



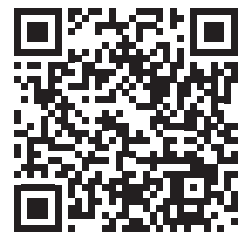
**DUKE**  
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

**PH.D. HOODING  
CEREMONY**

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025  
DUKE CHAPEL  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

## Duke Centennial Ph.D. Hooding Ceremony Program

Presiding	Suzanne Barbour, Ph.D. <i>Dean of The Graduate School</i> <i>Vice Provost for Graduate Education</i> <i>Professor of Cell Biology</i>
Welcome Remarks	Suzanne Barbour, Ph.D.
Recognition of the Recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award, David E. Little, Ph.D. (Morning Ceremony)	Suzanne Barbour, Ph.D.
Presentation of the Academic Hoods	John Klingensmith, Ph.D. <i>Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,</i> <i>The Graduate School</i> <i>Associate Professor of Cell Biology</i>
Closing Remarks	Suzanne Barbour, Ph.D.
Organist	Katherine Johnson
Photography	HuthPhoto



### See the Full List of Dissertations

Scan the QR code or go to [gradschool.duke.edu/2025dissertations](https://gradschool.duke.edu/2025dissertations) for the list of dissertations for all 2024–2025 Ph.D. graduates.

## What Graduate Students Mean to Duke

Congratulations to the 2024–2025 Ph.D. graduates! As alumni of The Graduate School, they represent a powerful legacy. Since the establishment of the school in 1926, graduate students have been the intellectual glue of our community. They push academic boundaries, offer fresh perspectives in research approaches, and give voice to emerging fields. To echo James B. Duke’s founding Indenture of Duke University, students and alumni of The Graduate School are individuals of “outstanding character, ability and vision” who pursue “those areas of teaching and scholarship that would most help to develop our resources, increase our wisdom, and promote human happiness.” Duke has garnered an international reputation for excellence in research, teaching, and service, and its graduate students, as much as anyone, have contributed to the prominence that the university enjoys today.



## 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award

David E. Little, Ph.D. '01 Art History

Dr. David E. Little earned his Ph.D. in art history from Duke

University in 2001, after receiving his M.A. from Williams College and his B.A. from Bowdoin College. A member of the first cohort of Duke’s Department of Art, Art History & Visual Studies program, Dr. Little completed a dissertation under the direction of Dr. Kristine Stiles, France Family Distinguished Professor of Art, Art History, & Visual Studies, producing the first historical account of the influential artist collective Collaborative Projects, Inc. (Colab).

Over the past 25 years, Dr. Little has held leadership roles at major cultural institutions, including The Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and the Mead Art Museum at Amherst College. In 2021, he became Executive Director of the International Center of Photography (ICP), where he led the institution’s relaunch in a new Lower East Side building following COVID-19 closures. During his tenure, he emphasized archival

research and education, spotlighting ICP’s vast photography collection through critically acclaimed exhibitions such as *Weegee: Society of Spectacle* (2025), *Love Songs: Photography and Intimacy* (2023), and *Gerda Taro and Robert Capa’s Death in the Making: Reexamining the Iconic Spanish Civil War* (2022).

Previously, Dr. Little curated or led over 20 exhibitions at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, including *The Sports Show: Athletics as Image and Spectacle* (2012). He also developed innovative programs at the Whitney and MoMA, such as *Open Studio* performances for the *Whitney Biennial 2008* and *Who’s Your DaDa!?* (2006) featuring The Wooster Group with design by Diller, Scofidio + Renfro.

In addition to his curatorial and administrative work, Dr. Little has remained active in teaching, lecturing on art and theory, at the Maryland Institute College of Art and on the art market for Duke’s Leadership and the Arts program. He is currently consulting with museums and artists while completing a book based on his research on Colab, and a new project on Okinawa supported by the Japan Foundation.

## 2026: Duke Graduate School Centennial

The Graduate School is hard at work preparing for a full year of celebration in 2026, honoring 100 years of progress, discovery, and excellence in graduate education. Join us as we uplift and honor the people, past and present, who have made Duke Graduate School a premier academic research powerhouse and interdisciplinary training ground for generations of experts and leaders across the globe.

