

# Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Ph.D.

---

Office: 332 Martin Hall, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 70504  
Email (university): [mary.farmer-kaiser@louisiana.edu](mailto:mary.farmer-kaiser@louisiana.edu)

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in History, Bowling Green State University, 2000
- M.A. in History, Clemson University, 1995
- B.A. in History, Kansas State University, 1993

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I lead the graduate education community at the University of Louisiana through direct and collaborative partnership with 7 academic college deans, 31 department heads / school directors, and 42 graduate coordinators. Under my leadership, graduate enrollment has grown 64%, and we have added 18 graduate programs and developed online delivery for 13 programs. Graduate degree completion has increased by more than 76%. I have grown the graduate assistantship stipend budget by 96% from \$4.4 million to almost \$8.7 million; the combined stipend and fee waiver operating budgets now total over \$14.2 million. I am a member of the leadership team that secured an R1 Carnegie designation for the University in 2021.

## ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

### UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

The second-largest university in the state, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is a comprehensive public research university with 15,345 (FA2023) degree-seeking students enrolled in baccalaureate, certificate, master's, and doctoral degree programs offering face-to-face, hybrid, and distance delivery formats. Over 14% of our students are enrolled as graduate students. We hold the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Learning prestigious R1 designation (very high research activity) and, according to the most-recent NSF HERD Survey, are among the nation's top 100 public research universities.

- **Dean of the Graduate School, 2015-present**

The Graduate School is home to 2,150 graduate students (FA2023) enrolled in 11 doctoral programs, 38 disciplinary areas offering master's degree programs, and multiple graduate certificate programs and other non-degree pathways to post-baccalaureate graduate coursework.

Reporting directly to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, I am the principal academic and administrative officer for graduate education. I provide a central leadership role for enhancing advanced degree programs across all disciplines and in partnership with the colleges, departments, and schools identified below. I am charged with overseeing outreach and recruitment, admissions, academic progress, career and professional development, and the awarding of graduate degrees university wide; allocating and administering state and University funding for graduate students and graduate education; developing graduate curricular policy in partnership with the Graduate Council, colleges, and programs and implementing that policy; overseeing graduate assessment, benchmarking, and strategic planning; working with graduate coordinators, departments, and colleges to enhance existing graduate programs and to develop new ones; serving as a member of the Council of Deans and Deans Group; and engaging the Office of the Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development in efforts to enhance collaboration, funding, and retention efforts to support graduate education and research.

#### Academic Departments and Schools (31):

Accounting	Health Sciences
Architecture and Design	History, Geography, and Philosophy
Biology	Kinesiology
Chemistry	Management
Chemical Engineering	Marketing
Civil Engineering	Mathematics
Communication	Mechanical Engineering
Communicative Disorders	Modern Languages
Computing and Informatics	Music and Performing Arts
Counseling	Nursing
Criminal Justice	Petroleum Engineering
Economics and Finance	Physics
Educational Curriculum and Instruction	Psychology
Educational Foundations and Leadership	
Electrical and Computer Engineering	Coming soon: Economics and Finance,
Engineering Technology	Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology,
English	and Human Development & Family Science
Geosciences	

#### Colleges (7):

College of the Arts	College of Liberal Arts
B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration	College of Nursing and Health Sciences
College of Education and Human Development	Ray P. Authement College of Sciences
College of Engineering	

