Graduate School Newsletter • October 2014

Reflections from Dean Kulkarni

Time certainly flies and here we are in the month of October already. This year marks a busy and exciting time in the Graduate School. We recently launched our new website at http://gradschool.princeton.edu, the result of a year long project aimed at building a lively, engaging site that would be a resource to current graduate students. The new site features sections on Fields of Study, which outlines degree requirements by department or program; Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs); and even a new Staff Directory, complete with areas of responsibilities to help direct student inquiries to the appropriate Graduate School staff member. I hope that you will visit the site as a first point of contact when looking for information on policies, news, forms, support programs, and anything else you might need.

To keep our website fresh with new content, I ask that you send us stories of your academic and personal successes. We want to hear from you about all the great progress you are making towards your doctoral or master’s degree, and any awards or opportunities that have come your way. We recognize that our graduate students are amongst Princeton’s most valued assets and our graduate students are amongst our most valued assets and we seek to shine a spotlight on your achievements. You can send your updates and any questions about our website or any other communications from our office to Communications Manager Zia Best at zbest@princeton.edu.

At new student Orientation the talented Student Life staff, led by Associate Dean Lisa Schreyer, welcomed our first year graduate students and shared information about many of the continuing orientation events that will take place throughout the year. I am especially excited about the First Year Receptions that I will host at my residence, Wyman House. The receptions will be an opportunity for you to engage with fellow first year grad students and administrators from the Graduate School. I am excited about getting to meet you all individually and introduce you to staff members in the Graduate School who are available to assist you as you pursue your advanced degree at Princeton. First years, remember to check your email for your invitation.

In the September 2014 newsletter, we said farewell to Karen Jackson-Weaver, former associate dean for academic affairs and diversity. Although her departure was a great loss to the Princeton community, this was an opportunity to restructure staff positions in the Graduate School in a way that allows us to further build on our diversity efforts. In particular, we will expand the support, both academic and co-curricular, that we offer to the graduate student body as we work towards the goals of diversity and inclusion outlined in last year’s Report of the Trustee Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity. A year ago we had two individuals to help bolster diversity efforts. We will now have four individuals whose primary focus will be on diversity and inclusion, and who will work together with Lisa Schreyer, the associate dean for student life, and Cole Crittenden, the associate dean for academic affairs, to form a collaborative team to address issues of diversity and inclusion from both the academic and student life perspectives. We will be hiring two new staff members who will report to Dean Schreyer: an assistant dean for student life and diversity, and a coordinator to support our diversity efforts. Diana Hill Mitchell, who joined the Graduate School six months ago as assistant dean for academic affairs and diversity, along with Jennifer Loessy, the coordinator for academic affairs and diversity, will round out the team and report to Dean Crittenden. Both assistant deans working on issues of diversity and inclusion will meet regularly with me and also with Michelle Minter, the vice provost for institutional equity and diversity. We recently posted a website announcement that reaffirms our commitment to diversity and further outlines these enhancements in the Graduate School. See http://gradschool.princeton.edu/news/graduate-school-add-two-new-diversity-positions-staff.

As always, I wish you the best and much success!

Call for Applications for the 2014-15 Teagle Teaching Seminar - October 7 Deadline

Princeton’s McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, in partnership with the Graduate School, will convene its expanded offering of the year-long teaching seminar for graduate students and faculty from a variety of academic departments. The seminar provides a unique environment, particularly important in a research university, for participants to focus intensively on the goals and practices of teaching as well as the challenges encountered by their undergraduate students as they confront the unique assumptions and conventions of disciplines across the curriculum. Through, participants engage with current research and literature on a range of experiences and can practice their teaching as well as assess and reflect on their students’ achievements.

The Seminar features graduate students and faculty participants, three to four sessions per semester with whole group meetings on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with brunch, small breakout group meetings, and critical reading and discussion of current scholarship and research in effective pedagogy and learning as well as activities to apply these discussions to the classroom.

Interested post-graduates graduate students should visit gradschool.princeton.edu/news/call-applications-2014-15-teagle-teaching-seminar for details on eligibility and how to apply before the October 7, 2014 deadline.