# Order of the Hooding Ceremony (Morning)

Ph.D. candidates will be called in the order listed

## ART, ART HISTORY & VISUAL STUDIES

Elizabeth Anne Brown

## BIOLOGY

Jingxian Chen  
Shannon Elizabeth Dougherty  
Chengcheng Du  
Elise Nicole Paietta  
Carlos Jose Pardo De la Hoz

## BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Larisa Cristina Cioaca  
Denny Ho Huynh  
Charles Edward Lewis III  
Demilade Samuel Oba  
Divya Sebastian  
Dror Shvadron  
Benda Yin

## CAROLINA-DUKE PROGRAM IN GERMAN STUDIES

Andrea Jarosch Larson

## CHEMISTRY

James Anthony Alatis  
Alexander Jacob Bahnick  
Patrick Austin Dome  
Addison Matthew Duda  
Zhijia Geng

Samantha Marie McDonald  
Taylor Catherine Outlaw  
Grace Rixie Sturrock  
Yun Tang  
Sara Maria Tuck  
Gianna Grace Tutoni  
Maria Katarina Velopolcek  
Jacob Zachariah Williams  
Jiaqi Zhu

## COMPUTATIONAL MEDIA, ARTS & CULTURES

Kelsey Taylor Brod

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

Benjamin Rogers Bauchwitz  
Jingrong Chen  
Muthuraman Chidambaram  
Haiyang Huang  
Xinhao Kong  
Kelsey Ann Lieberman  
Shihan Lin  
Yingfan Wang  
Yongji Wu  
Ceyu Xu  
Mo Zhou

## CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Alexis Hope Ligon Holloway

## ECONOMICS

Jui-Lin Chen  
Muhammet Nurullah Gulec  
Jaeyong Han  
Jennifer Paige Kades  
Seohee Kim  
Filip Klein  
Weiting Miao  
GaYoung Park  
Muyang Ren  
David Dongyoon Shin  
Hyun Moh Shin  
Ho Pan Shum  
Boning Zhou

## ENGLISH

Trivius Gerard Caldwell  
Kelsey Desir  
Hannah Ann Jorgensen

## EVOLUTIONARY ANTHROPOLOGY

Alisha D. Anaya  
Srishti Sadhir  
Allie Elizabeth Schrock  
Alma Solis

## HISTORY

Avrati Bhatnagar  
Christian Allen Culton  
Tayzhaun Dondre Glover  
Alyssa May Kuchinski  
Sydney Paige Marshall  
Charlesa Redmond

## LITERATURE

Blake Karsten Beaver  
Pratistha Bhattarai  
Melissa Suzanne Karp  
Ernest Pujol Leon

## MUSIC

Layla Francis Butler  
Devon Alexander Carter  
Brittany Joelle Green  
Emily May Shyr

## NURSING

Shewit Weldense Jaynes  
Lisvel Alexandra Matos Belilla  
Paige Susan Randall  
Tingzhong Michelle Xue

## PHILOSOPHY

Caleb Hazelwood  
Michael Veldman

## PHYSICS

Alexey Bondarev  
Tianyi Chen  
Matthew Ennis  
Xiaoxuan Jian  
Tyler Ellis Johnson  
Mingyu Kang  
Mingru Li  
Swapnil Dharmendrabhai Patel  
Erik Robert Peterson  
George Schwartz  
Ke Sun  
Lalit Yadav  
Shiv Akshar Yadavalli  
Masaya Yamamoto

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

Sjur Måseide Hamre  
Miguel Angel Martínez  
Leann Marie McLaren  
Emily Hudson Myers  
Trent Maslin Ollerenshaw  
Lucille Elizabeth Right  
Jeremy Kelly Sunshine  
Cameron Nathan Tilley  
Andrew R.L. Trexler\*  
Santiago Mateo Villamizar Chaparro

\*Dual Ph.D. in Political Science and Public Policy

## PSYCHOLOGY & NEUROSCIENCE

Fernanda Chardulo Dias  
De Andrade  
Benjamin Adam Devlin  
Morgan G. Ferrans  
Cortney Megan Howard  
Shenyang Huang  
Anna Pauliina Smith

