Grad Connections
Spring 2012
A Newsletter for OSU Graduate Students

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, JUNE 17TH, 2012 - 3:00 pm

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Spring term has started, and the Graduate School wants to provide you with information on upcoming deadlines, useful information as you go through your program, and new ways to connect with other students, advisors and graduate faculty. We hope that this newsletter will be helpful to you and that you will stop by 300 Kerr if you have additional questions, or if we can assist you in any way. Also, don’t hesitate to contact me at any time. My contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Spring 2012 Commencement Participation

- Students wishing to participate in Commencement must do the following:
  - Apply for Graduation: diploma application deadline has been extended to April 13th, 2012. Please do so ASAP.
  - Confirm attendance no later than April 27th, 2012. Anyone not confirming attendance by this date, will not be able to attend this year’s Commencement due to enhanced security.

- Your program of study should be submitted fifteen weeks before your final examination, if not already approved by the Graduate School. If you have not submitted your program of study, please do so now, not at the time you schedule your exam.

- Your final oral examinations need to be scheduled with the Graduate School ahead of time - two weeks for both masters’ and doctoral final oral exams. Exam scheduling forms are available on the Graduate School web site: http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/phpforms/event.php.

- Students who wish to request a leave of absence must submit the request for leave to the Graduate School 15 working days prior to the beginning of the term. Leave forms are available on the Graduate School web site: http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/forms.php.
• The Graduate School administers a program that is designed to provide part of the costs of attending and presenting scholarly achievements at prestigious conferences and venues. For travel between May 1 and September 30, the deadline is May 1, 2012. Details about the program can be found at: http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/travel.php.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT
Sigma Xi
Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, offers “Grants in Aid of Research” of up to $1000 to graduate students in all areas of science and engineering. Students can use the funding to pay for travel expenses to and from a research site, or for purchase of non-standard laboratory equipment necessary to complete a specific research project. Deadlines are March 15 and October 15 annually. More information is available at: http://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/giar/

Fulbright U.S. Student Program
Thinking of applying for a Fulbright grant for study or research abroad? The 2013-14 Fulbright U.S. Student Program application cycle opens May 1. Interested students currently enrolled at OSU can contact Marit Legler, the Fulbright Program graduate adviser (marit.legler@oregonstate.edu). More information can also be found at: http://us.fulbrightonline.org/home.html. The OSU campus deadline for Fulbright applications is September 24, 2012.

GTA/GRA Positions
If you are looking for a GTA or a GRA position, please check Beaver JobNet or the Graduate School website for announcements.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Library Workshops
Whether you are a new student learning to use library resources here at OSU, or an experienced student looking for motivation to organize all the articles you found over the break, the library has a workshop that can help you out with that. All library workshops are free, so sign up now! Register and find out more information about the following workshops at this site: http://ica.library.oregonstate.edu/subject-guide/656.

Mentors, Mentees, and Mentorship - Being Effective
What should you expect from your advisor as a Graduate Student? What should your graduate advisor expect from you? Sometimes expectations differ between the student and the advisor and this can lead to a number of issues. As Gene Russo (2011) commented on in his recent article in Nature (http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v475/n7357/full/nj7357-533a.html), many students do not know what to expect when they start their graduate program, and many advisors expect their new students to be just like they were when they went through their programs. But times change and cultures evolve. Quoting Russo, “Advisors might not be doing enough to help graduate students to navigate the
difficult later stages of their degrees — at least, the survey suggests that students perceive a deficiency.” The Graduate School offers professional development training and guidance for students, advisors and supervisors to ensure that mentoring is effective http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/mentoring.php

Mentoring Workshop
Put Your Science To Work by Peter Fiske, PhD
The Graduate School is inviting Dr. Fiske for the second year to present a workshop at OSU based on his book entitled “Put Your Science To Work: Practical Advice and Proven Techniques to Land The Job of Your Dreams”.
The workshop is scheduled for:

Friday, May 11th, 2012
1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
MU 109

