

NETWORK FOR ENRICHED ACADEMIC RELATIONSHIPS

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What is NEAR?

A transdisciplinary university-wide mentoring program that provides graduate students with access to mentoring regarding developmental issues that lie beyond the coursework, exams, and dissertations.

Founding Principle

Creative and rigorous intellectual work requires not only expert guidance in a substantive area or methodological approach, but also meaningful support, especially when contending with systemic bias and marginalization or personal stressors and hardships.

How NEAR Works

1. Interested faculty submit their information indicating issues they are willing to discuss with a student.
2. Students search the NEAR directory to find faculty open to discussing a relevant issue.
3. Students reach out to faculty with whom they would like to connect.
4. The faculty member and student meet up however and whenever they wish.

Faculty Directory

A to Z

Minority Experiences

Personal Circumstances

Academic Culture

Caregiving for Children

- [Aga, Diana](#)
- [Bono, Barbara](#)
- [Ely, Gretchen](#)
- [Good, Jeff](#)
- [Graves Monroe, Amy](#)
- [Hakala, Walter](#)
- [Logan-Greene, Patricia](#)
- [Nam, Yunju](#)

- [Read, Jennifer](#)
- [Reynolds, Amy](#)
- [Sallee, Margaret](#)
- [Schmid, David](#)
- [Semanchin Jones, Annette](#)
- [Solomon, William](#)
- [Swihart, Mark](#)

Caregiving for Other Loved Ones

- [Bono, Barbara](#)
- [Bowen, Elizabeth](#)
- [Cahn, Susan](#)
- [Hakala, Walter](#)
- [Keefe, Robert](#)

- [Logan-Greene, Patricia](#)
- [Read, Jennifer](#)
- [Sallee, Margaret](#)
- [Solomon, William](#)

Financial Stress and Strain

- [Graves Monroe, Amy](#)
- [Hakala, Walter](#)
- [Hess, Daniel](#)

- [Schmid, David](#)
- [Solomon, William](#)
- [Sutton, Mark](#)

Mentoring Topics: Academic Culture

- Considering a non-academic path after graduate school.
- Dealing with politics and conflict with faculty or peers.
- Decoding and demystifying academic culture and norms.
- Taking a non-traditional path to graduate school.
- Uncertainty about staying in graduate school.

Mentoring Topics: Minority Experiences

- Being a woman and related discrimination.
- Class and/or socioeconomic status and related discrimination.
- Physical health and/or abilities and related discrimination.
- Mental health and/or abilities and related discrimination.
- Racial, ethnic, cultural and/or religious minority status and related discrimination.
- Sexual and/or gender minority status and related discrimination.

Mentoring Topics: Personal Circumstances

- Caregiving for children.
- Caregiving for other loved ones.
- Financial stress and strain.
- Non-U.S. citizen or immigrant experiences.
- Veteran and military family experiences.

Faculty Profile

Amy Graves Monroe

Associate Professor
Romance Languages and Literatures
acgraves@buffalo.edu

Education:

- PhD, French, University of Chicago, 2004

Professional experience:

- Associate Professor, Academia, University at Buffalo



What mentoring means to me:

Mentoring is a bond with future colleagues who are still in their formative years. I find that the contact with junior scholars is energizing and thought provoking, and often gives me a positive feeling. I endured a grueling graduate school experience, often filled with doubts and hesitations that an unforgiving academic environment did little to assuage. I survived, though; and you can too! However, no one said you have to go at it alone! I'm a compassionate ear, a truth teller, an ass-kicker and a cheerleader; we all need this kind of motivation in our lives at different points. The trick is knowing when the moment for each has arrived. The best part of mentoring is the part when you get to help the mentee prepare to be a good mentor.

Topics I am willing to discuss with students:

MINORITY EXPERIENCES

- Being a woman and related discrimination.
- Class and/or socioeconomic status and related discrimination.

Valuing Mentorship

Mentoring is often

- Invisible.
- Time consuming.
- Essential.

Raising the visibility of mentors' efforts by sending

- Annual letter from the dean of Graduate School to mentor, with copy to department chair.
- Annual letter from dean of Graduate School to dean of the school/college.

grad.buffalo.edu/near