## PUBLIC POLICY

Nikita Kohli  
Maria Josephine Nagawa  
Mavzuna Ramazonovna Turaeva

## RELIGION

Yucheng Bai  
David J. Leonhardt  
Jillian Roberts Marcantonio  
Erica Ann Ridderman

## ROMANCE STUDIES

Ian Erickson-Kery  
Samar Miled  
Nasanin Rosado DeRodes

## SOCIOLOGY

Kiersten Hasenour  
Elizabeth Ann Johnson  
Imari Z. Smith  
Gabriel Varela

## 2025 Dean's Awards

The Duke University Graduate School is committed to creating a vibrant culture that values exemplary mentoring, inspires exceptional teaching, and fosters an inclusive university community where all members feel a meaningful sense of belonging. The Dean's Awards recognize faculty, graduate students, and departments and programs who serve as exemplars of these qualities..

### TEACHING

Caleb Hazelwood  
Ph.D. Candidate, Philosophy

Alexis Holloway  
Post-Doctoral Fellow,  
Mount Holyoke College

Shao-Heng Ko  
Ph.D. Candidate, Computer Science

### MENTORING

**S T U D E N T S** Sarah Marion  
Ph.D. Candidate, Biology  
Samuel Reisman  
Ph.D. Candidate, Cell Biology

**F A C U L T Y** Staci Bilbo  
Haley Family Professor of  
Psychology & Neuroscience  
Katherine Brading  
Professor and Chair,  
Department of Philosophy

Marta Mulawa  
Assistant Professor of Nursing  
and Global Health

### INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

The Department of Art, Art History & Visual Studies (AAHVS): Anti-Racism and Social Justice Initiative

# Order of the Hooding Ceremony (Afternoon)

Ph.D. candidates will be called in the order listed

## BIOCHEMISTRY

Emily Grace Cannistraci  
Catherine Isabelle Ehrhart  
George Rafael Georgiou  
Jimin Hu  
Claudia Yejin Lee  
Akanksha Manghrani  
Uyen NG Pham  
Charles Jacob Sheehan  
Carly Sciandra Williams

## BIOLOGY

Sarah Boston Marion

## BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Mitchell Z. Abrams  
Katrina Barth  
Torie Marie Broer  
William Edgar Carson IV  
Brian Kwong-Kai Chan  
Xue Wen Chen  
Peter Jaeho Cho  
Katherine Elizabeth Duncker  
Suseendrakumar Duraivel  
Hala Galal El-Nahal  
Kevin Erning  
Jacqueline Noel Foody  
Nicholas Scott Giroux  
Abbigail Delphinia Helfer  
Mackenna James Hill  
Zachary Austin Holmes  
Matthew Thomas Huber  
Jia Lu  
Xingrui Mou  
Naveen R. Natesh  
Ishaan Puranam  
Iakov Rachinskiy  
Alan Rosales  
Daria Semeniak  
Shamitha Ramakrishna Shetty  
Gabriella Marie Shull  
Kirit Singh  
Madeleine Janette Sitton  
Enakshi Devi Sunassee  
Anastasia Kristine Varanko  
Ke Wang  
Ziyun Yang  
Jingkai Zhang

## BIostatistics & BIOINFORMATICS

Achal Awasthi  
Mengying Yan

## CELL BIOLOGY

Faraz Ahmed Butt  
Laura Hughart Childers  
Sophia DeLuca  
Joshua David Ginzel  
Yul Daniel Huh  
Arinze Emmanuel Okafor  
Matthew Oliver  
Robin Morgan Perelli  
Alexandra Prado Mantilla  
Maria Pia Rodriguez Salazar  
Yitong Xu

## CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Luiz Carlos Bacelar, Sr.  
Ziyang Jiang  
Nicholas Michael Kang Rogers  
Anna Michelle Villalobos Santeli  
Chengcheng Xu

## COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY AND BIOINFORMATICS

Kevin Singkit Moyung  
Veronica Russell  
Niven Singh  
Tiffany Tu  
Sarah Nicole Van Dierdonck  
Changxin Wan

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

Rickard Carl Vilhelm Stureborg

## EARTH & CLIMATE SCIENCES

Keqi He  
Conner Lester

## ECOLOGY

David Smith De La Mater III  
Camille DeSisto  
Gregory Bruce Merrill, Jr.

## ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Faris Maher Albarghouthi  
Bradley Barrier Bondurant  
Chen-Chia Chang  
Liangze Cui  
Beyza Dabak  
Aniket Sudeep Dalvi  
Yang Deng  
Bhavna Gopal  
Hansel Alexander Hobbie  
Shiyi Jiang  
Kaleb Gregory Kassaw  
Bokyung Kim  
Patrick Kendal Kuiper  
Randolph Linderman  
Hongbin Liu  
Jiachang Liu  
Wei-Kai Liu  
Francesco Luzi  
Stephen Ni-Hahn  
Ely Aaron Novakoski  
Ava Xanthe Parker  
Aritra Ray  
Evan Charles Reed  
Brittany Nicole Smith  
Arjun Sridhar  
Jonti Talukdar  
Minxue Tang  
Brady Garland Taylor  
Yitu Wang  
Jacob Henry Holt Whitlow  
Meng Xia  
Jichen Yang  
Eric Christopher Yeats  
Jianyi Zhang  
Jingyang Zhang  
Jin Zhou

## ENVIRONMENT

Shaza Gaballah  
Taylor Elizabeth Schronce Hoxie  
Erik Mark Patton  
Xiangtian Wang  
Xiaodong Zhang

## GENETICS AND GENOMICS

Luke Curtis Bartelt  
Cora Lacinda Bright  
Christiana Fauci  
Crystal Candace Kennedy  
Austin Ogechukwu Maduka

## IMMUNOLOGY

Bryan Jian Wei Lim  
Sejiro Sashasen King Littleton  
Goda Baddage Rakitha Dilshan  
Malewana  
Estefany Yamilet Reyes

## MARINE SCIENCE & CONSERVATION

Gabrielle Carmine  
Brianna Wilcke Elliott  
Robin Elizabeth Fail  
Laura Ann Givens  
Junyao Gu  
Xinyan Lin  
Rafaella Lobo  
Elisabetta Menini  
Stephanie Rene Valdez

## MATHEMATICS

Victor Andres Amaya Carvajal  
Rena Bei Ge Chu  
Haotian Gu  
Ching Lung Hsu  
Zhongtian Hu  
Yupei Huang  
Yupeng Li  
Karim Rida Moh Shikh Khalil  
Yixuan Tan  
Kai Xu

## MECHANICAL ENGINEERING & MATERIALS SCIENCE

Bijan Masood Abar  
Hamad Almahmoud  
Faisal Anees  
Ting-Hsuan Chen  
Judith Dominguez  
Ye He  
Genesis Mariana Higueros  
Gabrielle Alena Koknat  
Yangyuanchen Liu  
Jacob Evans Peloquin  
Prajakta Vinayak Prabhune

## MEDICAL PHYSICS

Zachary William Gude  
Devon Karl Overson

## MOLECULAR CANCER BIOLOGY

Ashley Nicole Colemon  
Zhehao Ma  
Chang Su

## MOLECULAR GENETICS & MICROBIOLOGY

Ammara Aqeel  
Briana Renee Davis  
Rebecca Anne Gibson  
Rebecca Ann Leonard  
Teresa Kaza McDonald  
Junsuke Nohara  
Julia Rose Palmucci  
Ryan Eduardo Rodriguez  
Hannah Morgan Schmidt  
Erin Ashley Schroeder  
Felicia Nicole Williams

## NEUROBIOLOGY

Robin Blazing  
Fabiola Duarte Ortiz  
Tiffany Bokyoung Ko  
Arthy Narayanan

## PATHOLOGY

Jinjin Wu

## PHARMACOLOGY

Oliver Chung  
Nathaniel Paul Hernandez  
Liam Steven Connor Lewis  
Ashleigh Simone Rawls  
Arpine Sokratian

