# The Graduate School Newsletter

Spring 2021

## Welcome from the Dean of the Graduate School

To all of our new and returning graduate students, welcome to spring semester TODAY! What a first day we're having with a beautiful wintery mix, which we're all skillfully navigating with virtual meetings and instruction. Are "snow days" a thing of the past? Likely so, but your faculty and staff here at the College have been prepping all winter break for another successful semester both in and out of the classroom, *despite* the pandemic (and the odd snow day).

Speaking of which, you will find related stories in this spring issue that highlight inspiring alumni and many resources and virtual events designed to support YOU, our graduate students, on your academic journey. If you have not yet done so, be sure to follow the Graduate School on social media (links below), so that you'll never miss an important career event or other emergent updates.

In closing, I hope that your winter holiday allowed you to reconnect with friends and family, even if those reunions were forced online. Hold tight as warmer weather is coming, which will allow us all to enjoy these connections outdoors with appropriate physical spacing. Until then, please do not hesitate to let our staff or me know how we can improve your spring term. Thank you for choosing Hood College—you belong here!

April M. Boulton, Ph.D.
Dean of the Graduate School

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Got news? We are always looking for stories about the wonderful accomplishments of our students—both current and alumni. To facilitate the collection of such good news, we have a handy online form for you to use, as often as you like: www.hood.edu/accomplishments

Whether you just presented at a conference or received an academic award or work promotion, we want to know about it! *So what are you waiting for?* Click and share often!

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## ALERT: Important COVID Updates

If you're returning to campus this spring, you likely know that we have COVID-specific protocols in place, which kept our community safe this past fall. That's right: we successfully DID IT this last term! In order to mirror our incredibly low positivity rate of 1.2% this past semester, please remember the following everytime you plan to come to campus (no matter the length of your visit):
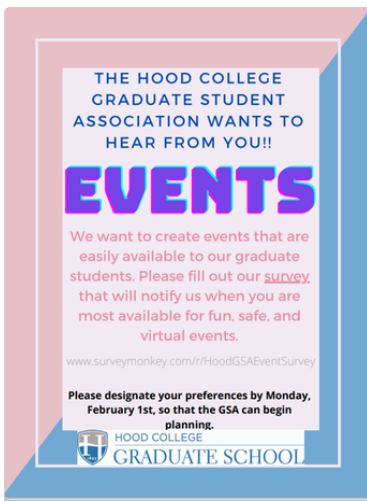


1. Follow all the travel restrictions and testing requirements before you return to campus, which can be found here.
2. Download and complete the #CampusClear app each morning prior to your arrival.
3. Participate in the random surveillance testing when your name is drawn. All faculty, staff and students, who come to campus this semester, are automatically part of the random COVID testing in partnership with Frederick Health, which is provided on campus free of charge.
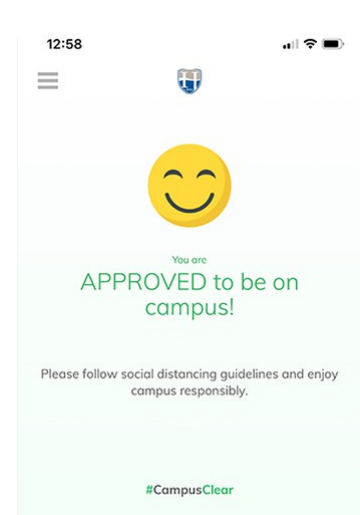
If you're 100% virtual this spring, you will not be part of the surveillance testing, nor will you need to complete the #CampusClear app. Be safe *and* successful this spring!

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# GSA Corner

Hello and welcome to Hood College! I am ecstatic to have you back or newly joining us this semester. My name is Samantha Brandt, and I am your Graduate Student Association (GSA) President. The GSA was created to give graduate students an official voice on campus and to provide a vehicle for reliable communication across graduate students, faculty, and staff. Our goal is to promote the wellbeing of graduate students in all ways. My personal goal, as your GSA president, is to connect with you and to help you integrate into the Hood community whether that means virtually or on-campus with safe, physical distancing.





THE HOOD COLLEGE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

## EVENTS

We want to create events that are easily available to our graduate students. Please fill out our survey that will notify us when you are most available for fun, safe, and virtual events.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/HoodGSAEventSurvey

Please designate your preferences by Monday, February 1st, so that the GSA can begin planning.

