

Episode 42 – Welcome to Season 3 of Grad-post!

Welcome to Season 3 of Grad-post! Wait! There's two previous seasons of this thing? I've never seen your face on my screen before! Well, that's because this is the first video podcast of Grad-post. More on why that in a moment but let me introduce Grad-post to you if you're new. I'm your host, Brian S. Mitchell. I'm a former graduate school dean and emeritus faculty member at a research-intensive university in the Southern United States.

Helping me out today are Bayou and Eubie. Both are rescue pups with very different personalities. Bayou is very sweet and emphatic but also very solitary because she's part Shiba Inu. She'd have a master's degree in social work or a PhD in clinical psychology if she were human. She's named after the beautiful waterways that surround us here in the Gulf South. Eubie is named after the famous jazz pianist Eubie Blake because of his big paws and black and white coloring like a piano. Check out a cast of [Eubie Blake's hands in the National Museum of African American History & Culture](#). Eubie is also smart, but he'd much rather just play fetch all day. They'll be helping me from time to time on these video podcasts.

But I didn't start podcasting because of them. I started this podcast after retiring in 2023 as a platform to talk about life before, during, and after graduate school, and whether an advanced degree is right for you. I felt there wasn't a lot of good information on master's and doctoral education out there, especially for students interested in pursuing an advanced degree. So, I'm drawing upon my experiences as a graduate dean and research mentor, as well as my network of students, colleagues, and experts to bring you the most complete information on graduate education that I can.

Seasons 1 and 2 are totally audio-only podcasts and most of Season 3 will stay that way. I'm putting out this video teaser for Season 3 just so it helps draw a wider audience. As you can see, there's not a lot of benefit to seeing my grey beard, but if a 5 minute video helps land this episode in your feed then I'm all for it. I may throw in a video podcast from time to time, especially when I am interviewing people, but please don't let the lack of video stop you from downloading the podcasts and listening at your leisure.

I've already touched on a lot of topics that may be of interest to you in Seasons 1 and 2, including the benefits of pursuing an advanced degree, how to find a program that fits your needs, how to select a research advisor, and even my origin story. Season 2 especially was devoted to applying to grad school, so if you are currently an undergrad thinking about grad school, check out [Episodes 16 through 41](#). I also have a number of episodes devoted to international students, everything from securing that F-1 visa to finding housing in a foreign country. But this season I thought I would focus primarily on those of you in your first year of graduate school. It's all strange and new! We'll talk about your first year of graduate-level coursework, preparing for your qualifying or comprehensive exams, and even dig deep into socialization theory to help you fit in your new environment.

We'll continue to tackle those thorny topics relevant to graduate education more broadly as well, since things are changing rapidly in higher education. I certainly have my opinions on all of this, but I also try to keep things factual with links and other resources for you to investigate yourself.

New episodes drop about every two weeks, generally on Friday mornings so you have something to do for the weekend! Please join me for Season 3. As I always say: every degree counts. Let me help you navigate the world of getting and using an advanced degree.

Links

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/cast-eubie-blakes-hands>

<https://grad-post.com/podcast-archive>