Dear graduate students,

I hope that the semester is going well for all of you and that you enjoyed fall break. In addition to our academics and research, I hope you have been able to take advantage of the many activities and programs that have been taking place across campus.

Last month, more than 750 Princeton black alumni and their guests gathered on campus for a weekend of exciting lectures, social activities, and inspiring discussions spanning disciplines and generations during the “Coming Back: Reconnecting Princeton’s Black Alumni” conference. Organized by the Office of the Alumni Association, this event marked the third black alumni conference held at the University, after “Coming Back and Looking Forward” in 2006 and “Coming Back, Moving Forward” in 2009. During the conference, President Christopher L. Eisgruber affirmed the University’s commitment to and views on the importance of diversity and inclusion at Princeton. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of events, including a celebration of Nobel laureate Toni Morrison. I hope that many of you took advantage of this opportunity to connect with our black alumni and also get a sense of the progress Princeton has made in regards to diversity and retention of students of color over the years.

This month, we also celebrate the accomplishments of twenty-two graduate students who have been named recipients of highly competitive honorific fellowships. We proudly acknowledge:

- Porter Odgen Jacobus Fellows – Yu Deng, mathematics; Evan Helper-Smith, history of science; Catharine Reilly, comparative literature; Kimberly Shepard, chemical and biological engineering; Charlotte Elizabeth Procter Fellows – Matthew Birkhold, German; Eleanor Brush, quantitative and computational biology; Gabriel Lopez-Moctezuma, politics; Victor Mikhailov, physics; Jonathan Squire, plasma physics; Melissa Tuckman, English; Xingchen Wang, geosciences; Liesl Yamaguchi, comparative literature; Adrian Young, history of science; Harold W. Dodds Fellows – Daniel Berntson, philosophy; Catherine Evans, history; Patrick Ishizuka, sociology; Rebecca Littman, psychology; Warren Rieutort-Louis, electrical engineering; and Michael Sockin, economics; Wallace Memorial Fellows in Engineering – John Cannarella, mechanical and aerospace engineering; George Khoury, chemical and biological engineering; Whiting Fellows in the Humanities – Nathan Hodson, near eastern studies; Takashi Miura, religion; Roy Scranton, English; Melissa Texeria, history; Georgina White, classics; and Myhrvold-Havranek Innovative Thinking Fellow – Rachael Barry, molecular biology. Congratulations!

Our goal is to see each and every graduate student excel in the classroom, in your research, and beyond. The Graduate School’s staff, along with your advisers, directors of graduate studies, program administrators, and others across the University are here to help you on your journey to degree completion. Please continue to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns about available resources, support services, or any other aspect of your graduate education.

As always, I look forward to hearing about your tremendous accomplishments, and continue to wish you much success!

Did you know that regularly enrolled graduate students not currently living in the GC or on a meal plan will receive free meals in Procter Hall?

This year, the Graduate School is rolling out a new initiative that will provide six free meals per semester to dine in Procter Hall for all regularly enrolled graduate students not currently living in the Graduate College or otherwise on a meal plan. Procter Hall, the magnificent dining hall at the Graduate College, serves as a place for graduate students to meet one another and develop relationships that will span your time at Princeton.

This initiative will kick off with a series of engaging events at the Graduate College. We invite all students, regardless of residential community, to come out to the Gatherings at the GC.

Event Dates

Making Meaningful Connections
Tuesday, November 4, 7-8 p.m.
Old Graduate College
Coffee House (Entryway 12)

The reality is that over 70% of all job seekers will learn about an opportunity and land a job through a connection made via an informal conversation (aka: networking). Learn more about the resources available such as the TigerNet Alumni Directory and LinkedIn, and how to use them to connect with Princeton alumni and professionals in positions beyond the academy. Sign up with Olivia at omartel@princeton.edu.

Sponsored by the Graduate School and Office of Career Services.

TigerTrot
Friday, November 7, 3-5 p.m.
Dillon Gym

The 6th Annual Tiger Trot for Hunger is a 5K walk or run around campus that occurs every year as a food drive for the Crisis Ministry of Princeton. Be fit, have some fun and support a great cause by joining our graduate student team! Spouses and partners are also welcome.

Entry fee is a non-perishable food item or donation to The Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton. Pre-registration is required.

Please contact Loan Le at lle@princeton.edu to join our team and receive the registration form. There will be Graduate school sponsored snacks and beverages at the end of the race, while supplies last!

Sponsored by Campus Recreation and the Graduate School.

Keeping Things in Perspective
Tuesday, November 11, 12-1 p.m.
Campus Club Library, corner of Prospect and Washington Road

Shifting our way of thinking can improve our lives. Through the practice of mindfulness, people can view a situation in a completely different way and figure out ways to solve problems. Research suggests that we can train our minds to not sweat the small stuff. We will discuss strategies to keep things in perspective and to work with what is surfacing in our lives at any given time. Facilitated by Shefalika Gandhi, LCSW. A healthy lunch will be served. The event is free. This event is open to Princeton University Graduate students. Spouses/partners may also attend with permission. Sign-ups are encouraged but a number of walk-ins will be allowed. Sign up with Olivia at omartel@princeton.edu.

Sponsored by the Graduate School and University Health Services.

For a full events calendar visit: http://gradschool.princeton.edu/eventsall.

 Interested in studying at the University of Tokyo?

Participate in the graduate study or research exchange for the academic year 2015-16. The Winter Term begins September 2015 and the Summer Term begins April 2016. Please contact Dean Elaine Willey, ewilley@princeton.edu for more information.

UNCF/Merck Fellowships Deadline: Tuesday, December 2

At least ten UNCF/Merck Postdoctoral Science Research Fellowship awards will be made in 2014. Each award is up to a maximum of $92,000 and consists of a fellowship stipend of up to $77,000 for the award recipient and a research grant of up to $15,000. Applications are being accepted for the:

Science Research Dissertation Fellowship for African American Ph.D. candidates engaged in dissertation research in the biological, chemical or engineering fields; and

Postdoctoral Science Research Fellowship for African American post-graduate students in the biological, chemical or engineering fields.

Read more at http://umsi.uncf.org/sif.

A Message from the Graduate Student Government (GSG)

In October, the Graduate Student Government hosted its annual Wine and Cheese party at Campus Club, which was very successful with over 500 attendees. We also published an official letter with policy recommendations for the Lakeside Apartment transition. The Graduate School and Housing Office have both committed to: the continued maintenance of the Butler and Stanworth Apartment complexes throughout the delay; significantly more frequent and more detailed communications; and flexible organization of the moving process. We continue to advocate for appropriate compensation, particularly for those students who have suffered financial losses as a result of the delayed opening of Lakeside.

The GSG will host a regular monthly assembly meeting and Pub Night on November 12. We welcome feedback any time at gsg@princeton.edu.

PIVOT

Create your profile now at http://pivot.cos.com/funding_main! Pivot is an online service anyone at Princeton can use to find funding and collaboration opportunities from around the world. Funding opportunities for graduate students are specially labeled and searchable in Pivot. One of Pivot’s best features is the ability to create searches and then receive weekly email alerts with new opportunities posted in the past week that match those search terms.

A “Pivot At A Glance” Guide is available at http://www.princeton.edu/orpa/finding-funding/Pivot.pdf that summarizes Pivot and includes instructions for registration.