

The Graduate School Newsletter

Fall 2020

Welcome from the Dean of the Graduate School



To all of our new and returning graduate students, welcome to the 2020-2021 academic year! We know that this year will be unique and have its challenges, given the global pandemic. However, your faculty and staff here at the College have been prepping all summer to welcome you back safely and *effectively*—whether you'll be on campus or online.

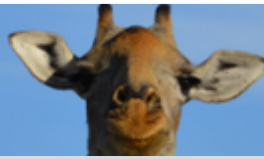
In this fall issue, you will find stories about accomplished alums and a number of updates and resources designed to support YOU, our graduate students, on your academic journey. Whether you hail from a local school district or a biotech start-up down the road, you are welcome [here](#). Be sure to read to the end for the newsletter's comprehensive collection of virtual and campus events (planned through November). If you have not yet done so, 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 summer was revitalizing, despite the strange social conditions and difficulty traveling right now. Sometimes, the best comforts are in a good book or out your back door. Please do not hesitate to let our staff or me know how we can improve your time here. Thank you for choosing Hood College—you belong here!

April M. Boulton, Ph.D.

Dean of the Graduate School

Click here to share
your good news!



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!](#)

Mental-Health Listening Sessions for Graduate Students



This past January, The Graduate School competed for a national grant, [co-sponsored by the Council of Graduate Schools \(CGS\) & The Jed Foundation](#), and we won funding! The grant is focused on exploring and creating a framework for supporting grad-student mental health with an emphasis on underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities. We are holding “listening sessions” for informal input from grad students on mental wellness. Please [register](#) for a session today!

GSA Corner

Hello and welcome to Hood College! I am ecstatic to have you back on campus or join us for the first time this fall. My name is Samantha Brandt, and I am your [Graduate Student Association \(GSA\)](#) President. The Graduate Student Association 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 well-being of our graduate students in any way we can. My personal goal, as your GSA president, is to connect with you and to help you integrate into the Hood Community. Although we will be operating remotely, my executive board and I will be creating fun, interactive events for all to join, such as our virtual mix-and-mingle and our virtual happy hour. We will be brainstorming other ideas for events as the semester continues and as we learn how to best adapt to the new challenges such virtual connectivity presents. If you have any questions or ideas for the

[GSA](mailto:gsa@hood.edu), 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](#).



- [B.A. Biology/M.S. Biomedical Science Dual-Degree Program](#)
- [B.A. Psychology/M.S. Counseling Dual-Degree Program](#)
- [B.A./M.S. Environmental Biology Dual-Degree Program](#)
- [B.A./M.S. Information Technology Dual-Degree Program](#)
- [B.A./MBA Dual-Degree Program](#)

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](#).

ALERT: COVID Updates in HealthyU Newsletter



Last week, you should have received the most current issue of the HealthyU newsletter. This is one issue you will not want to miss. be sure to peruse it from start to finish for COVID-related updates, protocols and other information for your mental and physical well-being. It also reviews the new "symptom app" all students, faculty and staff are required to use if they visit campus--whether sporadically or regularly. Download [#CampusClear](#) and set your alarm to input your status each morning. [Check out the complete HealthyU Newsletter TODAY!](#)

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 fall, we'll reward you with an Amazon gift card in December—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 **AUG 21st!**

[Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

Student Success Station

Welcome to all new and returning students! My name is Taylor Hahn, and I am the Graduate Student Success Coordinator (GSSC) here at Hood College. It was nice to “meet” many of you virtually at the New Graduate Student Orientation last week. I am a second-year graduate student, myself, in the [Clinical Mental Health Counseling](#) program. As the Graduate Student Success Coordinator, I am here to support YOU from start to finish during your degree progression. In two weeks, you will hear from me via email regarding the federally mandated Sexual Assault Prevention Training through EverFi. In this email I will introduce the training, explain how you will access the training, and give some pointers for common FAQ’s surrounding it. Please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns as we start this semester and beyond. You can contact me at hahn@hood.edu or by campus phone at 301-696-3661. It is my pleasure to connect you with the resources you need to be most successful in your academic journey!



Doctoral Domain



Hood’s [Doctoral Program in Organizational Leadership](#) reached another milestone this past summer with an approval from the Department of Homeland Security to provide F-1 visas for international students interested in earning their doctorate in [organizational leadership](#) or [business administration](#). The program brings leaders from public and higher education, military, government, business, industry and the nonprofit sector to enhance their personal and professional leadership and help transform organizations and communities. This new approval will allow Hood to consider a number of qualified applicants from abroad as travel restrictions are loosened. Since the inception of our [doctoral program](#) four years ago, we have repeatedly received inquiries from international applicants. We’re very pleased to be poised to accept talented leaders from abroad starting with the fall 2021 cohort!