HOOD COLLEGE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Although the GSA executive board will be operating remotely, we will be creating fun, interactive events for all to join, such as a virtual mix-and-mingle and a virtual happy hour. We will be brainstorming other ideas for events as the semester continues, and we want YOUR feedback! **Click HERE to let us know your preference of days/times to have virtual events hosted by the Graduate Student Association (GSA).**

I look forward to connecting and being a part of your educational journey. If you have any questions or ideas for the GSA, please contact me at gsa@hood.edu. I look forward to getting to know each of you! To keep up with our events, be sure to follow us on social media: LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Stay safe!

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Are you an undergraduate student?

Click here to learn more about dual-degree programs (bachelor's + master's degrees)

## Calling All Undergraduates - Expedite Your Graduate Degree

Hood's 4PLUS program is an accelerated dual-degree program that allows undergraduate students to begin graduate coursework as early as their junior year. Eligible students can earn both their bachelor's and master's degrees in as little as 5 years. Currently, the 4PLUS program includes the following master's degrees:

· Master's in Business Administration (MBA)
· M.S. in Information Technology
· M.S. in Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling
· M.S. in Environmental Biology
· M.S. in Biomedical Science

Interested students can visit Hood.edu/4PLUS or contact our 4PLUS liaison, Nick Masucci, at masucci@hood.edu for more information.

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## Hunger at Hood?



Although we are all fortunate to be part of a welcoming, resource-rich campus like Hood, we know that a handful of students, especially those students *without* a campus meal plan, struggle with food insecurity from time to time. There is a campus initiative designed to provide temporary support in such cases for both graduate and undergraduate students. Dubbed "Hood Pantry," this program aims to provide modest food staples and hygiene items to students with temporary or long-term need via an anonymous system. If you are currently experiencing food insecurity, simply email our secure mailbox at hoodpantry@hood.edu, which Rev. O'Malley moderates, to receive additional information on requesting/receiving this support. You can find additional community resources that support food-insecure students here.

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## Spring Career Series for Graduate Students

We are committed to supporting our graduate students in and out of the classroom. In partnership with the Career Center, we are proud to offer a series of career resources each spring, which are open

to all graduate students (based on your field)--all in preparation for our large, culminating career fair on February 24 from 3:00-7:00 PM, which will be a virtual event this year featuring 130+ local and national employers across a variety of disciplines and industries. In addition, we will have our usual alumni career panels, which are always a big hit. Scroll down to EVENTS TO NOTE for a list of panels and their registration details.

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## Are You a Social Media Mogul?



If you're not already following the grad school on your favorite social-media platforms, you will want to do so SOON (see below for our links). From prize-based student competitions to emergent campus updates, we post to our social media channels daily. If you enjoy posting on *your* personal Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram or other social media accounts, read on. In exchange for weekly posts/tweets about Hood's Graduate School this spring, we'll reward you at the end of the semester with an electronic gift card from one or more popular vendors—ranging from $25-100, depending on the volume and regularity of your posts. This program is open to students from all nationalities, backgrounds and programs. If you are #HoodProud and want to learn more, reply to GradDean@hood.edu by **Feb 5th**!

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## Student Success Station

Welcome to all new and returning students! My name is Taylor Hahn, and I am the Graduate Student Success Coordinator here at Hood College. It was nice to virtually "meet" many of you either through email or at the New Graduate Student Orientation last week. I am a second-year graduate student in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. As the Graduate Student Success Coordinator, I am here to support YOU, our graduate students, from start to finish in your degree program here at Hood College.

For new students, you will soon receive an email from me with details on completing the federally mandated Sexual-Assault Prevention Training through EverFi. In this email I will be introducing myself and the training, explaining how you will access the training, and giving some pointers for common FAQ's surrounding the experience.

Finally, I'd like to share some mental-health resources here at Hood College. As graduate students you are entitled to ten, free counseling sessions at the college's partnering provider, Frederick Health's Toll House. For counseling appointments, call 301-698-8374 and select Option 1. Leave a message, and a counselor will return your call. Or email a counseling appointment request to [Hoodcollegecounseling@fredreick.health](mailto:Hoodcollegecounseling@fredreick.health). For more mental health resources, please see access this [guide](). Do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns as we start this semester and beyond at [hahn@hood.edu](mailto:hahn@hood.edu). It is my pleasure to connect you with the resources you need to be most successful in your academic journey.

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## ThinkingStorm: Online Writing & Tutoring for Grad Students

Now, more than ever, we know our graduate students need flexible, online support. ThinkingStorm is an online tutoring resource available to Hood College graduate students. To access online tutoring, login to any of your Blackboard classrooms, click Tools, then the ThinkingStorm link. You will be automatically be signed in to the online tutoring site; no separate username or password is required. ThinkingStorm services are available to students 24/7 for help with topics, like advanced stats, accounting, finance, markup and programming languages, and more. Live support is an option for most subjects, and you can also submit essays for asynchronous feedback via the ThinkingStorm Writing Center.