#### Significant Leadership and Fundraising Accomplishments

- Increased graduate enrollment from 1,539 (FA2013) to a high of 2,524 students (FA2021), inclusive of 77% growth at the master's level and 23% growth at the doctoral level.
- Increased graduate degrees awarded annually by 76% (from 476 in 2012-2013 to 808 in 2022-2023), with an increase of almost 70% at the master's level and 75% at the doctoral level.
- Led 18 new graduate programs through proposal and approval by UL, the UL System and Louisiana Board of Regents, including interdisciplinary, in natural and applied sciences, education, and business; established online delivery for 13 programs ranging from business to education to applied sciences.
- Established the University Committee for Graduate Student Success and Retention.
- Established and now lead, with the Graduate Council Fellowships Standing Committee, the University Community of Fellows.
- Established the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony and Doctoral Candidacy Recognition/Pinning Ceremony.
- Led efforts to revamp what had been a divisive Graduate Faculty policy and practice to imbed clearer expectations for productive and inclusive graduate mentorship into the university guidelines and college criteria.
- Garnered the only across-the-board stipend increases in University-funded fellowship and assistantship funding in UL history. Increased the Graduate School assistantship stipend budget by over 96%. Collaborated with Administration and Finance Division to increase to tuition/fee waiver budget and transfer of administration of this budget to the Graduate School. Today, I administer combined stipend + tuition/fee waiver budgets totaling over \$14.2 million.
- Established (and secured funding for) the first-ever PhD Dissertation Completion Fellowships in 2022-2023. Initial funding of \$400,000 secured to support stipends and another \$153,979 for tuition/fee waivers. \$200,000 from UL Foundation, remaining from combined University Operating and University Research funds.
- Secured more than \$1.7 million in external gifts and \$1.665 million in state competitive matching grants for graduate scholarships and fellowships in partnership with our advancement team and, often, with our deans.
- Increased Graduate School administrative staff from four classified positions and one unclassified position to a staff that now includes eleven unclassified staff members including an assistant dean, director of communications, admissions and post-admissions professionals, and IT analysts/administrators.
- Continued to lead implementation of enterprise resource planning (ERP) system for higher education institutions – Ellucian Banner Student Information System – for the Admission and Student teams as well as a new digital document management system (BDM) and new application and/or CRM systems (Hobsons, Banner and Banner Recruit, Salesforce, Advise).
- Served on multiple University Strategic Plan committees, including enrollment, student, research, governance, and productivity interdivisional taskforces, workgroups, and implementation teams.
- Led or served on 10+ university administrative search committees for roles ranging from Chief Diversity Officer to the University Registrar to the deans for the colleges of Business Administration and Liberal Arts to the Vice President of Research and multiple Provosts.

### Significant Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Leadership and Accomplishments

- ASPIRE Alliance IChange Team  
UL is a member of the third cohort of the NSF INCLUDES Aspire Alliance collaborative learning network managed by the APLU. As one of only 58 four-year universities across 4 cohorts in Institutional Change, the UL IChange team is charged with increasing the diversity of STEM faculty on our campus (and beyond it) by creating an environment where underrepresented group faculty (and future faculty) are valued, retained, and thrive.
- IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) Graduate Council Standing Committee  
Recognizing that DEI work cannot be an “initiative” that ends, we created an IDEA standing committee of the Graduate Council responsible for ensuring that inclusion, diversity, equity and access is fostered in the University’s graduate community, particularly for its graduate students but also for its graduate faculty.
- James Jackson Community of Scholars  
Named for the first African American student to obtain a graduate degree at UL Lafayette, the JJCOS is an organization created by the Graduate School in partnership with the Office for Campus Diversity to provide a network of support, community, and professional development to underrepresented—broadly defined—graduate students. It joins cross-disciplinary peer mentorship with opportunities for graduate students from underrepresented communities to present research, participate in programming focused on uncovering the hidden curriculum of academia, and engage with students and faculty from other disciplines.
- PI and Fellow Mentor, Louisiana Board of Regents / Southern Regional Education Board Graduate Fellowships to Promote Diversity  
This competitively-awarded enhancement program funded by the Board of Regents Support Fund subprogram provides institutions with supplemental fellowship funding to recruit and support students from underrepresented and minoritized communities who are pursuing the Ph.D. degree, particularly in STEM fields. Fellowship recipients participate in the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program, a program that has a proven track record of supporting doctoral students to graduate at a higher rate and finish their Ph.D. degree two to five years sooner than the national average. As dean, I have secured a total investment of more than \$1.92 million (thus far) to support fellowship recipients through this program and I serve as a mentor to individual fellowship recipients.
- **Interim Dean of the Graduate School, 2013-2014**  
As interim dean, I provided leadership as the University community paused, before engaging a national search to hire a new dean, to reflect upon the needs and governance of graduate education at UL.

With the interim provost, I led a University task force that brought together faculty, graduate coordinators, department heads, and deans that met weekly for five months to debate the structure

of graduate education governance, to benchmark ourselves against 40+ peer and aspirational-peer institutions, and ultimately to collectively assert the need for a shared governance that included a more representative graduate council, a graduate school with collaborative, strategic leadership and defined authority to support individual degree programs and academic colleges, and an engaged graduate faculty held to criteria that recognize both disciplinary variance and common values.

During this time, I also rebuilt a graduate school office that neared internal collapse, implemented new processes and technologies that eliminated paper-based processes and streamlined operations, embraced the opportunity to hire and develop a new staff, and reestablished partnerships and trust across the campus community.