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15. Learn more at http://gradschool.princeton.edu/academics/degree-deadlines

Did You Know?

There are five degree deadlines throughout the year for graduate students to apply for an advanced degree. The next deadline is October 31, for degrees to be awarded on November 15. Learn more at http://gradschool.princeton.edu/academics/degree-deadlines.

A Message from the Graduate Student Government (GSG)

The Graduate Student Government has spent September working on a number of important advocacy issues for graduate students. We were joined at our September assembly meeting by Kim Jackson, the director of transportation and parking services. She provided an overview of transportation options on campus, and answered many questions from graduate students. We appreciate her taking the time to collect feedback from graduate students, and look forward to improved transportation options in the future.

The Graduate Student Government also hosted a Town Hall meeting to discuss the delayed opening of the Lakeside Apartments. Graduate Students are understandably frustrated with the additional delays, and this meeting served to collect feedback and possible solutions to the issues graduate students have encountered. We have been and will continue to work with the University to ensure that the Lakeside transition is as fair and efficient as possible. The GSG will host our regular monthly assembly meeting on October 8, and is looking forward to the Wine and Cheese party later in the month.

Boren Fellowship Info Session
Tuesday, October 14, 4:30 p.m.
Robertson Hall, room 015

Boren Fellowships provide up to $30,000 to U.S. graduate students to expand an important international and language component to their graduate education through specialization in area study, language study, or increased language proficiency. Boren Fellowships support study and research in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests, including Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. This session is for enrolled (not graduating) graduate students who are U.S. citizens.

Fellowship Dates

Bosch Fellowship and Alfa Fellowship Programs Info Session
Wednesday, October 8, 12:15 p.m.
Robertson Hall, room 011

Bosch Fellowships are in Germany for U.S. citizens: http://culturalvistas.org/programs-for-students-and-professionals/professional-fellowships/robert-bosch-foundation-fellowship-program.

Alfa Fellowships are in Russia for U.S., UK or German citizens: http://culturalvistas.org/programs-for-students-and-professionals/professional-fellowships/alfa-fellowship.

DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service Campus Application Deadline
Thursday, October 23

The DAAD fellowship application for study in Germany is currently open through October 23. The DAAD grant is awarded to highly qualified Ph.D. candidates with ABD (All But Dissertation) status who need to conduct research in Germany. Princeton may nominate two “priority” candidates for the Research Grant. All other candidates will be forwarded for consideration in the open competition. Students from all disciplines are eligible. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. or Canada. Foreign nationals are eligible if they have been full-time students at an accredited U.S. or Canadian University for at least two years at the time of application.

Students must be nominated by their department in order to apply with the Graduate School’s endorsement and to be considered for a "priority" candidate slot. The director of graduate studies must submit a letter of nomination (including a rank order if more than one student from the department) to the Graduate School before the application deadline.

For information about these and other external fellowships, please contact Assistant Dean Elaine Willey at ewilley@princeton.edu.

Event Dates

Career & Life Vision Workshop
Wednesday, October 8, 6-9 p.m.
Lewis Library, room 120

All Princeton students are invited to attend a new Career & Life Vision workshop led by executive director for the Office of Career Services, Pulin Sanghvi. This workshop utilizes exercises and small group interactions to help you articulate your values, beliefs and purpose. You will leave with a new understanding of yourself and inspiration to follow the path most consistent with your unique vision of a happy and meaningful career and life. Sandwiches, salad, sushi, and sweets will be served. RSVP at http://bit.ly/XDGTZf.

The Scholar as Teacher Series: Alberto Bruzos Moro, “Virtual Exchange and Telecollaboration
Tuesday, October 14, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
330 Frist

In this series, faculty members distinguished for their teaching offer reflections on their practice as teachers. Lunch is provided. Seating is limited. Please RSVP by October 10 using this link: https://odocweb.princeton.edu/rsvp/rsvp_event.php?sharepoint_id=1393. Sponsored by the McGraw Center.

LGBTQA Pride Dinner
Wednesday, October 15, 6-7:30 p.m.
Graduate College, Pyne Tower Suite

LGBTQA community and allies, please join us for good food and conversation. RSVP to Olivia at omartel@princeton.edu.