GRADUATE STUDENT NEWSLETTER
January 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

SCHOOL NEWS
Rackham’s PLAN Revised and Updated .......... 1
Rackham Welcomes Study Groups .............. 1
Continuous Enrollment Update - Extramural Study Status for Students in Ph.D. Programs .. 2
Bouchet Honor Society Inductees ............... 2
GradTools ........................................ 2

ENRICHMENT
How to Do a Literature Review .................. 3
Examining Ubuntu Conference .................. 3
Rackham’s MLK Day Film Series ............... 3
Abstract Writing ................................ 4
How to Give an Academic Talk .................. 4
Refining Your Academic Writing: STEM ........ 4
Investing 101 .................................... 5
Milestone Meeting - Preparing for Candidacy: Strategies for Exams, Prelims, and Papers .... 5
Balancing Work and Life in Grad School ....... 5
Writing for Publication ......................... 5

SOCIAL EVENTS
My Urban Toddler Grad Parent Social .......... 6
Multicultural Taste Fest ........................ 6
Extreme Bounce Grad Parent Social ............ 6
Michigan Journal of Race & Law Winter Symposium ........................................ 6

SCHOOL NEWS

Rackham’s PLAN Revised and Updated
The Rackham Graduate School and its partners across campus have revised and updated the PLAN website (http://www.rackham.umich.edu/plan/) to include separate pages customized for master’s and doctoral students. PLAN (Profession, Life, Academics, Networks) is a resource to help graduate students manage their professional, academic, career and personal development along the way to degree completion. Students can use PLAN to stay informed about workshops, training sessions, and other events across campus, and to learn about resources to help them succeed. The revised PLAN website also has an improved and more versatile calendar that provides additional detailed information. Students can now download schedules of workshops and other events to their personal calendar and share these via Twitter and many other social news websites such as Facebook and Digg. Students can also use RSS to get customized updates on PLAN events.

Rackham Welcomes Study Groups
Graduate students may now reserve the Rackham 2nd floor West Study Hall South Alcove for study group meetings for the current semester, at least three days in advance. The alcove seats 18 people at a boardroom style table and there is no cost to Rackham graduate student study groups. Reservations can be made online at http://ems.rackham.umich.edu/virtual-alcoves/. Follow the directions under “Graduate Study Groups.” Student organizations can book event rooms online at the above link as well. Follow the directions under “University Departments and Student Organizations.”
Continuous Enrollment Update - Extramural Study Status for Students in Ph.D. Programs

Rackham Ph.D. students who enroll at another institution to pursue study relevant to the Ph.D. for a period that overlaps substantially with a University of Michigan fall or winter term may be eligible for extramural study status. Since students with extramural study status are enrolled at another institution, they remain in compliance with the Continuous Enrollment Policy.

Students who plan a period of extramural study first need the concurrence of the graduate program faculty that the study is desirable and relevant to their Ph.D. degree work. Once relevancy is confirmed, students will apply in advance for extramural study status through Rackham OARD. International students considering extramural study will need to consult with the International Center to ensure that their extramural study plans fall within the U.S. immigration regulations covering their visa status.

Students who are planning to study at another institution in Fall 2010 will be able to apply for extramural study status beginning in March 2010. The extramural study policy, checklist, and application form have been posted on the Rackham website http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/continuous_enrollment/extramural_policy/.

We are grateful for the useful feedback from faculty, staff, and students that has helped to shape these materials. Students with questions about the application process for extramural study status will be able to work with a Rackham staff member beginning in March.

Bouchet Honor Society Inductees

Rackham Graduate School is proud to announce the induction of ten new members into the U-M Chapter of the Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. The Bouchet Honor Society recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement and promotes diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate. These scholars bring a wealth of academic achievement and personal dedication to their fields of study, as well as a deep commitment to leadership and community service. This year’s cohort includes:

**Postdoctoral Fellows**
- Mitaire Ojaruega - Physics
- Jan Bernabe - American Culture

**Doctoral Candidates**
- James Alvarez-Moure - Marketing
- Kelly Fayard - Anthropology
- Jonetta Johnson - Health Behavior and Health Education
- Conner Sandefur - Bioinformatics
- Grace Sanders - History and Women’s Studies
- Jenny Sealy Badee - Educational Studies
- Kiara Vigil - American Culture
- Jalonne White-Newsome - Environmental Health Sciences

This stellar group of scholars will be formally inducted into the national Bouchet Honor Society at a ceremony held at Yale University in March 2010. Please join Rackham Graduate School in extending a warm congratulations to this group of doctoral scholars.

GradTools is designed especially for Rackham doctoral students to help them successfully work toward their degree. GradTools provides a workspace site in CTools that contains a dissertation checklist to help track degree progress, links to useful information resources, establishes a secure backup for all their research and dissertation writing, and much more. Check it out today!


