

Humboldt State University

## Digital Commons @ Humboldt State University

---

Newsletters

University Archives

---

12-2016

### Graduate Studies Newsletter

Graduate Studies Office  
*Humboldt State University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/campus\\_pub](https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/campus_pub)



Part of the [Biology Commons](#), [Education Commons](#), [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#), [Physical Sciences and Mathematics Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Office, Graduate Studies, "Graduate Studies Newsletter" (2016). *Newsletters*. 26.  
[https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/campus\\_pub/26](https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/campus_pub/26)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at Digital Commons @ Humboldt State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Humboldt State University. For more information, please contact [kyle.morgan@humboldt.edu](mailto:kyle.morgan@humboldt.edu).

# Graduate Studies Newsletter

ISSUE 01 DECEMBER 2016



## THIS ISSUE

Welcome P.1  
Spotlight on Dr. Chris Aberson P.2  
Digital Commons @ HSU P.3  
Upcoming Events & Resources P.4  
Student Success Stories P.5,6

## Important Dates:

- ◆ Dec. 12th: Theses/Projects must have approval of committee + Graduate Coordinator on Digital Commons @ HSU
- ◆ Jan. 1st: Spring 2017 instruction begins!
- ◆ Jan. 16th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Campus closed
- ◆ Jan. 30th: Deadline to file for Educational Leave by 5pm
- ◆ Jan. 30th: Deadline to file for Advancement to Candidacy (with late fee) to be listed in the Spring 2017 Commencement Program.
- ◆ March 2nd: Priority deadline to submit FAFSA

## Expanding the Horizons of Graduate Studies

The Graduate Studies Office has undergone some new and exciting changes, such as moving all theses submissions to online format, using the platform “BePress” which is facilitated by the Library staff. Read more on page 3 . . .

## SPOTLIGHT:

### Dr. Chris Aberson

Professor of Psychology



- How long have you been here at HSU? Can you tell us a little bit about your academic history?

**ABERSON:** “I’ve been here since 2000. I graduated with my Ph.D. in Psychology from The Claremont Graduate University in 1999, spent a year as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Franklin and Marshall College in PA, then came to HSU.”

- So what kind of research do you do here?

**ABERSON:** “I am a social psychologist and a quantitative psychologist (i.e., a statistician). My social psych research focuses on prejudice, broadly defined. My quantitative work addresses teaching of statistics and statistical power (sample size planning).”

- Are any students involved in your research?

**ABERSON:** “I regularly have a lab team of 10 - 15 undergraduate and graduate students working on research. There are many students who have been successful, but if I had to mention just one it would be Amber Gaffney. She supervised my research laboratory for two years as an undergraduate, gave numerous conference presentations, and was a co-author on two papers. She left Humboldt to pursue graduate study at the Claremont Graduate University and established herself as a well respected researcher in social identity and political psychology. Last year, we were incredibly lucky to add Dr. Gaffney our faculty as an Assistant Professor.”

- What is your favorite part of your job?

**ABERSON:** “I love teaching statistics, both our 200-level introductory course and our graduate courses. Also, I enjoy spending hours writing code to simplify complex statistical analyses for research.”

- How do you spend your time outside of HSU?

**ABERSON:** “I run five days a week, listen to indie music (if people still call it that), and spend the rest of my time with my wife, our son (8), and twin daughters (5).”

- Do you have any advice for current or prospective students?

**ABERSON:** “Statistics! If you are comfortable with data, have the skills to work with data, and can explain what data mean to a lay audience, you are incredibly employable.”



## What does it mean to “MASTER” your field of study?

- ◆ You shed light on the major theories, research methods, and approaches to inquiry in your field
- ◆ You examine and build on the principal ideas, techniques, and methods of your field
- ◆ You use your work to contribute to the knowledge available within your field
- ◆ You explain and defend your work to both general and specialized audiences
- ◆ You use the appropriate ethical frameworks for your field
- ◆ You choose the right tools, concepts, and projects appropriate for your inquiries in your field





## New Thesis & Project Submission

There is a new submission process for theses and projects beginning Fall 2016. HSU will now require graduate students who complete a thesis or project as their culminating experience to submit their work to Graduate Studies through the Digital Commons @HSU platform. This will streamline the approval process because it eliminates the need for a hard copy Thesis/Project Approval Form.