### Significant Leadership Accomplishments

- Co-chaired the University Task Force on Graduate Education Governance that presented to the graduate faculty and a new provost a blueprint for the future governance of graduate education at UL. All recommendations except one were adopted by the provost.
  - Expanded the Graduate Council from a body of 14 members to a more representative body of 27 members.
  - Secured investment to provide 50% health insurance premium that is mandatory for international graduate students appointed as graduate assistants and fellows.
  - Secured authority for graduate programs to make assistantship and fellowship offers earlier and without the stipulation of “pending budgetary approval.”
  - Reorganized Graduate School professional staff by adding two staff and redefining (and compensating appropriately) three positions.
  - Allocated resources to implement training, professional development, and conference travel for professional staff.
  - Led implementation of enterprise resource planning (ERP) system for higher education institutions – Ellucian Banner Student Information System – for Admission and Student teams as well as fully digital document management system (OnBase).
- **Director, Guilbeau Charitable Trust, 2012-2013**  
As the founding director of this charitable trust, I provided the administrative leadership to facilitate the awarding of a \$6 million transformational gift to support the work of History faculty and students. With the support of the department head and departmental selection committees, I developed guidelines and implemented awards for instructional innovation, guest speakers, summer History faculty research, public history internship support for graduate students, study travel, research and conference travel for undergraduate and graduate students, and campuswide faculty development and innovative instruction.
  - **Graduate Coordinator, Department of History and Geography, 2004-2011**  
As graduate coordinator, I designed, supervised, and coordinated the recruitment and administration of graduate studies for the M.A. degree program in History with concentrations in European, Latin American, United States, and public history.

Significant Accomplishments

- Secured, in collaboration with the department head, \$6 million gift to the History Department.
- Expanded enrollment to consistently include out-of-state graduate students.
- Established formal orientation and professional development programming for graduate students.
- Established an interdisciplinary graduate certificate program in Historic Preservation in partnership with the School of Architecture and Design and the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Child and Family Studies.

**SELECTED PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP**

- **Council of Graduate Schools**  
CGS Board of Directors (2023-2026)  
CGS Investment Committee member (2024)  
CGS Assistant and Associate Dean Leadership Award Committee chair (2023)  
CGS Gustave O. Arlt Award Committee chair (2017-2018) and member (2016-2017, 2018-2019)  
CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award in Humanities and Fine Arts Selection Committee (2019)  
CGS Strategic Consultant
- **Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools**  
Conference of Southern Graduate Schools designee to CHGBS Executive Committee for joint conference planning and collaboration
- **Conference of Southern Graduate Schools**  
President (2023-2024)  
President (2022-2023)  
President-Elect (2021-2022)  
Executive Committee (2019-present)  
Thesis Awards Committee chair (2019) and member (2020-2022)
- **Louisiana Council of Graduate Schools**  
President (2017-2018, 2018-2019)  
Executive Board Member (2019-present)
- **Louisiana Historical Association**  
President (2014-2015)  
Board of Directors (2002-2005, 2009-2012)  
Committee chair and member: Hugh Rankin Prize Committee, Kimberly S. Hanger Prize Committee, Publications Committee, Phi Alpha Theta Committee  
Lifetime Member
- **Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society**

National Councilor (2008-2010)  
Advisory Board (2010-2012)  
Faculty Advisor Mentor (2005-2013)

- **Southern Association for Women Historians**

A. Elizabeth Taylor Prize Committee chair (2012-2013)  
Julia Cherry Spruill Prize Committee (2015)  
Lifetime Member

- **National Digital Newspaper Program**

Collaboration of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress  
Advisory Board Member for the Louisiana Newspaper Digitization Project (2009-2011)

- **Leadership Institute of Acadiana**

Leadership Lafayette Class XXXVI, program co-captain (2023)  
Leadership Lafayette Class XXXIV (2021)

## **SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION: GRADUATE STUDIES**

- “Preparing Humanities Doctoral Students for Diverse Career Paths,” presenter, Council of Graduate Schools Summer Workshop and New Deans Institute, Denver, Colorado (10 July 2023).
- “DEI Admissions in Ph.D. Programs Post the Summer of Social Justice,” presenter, American Historical Association 2023 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (7 January 2023).
- “The Fierce Urgency of Now: Developing a Student-Centered Approach to Graduate Education,” panelist, Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools 2022 Annual Meeting, Raleigh, North Carolina (17 February 2022).
- “Bill Carr New Deans and Associate Deans Session: Building a Toolkit – Resources for New Graduate Education Leaders,” presenter and facilitator, Conference of Southern Graduate Schools, Hopin Virtual Conference (25 February 2021).
- “New Deans and Associate Deans Breakfast,” presenter and facilitator, Conference of Southern Graduate Schools, Birmingham, Alabama (7 March 2020).
- “Great Expectations: Understanding Humanities PhD Career Pathways,” presenter, Council of Graduate Schools Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (6 December 2018).
- “From First Touch to Last: Using Technology to Support Student Success,” presenter, Council of Graduate Schools New Deans Institute and Summer Workshop, Denver, Colorado (11 July 2017).