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## Doctoral Domain

Philip Brown**,** DBA, completed his doctorate and dissertation research in June 2020. Philip relocated, with Ann and their three children, from the United Kingdom to the USA in 2005 as the President & CEO, Phoenix Mecano Inc. He had started his professional career serving 11-years in the British Royal Navy as a Submarine Chief Engineer. Hood's Doctoral Program in Organizational Leadership provided a platform for Philip to continue his applied professional research into the quantitative determinants of business-to-business relationship value, a crucial intangible competitive advantage asset. The cohort experience and faculty engagement were at the core of his doctoral journey. Philip has committed to expanding his community service, which aligns with the college's service mission. He is an active member on the Hood College Board of Associates, Frederick Workforce Services and Frederick Career & Technology Council. Connect with Philip on LinkedIn.

We would also like to welcome the newest member of our graduate-school team, Sonia Bowie, who is the new assistant to Doctoral Program in Organizational Leadership. Born to a Pakistani father and Colombian mother, Sonia came to America at a young age where she has thrived—earning her degrees from the University of Maryland College Park, UMGC and Georgetown University. She has held various positions in youth development and professional services with nonprofit associations and local government organizations, such as the National Recreation and Park Association and the M-NCPPC. Sonia serves on a number of philanthropic initiatives that support women in education, and she is very excited to join Hood College. To reach Sonia please email her at bowie@hood.edu.

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## Alum Spotlight: Chiranjibi Ghimire M.S. '19

Learn about recent Hood graduate alum, Chiranjibi Ghimire, Information Technology M.S.'19, who is applying his IT graduate degree in a unique way: he is working with the Maryland Dept. of Health on their COVID testing task force, which ensures Maryland nursing homes follow guidelines and perform compliance risk assessments. Read more here.

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# Library Transitions to Learning Commons

The newly renovated [Beneficial-Hodson Library & Learning Commons](#) opens TODAY, February 1st! The learning commons centralizes the academic support functions of the library, IT and student-success offices and provides innovative learning spaces and social spaces designed to facilitate exploration, creation, and collaboration among the various constituents in the Hood community.

Several updates and additions have been included in the refreshed design of this learning space, including a self-serve café, various types of seating and a new study atmosphere to support leisurely or long stays in the library. Sixteen new study rooms range in size from individual, quiet rooms to large, seminar-style spaces, and a handful of such rooms will be equipped with cozy furniture (think bean bag chairs) to provide a comfortable space to read. Other study rooms are more business-oriented, and all feature floor to ceiling whiteboards and technology to encourage creativity or idea sharing. Graduate students may find the lockers helpful in avoiding lugging heavy books, and other items, back and forth. Also, there should be no shortage of power for recharging devices. Digital signage will be used to broadcast important campus information, and a video wall can be used for presentations in the commons area. If you're 100% virtual this semester, the dynamic library team is _still_ available and eager to support your research and resource needs remotely. [Live chat, call, Zoom and more for their support](#). We hope you'll come check out the new [Beneficial-Hodson Library & Learning Commons](#) soon —don't forget your mask!

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# Mental-Health Minute

The Graduate School Mental Health Task Force (MHTF) is a team of graduate faculty, staff, and graduate students, whose mission is to identify and support issues impacting graduate student mental-health concerns, including depression and anxiety. Efforts are wide-ranging and include:

- Working with [Hood College Counseling Services](#) to provide hours of availability tailored for graduate students;
- Developing reference guides, handbooks and flowcharts to help graduate students and professors provide proper support for graduate students in need;
- Offering a campus-wide license of [ThrivingCampus](#)™, an online app that provides graduate students with a range of mental health practitioners in the community;
- Providing alcoholism and depression screening each academic year in an effort to identify and support students at-risk semester

The Graduate School Mental Health Task Force is excited for the new semester and to explore innovative ways to support our students in need! Have ideas? Email them to GradDean@hood.edu.