## POPULATION HEALTH SCIENCES

Lindsay Anne Ballengee  
Katherine Sutton Norman

## STATISTICAL SCIENCE

Youngsoo Baek  
Yunran Chen  
Alexander Conrad Dombowsky  
Zekican Ryan Kazan  
Bo Liu  
John Joshua Miller  
Edric Cheuk Yin Tam  
Zhuoqun Wang  
Xiaojun Zheng

## 2025 Forever Duke Student Leadership Award

The Duke Alumni Association's Forever Duke Student Leadership Award recognizes graduating students who embody the "Forever Duke" spirit in their service to the university.

Eduardo Cisternas Jiménez, Ph.D. candidate, Medical Physics  
Tyler Johnson, Ph.D. '24, Physics  
Yicheng (Catherine) Wang, pursuing M.S., Statistical Science

## About Your Commencement Gift

Each year, The Graduate School provides a gift to Ph.D. graduates in attendance at the hooding ceremony. This small token of congratulations is also one of gratitude, recognizing the innumerable contributions to the university community made by graduate students. The gift for the 2024–2025 graduates includes a power bank charging device featuring a “heartbeat” and “breathing” illuminating feature, that adds power steadily with a 10,000mAh charging capacity.

## Ph.D. Degree-Granting Programs at Duke

Art, Art History & Visual Studies	History
Biochemistry	Immunology
Biology	Literature
Biomedical Engineering	Marine Science & Conservation
Biostatistics & Bioinformatics	Materials Science & Engineering
Business Administration	Mathematics
Carolina-Duke Graduate Program in German	Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science
Cell and Molecular Biology	Medical Physics
Cell Biology	Molecular Cancer Biology
Chemistry	Molecular Genetics & Microbiology
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Music
Classical Studies	Neurobiology
Computational Biology and Bioinformatics	Nursing
Computational Media, Arts & Cultures	Pathobiology and Translational Biosciences
Computer Science	Pharmacology
Cultural Anthropology	Philosophy
Earth & Climate Sciences	Physics
Ecology	Political Science
Economics	Population Health Sciences
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Psychology & Neuroscience
English	Public Policy
Environment	Religious Studies
Environmental Policy	Romance Studies
Evolutionary Anthropology	Sociology
Genetics and Genomics	Statistical Science

## Staying Connected to Duke

Here are a few simple steps to keep your connection to Duke strong and take advantage of the university’s alumni resources:

- Update your contact information at [alumni.duke.edu](http://alumni.duke.edu)
- Star in a graduate alumni spotlight
- Become a regional Graduate School volunteer
- Serve as a career advisor for graduate students
- Complete The Graduate School’s survey on alumni career paths
- Follow the school on social media ([gradschool.duke.edu/social](http://gradschool.duke.edu/social))
- Use Duke’s career resources (alumni still have access to the Career Center)
- Email [grad-profdev@duke.edu](mailto:grad-profdev@duke.edu) about attending events in The Graduate School’s Professional Development Series or to continue receiving the professional development newsletter

**More information:** [gradschool.duke.edu/alumni](http://gradschool.duke.edu/alumni)

**Questions:** [grad-alumni@duke.edu](mailto:grad-alumni@duke.edu)

## Significance of the Academic Dress

Today’s academic dress has its origins in the clerical dress that medieval scholars used for warmth in unheated buildings. The tradition of special academic dress seems to have entered this country through King’s College (now Columbia) in colonial New York. The custom grew so rapidly that in 1894, an American Intercollegiate Commission standardized the style and color of robes and hoods. The commission decided all robes would be black, which is not the standard for schools today. Bachelor’s robes have open, pointed sleeves; master’s gowns have sleeves that close at the wrist; and the doctoral gown has bell-shaped sleeves, velvet trim down the front, and three velvet strips across the sleeves.

The hood that forms part of today’s academic dress was originally a head covering for bad weather. Later it was dropped to the shoulders in the form of a small cape. Eventually, the hood became a separate piece of apparel bearing even more symbolism than the gown. The hood’s facing is colored velvet trimming denoting the wearer’s discipline (e.g., arts and letters, white; engineering, orange; law, purple). The width of the velvet trimming designates the level of the degree. The lining of the hood identifies the institution that granted the degree, dark blue with a white chevron for Duke.