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

### **UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE**

- Professor of History, 2012-present
- Associate Professor of History, 2006-2012
- Assistant Professor of History, 2000-2006

## **SELECTED ACADEMIC TEACHING**

- History on the Move  
Summer travel courses offered “on the road and in a field” in the history of the South (2013), Alaska (2012), the Southwest (2011), the Great Northwest (2010) as well as public history Program co-directed with Dr. Robert Carriker, 2011-2013
- Humanities Courses  
HUMN 101: Explorations in Liberal Arts  
HUMN 200: Ideas and Issues – Introduction to Women’s Studies
- Survey Courses  
HIST 221/222: The United States to 1877 / The United States since 1877  
HIST 223/224: Honors – US to 1877 / Honors – US since 1877
- Upper-level Undergraduate / Graduate Courses  
African American Women’s History, Civil War, The Rights Revolution, Constitutional and Legal History, Gender and History, Louisiana Women’s History, Nineteenth Century American History, Southern History, Women in the American South
- Graduate Seminar Courses  
American Readings Seminar  
Capstone Readings Course  
Research and Writing Seminar

## **SELECTED HONORS, AWARDS, AND ACADEMIC RECOGNITIONS**

- Graduate Faculty, 2000-present
- James D. Wilson/Board of Regents Support Fund Memorial Professorship in Southern Studies, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2012-2015
- Dr. Ray Authement Excellence in Teaching Award (university-wide recognition), University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2009
- Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society Faculty Advisor Research Grant, 2007



- Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship, Virginia Historical Association, 1997-1998
- Fellowship, Center for Governmental Research and Public Service, Bowling Green State University, 1998-1999
- Edward and Xin-Zhu Chen Scholarship for Distinguished Teaching, Department of History, Bowling Green State University, 1998
- Bernard Sternsher Outstanding Doctoral Teaching Fellow, Department of History, Bowling Green State University, 1997-1998
- Finalist, Coordinating Council for Women in History/Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Graduate Student Award, 1997
- Charles E. Shanklin Award for Research Excellence, Graduate College, Bowling Green State University, 1996-1997
- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award, Graduate College, Bowling Green State University, 1996-1997

### **SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED SCHOLARSHIP: HISTORY AND HUMANITIES**

- *Freedwomen and the Freedmen's Bureau: Race, Gender, and Public Policy in the Age of Emancipation*. Reconstructing America series. New York: Fordham University Press, 2010.
- *Louisiana Women: Their Lives and Times*, volume 2. Co-edited with Shannon Frystak as part of the Southern Women: Their Lives and Times series. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2016.
- "Reconstructing Amanda Stone: Made and Remade by Marriage, War, and Memoir in Nineteenth-Century Louisiana." *Louisiana History* 56, no. 4 (Fall 2015): 389-413.
- "The Freedmen's Bureau." Invited, refereed essay in *Encyclopedia of American Women's History*, ed. Hasia R. Diner. New York: Facts on File, 2012.
- "Sarah Katherine Stone (1841-1907): The 'agony and strife' of Civil War Louisiana." In *Louisiana Women: Their Lives and Times*, eds. Janet Allured and Judith F. Gentry, 73-93. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009.
- "'With a weight of circumstances like millstones about their necks': Freedwomen, Federal Relief, and the Benevolent Guardianship of the Freedmen's Bureau." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 115, no. 3 (2007): 412-442.
- "The Freedmen's Bureau." Invited, refereed essay in *Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*, edited by John H. Moore, vol. 1. Farmington, MI: Macmillan Reference USA, 2007.
- "'Are they not in some sorts Vagrants...?': Gender and the Efforts of the Freedmen's Bureau to Combat Vagrancy in the Reconstruction South." *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 88, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 25-49.

