

GRC NEWSLETTER

THE Graduate School @ Bowie State



July 1, 2026

Issue 17

ABOUT THE GRC

The Graduate Research Center's mission is to transform the graduate student experience. We cultivate a dynamic academic environment in which graduate students engage in innovative research, receive tailored academic support, and leverage resources for both academic and professional development. We are dedicated to nurturing emerging scholars, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and empowering individuals to excel in their academic pursuits through mentorship, fellowship opportunities, and transformative services.



JULY EVENTS

- July 2nd: Summer Session I Ends
- July 6th: Summer Session II Begins
- July 6th: Last Day to Apply for Summer 2026 Graduation
- July 7th: Final Grades are Due by 11:59pm (Session I)
- July 10th: Last Day to Withdraw with a grade of a 'W' (Session III)
- July 10th: Last Day to Add/Drop Courses (Session II)
- July 24th: Last Day to Withdraw with a grade of 'W' (Session II)



@BSUGradCenter



GRC@bowiestate.edu



Center for Business & Graduate Studies
Thurgood Marshall Library, 1185

FALL 2026



**GRAD STUDENT
CLASS
REGISTRATION
IS OPEN!**

**DON'T DELAY
REGISTER TODAY**

[Take Me to Bulldog Connection](#)

[Schedule an Advising Appointment](#)



CALL FOR PAPERS

HARMONIZING THE FUTURE: INTERDISCIPLINARY PATHWAYS FOR A RESILIENT SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 8 - 10, 2026

Hotel at the University of Maryland
7777 Baltimore Ave 4th Floor, College Park, MD 20740
Discounted rates are available for conference attendees

In an era defined by rapid technological shifts, political instability, global health challenges, and social evolution, the traditional silos of academia are no longer sufficient. To build a truly resilient society, we must find the "Transformative Synergies" where the precision of STEM, the soul of the Arts, the necessity of Health, the strategic scale of Business, and the foundation of Education converge.

This conference serves as a dynamic forum for faculty, scholars, and graduate students to showcase cutting-edge research that transcends disciplinary boundaries. We invite submissions that explore how these diverse fields can harmonize to create innovative solutions for the complex problems of the 21st century.

REGISTRATION FEE

Bowie State University	\$100
Students, Faculty, and Staff Conference and Gala	
Conference Only	\$75
Gala Only	\$50

IMPORTANT DATES

Proposal submission deadline
August 1, 2026

Proposal acceptance notification
September 1, 2026

Conference
November 8-10, 2026

[Register Here](#)

[Submit a Proposal Here](#)

Organized by
**THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
AT BOWIE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

SPOTLIGHT

MATTHEW AKINMOLAYAN

Computer Science

Meet Matthew Akinmolayan, a Computer Science graduate student at Bowie State University whose research explores the rapidly evolving field of multi-agent reinforcement learning (MARL) for autonomous systems. His work spans applications such as aerial pursuit-evasion, satellite task scheduling, and heterogeneous robot coordination, with a focus on enabling intelligent systems to collaborate effectively in dynamic and resource-constrained environments.

Akinmolayan's research examines how autonomous agents can learn to coordinate, adapt, and make decisions under real-world challenges, including limited resources, partial observability, and adversarial conditions. He develops attention-based MARL frameworks that improve coordination among multiple agents while investigating how models trained in simulation can be successfully transferred to physical robotic platforms. His work has been validated using systems such as Boston Dynamics' Spot and Ghost Robotics' Vision 60.

His academic achievements include presentations at the AAAI 2026 Spring Symposium, IEEE AllIoT 2026, and NAECON 2026, where he has shared research on pursuit-evasion strategies, satellite task scheduling, and transfer learning architectures. In addition to his research contributions, Akinmolayan developed SpotCommandCenter, a telemetry and control platform for Boston Dynamics' Spot robot. He also serves as a Graduate School Ambassador, is a co-founder of GhostApply, and is an Idea to Impact grant recipient.

Beyond the lab, Akinmolayan is actively involved in mentorship, leadership, and professional development through roles such as IBM Ambassador, Adobe Ambassador, Freshman Advocate for Computer Science, Bulldog Coder, and Cyber Warrior. Through his research and service, Akinmolayan is boldly advancing the future of artificial intelligence while exemplifying Bowie State University's commitment to innovation, leadership, and impact.



A CONVERSATION WITH MATTHEW AKINMOLAYAN

Interview by Kamryn Kiser

Kamryn Kiser: Can you explain your research in multi-agent reinforcement learning and what initially drew you to autonomous systems and robotics?

Matthew Akinmolayan: I began my journey as an undergraduate at Bowie State University, where I was introduced to faculty-led research opportunities. Through that experience, I connected with my mentor, Dr. Josyula, and joined a research team focused on robotics and autonomous systems. That work sparked my passion for developing intelligent systems that can operate independently and collaboratively. My research focuses on multi-agent systems, which involve multiple robots or autonomous platforms working together to accomplish a shared goal. The long-term vision is to create autonomous systems that can coordinate effectively, solve complex problems, and operate in real-world environments.