To register, please go to: https://www.123signup.com/register?id=szdcx

Postdoctoral Programs Workshops:
- April 17, 12:00-1:30 in Milam 215 - Writing Your Personal Teaching Philosophy. Dr. Robin Pappas will lead the workshop, which is designed to help you develop your own, personal teaching philosophy to include in your job applications and also to guide you in your growth as an educator. There were about 15 people signed up for the original workshop that was cancelled due to snow and we hope many of you will be able to accommodate the new date. Pizza will be provided for those who let us know at least a day in advance that they will be coming.
- April 25, KEC 1007 - International Workshop for Postdocs. The Office of Postdoctoral Programs (OPP) will collaborate with the International Scholar and Faculty Services office to provide information and answer questions about international work, both from the perspective of international scholars who work here and from the perspective of US scholars who are interested in international work. This will be a discussion-oriented session. If you send ideas and questions in advance, the ISFS staff will be prepared to respond to them. Lunch will be provided for those who sign up at least a day in advance.

Mediators Beyond Borders
Are you an OSU student interested in learning mediation skills? The Mediators Beyond Borders chapter at Oregon State University (MBB-OSU) is seeking applications from students who wish to participate in a FREE 32-hour basic mediation training, which will take place from 8am-5pm on April 14, 15, 21 and 22 on the OSU campus. Applications can be found on our blog at http://mbbosu.wordpress.com/ . Submit your application by email to mediators@oregonstate.edu to be considered for this great opportunity. For more information, find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MBBOSU<http://www.facebook.com/MBBOSU>) or send an email to mediators@oregonstate.edu to be added to the list-serve.
Natural Resources Leadership Academy
This summer OSU will host its first-ever Natural Resources Leadership Academy. This unique offering is designed for graduate students and natural resources professionals to enhance leadership skills, gain knowledge and connect with others in their field.

The academy will be held June 18-22 and June 25-29 on campus in Corvallis, and includes courses in the areas of conflict management, communication, sustainable natural resources and leadership. Pre-registration for the academy is now open and is required for all participants. Courses are reserved on a first come, first served basis. Learn more and register online at http://outreach.oregonstate.edu/nrla/ceu.php

SUPPORT SERVICES
New University Ombuds Office
The New University Ombuds Office provides an informal, impartial, and confidential* means of conflict resolution to all members of the campus community. It is the goal of the Ombuds to foster a culture of healthy, safe and open dialogue, and encourage cooperative problem resolution. If you contact this office to address a specific conflict, the Ombuds will listen to your concerns, hear all perspectives, value diversity, assist you with exploring options for resolution, provide facilitation or mediation services when appropriate, and remain impartial to all parties involved.

Educating the university community is an important component of preventing conflicts from escalating, and can help enable university students and employees to effectively address adversity themselves. Training is available in alternative conflict management techniques, theory, and practice. The University Ombuds Office aims to create an environment which supports the early and effective management of conflict. The office is located in Waldo Hall, Room 113. For more information call 541-737-7028.

*Confidentiality cannot be promised in matters relating to serious crime, or if there is imminent risk of serious harm. Speaking with an Ombuds does not constitute legal notice to the University of any problems, concern or complaint. You must pursue alternative complaint avenues if you wish to obligate the University to respond in any way.

Graduate Women’s Network (GWN)
The Graduate Women’s Network (GWN) is a social gathering specifically for Graduate Women at OSU to network, learn from guest speakers and special guests, and build connections.

Next gatherings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, April 18th - 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm - Women’s Center
- Wednesday, May 16th - 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm - Women’s Center
Please Contact Sarah McConnel, SisterScholars Program Coordinator (sarah.mcconnel@oregonstate.edu or 541-737-3175), if you have questions, comments, or would like to request any accommodation. Please note that the Women’s Center is a child-friendly space.

