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THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

**THE GRADUATE MENTORING CENTER**

Indiana University Bloomington

## The GMC Newsletter

*October 2020*

*Mentoring in These Times*

*For Graduate Students, Faculty, and Staff*

### **Dear Graduate Mentoring Center Community,**

Just doing a mid-semester check-in. How are you? Your families? How is the semester so far? These are questions that friends and close colleagues ask me. In fact, as I was writing this a friend and colleague paid me a surprise visit. They left at the front door a beautiful vase of white flowers and a card for me and my family. It was their way of reminding me that someone was thinking of me and that, no matter what happens in the weeks to come, I have a community in Bloomington.

With that in mind, I invite you to contemplate this word community. What does it mean to you? Who is your community? Do you have more than one? What has it done for you lately? What have you done for it? Have you checked in on someone? Has anyone checked in on you? Over the next two weeks, how can you support each other? Is it worth all your effort to try to create community here? I invite you to reflect on these questions with us. I invite you to say yes: yes, it is worth your effort to create *and* cultivate a community right where you are. e.e. cummings wrote: yes is a world / & in this world of / yes live / (skilfully curled) / all worlds. Jen and I share some thoughts below on community, an idea that is sometimes hard to imagine even in the best of times.

Community of scholars. What difference could these words make in my life? As these past seven months have shown me, us, a community of scholars has meant more than the people with whom we conduct research and teach. They are the people with whom we write; with whom we find refuge on our decks or the sidewalks. They are the people we call after a long day and we need to laugh or cry.

At the end of the day, they are the people with whom we spend most of our time. Read more from **Contemplating the Term “Community of Scholars”** [here](#).

As graduate students, we often relocate to pursue our studies. Some move to a foreign country, and others move to a different state to attend school. For me, this year is my 6th year living outside of my hometown and home country for my graduate studies. I arrived in Bloomington in 2017, and each year since I have moved to a new house. At the beginning of this semester, I moved to my fourth house. Read more from **Community is who we are. We are the community, and the community is us** [here](#).

Finally, if you were unable to participate in our recent activities, [here](#) are some September/October resources, including strategies to conduct a mid-semester check-in on your mentoring relationship. Like all of you, I am trying new things, some with more success than others. As we continue to improve what we offer and how we deliver it, we share these resources to open and support different dialogues about mentoring.

**Thank you, modupe, obrigada, shukran.** We appreciate your questions and comments on what is working and how we can serve you better: [iugmc@indiana.edu](mailto:iugmc@indiana.edu). As always, we invite you to rest and to [breathe](#).

Maria Hamilton Abegunde, Ph.D.  
Founding Director

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