GradTools is FREE and easy to use!
ENRICHMENT
How to Do a Literature Review

Thursday, January 14, 2010
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Assembly Hall, 4th Floor, Rackham Building

Writing a review of relevant literature is a key component of many kinds of research texts. Although the role and purpose of a literature review (LR) may vary somewhat, depending on whether it forms part of a research article, dissertation proposal, research grant application, or the dissertation itself, it remains a complicated task. Its complexity derives from an interlocking need to find and assess reading resources, make connections among them, relate them to your research topic, and provide a coherent written account. In this interactive workshop, we will demonstrate a number of strategies that model a viable approach to the complex LR task. Activities include critical text analysis, citation analysis, and rhetorical choice analysis, as well as reflecting on some observations by doctoral students about their LR experiences. Although an LR can be a daunting task, especially in heavily-researched areas, there is a silver lining; students typically emerge from the process as experts in their chosen fields of specialization.

Presenter Christine Feak has been a lecturer at the English Language Institute, University of Michigan since 1988, where she is the lead lecturer for academic writing courses.

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

Examining Ubuntu Conference

Monday, January 18, 2010
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Blau Auditorium, Ross School of Business

The African concept of Ubuntu is encapsulated in the Zulu proverb “A person is a person through other people”. The Examining Ubuntu Conference will explore the concept of Ubuntu, as manifested through forgiveness, reconciliation, community building and social outreach.

Through film screenings, student musical performances, and faculty presentations, it will promote dialogue about methodologies applicable in diverse arenas, including U.S. civil rights and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The keynote address will be given by Linda Biehl and Ntobeko Peni, participants in South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

All events associated with Examining Ubuntu are free and open to the public. The conference is presented in conjunction with the 24th Annual U-M MLK Symposium. For more information, please visit www.examiningubuntu.org.

This conference is co-sponsored by Rackham Graduate School, U-M Wallenberg Executive Committee, Non Profit and Public Management Center, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs, Michigan Student Assembly, LSA Student Government, School of Public Health, Student Affairs Programming Council, International Institute and Institute for the Humanities.

Rackham’s MLK Day Film Series

Monday, January 18, 2010

Amphitheatre, 4th floor, Rackham Building

Rackham will present three recently produced documentaries that focus on the civil rights era.

Adam Clayton Powell (1989)
Start/Run time: 3:10 pm - 4:04 pm (54 mins)
Produced and Directed by: Richard Kilberg and Yvonne Smith

The Academy Award-nominated Adam Clayton Powell delves into the gripping life and career of the most influential and flamboyant civil rights leader in America in the ‘30s, ‘40s and ‘50s. Described as a “flawed, but sublime hero,” Powell brought economic improvement to Harlem by leading and organizing a boycott of local shops until people of color were hired. This economic pressure effectively opened up employment opportunities that had not previously existed.

We Shall Not Be Moved (2006)
Start/Run time: 4:10 pm - 4:55 pm (44 mins)
Produced and Directed by: Bernie Hargis

We Shall Not Be Moved examines the influential role of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in the Civil Rights
Movement. This small but historical church in Montgomery was where King served as pastor while finishing his Ph.D. dissertation in Theology. Just two weeks after turning in his dissertation, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat. In fighting for her justice, Martin Luther King emerged as the leader for the Civil Rights Movement. Reassessing MLK’s role through the lens of the church, the movie argues that without the support and organization of the church, the Civil Rights Movement could have never taken place.

King (2008)

Start/Run time: 5:10 pm - 6:45 pm (94 mins)
Produced by: NBC News
Executive Producers: Knute Walker

This film features a contemporary examination of the life of Martin Luther King. Narrator Tom Brokaw interviews figures such as Bill Clinton and Condoleezza Rice to explore King’s influence on the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. It addresses the issues of multiple factions that developed within the Civil Rights Movement and the stakes of King’s controversial move to openly oppose the Vietnam War.

Abstract Writing

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Assembly Hall, 4th Floor, Rackham Building

Abstracts can be tricky to write. They are often “high stakes;” they typically have word (or character) limits; and yet they need to promote the main feature to come. In recent years there has been an upsurge of interest in research abstracts largely deriving from the emergence of English as the world’s principal research language. This workshop takes advantage of these studies and focuses on three types of abstract: those for conferences, those required for dissertations, and those that accompany research articles. Hands-on activities will involve pair discussion, textual analysis and editing.

Presenter John Swales is Professor Emeritus of Linguistics, and was Director of the English Language Institute for many years.

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

How to Give an Academic Talk

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm, Amphitheatre, 4th floor, Rackham Building

Professor Paul Edwards, from the U-M School of Information, hosts this workshop covering all aspects of preparing and delivering academic presentations, from PowerPoint best practices to timing and vocal techniques. It will be especially useful for students planning conference presentations or job talks.

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

Refining Your Academic Writing: STEM

Thursday, January 21, 2010

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm, Assembly Hall, 4th Floor, Rackham Building

This session, presented by Alan Hogg, Ph.D. of the Sweetland Writing Center, explains how to effectively formulate and support an argument throughout a paper or dissertation. Emphasis will be paid to style and coherence at the sentence, paragraph, and section levels.