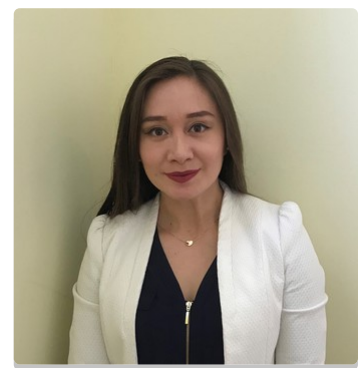
Alum Spotlight: Oyinkansola Amusa, '19



Oyinkansola "Honey" Amusa, [M.S. Bioinformatics'19](#) is originally from Nigeria. She currently works as an AWS Cloud Engineer where she designs applications in the cloud, migrates applications of the organization to the cloud, maintains cloud services and so much more. Her advice for other international (F-1) students is to "relax, never give up, keep learning, keep creating the right connections, don't look down on yourself." Inspired by Honey's story? Learn more about our [Bioinformatics program](#)!

New Members of Your Graduate School Team

Welcome Vanessa Solis, our new assistant director for STEM-business programs and diversity-inclusion liaison. Vanessa is originally from Ecuador, where she received a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance from Universidad Espiritu Santo in Guayaquil. She recently completed her Masters of Music in Violin Performance at the Shenandoah University, where she also worked as the Manager of the Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra. As an international student studying in the U.S., Vanessa had the opportunity to work as an admissions counselor for Manor College in Philadelphia. In this role, she organized recruitment efforts for international students and assisted with international partnerships with Latin American universities. In her spare time, Vanessa is part of the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra and The National Symphonia. She has a passion for providing student guidance and is very excited to be part of the Hood Community! Swing by to say hello or contact her via phone (X3604) or email (solis@hood.edu).



Counseling Program Receives \$2.2 Million Grant

HRSA
Health Resources & Services Administration

Hood College's [mental-health counseling program](#) has received a \$2.2 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which is a 5-year grant that will allow the program to increase its diversity as well as the diversity of the profession, by strengthening the recruitment and retention efforts and graduation rates of students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including underrepresented minorities. Read more [HERE!](#)

Welcome Chaz Martinsen: New Ceramics Director!



Chaz Martinsen, MFA, recently became the [Ceramic Arts](#) program director! Professor Martinsen attended San Diego State University and earned a BA in Applied Design with an emphasis in ceramics. He then went on to work as a production slip cast potter in San Diego learning facets of the commercial art world. He earned his [MFA](#) from California State University, Chico in Ceramics and Digital Fabrication. His current art practice combines digital fabrication technologies with the ceramic process to produce sculptural and functional objects that focus on a high level craftsmanship and formal design aesthetics. Read more about Chaz [HERE!](#)



October 6: International Student - OPT/CPT Workshop

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 October 6th 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](#).



October 21: 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.

October 29: Dinner with the Dean

Join me for dinner on October 29th anytime between 4:30-6:00 p.m. Enjoy dinner with your peers and contribute to an ongoing conversation on strengthening graduate education here at Hood College. All are welcome, but we have limited seating. Please reserve your seat in advance [here](#).



Nov 4: Diwali - Festival of Lights



Join us for the Hindu celebration "Diwali" or festival of lights! Do you celebrate this holiday or are you just interested in learning more about this wonderful celebration? Our annual event will take place on November 4th @ 3:30 p.m. and always includes traditional dress, authentic Indian foods and more! Please contact the Graduate School if you would like to help plan this event special or just to get more details: GradDean@hood.edu.

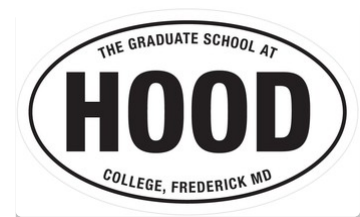
Nov 5: Graduate Women In Science - Speed Mentoring Event

SPEED MENTORING

Join us for our FOURTH annual speed mentoring event for women in science. The Graduate School is co-sponsoring this year's *virtual* event on Nov 5th from 6-8 PM in partnership with our local chapter of Graduate Women in Science (GWIS). Attendees can explore new ways to grow your network and optimize your career savvy. In addition to speed mentoring sessions, keynote topics will include: "Optimizing your LinkedIn Profile," "Salary Advocacy for Women" and "Interview Secrets." Come prepared to have a great time, whether you plan to participate, mentor or just observe. RSVP before spaces fill up [here](#).

Nov 7-12: 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 have a table set up in the lobby of all the major buildings before classes in the evening (and doctoral classes during lunch on Saturday). Stay tuned for more information as the semester draws to a close!



Nov 17: 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 November 17th 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](#).

Nov 16-20: International Education Week

International Education Week



During the week of November 16-20, join us for our 2nd Annual [International Education Week](#), which will be *virtual* this year, but still a wonderful tribute to our [international students](#) and to the importance of [study abroad](#). Watch the graduate school's social media channels or email gofurther@hood.edu for more information!



About The Graduate School

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