Research editors at the Graduate Research Center focus on helping graduate students grow as academic writers and scholars across disciplines. We support students at any stage in the writing process. We provide feedback on a range of work including research papers, literature reviews, dissertation chapters, grant proposals, and conference presentations.

Offerings:

Brainstorming Consultations

Students talk through approaches they are considering for starting an assignment, drafting sections of longer manuscripts, or even working through structural issues in a current draft. The consultation focuses on using dialogue to explore ideas, ask questions, and gain clarity. Brainstorming consultations are scheduled 24 hours in advance and require an assignment sheet or a short project description.

Read Ahead Consultations

Students will identify a specific challenge that they are facing in a current draft. An editor will read student work before the consultation. The consultation centers on using dialogue to provide constructive feedback, potential strategies, and resources for overcoming the challenge. Consultations are scheduled 48 hours in advance. Requirements for making the appointment include an assignment sheet or a short project description in addition to 5-8 double-spaced manuscript pages or slides.

Thesis/Dissertation Support Groups:

Weekly, noncommittal groups will offer a supportive, flexible space for writers to meet the demands of revising manuscripts and take advantage of dedicated writing time. Sessions will also feature brief workshops focused on enhancing your writing process, trying new revision strategies, using feedback effectively, maximizing writing time, and more.

Dissertation Workshop Series:

The Dissertation Workshop Series guides doctoral students through writing and refining key sections of the dissertation. Workshops will focus on writing a clear problem statement, crafting a comprehensive literature review, describing research methodologies, presenting findings, and highlighting a study's significance.

[Schedule a GRC Service](#)

ACADEMIC ADVISING



Academic advisors at the Graduate Research Center support new and continuing graduate students through the enrollment and registration process, help them understand program requirements, and provide ongoing guidance throughout their academic journey.

Offerings:

In-person and online advising sessions by appointment only.

New Student Advising: Ms. Williams

Doctoral/Certificate Program Advising: Ms. Oji

Master's Program Advising: Ms. Bradford-Yancey

STATISTICS ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE



Statisticians at the Graduate Resource Center provide academic support to graduate students by assisting with statistical concepts, data analysis techniques, and software applications. We help students understand probability, hypothesis testing, regression analysis, and other advanced statistical methods. Services include one-on-one or group sessions, guidance in applying statistical methods to research projects, and clarification on complex topics to enhance comprehension and confidence.

Offerings:

One-on-One or Group Sessions to address challenges directly related to coursework.

Need to Print?

Graduate programs or students in need of printing large images for conference presentations, abstract presentations, posters, etc., may complete the request form below. Materials will be ready for pickup on Mondays and Wednesdays in room 1185 of the Thurgood Marshall Library.

[Print Services Submission Form](#)



Graduate Research Center

GRC reMIX!

FUELING INNOVATION THROUGH CONNECTION

Join us for GRC reMIX, the official relaunch and networking mixer of the Graduate Research Center! Connect with graduate students, faculty, and researchers while enjoying light refreshments, engaging conversations, and an inside look at the GRC's renewed mission to foster innovation, research, and scholarly growth across campus.



NOVEMBER 13TH, 2025
6:30-8:30PM
GSMN BEACON 1230

SPRING 2026



GRAD STUDENT **CLASS** REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

DON'T DELAY REGISTER TODAY

[Take Me to Bulldog Connection](#)

[Schedule an Advising Appointment](#)

The background of the entire poster is a repeating pattern of yellow-outlined books. Some books are shown as closed, while others are open, with their pages visible. The books are scattered across the entire page, creating a textured, academic feel.

HOSTED BY DR. COX & DR. MCELROY

Research Reading Club

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH 12:00-1:00PM

REGISTER ON GRC.MYWCONLINE.COM

THIS MONTH'S READING:

[“Focus Groups and the Collective Construction of Meaning: Listening to Minority Women”](#)

*By R. Kook, A. Harel-Shalev, & F. Yuval
Published in Women's Studies International Forum, 2019*

Join us as we explore how focus groups can serve as powerful spaces for collective meaning-making—particularly in research involving minority women.

THIS ARTICLE INVITES READERS TO THINK CRITICALLY ABOUT:

- The interactive dynamics within focus groups
- How feminist theories of silence and voice shape interpretation
- The potential of “listening differently” to uncover deeper insights

Come ready to share your thoughts, questions, and takeaways as we discuss how this piece informs qualitative research practices and feminist inquiry!

Graduate Writing Services

Fall 2025

Research editors at the Graduate Research Center focus on helping graduate students grow as academic writers and scholars across disciplines.