Library Services for Graduate Students
Did you know the library has a website just for graduate students? Click on the “grad students” link on the library’s homepage: http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/graduate-students, and learn more about interlibrary loan and scan and deliver document service, finding theses and dissertations, using the library as a GTA, or about library workshops for graduate students.

Steps to Success
- You will find flow charts for masters and doctoral programs in the "Guide to Success" on the Graduate School web site http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/current/success.html. These are thumbnail guides to your degree and will help you move successfully to completion of your degree.
- If you are a master's candidate in your first year, you should be meeting with your advisor to develop your program of study. You may find details about master's programs of study at these two sites, http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=39#Section2264 and http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/current/forms.html#program. Details about doctoral programs of study can be found at http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=40.

Graduate Christian Fellowship
The Graduate Christian Fellowship is a student-led organization that meets weekly on campus for Bible study and fellowship activities. We meet for Bible study Tuesdays at 5pm in the lobby of the MU, and everyone is welcome. Contact Brooke at peterscb@onid.orst.edu for more information about the group and upcoming activities.

CORRECTING MISPERCEPTIONS and FAQs ABOUT GRADUATE EDUCATION AT OSU
In Winter 2012, the OSU Graduate School (in collaboration with CGE, ASOSU, Mediators Beyond Borders, and Team Liberation) hosted a series of in-person and online open forums in an effort to hear the concerns and ideas of graduate students for the improvement of graduate education and the graduate student experience at OSU. The report contained many excellent suggestions that the Graduate School, in conjunction with others on campus, is working to address through our 5-year Strategic Plan and ongoing projects. The report also contained misperceptions and questions circulating among the graduate student body. We would like to take a moment in this newsletter to help correct some of these inaccuracies and provide answers to some of your FAQ. It is our hope that we will continue to achieve greater communication and
clarity with each of you throughout your tenure at OSU. We encourage you to review the 5-year Strategic Plan when it is released later this term to see a sample of some of the innovative ways we hope to advance excellence in graduate education here at OSU, and to visit our website often for important announcements about funding opportunities, deadlines, workshop opportunities, and exciting news.

FAQ: What courses count toward the 12-credit minimum per term for Graduate Teaching Assistants, Graduate Research Assistantships, and Graduate Fellows?
Answer: Both graduate and undergraduate courses count toward the 12-credit minimum per term for those receiving financial support through a GTA/GRA/Graduate Fellowship. However, we encourage you to insure that throughout your program studies, you are taking plenty of graduate-level courses so that you may achieve the graduate credit number minimum needed for your Program of Study and graduation requirements. For more information on the Program of Study and graduation requirements, please visit the Graduate School website at www.oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school

FAQ: E-campus courses do not count toward the 12-credit minimum and they are not covered by my tuition waiver. Why is that?
Answer: This is a common misperception that is no longer true. As of Fall 2011, the university began a 1-year trial that allows e-campus courses to be covered by your tuition waiver as part of your GTA/GRA/Graduate Fellowship support package. E-campus courses also do count toward your 12-credit minimum per term.

FAQ: There is no one to talk to if I am having problems with my advisor. What do I do?
Answer: There are multiple resources we encourage you to explore if you are having troubles with your advisor or another faculty/staff member, or if you want a safe space to discuss ways to improve communication with your colleagues. First and foremost, OSU is pleased to welcome Sue Theiss, our new University Ombuds. Sue’s responsibilities are described elsewhere in this newsletter. The Ombuds’ major function is to provide confidential and informal assistance to the university community by listening to concerns, clarifying issues, proposing options for resolution, providing information and referrals, and if all parties agree, facilitating informal, nonbinding mediation.” We urge you to contact Sue Theiss to set-up your free, confidential appointment at any time: Waldo Hall 113, 541-737-7028, sue.theiss@oregonstate.edu