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## February: Alum Career Panels for STEM Students

- Feb 16 – IT/CS/MIS/CYBR/BIFX Alumni from 5:30-6:30 PM (RSVP here)
- Feb 22 – Environmental Biology Alumni from 7:30-8:30 PM (RSVP here)
- Feb 23 – BMS/BIFX Alumni from 7:30-8:30 PM (RSVP here)



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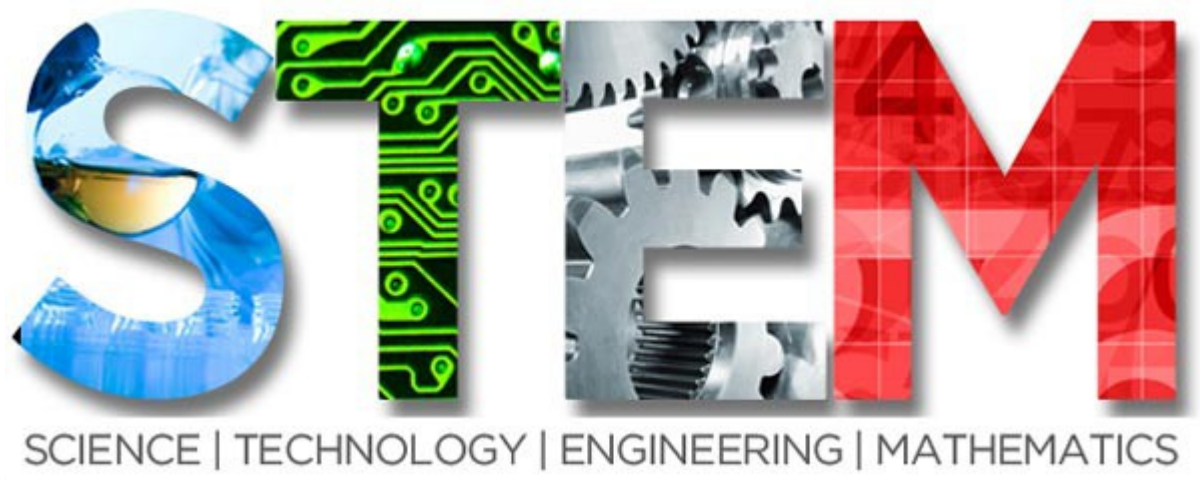
## February 24: Virtual Career Fair for All Programs

Are you looking for an internship or that next career? Attend this virtual career fair for all disciplines on February 24th from 3-7 PM to meet and talk with 130+ employers. Register via Handshake here.
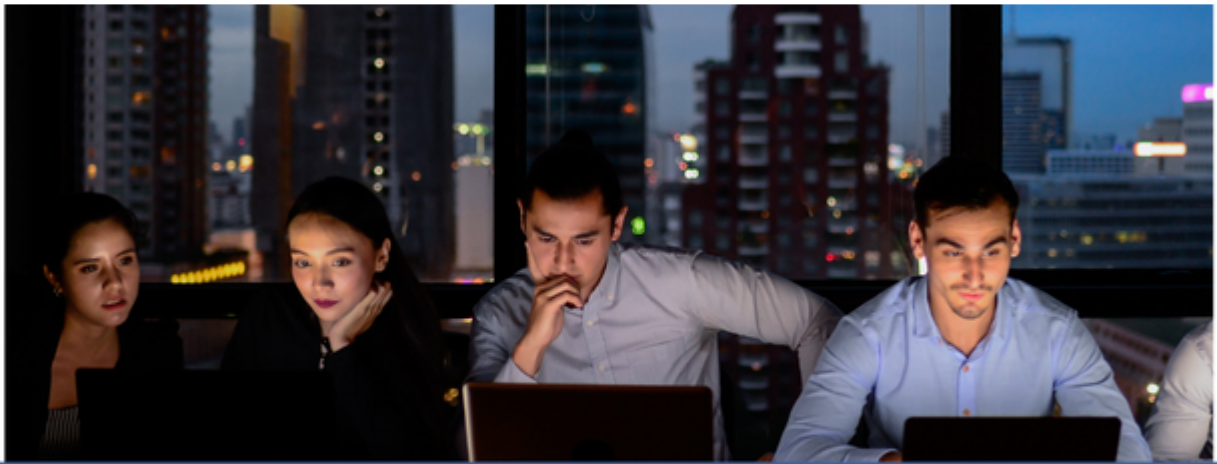
# VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR 2021

## ALL FIELDS & DISCIPLINES

**February 25: STEAM Event with GWIS**

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## March 2: Employment Workshop & Alum Panel for F1 Students

Our Primary Designated School Official (PDSO) and the dean of the Graduate School will explain the policy and procedure for securing curricular practical training (CPT) or optional practical training (OPT) on your F-1 visa on March 2nd from 3:30 to 5 p.m. We will also have a staff member from the Career Center there to demonstrate how to use some of their search engines for locating such OPT/CPT opportunities. Please RSVP here.

