

The Graduate School Newsletter

Fall 2021



HOOD COLLEGE
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

Welcome from the Dean of the Graduate School



To all of our new and returning graduate students, welcome to the 2021-2022 academic year! This year marks the 50th anniversary of The Graduate School at Hood College, and we have much to celebrate. One of the many ways we'll celebrate our 50th birthday is to feature a graduate alumnus/a from every year we've graduated students for #50years50stories on all our social-media outlets. See below for our social media links and prepare to be "wowed" by master's and doctoral graduates from the 1970's through the 2020's.

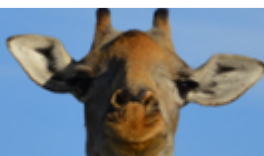
Speaking of celebrations, the entire team is elated to see campus abuzz with activity this week as we launch another academic year. Although it has been a difficult 18 months, we are on track for an engaging fall semester filled with a variety of on-campus events, along with a suite of virtual opportunities that appeal to busy working professionals and caregivers, namely our graduate students.

In closing, I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter where you'll read stories about notable alums and opportunities/events geared toward our graduate students. As always, graduate student success continues to be our focus here at The Graduate School. If you have not yet done so, be sure to follow the Graduate School on social media (links below). Please do not hesitate to let me know how we can improve your experience this academic year. Thank you for choosing Hood College—your presence and passion enrich our community!

Best wishes,
April M. Boulton, Ph.D.
Dean of the Graduate School
GradDean@hood.edu
301-696-3600

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**Click here to share
your good news!**



It's that time again—time to brag! 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. 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?](#)

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) Corner

Welcome, grad students! The Graduate Student Association (GSA) at Hood College is here for you, and our mission is to relay your opinion to the college's leadership. In addition, we organize events and opportunities for professional development & networking. Given our diverse graduate student body, the GSA supports a culture of JEDI (justice, equity, diversity and inclusion) with full transparency.



As we continue to promote communication across graduate students, the faculty, and the administration, we hope to strengthen the relationship between the college and its graduate students by advocating for social unity, academic opportunities, and fair resource allocation. Thus, we will be working on many fronts to make your graduate student experience at Hood College as positive, fun, and valuable as possible.

As we navigate our way back on campus, the GSA will promote approved health guidelines, and we ask everyone to respect and comply with the college's mask mandate. It is exciting to be on campus and to interact once again as a graduate community. We look forward to being your advocates and supporting you.

You can always email us at GSA@hood.edu with suggestions for the GSA or to share any concerns you may have. To learn more, please follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). Join and share our social media posts and help spread the word. Thank you and have a productive year!

Reham Eltomy

President, Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Calling All Undergraduate Students



Translate your bachelor's degree into an expedited master's degree with our dual-degree [4PLUS](#) program. This past spring, we added two new pathways to our [4PLUS Dual-Degree program](#): The B.A. in Art Therapy + M.S. in Counseling and the B.A. & B.S. + M.S. in Cybersecurity. The [Art Therapy/Counseling program](#) is designed for highly motivated students pursuing an [art therapy](#) major who want to earn a master's degree in counseling at an accelerated pace. Students can follow either the [Clinical Mental Health Counseling](#) or the [School Counseling](#) tracks. The [cybersecurity program](#) deepens knowledge of the procedures, tools and standards used in the field. Students learn systems and network security, computer forensics, cryptography, ethical hacking and contemporary technologies and techniques in web, wireless and mobile security. This program is open to [all](#) undergraduate majors.

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. The 4PLUS program includes the following master's degrees:

- [Master's in Business Administration \(MBA\)](#).
- [M.S. in Information Technology](#).
- [M.S. in Cybersecurity](#).
- M.S. in [Clinical Mental Health](#) or [School Counseling](#)
- [M.S. in Environmental Biology](#).
- [M.S. in Biomedical Science](#)

Interested students should contact our 4PLUS liaison, Nick Masucci '17, at masucci@hood.edu for more information.



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 without a campus meal plan, struggle with food insecurity from time to time. There is a campus initiative designed to support such students—both graduate and undergraduate. Dubbed “Hood Pantry,” this program aims to provide modest food staples and hygiene

items to students with temporary 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 receiving this support.



New Opportunity: Peer Mentors

Are you a current grad student who takes pride in their graduate program and who enjoys connecting with peers in your field? We invite you to join our newly formed peer mentor network to help incoming grad students learn about the Hood community. We hope to recruit mentors for internationals, students of color, and all applicants. Mentors will receive special training and incentives for their support—all of which is provided via email or other virtual methods. For more information on becoming a peer mentor, email GradDean@hood.edu.