Additional resources to help you navigate difficult relations and experiences at OSU include:
1. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), http://oregonstate.edu/counsel, caps@oregonstate.edu, 500 Snell Hall, or 541-737-2131.
2. Coalition of Graduate Employees (CGE), http://cge6069.org/ or president@cge6069.org
3. Associated Students of Oregon State University (ASOSU) Graduate Student Affairs, http://asosu.oregonstate.edu/graduate-affairs, Snell 149, Graduate.Affairs@oregonstate.edu
Finally, you are welcome to speak with any of the Graduate School staff about your issues, questions, ideas or advice you may seek. I (Dr. Brenda McComb, Dean of the OSU Graduate School) take students to lunch (my treat!) to hear their ideas and concerns periodically throughout the term, and you are welcome to make a personal meeting appointment with me as well. Please contact my assistant, Nagwa Naguib at 541-737-1456 or Nagwa.Naguib@oregonstate.edu to set-up an appointment for lunch or a personal meeting. My direct contact information is: Brenda.McComb@oregonstate.edu or 541-737-4881. I also encourage you to contact Courtney Everson, GRA and Graduate Student Liaison for the OSU Graduate School, to discuss your ideas and concerns with a fellow graduate colleague. Courtney can be reached at eversonc@onid.orst.edu

FAQ: Graduate Assistantship (GTA/GRA) positions are not advertised openly or in any central place. Is there anywhere I can go to find out about open assistantship positions across campus?
Answer: Yes! As of Fall 2011, we have instituted two main methods by which to advertise open Graduate Assistantship positions:
  1. The Graduate School’s website continuously posts open assistantship announcements that we receive from departments and administrative units. Please check our “Announcements Page” frequently for updates.
  2. Beaver JobNet also hosts open assistantships announcements submitted by departments and administrative units. Please check Beaver JobNet frequently for updates at http://oregonstate.edu/career/beaver-jobnet

Both of these methods rely on departments and units to send us and Beaver JobNet the open assistantship position information. We encourage all departments and units to post their open assistantship positions to both of these sites, and we will continue to explore ways to increase the receipt and visibility of open positions.

FAQ: Why do graduate students pay more than undergraduates for the same Slash class?
Answer: Graduate students pay graduate-level tuition to cover the costs associated with additional graduate curriculum components and graduate education services. While the course may be a slash course and feel “the same” at times, the graduate tuition helps to cover the additional costs associated with insuring quality graduate-level components and curriculum offerings.

FAQ: What is the difference between a Graduate Pathway program and a Graduate degree program?
Answer: A Graduate Pathway program is a non-degree program that provides international students with the opportunity to better prepare themselves for graduate study in a Business or Engineering professional program (MBA or MEng). During the time the student is in the Graduate Pathway, he/she is an OSU non-degree student. A student admitted into a degree-seeking program at OSU is a graduate student studying towards a Master’s or PhD and is an OSU degree-seeking student. Both an OSU non-
FAQ: How is the University assisting international students to navigate the rules and regulations of the OSU system, particularly given the recent increase in the international student population?

Answer: Work is currently being done across campus to address this issue. OSU is offering several different fall U Engage classes and specific issues are also addressed during orientation. INTO OSU and International Programs are collaborating with New Student Programs to develop an online continuing orientation program. INTO OSU has revamped its American Survival course to include not only information on US culture, but also information on core University and community values, regulations, laws, etc. Assisting international students in this way is an on-going process and we are very interested in further identifying ways in which we can be helpful. Students are encouraged to provide suggestions. The University has added more employees to assist international students, but more needs to be done. Currently, discussions are on-going about how to best deploy resources in a tight budget environment. International Student Advising and Services currently offers daily drop-in and appointment advising hours (morning and afternoon) in two locations on campus (Heckart Lodge and the International Living and Learning Center). Advisors also respond to telephone and email inquiries, provide a variety of informational workshops during the term, and maintain a comprehensive website.

FAQ: As an international student, what are my options to legally stay in the U.S. after graduation and where do I go for advice?