AVAILABILITY
MONDAY-
THURSDAY

Brainstorming Consultations

Students use dialogue to explore ideas, ask questions, and clarify approaches for assignments or drafts.

AVAILABILITY
MONDAY-
THURSDAY

Read Ahead Consultations

Students receive constructive feedback and strategies on a draft after an editor reads their work in advance.

AVAILABILITY
MONDAY-
THURSDAY

Final Dissertation Review

Doctoral candidates receive copyediting and formatting feedback on individual dissertation sections in scheduled 30-minute sessions.

DISSERTATION
MONDAYS@
12PM

THESIS
TUESDAYS @
12:15PM

Writing Support Communities

A weekly group offering dedicated writing time, peer support, and workshops on revision and writing strategies for dissertating and thesis students.

EVERY THIRD
SATURDAY
STARTING
9/13

9-11AM

Dissertation Workshops

Workshops guide doctoral students in drafting and refining key sections of the dissertation.

EVERY THIRD
THURSDAY
STARTING
9/18

12-1PM

Research Reading Club

A discussion group that explores research texts focused on socially just, community-engaged methodologies.

**SCHEDULE AN
APPOINTMENT TODAY!**



SPOTLIGHT

SUBHECHHA RIJAL

Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Biology Masters Student

Meet Subhechha Rijal, a graduate student in Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Biology at Bowie State University. Her research focuses on developing and evaluating antimicrobial-coated catheters to combat catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs). Rijal studies the effectiveness of coated silicone and latex catheters against pathogens such as *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, aiming to reduce bacterial colonization and biofilm formation. Her work also explores bacterial stress-response mechanisms to understand how microorganisms survive under antimicrobial pressure, ultimately seeking to design medical devices that prevent infections while advancing translational healthcare solutions.



Throughout her academic career, Rijal has conducted extensive in vitro studies and contributed to microbial fuel cell research, gaining valuable experience in molecular biology, microbiology, and sustainable energy applications. She has mentored undergraduate students in experimental design, molecular techniques, and data analysis, fostering both technical growth and collaborative learning. Her research has been presented nationally at the 2024 and 2025 National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), and she has participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI) and CURE Program projects examining pathogens such as *Naegleria fowleri* and MRSA.

Rijal's professional development includes specialized Biohub training through the National Institute for Biomedical Engineering, Research, and Training (NIBERT), as well as leadership roles as a Graduate Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant. A Magna Cum Laude graduate and Mackenzie Scott Scholarship recipient, she continues to exemplify excellence in research, mentorship, and community engagement—bridging science, innovation, and education to shape the future of biotechnology.



A CONVERSATION WITH SUBHECHHA RIJAL

Interview by Kamryn Kiser

Kiser: What initially inspired your interest in studying antimicrobial-coated catheters and their role in reducing catheter-associated urinary tract infections?

Rijal: Especially for females, our urinary tract is shorter than males, so we're often more prone to infections. However, men also experience these infections, especially in hospitals. During my own experience using a catheter in the hospital, I was fortunate not to develop an infection, but I saw how easily it could happen—especially when catheters are used for long periods or not properly sanitized. Hospital-acquired infections can be serious, and for me, it became important to explore how we can prevent patients from returning home with new health issues after treatment. That's what drew me to research antimicrobial-coated catheters—to help ensure patients can recover safely.

Kiser: Can you walk us through your research process—from testing coated catheters to analyzing bacterial behavior under antimicrobial pressure?

Rijal: I prepare the antimicrobial coating myself and apply it to catheters before testing them. We then expose both coated and uncoated catheters to bacterial cultures at body temperature—around 37°C—to study how bacteria grow and form biofilms. The coated catheters show significantly less bacterial growth and biofilm formation. I also study bacterial gene expression using quantitative PCR to see how bacteria respond under antimicrobial pressure. This helps me understand how they adapt or resist these conditions.

Kiser: Which laboratory techniques or experiments have been the most challenging and the most rewarding to master?