All committee members and graduate coordinators can now log on to the Digital Commons @ HSU website and give their approval of a student's work electronically. This saves paper and time, and allow for distance learners and out of town committee members to more easily complete their steps in the submission process.

The transition has gone smoothly to date, but if you have any issues or questions, please let us know right away.

## The Submission Process

- ◆ Advancement to Candidacy
- ◆ Intent to Submit Form
- ◆ Attend Formatting Workshop
- ◆ Request a Courtesy Format Review
- ◆ Committee & Coordinator Approval on Digital Commons @ HSU
- ◆ Official Format Review through Digital Commons @ HSU



## Upcoming Events:

### CSU Student Research Competition

The competition is held to promote excellence in undergraduate and graduate research, scholarly and creative activity by recognizing outstanding student accomplishments throughout the twenty-three campuses of the California State University. Each campus may select up to ten entries to send to the final round which will be held at CSU Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, on April 28th and 29th, 2017. To be considered at the HSU level, a student will need to submit a written summary of their presentation. The written summary must be submitted electronically to the Office of Research by 5:00pm, Friday, January 27, 2017.

### 2017 ideaFest Research Poster Symposium

The Office of Research, HSU Library, and Marketing & Communications would like to invite you & your students to participate in the 4th Annual HSU ideaFest! More than 100 students and faculty from HSU's three Colleges will showcase research, performances, digital projects, and more.

HSU's next ideaFest will be held on Friday, April 21st 2017. If you or your students are interested in presenting, registration for ideaFest 2017 will open early November! This will be a great venue for students to display previously presented professional posters or multimedia presentations at this campus-wide research symposium.

The deadline to register for ideaFest will be in March. Please note MarCom will be available to reprint your poster should you need to prior to the event. If you have any questions, please contact Kacie Flynn at (707) 826-5159 or email [kacie.flynn@humboldt.edu](mailto:kacie.flynn@humboldt.edu)

## Office of Graduate Studies

You can find us in:  
Siemens Hall 217A  
1 Harpst Street

Or you can contact us at:  
Phone: (707) 826-5194  
Email: [hsugrad@humboldt.edu](mailto:hsugrad@humboldt.edu)

## Helpful Resources:

- Institutional Review Board

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/irb/>  
(707) 826-5165

- Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/iacuc/>  
(707) 826-3256

- Office of the Registrar

<http://pine.humboldt.edu/registrar/students/>  
(707) 826-4101

- College of eLearning & Extended Education

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/extended/>  
(707) 826-3731

- Academic & Career Advising Center

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/acac/>  
(707) 826-3341



Find us on  
Facebook!



Visit our  
website!



Email us  
with  
questions!



## What Are Our Graduate Students Up To?

### College of Natural Resources & Sciences

Rachel Brewer is in her second year as a MS student in Biological Sciences. She is using murine embryonic stem cells to study how mutations in genes involved in cancer can affect early embryonic development. Her work as a 2017 HSU Moonstone Crossing Cancer Research Scholar contributed to a scientific poster presentation and a manuscript currently in review for publication. She plans to graduate in the Spring of 2017 and hopes to continue to explore the interface between healthy development and the diseased state for her PhD research. Her ultimate goal is to teach and do research within the university setting.

### College of Arts Humanities & Social Sciences

Marisa Schmitz graduated from the Environment and Community M.A. program, which helped her mature as a researcher when she designed her own research project and produced manuscripts for publication. She is now a doctoral student in Natural Resources at the University of Minnesota, where she studies forest economics and policy, including non-timber forest products and landowner participation in carbon sequestration markets. She enjoys using qualitative methods and critical theory to understand natural resource management. Marissa and her Environment and Community advisor are currently publishing papers from her thesis, with one article appearing in Global Environmental Politics and another with Geoforum.

## What Are Our Graduate Students Up To?

### College of Professional Studies

Nicole Medaxian graduated in 2015 with an MBA with a focus in Accounting and Finance. She chose Humboldt because of the small class sizes and the amount of professors who went the extra mile to encourage their students to succeed. Her first internship was with the HSU Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program under the direction of Sandra Rowan where she had the opportunity to apply the skills she learned in class to real life tax returns. Her second internship was with a local CPA firm, Aalfs, Evans and Company, LLP where she prepared individual tax returns and property tax returns. Both of these internships helped prepare her for her current position as a staff accountant with another local CPA firm David L. Moonie & Company, LLP.

Rachel Brewer  
in action!



Marissa  
Schmitz



Nicole  
Medaxian