Pre-registration is required at https://secure.rackham.umich.edu/Events/wssel.php.
Investing 101

Friday, January 29, 2010
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, Assembly Hall, 4th floor, Rackham Building

Jay Hokanson, a U-M Credit Union Investment Advisor, discusses the differences between various investments, strategies, and terms. This session will discuss investment vehicles (including IRA, 401K, SEP, etc.) and how they can be used to save for retirement. Investment strategies will also be covered; participants will learn the basics on what investment strategies can be used as investment vehicles. What is a CD? A bond? What does owning stock really mean? Throughout the talk, investment terms will be defined and decoded so attendees will know what they are and how to take advantage of them.

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

Milestone Meeting – Preparing for Candidacy: Strategies for Exams, Prelims, and Papers

Monday, February 1, 2010
5:30 - 7:15 pm, 4th floor, Rackham Building

Achieving candidacy is a critical step in the path to the Ph.D. Students who are preparing for candidacy are invited to take part in a Milestone Meeting sponsored by the Rackham Graduate School. Rackham deans, faculty and advanced doctoral students who have achieved candidacy will give an overview of the processes for achieving candidacy and strategies for successful preparation.

Writing for Publication

Thursday, February 04, 2010
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Assembly Hall, 4th Floor, Rackham Building

Publishing research can be an overwhelming challenge, but is a central measure of academic success. This introductory workshop is aimed at those new to research.
writing and the research article (RA) genre. The focus will be on both macro and micro aspects of the RA, with a very detailed look at issues of audience, purpose, and strategy as these relate to RA introductions. To facilitate workshop discussion, participants should bring a well-written RA from their own fields of study.

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

**SOCIAL EVENTS**

**My Urban Toddler Grad Parent Social**

**Saturday, January 16, 2010**

10:00 am - 1:00 pm, My Urban Toddler, 7025 E. Michigan Ave. Saline, MI

Join us at My Urban Toddler, an indoor play area that encourages creative play in a clean, safe and warm environment. The cityscape theme includes a market, house, library, art and music room for kids to explore. There is also a reserved area for infants to play. This event is ideal for children 6 months – 10 years old. Socks are required for all children and parents.

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

**Extreme Bounce Grad Parent Social**

**Saturday, January 30, 2010**

10:00 am - 12:30 pm, Extreme Bounce, 82 Aprill Dr #C, Ann Arbor

Extreme Bounce is an indoor play area that encourages active play in a clean and safe environment. The Xtreme Bounce Zone has six huge inflatables, padded floors and music. Extreme Bounce offers complimentary coffee for parents. This event is ideal for children 1 – 10 years old. Socks are required for all children and parents who plan to jump.

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

**Multicultural Taste Fest**

**Monday, January 25, 2010**

5:00 pm - 6:15 pm, 2nd and 4th floors, Rackham Building

This event celebrates the cultural diversity of Ann Arbor’s cuisines! A dozen local restaurants will prepare a sampling of their menu for you to enjoy. Space is limited.

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

**Michigan Journal of Race & Law Winter Symposium**

**Friday evening, February 5th through Saturday, February 6, 2010.**


As a journal that has focused heavily on civil rights, the MJR&L is using the symposium as a vehicle to explore our nation’s past in the fight for civil rights, to analyze how and why attorneys chose to address those problems, and to use that knowledge to create strategies to address the problems that our urban environments face today. To that end, the symposium looks to examine civil rights struggles and why the traditional remedies worked, what the newer or existing problems are and why such solutions don’t work, as well as developing concrete solutions to such problems through a focus on Detroit.

**Sample Sessions include:**

**Session 1: 20th Century Civil Rights: The Problems Veteran Civil Rights Attorneys Faced and Why They Were Successful.**

This panel will look to civil rights veterans, attorneys, activists, and scholars to discuss the problems they encountered throughout their careers and how those problems were able to be solved through legal avenues.
Session 2: 21st Century Civil Rights: New Issues and Why the Old Ways No Longer Work

After discussing the methods that enabled change during the Civil Rights Movement and beyond, we will turn our attention to the current problems being faced within our broken cities. This panel will focus on identifying the problems that persist in these communities that the traditional remedies are unable to solve.

Session 3: Creating the Solutions to the Problems That Plague Our Broken Cities

The final panel will shift the focus from analyzing problems that face urban environments generally, to how new civil rights strategies could be implemented to fix urban problems specifically, through a focus on Detroit. Panelists will be asked to come up with definitive solutions that can actually be presented and put to use in fixing our broken cities, specifically Detroit. There is no cost to attend the symposium, but a reservation and a fee is required to attend the dinner and banquet.

Please contact the MJR&L at (734) 763-7245 with any questions or concerns. Visit the MJR&L website for the most up to date information, http://students.law.umich.edu/mjrl/.