Kiser: What advice would you give to students interested in combining artificial intelligence, robotics, and applied research at the graduate level?

Akinmolayan: One of the most valuable lessons I've learned is the importance of reading existing research. As a graduate student, it's essential to understand what has already been done before starting your own work. AI is a broad field with many different directions, and conducting a thorough literature review helps you identify opportunities for innovation. Reading research papers can save a great deal of time because it helps you understand what works, why it works, and where there may be gaps in the field. From there, you can build upon existing knowledge and develop your own contributions.

Kiser: You're involved in projects related to drones, satellites, and robotics, while also presenting at conferences and recently received the Idea to Impact Grant. How do you stay focused when your scholarship spans so many different areas?

Akinmolayan: I try to ensure that all of my projects share a common foundation. Whether I'm working on autonomous systems, robotics, or artificial intelligence, they all connect back to my core research interests. Having that common thread helps me stay focused and manage multiple projects at once. I also view my time as a graduate student as an opportunity to gain as much knowledge and experience as possible before entering the workforce. That mindset motivates me to stay organized and make the most of every opportunity.

Kiser: What impact do you hope your research will have outside of the classroom or laboratory?

Akinmolayan: Ultimately, I hope my work contributes to making people's lives easier. Whether the impact is immediate or realized years from now, I want my research to create value for others. I also hope that future researchers can build upon the work we're doing today. Research is a continuous process, and if my contributions help advance the field or make it easier for the next generation of researchers to innovate, then I will consider that a meaningful impact.



GRADUATE WRITING SERVICES

ARE YOU WORKING ON A SUMMER PROJECT?

The GRC is here to help!
**EXTENDED HOURS OFFERED
JUNE-AUGUST**



**Register
Here!**

GRC@bowiestate.edu

Grants
Scholarships
**Guidance on navigating
databases & research tools**
Fellowship applications
Personalized sessions
Conference proposals
Journal article support
Group Writing Sessions
Research design feedback
& more!

Tailored Academic Support

GRADUATE WRITING SERVICES



Research editors at the Graduate Research Center focus on helping graduate students grow as academic writers and scholars across disciplines. We support students at any stage in the writing process. We provide feedback on a range of work including research papers, literature reviews, dissertation chapters, grant proposals, and conference presentations.

Offerings:

Brainstorming Consultations

Students talk through approaches they are considering for starting an assignment, drafting sections of longer manuscripts, or even working through structural issues in a current draft. The consultation focuses on using dialogue to explore ideas, ask questions, and gain clarity. Brainstorming consultations are scheduled 24 hours in advance and require an assignment sheet or a short project description.

Read Ahead Consultations

Students will identify a specific challenge that they are facing in a current draft. An editor will read student work before the consultation. The consultation centers on using dialogue to provide constructive feedback, potential strategies, and resources for overcoming the challenge. Consultations are scheduled 48 hours in advance. Requirements for making the appointment include an assignment sheet or a short project description in addition to 5-8 double-spaced manuscript pages or slides.

Thesis/Dissertation Support Groups:

Weekly, noncommittal groups will offer a supportive, flexible space for writers to meet the demands of revising manuscripts and take advantage of dedicated writing time. Sessions will also feature brief workshops focused on enhancing your writing process, trying new revision strategies, using feedback effectively, maximizing writing time, and more.

Dissertation Workshop Series:

The Dissertation Workshop Series guides doctoral students through writing and refining key sections of the dissertation. Workshops will focus on writing a clear problem statement, crafting a comprehensive literature review, describing research methodologies, presenting findings, and highlighting a study's significance.

[Schedule a GRC Service](#)

ACADEMIC ADVISING



Academic advisors at the Graduate Research Center support new and continuing graduate students through the enrollment and registration process, help them understand program requirements, and provide ongoing guidance throughout their academic journey.

Offerings:

In-person and online advising sessions by appointment only.

New Student/Doctoral/Certificate Program Advising:
Ms. Oji

New Student/Master's Program Advising: Ms.
Bradford-Yancey

STATISTICS ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE



Statisticians at the Graduate Research Center provide academic support to graduate students by assisting with statistical concepts, data analysis techniques, and software applications. We help students understand probability, hypothesis testing, regression analysis, and other advanced statistical methods. Services include one-on-one or group sessions, guidance in applying statistical methods to research projects, and clarification on complex topics to enhance comprehension and confidence.

Offerings:

One-on-One or Group Sessions to address challenges directly related to coursework.

Need to Print?

Graduate programs or students in need of printing large images for conference presentations, abstract presentations, posters, etc., may complete the request form below. Materials will be ready for pickup on Mondays and Wednesdays in room 1185 of the Thurgood Marshall Library.

[Print Services Submission Form](#)



SUMMER FACULTY WRITING SUPPORT



FROM THE GRC

Sessions led by Dr. McElroy

The Graduate Research Center is pleased to offer dedicated writing support for faculty throughout the summer. Whether you're developing a new manuscript or preparing a final submission, our team is here to support your work throughout the writing process.