The cap or square has come to be symbolic of academia. It has evolved from a tufted, square cap called a pileus quadratus worn by medieval laity to a rigid, square academic cap, commonly called a “mortarboard.” The velvet tam is commonly worn by doctorate holders. A tassel is attached to the center of the cap.

## Hood Colors Indicating the Fields of Study

Apricot: Nursing	Green: Medicine	Russet: Forestry
Brown: Fine Arts	Lavender: Dentistry	Salmon: Public Health
Copper: Economics	Light Blue: Education	Scarlet: Divinity, Theology
Dark Blue: Philosophy	Orange: Engineering	Teal: Physical Therapy
Drab: Business Administration	Pink: Music	White: Arts, Letters, Humanities
Golden Yellow: Science	Purple: Law	

# Congratulations from The Graduate School Staff

The Graduate School staff members congratulate our Ph.D. candidates on obtaining their degrees and thank them for giving us the opportunity to be a part of their successful journey at Duke.

## Office of the Dean

Suzanne Barbour  
Dean of the Graduate School and  
Vice Provost for Graduate Education

Scott Behm  
Associate Dean, Communications & Marketing

Pakis Bessias  
IT Manager

Allison Boyer  
Director of Development

Casey Griffith  
Communications Specialist

Diamond Riley  
Staff Assistant

Kim Thompson  
Human Resources Manager

Carlus Walters  
Administrative Coordinator and  
Assistant to the Dean

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## Academic Affairs

John Klingensmith  
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Jillian Conant  
Staff Specialist

Hugh Crumley  
Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and  
Director of College Teaching Programs

Kathy Ivanov  
Program Coordinator

Matthew Jones  
Senior Program Coordinator  
for Graduate Faculty

Helene McAdams  
Graduate School Registrar

Courtnea Rainey  
Assistant Dean, Assessment  
and Evaluation

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## Admissions

Nicholas Alena  
Associate Dean, Graduate Admissions

Scott C. Andrews  
Data Manager

Chris Kizer  
Slate Operations Manager

Kristen Mirek  
Program Coordinator

Tyler Read  
Communications Specialist

Randi Smith  
Duke Kunshan Admissions Specialist

Nancy Wines  
Program Coordinator

## Finance and Administration

Shanna Fitzpatrick  
Senior Associate Dean, Finance and  
Administration and CFO

Lorelei Evans  
Database Analyst I

Daniel Heflin  
Financial Aid Coordinator

Iryna Merenbloom  
Assistant Dean, Budgets and Finance

Caroline Morris  
Program Director

Natalia Provorov  
Financial Management Analyst I

Shakiera Rose  
Database Analyst I

Joel Salgado  
Senior Business Systems Analyst

Cynthia Stout  
Financial Management Analyst II

---

## Graduate Student Affairs

Yan Li  
Associate Dean, Graduate Programs

Leo Biggs  
Senior Program Coordinator

Melissa Bostrom  
Senior Assistant Dean, Graduate  
Student Professional Development

Michael Croal  
Assistant Director of Programs

J. Alan Kendrick  
Assistant Dean, Graduate  
Student Development

Brenda Whiteman  
Professional Development  
Program Coordinator

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## English for International Students

Brad Teague  
Assistant Dean and Director

Andrew Davis  
Lecturing Fellow

Craig Dresser  
Instructor

Carolina Manson  
Program Coordinator

Elizabeth Long  
Lecturing Fellow

Carolyn Quarterman  
Lecturing Fellow

Stacy Sabraw  
Lecturing Fellow

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## Special Thanks

Across five administrative units, the staff of The Graduate School work collaboratively to realize the school's mission of providing the highest-quality graduate education to students. From Graduate Student Affairs' event planning (thank them for today's ceremony!) to its robust professional development programming, and from Academic Affairs' dissertation support to the Finance team's fellowship management, each unit and member of TGS contributes uniquely to the holistic model of graduate education that sets Duke apart.

