GRADUATE STUDENT NEWSLETTER
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SCHOOL NEWS

Rackham Graduate School Launches Online Fellowships System

The Rackham Graduate School has launched a paperless fellowships system that allows users to search electronically for information about available University and non-University funding resources. Graduate students and programs can now apply or nominate online for Rackham-administered fellowship opportunities.

Although the process has changed from a paper to a web-based electronic one, and fellowships guidelines have been re-organized to help students more quickly determine their award eligibility for funding tailored to their needs at each stage of their academic career, the eligibility criteria and deadlines for Rackham fellowships remain the same. Students and programs will simply complete an application or nomination and submit supporting documents online and will be notified of the award decision by e-mail.

Additional information on funding opportunities for graduate students, including the websites to apply or nominate eligible students online, can be found on the Rackham website by clicking on “Funding Resources.” Please contact the Rackham Fellowships Office with any questions fellowships@umich.edu or 734-764-8119.
Continuous Enrollment Update: Leave of Absence Policy for Students in Ph.D. Programs

Although some U-M graduate programs have leave of absence policies for their students, Rackham has never had an official leave of absence policy for Ph.D. students who must suspend work toward their degrees for a limited time. Since students in Ph.D. programs will be expected to be continuously enrolled beginning in Fall 2010, they may ask for a temporary leave of absence when certain life events prevent continued active participation in a degree program. A leave will be granted to students for illness (either physical or mental) or injury, to provide care or assistance for family or dependents, to meet military service obligations, or for other personal reasons.

Students who need to take a leave of absence for Fall 2010 will be able to request one by March 2010. The leave of absence policy, a checklist for students in Ph.D. programs, and a checklist for faculty and staff in graduate programs, as well as related forms are posted on the Rackham website at http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/continuous_enrollment/draft_leave_of_absence_policy/). Taken together, they provide guidance and information about how the process will work to promote academic planning and to protect students’ privacy. We are grateful for the useful feedback from hundreds of faculty, staff and students that has helped to shape these materials. Students with questions about the process for requesting leaves will be able to work with a Rackham staff member beginning in March.

ENRICHMENT

Winter 2010 Diversity Dialogues

January & February 2010
5:30 – 7:30 pm at Trotter Multicultural Center (1443 Washtenaw Ave)
APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 18, 2009

We invite graduate students from all disciplines and backgrounds to engage in dialogue about the relationship between social identities and academic research. The Diversity Dialogues project offers participants the unique opportunity to explore this complex relationship from multiple perspectives, and in a sustained manner that builds understanding over time.

Four different focus groups will be formed, and will meet once a week for four weeks; all participants will then share their experiences and insights at a final, large-group gathering. Each group will explore various aspects of the identity-academia connection through the primary lens of a particular social identity category, deepening the discussion each week to look at issues of intersectionality (how different identities intersect with one another) and to consider ever-broader contexts.

All groups will meet from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Trotter Multicultural Center (1443 Washtenaw Ave). Dinner will be provided at all sessions. The date options are:

Group A (Mondays): January 25, February 1, 8, 15
Group B (Tuesdays): January 26, February 2, 9, 16
Group C (Wednesdays): January 27, February 3, 10, 17
Group D (Thursdays): January 28, February 4, 11, 18

In order to facilitate group coherence and trust, students will be assigned to one group only and asked to commit to attending all four sessions, as well as the final large group gathering (date to be established). Free parking is available at Trotter Center.

Pre-registration required at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ahRxyONDkeF8ul4zZl5mdQ_3d_3d

For more information, e-mail: RackhamWinterDialogues@gmail.com.

Winter 2010 GSI Teaching Orientation

Monday, January 04, 2010
8:30 am - 5:30 pm, Michigan League Ballroom

The University of Michigan’s Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT) will provide an intensive Teaching Orientation program for new and returning Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) and for graduate students who an-
ticipate teaching in the future. This University-wide pro-
gram is led by CRLT staff, faculty, and experienced GSIs.

The Teaching Orientation is a perfect opportunity to gain
teaching skills, to make connections with other GSIs, to
allay some of the fears that an impending teaching as-
signment can create, and to learn about the resources
that CRLT offers to GSIs. Past participants have found it
valuable, stimulating, and full of great ideas to help spark
their own teaching discoveries.

If you have questions about whether you are required to
attend GSI Teaching Orientation, please speak with the
GSI Coordinator in the department in which you will be
teaching. If you would like more information about the
Orientation or need accommodations, please contact
Chris Groscurth (e-mail: creedgr@umich.edu).

To register please visit http://www.crlt.umich.edu/gsis/
gsio.php.

Social Events

Winter Welcome Reception and
Resource Fair

Thursday, January 07, 2010
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Assembly Hall, 4th floor, Rackham Building

Rackham Graduate School invites students matriculat-
ing in Winter 2010 to join us for a reception where they
will be able to meet other students who also are enter-
ing mid-year. To help your transition into the University
of Michigan, representatives from Rackham Graduate
School, University departments and student service units
will be on hand to answer questions students may have.

Contact Danielle Harms at drvitale@umich.edu or (734)
763-6689 for more information.

Pre-registration required at https://secure.rackham.
umich.edu/Events/wssel.php.

SOCIAL EVENTS

U-M Art Museum Tour for Families

Saturday, December 12, 2009
11:00 am - 11:30 am (tour) and 11:30 am – 1:00 pm (visit)
U-M Art Museum, 525 South State Street

Join us at the U-M Museum of Art for a docent-lead, in-
teractive tour designed for children. The tour begins at
11:00 am and should last about 30 minutes. Afterward,
parents and their children are welcome to visit the muse-
um on their own or enjoy the common areas. This event
is free and ideal for children 3 - 10 years old.

Pre-registration required at https://secure.rackham.
umich.edu/Events/wssel.php.

Study Break Movie:
“Up” (2009)

Tuesday, December 15, 2009
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Assembly
Hall, 4th floor, Rackham

Bring your family and friends
to a night out at the movies at
Rackham, complete with pop-
corn, candy, and beverages.

Up (2009) - A Disney/Pixar
film. By tying thousands of
balloons to his home, 78-year-old Carl Fredricksen sets
out to fulfill his lifelong dream to see the wilds of South
America. Right after lifting off, however, he learns he isn’t
alone on his journey, since Russell, a wilderness explorer
70 years his junior, has inadvertently become a stowaway
on the trip. Rated PG for some peril and action. Running
time: 96 minutes

Pre-registration required at https://secure.rackham.
umich.edu/Events/wssel.php.
Study Break Breakfast

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

8:30 am - 10:30 am, 4th floor, Rackham Building

Join us for an extensive breakfast spread at Rackham to celebrate the end of classes and to get your studying started right. This is also a great opportunity to relax with friends and socialize with people from other programs.

Arrive early to get the best selection of breakfast items!

While you are here, stay and use our historic Study Halls, complete with wireless connectivity and vending. The study halls are open Monday - Friday 8:00 am – 9:00 pm.

Pre-registration for breakfast is required at https://secure.rackham.umich.edu/Events/wssel.php.

Art Night for Graduate Students

Friday, December 18, 2009

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 South State Street

Art Night for Graduate Students is a long tradition between UMMA and Rackham Graduate School. In recent years, during the renovation of UMMA, Art Night was hosted at the UMMA Off/Site space on South Universi-