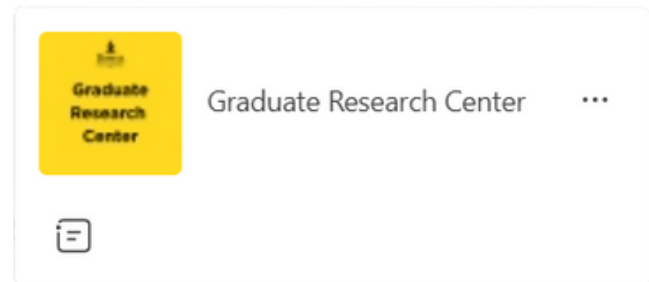
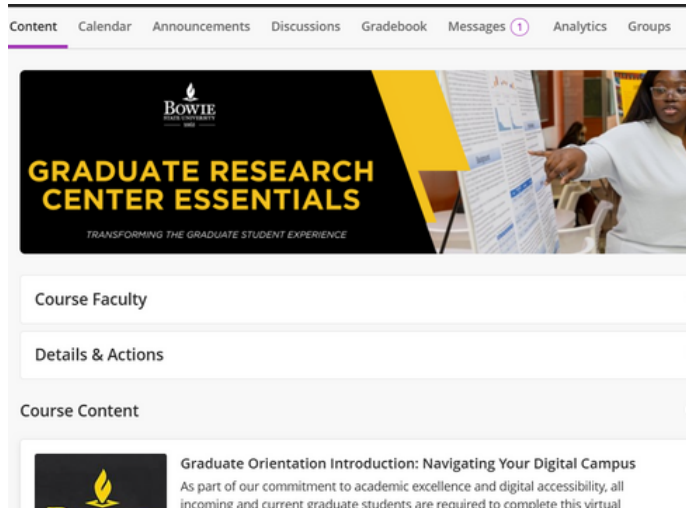
Rijal: The most rewarding part is getting consistent results—seeing that your data validate your hypothesis and that your work can move toward publication. It's exciting when you can confirm that your research has real potential. The challenges, however, come with learning new instruments and techniques. Every new tool requires patience and precision, and sometimes experiments don't go as planned. But once you master those techniques, the same things that were challenging become rewarding. Patience really is key in research.

Kiser: What impact do you hope your research will have in the future?

Rijal: My hope is that antimicrobial-coated catheters can reduce hospital-acquired infections on a large scale so patients no longer have to worry about developing a UTI after treatment. I also aim to develop a cost-effective product so it can be accessible globally—even in developing countries where healthcare resources are limited. I see this as an opportunity to create something innovative that can improve patient care and make a real difference around the world.



GRC ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE ON NEW PLATFORMS



The Graduate Research Center (GRC) Essentials Blackboard Course is now open to all graduate students. This course is designed to orient students to GRC services while also providing access to essential Graduate School resources.

Students can easily access the course by visiting [Blackboard](#), logging in, and selecting Courses. Within the GRC Essentials course, students will complete a brief orientation and earn a digital badge to recognize their participation.

The course will remain available throughout the academic year, serving as a convenient point of reference for all things related to the Graduate Research Center and the Graduate School.

In addition to Blackboard, we are excited to announce the launch of the GRC Team Hub, now available to all graduate students and faculty. The hub serves as a centralized resource, offering easy access to pertinent information about GRC services, university personnel, policies, and more. By streamlining these resources into one convenient space, the Team Hub is designed to support academic success, strengthen communication, and foster engagement across the graduate community.

**JOIN THE
HUB
[HERE!](#)**



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Hosted by Dr. McElroy at THE Graduate Research Center

DISSERTATION WORKSHOP SERIES

Online | Every 3rd Saturday | 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

We're Here to Help You Cross the Finish Line!

Join us for a focused, monthly virtual workshop series designed to help you write and refine the most critical components of your dissertation.

Each session will dive into essential topics such as:

- **Writing a Clear Problem Statement**
- **Crafting a Comprehensive Literature Review**
- **Describing Your Research Methodology**
- **Presenting Your Findings**
- **Highlighting the Significance of Your Study**

Register Today!



RICE BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

The Rice Business Plan Competition (RBPC), hosted by Rice Business and the Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship, is the world's largest and most prestigious **graduate-level** student startup competition. Each year, the RBPC brings together the most promising early-stage, student-led university startups from across the U.S. and around the globe to pitch their ventures, gain valuable feedback, and compete for funding.

Mark your calendars for this exciting opportunity to witness innovation in action:

- Applications Open: November 3, 2025
- 2026 RBPC Dates: April 9-11, 2026
- Location: Houston, Texas at Rice Business

[Learn More Here!](#)



VISIT THE GRADUATE LOUNGE!

Looking for a space to study, collaborate with peers, or work on assignments? Visit the Graduate Lounge in **Thurgood Marshall Library (Room 1185)**. This modern space features seating for 30, 7 computers, 3 private study pods, and a large 80" interactive screen with virtual and touchscreen capabilities.



Thurgood Marshall Library, Room 1185



Bulldog
Card
Required
for Entry

**RESERVE THE
GRADUATE LOUNGE:**



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FEATURED?**