Welcome Military & Veteran Graduate Students!

The Graduate School thanks you for your service and welcomes all veterans, active duty personnel, National Guard and Reserve personnel, along with their dependents! Hood College prides itself on being a military-friendly college that promotes a variety of services to all military members and their families. Please be sure to check out our [Military Community website](#) where you will find useful resources on the Hood military committee, a special Hood College-Fort Detrick graduate scholarship, upcoming events, and more. For more information, contact the military liaison in our office, [Ms. Fowler Corsi](#). Also, be sure to follow our [@hoodcollegemilitary](#) Instagram account!

New Training: Diversity & Inclusion in the Classroom



Watch your Hood email for a link to complete our new 30-minute course, Diversity and Inclusion in the Modern Workplace, which allows graduate students to engage with the challenges and opportunities around these important topics. Students learn actionable examples of how to benefit from a diverse classroom and workforce. This training uses the unique experiences of real people to explore key concepts such as identity, power, privilege, and communication. By expanding appreciation for our shared experiences of difference, our shared expectations of respect, and our shared need to belong and feel appreciated, students are encouraged to identify how they can create more inclusive and accepting environments on campus. The training is divided into three categories:

- Identity on Campus: Identify how important concepts related to identity shape our education. Discover reframing techniques that promote healthy and constructive interactions.
 - Unconscious Bias: Understand stereotypes, unconscious, and conscious bias. Learners discover how to uncover bias and open the door for inclusion.
 - LGBTQ+ Inclusion: Discover how to be an ally to your peers in this community.
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Free Online Tutoring Available for Hood Graduate Students!



One of the many excellent support services we provide busy graduate students is online tutoring and writing support with live, professional help. ThinkingStorm is our provider, which allows us to provide graduate students with free, online tutoring. To access online tutoring, click on the ThinkingStorm link in any of your Blackboard classrooms (under Tools). You will be automatically signed in to the online tutoring site; no separate username or password is required.

ThinkingStorm is available up to 24/7 for topics like Writing, Math, Science, Statistics, and more. Once you're logged in, simply use the menus on the ThinkingStorm homepage to connect with your desired option. Live support is available for most subjects, and you can also submit essays for asynchronous feedback via the ThinkingStorm Writing Center. We also welcome requests for additional content areas if tutoring for a specific subject is needed. Email GradDean@hood.edu to request additional subjects. In the meantime, tutoring is available in these areas:

- Advanced Stats
 - Writing Center
 - Live Writing
 - Accounting
 - Finance
 - Markup & Programming Languages
-

Student Success Station



We have a dedicated GA position in The Graduate School whose sole focus is on graduate student success. We thank outgoing coordinator, Taylor Hahn, for the phenomenal support she provided during the pandemic, along with the thoughtful wellness programming she developed. We are excited to welcome incoming coordinator, Alexis Ogren, who is a student in the [clinical mental health counseling](#) program. Graduate students will be receiving a welcome email from Ms. Ogren with details on accessing various trainings and more.

Doctoral Domain

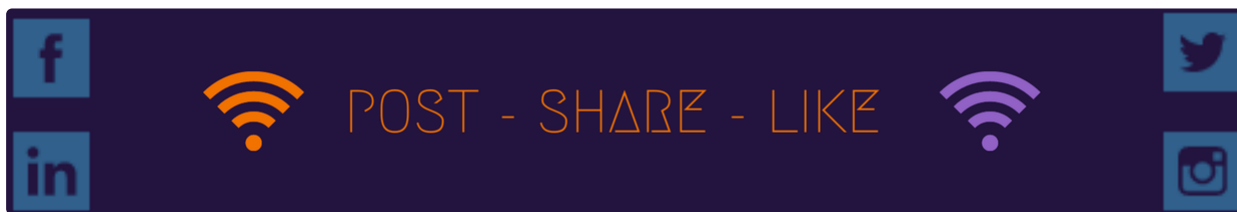
It is my pleasure to welcome the newest member of our education department and our new director of the [doctoral program in organizational leadership](#), Dr. Nisha Manikoth! Dr. Manikoth has extensive graduate teaching experience in the doctoral program at George Washington University where she taught courses in organization theories, and applied research in human and organizational learning. Her research areas include applied studies of organizational leadership, human resource development, and studies of gender and leadership. Dr. Manikoth earned her EdD in human and organizational learning from George Washington University, her MBA in human resource management from Xavier Labor Relations Institute in Jamshedpur, India, and her BS in physics from the University of Calicut in Kerala, India. Feel free to extend a warm “Hood Hello” to [Dr. Manikoth](#) via email.