- “Race, Class, Gender, and the Unintended Consequences of the Fifteenth Amendment,” with Donald G. Nieman. In *The Unintended Consequences of Constitutional Amendments*, ed. David Kyvig, pp. 141-163. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2000.
- “Because They Are Women’: Gender and the Virginia Freedmen’s Bureau’s War on Dependency.” In *The Freedmen’s Bureau and Reconstruction: Interpretive Essays*, edited by Paul Cimbala and Randall Miller, pp. 161-192. New York: Fordham University Press, 1999.

## **SELECTED GRANTS: HISTORY AND HUMANITIES**

- **U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History Grant**  
A 3-year grant of \$999,975 renewable for two additional years (\$173,125 allocated for UL Lafayette participation for the 5-year grant period) entitled, “America in Conflict: A Professional Development Program.” Grant written for and awarded in conjunction with the Lafayette Parish School System (the grant LEA), the American Institute for History Education, and the National Council of History Education. Awarded in Spring 2008. Initial grant period was 2009-2012; extension awarded for 2012-2014. Sub-award lead PI.
- **Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Outreach Grant**  
Grant entitled, “Move Up, Reach Down: Women Then and Women Now—A Women’s History Month Celebration.” Awarded December 2006 for March 2007 Women’s History Month programming. PI.
- **U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History Grant**  
A 3-year grant award of \$999,829 (\$75,000 allocated for UL Lafayette participation) entitled, “My Freedom: An Innovative and Comprehensive Professional Development Program for American History Teachers.” Written for and awarded in conjunction with the Lafayette Parish School System (the grant LEA), the National Council of History Education, and the Smithsonian Institute. Awarded in September 2003. Sub-award lead PI.

## **SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION: HISTORY AND HUMANITIES**

- “Judith Kelleher Schafer: Legal Scholar and Mentor,” Judith Kelleher Schafer Memorial Session, *Louisiana Historical Association Annual Meeting*, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (18 March 2016).
- “Reconstructing Amanda Stone: Made and Remade by Marriage, War, and Memoir in Nineteenth-Century Louisiana,” Presidential Address, *Louisiana Historical Association Annual Meeting*, Lafayette, La. (6 March 2015).
- Contributor, “The Reconstruction Era in Louisiana and the Deep South: A Roundtable Discussion on the ‘State of the Field,’” *Louisiana Historical Association Annual Meeting*, Lafayette, La. (6 March 2015).

- Presiding and Comment, "From the Blue Ridge to the Blue Sea: Utilizing Student Travel in Southern History Courses," *Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting*, St. Louis, Missouri (1 November 2013).
- "History on the Move: History Based Domestic Study-Travel Programs in a University Setting," with Robert Carriker, *Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association Annual Meeting*, Washington, D.C. (29 March 2013).
- Chair, "Cultural Constructions on the Margins," *Southern Association of Women Historians Triennial Conference*, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas (June 2012).
- "'A brave resourceful woman': Amanda Ragan Stone and Female Property Ownership in Civil War Louisiana," as part of the "Women Landowners in the Nineteenth-Century South" Panel, Southern Association of Women Historians Triennial Conference, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina (June 2009).
- "Demanding All that Freedom Promises: Freedwomen's Demands for Justice from the Freedmen's Bureau in the Reconstruction South," Phi Alpha Theta National Biennial Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana (January 2004).
- "'With a Weight of Circumstances Like Millstones About their Necks': Freedwomen, Federal Relief, and the Benevolent Guardianship of the Freedmen's Bureau," *Virginia's Civil War and Aftermath: The Douglas Southall Freeman and Southern Intellectual History Conference*, Richmond, Virginia (February 2002).
- "'A man who can work has no right to support': Freedwomen and the Freedmen's Bureau's War on Dependency," *Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting*, Toronto, Ontario Paper Presentation, Canada (April 1999).
- "'Because They Are Women': Gender and the Freedmen's Bureau's War on Dependency in Virginia," *Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting*, Birmingham, Alabama (November 1998).
- "Race, Class, Gender, and the Unintended Consequences of the Fifteenth Amendment," *American Society of Legal History Annual Meeting*, Seattle, Washington (October 1998).
- "Vagrancy and Gender: The Virginia Freedmen's Bureau and the Black Woman's Obligation to Labor," *Social Science History Association Annual Meeting*, Washington, D.C. (October 1997).
- "Federal Relief Policy and Gender: The Virginia Freedmen's Bureau and its Obligation to Women in the Black Community," *National Policy History Conference*, Bowling Green, Ohio (June 1997).

- “Vagrancy and Gender: The Freedmen’s Bureau and the Black Woman’s Obligation to Labor,” *American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting*, Richmond, Virginia (October 1996).