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### March 11: Dinner with the Dean

This semester's dinner is virtual, so pull up a comfy chair and join me on March 11th anytime between 4:30-6:00 p.m. Enjoy conversing with me and your peers while you contribute to an ongoing conversation on strengthening graduate education here at Hood College. All are welcome. To receive the Zoom link, register in advance here.

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## March 21: Doug Tallamy Lecture on Biodiversity

Join us for a virtual lecture in partnership with the ENV program and MACS, which will feature Doug Tallamy on "**Nature's Best Hope.**" Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can take to reverse declining biodiversity and will explain why we, ourselves, are *nature's best hope*. To receive the Zoom link for this live event, email GradDean@hood.edu.



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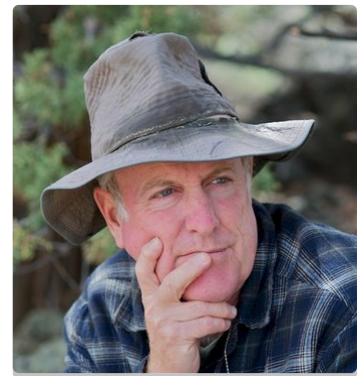
## March 23: Virtual Open House



Do you have a relative, friend or colleague with a bachelor's degree or higher, who is ready to advance in their career? Share our two upcoming, *virtual* open-house events with them. Counseling, science, computing, business, education, humanities and MORE--we have a program to advance everyone's career. Attendees can meet our admission team and program faculty in real-time *virtually*, while learning about the affordability and power of a Hood graduate degree. Encourage them to RSVP for either the lunchtime or evening session.

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## March 25: Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition

The Graduate School is hosting our 6th Annual "Three-Minute Thesis" event on March 25th @ 5:30 PM, and it is open to all current students and to students who have graduated since September 2020. This

event is internationally recognized and features student talks in a wide array of disciplines from the sciences and business to the humanities and education fields (and everything in between). We consistently hear from our external advisory boards that employers value the ability to relay technical information to non-technical audiences (e.g., the media, policymakers, colleagues in other depts.). You can learn more info about this event on the national site or on Hood's 3MT site. Here is a brief snapshot of the event as well.

If you have completed a capstone, advanced project, thesis, internship, etc., this is a great opportunity for you. You not only gain practice in a valuable skill, but there are three cash prizes for the winner and people's choice awards. We have external judges from a variety of fields from research and education to business leaders, who will decide the winning talk. The People's Choice Awards will be determined by audience vote. Thus, even if you do not want to compete, it's a great event to attend and cast your vote. Ready to win? Simply click here to submit your abstract for consideration (**DUE MARCH 12th**).

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## April 6: The Cotton Cybersecurity Lecture Series

Janet Hobbs Cotton '59 and her husband, John Cotton, generously support our cybersecurity master's program with the Cotton Cyber Lecture Series, which brings nationally and internationally recognized leaders in cybersecurity to campus to speak twice annually. This spring's lecture is scheduled for April 6th from 5:00-6:30 PM and will feature Kevin Stine, Chief of the Applied Cybersecurity Division at NIST. The event will be live via Zoom and invite audience questions. To receive your Zoom link, register here.

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## April 14: Admission Cafe

Do you have a particularly *busy* friend or colleague, who is ready to advance in their career but would find it difficult to attend a campus open house? Encourage them to register for our real-time, *virtual* Admission Cafe on April 14th during the lunch hour (12:15-1 p.m.). From STEM and counseling degrees to MBA and education programs, attendees can meet our admission team and learn about the affordability and power of a Hood graduate degree at our informal lunchtime Admission Cafe.

## May 1-6: Grad Student Appreciation Week
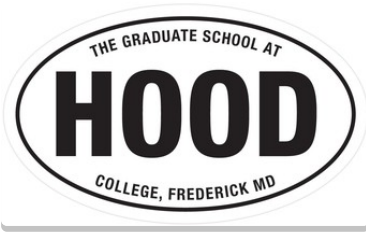


In the final weeks of the semester, we know that stress is at an all-time high. During this period, we have a tradition where Hood faculty/staff like to show their support! It's called "Grad Week." We will likely celebrate this fun week virtually again, rather than our traditional lobby tables staffed by your adoring fans at the College. Stay tuned for more information as the semester draws to a close!



## About The Graduate School

Facebook     @hoodgradschool

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(301) 696-3600     hood.edu/graduate