Inspiring Alumni



Learn about recent Hood doctoral alumna, Simarjeet (Simi) Sandhu, DOL '21. She graduated with a [doctorate in organizational leadership](#) is the proud author of the children's book, [Kisaan](#), Simi is currently an ESOL teacher for [Montgomery County Public Schools](#), and we spoke with her about the new book which is focused on raising awareness for farmers in the Indian states of Punjab and Haryana. Read more [here](#).



Earn Money for Social Media Posts

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 graduate students from all nationalities, backgrounds and programs. If you are #HoodProud and want to learn more, reply to GradDean@hood.edu by **AUG 31st!**

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



September 18: Virtual Humanities Student Conference

Hood College will host its fourth annual student research conference in humanities virtually this year. The conference, "[Discovering Humanities at Hood](#)," is designed to highlight the exciting work of students in humanities-related programs. The all-day conference is set for September 18th. To register, [click here](#). Even if you are not a presenter, all students and faculty are encouraged to attend and partake in this important exchange of ideas. For more information, contact, [Dr. Aaron Angello](#).



Oct 5: Food Day

Food Day is an international celebration and a movement for healthy, affordable and sustainable food. This dinner and lecture event is free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by the Hood College Graduate School, the [M.S. in Environmental Biology](#) program and HealthyU. For more information, contact GradDean@hood.edu. [RSVP here](#).



Oct 5: CPT-OPT Event for International 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 in the Whitaker Campus Center 220 from 3:00 to 5:00 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 along with a panel of F-1 alumni currently on OPT. Please [RSVP here](#).



October 14: Cotton Cybersecurity Lecture

Janet Hobbs Cotton '59 and her husband, John Cotton, support our cybersecurity master's program with a generous gift to host the [Cotton Cyber Lecture Series](#), which brings nationally and internationally recognized leaders in cybersecurity to campus to speak.

The [upcoming lecture](#) will be delivered by Dr. Vint Cerf, the *Father of the Internet*. His talk is free and open to the public. Join us in Rosenstock Hall (Hodson Auditorium) from 7-8 p.m. No RSVP required.

October 20: Virtual Open House for Current Undergraduates

Interested in learning more about Hood's [4PLUS](#) program? This accelerated dual-degree program 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. All undergraduates (first year through seniors) are welcome to attend one of the below virtual events. To learn more, register for one now:

- [Noon-1:00 p.m.](#)
- [5:30-6:30 p.m.](#)



SPEED MENTORING

October 26: Speed Mentoring for Women in STEM

Join us for our fourth annual speed mentoring event for women in science. The Graduate School is co-sponsoring this year's event on October 26th from 5:15-6:30 p.m. 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. Email gofurther@hood.edu for more information. [RSVP for this popular event TODAY](#)--space is limited and fills up fast.



November 11: Dinner with the Dean

Join me for dinner on November 11 in Whitaker 220 – anytime between 4:30-6:00 PM. 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. Thus, you must reserve your seat in advance [here](#).



November 16: Admission Cafe

Do you have a friend or colleague, who is ready to advance in their career? Share our online [Admission Cafe](#) event with your colleagues and friends/family with a bachelor's degree or higher. From STEM degrees to MBA and education programs, attendees can meet our admissions team and learn about the affordability and power of a Hood graduate degree at our Admission Café. Current undergraduate students interested in learning more about Hood's [4PLUS](#) program are also encouraged to attend one of the sessions below. All undergraduates (first year through seniors) are welcome to attend one of the below virtual events. To learn more, register for one now:

- [Noon-1:00 p.m.](#)
- [5:30-6:30 p.m.](#)

International Education Week



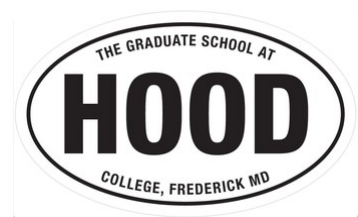
November 15-19: International Education Week

Hood College is proud to observe and celebrate our third annual [International Education Week](#). We encourage all Hood students, faculty and staff to participate in our week of special events which will include a Parade of Flags and cultural celebrations! International Education Week (IEW) is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of our efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences. Want to get involved in the planning? Email gofurther@hood.edu.



November 29-December 4: Grad 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!



50
FIFTY YEARS





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