Answer: International Student Advising and Services (ISAS) offers bi-weekly sessions on how to obtain post-graduation employment authorization. ISAS also partners with an immigration attorney to offer a bi-annual workshop on H-1B visas so students can better understand their options for obtaining a professional work visa. Due to immigration regulations, there are few post-graduation options. If international students want to stay in the US after their studies and need assistance beyond work authorization or transfer to another program, they will need to contact an immigration attorney. ASOSU is currently looking into the possibility of hiring a part-time immigration attorney for OSU students.

FAQ: Where do I go to find resources on student support services, funding options, employment issues, subsidies, academics, life in Corvallis, and my life as a grad student at OSU?

Answer: There are many sites and offices on-campus that provide support services and resources to graduate students. Each entity may cater to a different aspect of your life as a graduate student, and we encourage you to become familiar with the multitude of resources available in the university at-large and within your specific graduate departments and programs. Below we provide a list of essential resource sites to help you get started in your individualized searches:
• ASOSU Graduate Affairs: http://asosu.oregonstate.edu/graduate-affairs
• Cascades Student Resources & Support: www.osucascades.edu/studentresources
• Coalition of Graduate Employees (CGE): http://cge6069.org
• Graduate School Main Page: www.oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school
• Graduate School Resource Page*: http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/studentresources.php
  *This resource page includes an additional Campus-Wide Resource Guide, which can be linked to directly by visiting: http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/resourceguide.php
• International Programs: www.oregonstate.edu/international/atosu/resources
• Library - Graduate Students: http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/graduate-students
• Office of Human Resources - Life Balance: www.oregonstate.edu/admin/hr/lifebalanceosu/student_resources
• Office of the Dean of Student Life: http://oregonstate.edu/deanofstudents/students/resources.php
• Student Support Services: www.oregonstate.edu/dept/sss/useful-resources-within-osu

**KEEP IN TOUCH**

**Lunch with the Dean**
Throughout the academic year, I will be taking 5-6 students out to lunch every Friday. If you want to schedule a time to have lunch with me, please contact my Executive Assistant Nagwa Naguib at Nagwa.Naguib@oregonstate.edu. We usually meet at the MU a little before noon and go to Pangea or to a place on Monroe.

**OSU Graduate School’s 5-Year Strategic Plan**
The OSU Graduate School is pleased to be in the final stages of drafting our 5-year strategic plan. The purpose of the plan is to identify goals, objectives and pathways through which we may improve and advance excellence in graduate education and the graduate student experience. The anticipated release date for the plan is end of Spring term 2012, and the start date for the 5-year mark is Summer term 2012. The plan will be posted on the Graduate School’s website once finalized by the University Provost. Thank you to all the graduate students who participated in the Open Forums Project and contributed ideas to the development of this agenda.

**Growing Graduate Fellowships**
The Graduate School is embarking on its first Capital Campaign effort focused on raising funds to establish endowments for Graduate Fellowships and Scholarships. Through the generosity of a Graduate Program Alumna, a Graduate Fellowship in Conservation Biology is being established by Angie Evenden and when complete this fellowship will provide the funding to support a Graduate Research Assistantship in perpetuity in this area. Such interdisciplinary fellowships are administered by the Graduate School and others which are more disciplinary in nature, are administered
by academic colleges. You can help us support graduate fellowships for future students. We have 2482 graduate faculty and over 3700 current graduate students. Imagine if each of these 6000+ individuals contributed just $10 or more each toward this effort we could be well on our way to establishing the endowments needed to support students in the future. Contributing is easy: Go to our home page: http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/ and in the bottom left corner is the weblink to make an online donation. Alternatively, faculty and staff can make a donation directly from your monthly paycheck, just as I do.

**The Graduate School on Facebook**
To keep up with news about OSU graduate students, and make other connections, consider adding our Facebook page to your Favorites.
http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/osu.graduateschool.page

**Check our Web Page for News**
The Graduate School frequently updates the “Announcements” on its home page (http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/). Please check it for news, workshops, funding opportunities, and other events.

*Have a great Spring Term!!!*

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