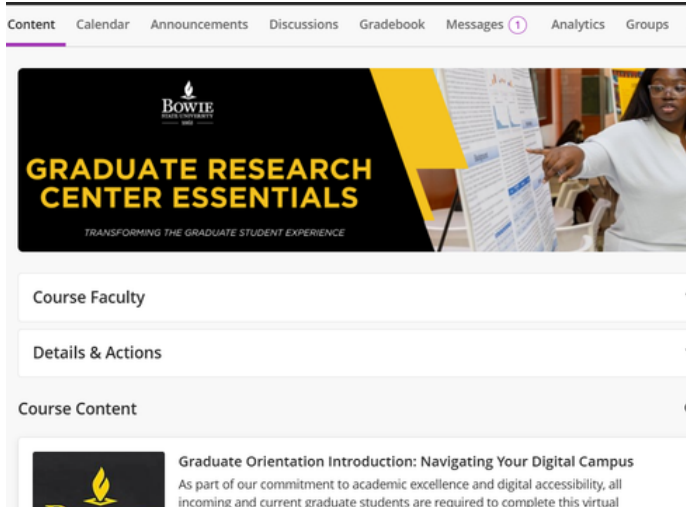
AVAILABLE SERVICES:

- **One-on-one consultations** to discuss project goals, structure, and direction.
- **In-line feedback** on drafts to strengthen clarity, organization, and throughline.
- **Brainstorming sessions** for new ideas, proposals, or revisions.
- **Final reviews** to help prepare manuscripts for submission.



**EMAIL HMCELROY@BOWIESTATE.EDU
TO SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION**

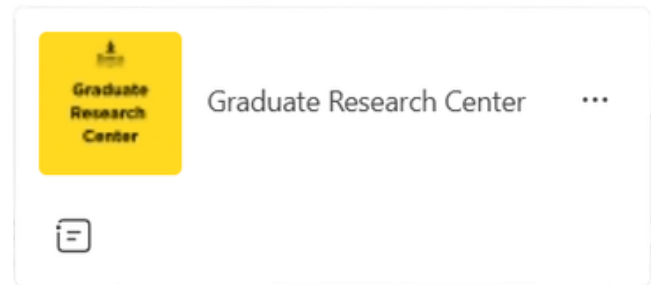
GRC ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE ON NEW PLATFORMS



The Graduate Research Center (GRC) Essentials Blackboard organization is now open to all graduate students. This module is designed to orient students to GRC services while also providing access to essential Graduate School resources.

Students can easily access the organization by visiting [Blackboard](#), logging in, and selecting “organization” on the navigation pane located on the left. Within the GRC Essentials module, students will complete a brief orientation and earn a digital badge to recognize their participation.

The module will remain available throughout the academic year, serving as a convenient point of reference for all things related to the Graduate Research Center and the Graduate School.



In addition to Blackboard, we are excited to announce the launch of the GRC Team Hub, now available to all graduate students and faculty. The hub serves as a centralized resource, offering easy access to pertinent information about GRC services, university personnel, policies, and more. By streamlining these resources into one convenient space, the Team Hub is designed to support academic success, strengthen communication, and foster engagement across the graduate community.

**JOIN THE
HUB
HERE!**



MEET THE GRC STAFF:

DR. KESLA M. HOLDER



Title: Manager, BSU Graduate School

How long have you been with the GRC? 5 years today!

What is your role in supporting graduate students? I oversee day-to-day operations of all services provided by the Graduate School.

What do you enjoy most about working with graduate students? Learning students' unique backgrounds and watching them achieve their goals, fulfill their purpose, and ultimately walk across the graduation stage.

One piece of advice for graduate students: Do it scared or do it bravely—just do it. Never forget why you started your graduate school journey, and when you succeed, reach back and open doors for others.

Coffee or tea? Slowly but surely, I'm becoming a tea connoisseur.

Favorite way to spend a weekend: A good book, a good laugh, extended rest, and a good praise.

Favorite book: The Bible.

Dream travel destination: Cameroon.

Fun Fact: I'm a crazed sports fan.

Early bird or night owl

Sweet or savory

Virtual meetings or in-person

Beach or mountains

"The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision."

Helen Keller



VISIT THE GRADUATE LOUNGE!

Looking for a space to study, collaborate with peers, or work on assignments? Visit the Graduate Lounge in **Thurgood Marshall Library (Room 1185)**. This modern space features seating for 30, 7 computers, 3 private study pods, and a large 80" interactive screen with virtual and touchscreen capabilities.



Thurgood Marshall Library, Room 1185



Bulldog
Card
Required
for Entry

RESERVE THE
GRADUATE
LOUNGE



STAY CONNECTED WITH THE GRC !



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YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!

GRC Feedback Survey



**INTERESTED IN BEING
FEATURED?**

