November 2009

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SCHOOL NEWS

2009-2010 CEW Scholars Selected

The Center for the Education of Women has selected 43 outstanding students as 2009-2010 CEW Scholars. The recipients from Rackham include: Shani Allison, Cathleen Clerkin, Anna Coldham, Alice Gates, Fiona Greenland, Hsun-Yi Hsieh, Margarita Huayhua, Kristine Ronan, Alvin Thomas, Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, Cecilia Tomori, Elizabeth Vandermark, Lynn Verduzco-Baker and Kathy Zarur.

In 1970, the Center for the Education of Women established scholarships for women who wished to return to education at the University of Michigan. Since that year they have awarded over $3.5 million to 1,235 students, both women and men. In 2009 alone, CEW awarded $262,000 in scholarships to 43 University of Michigan undergraduate and graduate scholars.

Seeking Funding for Your Educational Research Expertise?

Are you interested in working with faculty on educational research projects, such as educational evaluations and the scholarship of teaching and learning? CRLT is creating a list of graduate students to provide to U-M faculty who might seek assistance with research design and implementation. A faculty member could contact you after reading through profiles of interested graduate students, and you would work out the project details, pay rate and time commitment with the faculty member.
If you are interested, please do not send a CV, e-mail the following information to Mary Wright, mcwright@umich.edu: name, e-mail address, phone number, department in which you are enrolled, expected date of degree completion, availability in Winter 2010 and Spring-Summer 2010, and educational research background and interests (e.g., courses taken, educational evaluation experience, statistical or qualitative experience, dissertation title).

Update on Planning for the Continuous Enrollment Policy

Planning for the continuous enrollment policy (effective Fall 2010) continues according to the timeline developed last spring and published on the Rackham website. Each school and college has developed a plan to provide tuition support for Ph.D. students who are making satisfactory academic progress but would not have registered under current policies and practices. The plans have been disseminated to faculty and staff in departments and graduate programs by the school or college dean’s office. Rackham Student Government and the Student Advisory Committee requested that the plans be posted. The schools and colleges have consented to provide links to their plans, and they are available on the Rackham website: http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/continuous_enrollment/.

Tuition support plans do not replace or alter existing commitments to students from departments, graduate programs, schools or colleges for financial support that may include tuition, stipend, and benefits. Tuition fellowships provide an additional layer of support to protect current students from any new financial burdens as a result of the policy.

Expect updates on the leave of absence and extramural study policies in the December newsletter.

Rackham deans have been meeting with Rackham Student Government, other student groups in various schools and colleges, the student services staff in graduate programs, and faculty graduate chairs about the detailed planning that each graduate program does to support its own students. These meetings have identified ways in which Rackham can help to support faculty and students, and we are following up on many of these suggestions. Because faculty members are most knowledgeable about the individual circumstances of students and the work the students are doing, faculty members in each program will be communicating with students about their own situations.

National Science Foundation East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes for U.S. Graduate Students 2010 Application Now Open

The National Science Foundation (NSF) East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes for U.S. Graduate Students (EAPSI) is a flagship international fellowship program for developing the next generation of globally-engaged U.S. scientists and engineers knowledgeable about the Asian and Pacific regions. The Summer Institutes are hosted by foreign counterparts committed to increasing opportunities for young U.S. researchers to work in research facilities and with host mentors abroad. Fellows are supported to participate in eight-week research experiences at host laboratories in Australia, China, Japan (10 weeks), Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, and Taiwan from June to August. The program provides a $5,000 summer stipend, round-trip airfare to the host location, living expenses abroad, and an introduction to the society, culture, language, and research environment of the host location.

The 2010 application is now open and will close December 8, 2009. Application instructions and information concerning benefits, eligibility, and tips on applying are available online at http://www.nsfsi.org.

The program is intended for U.S. graduate students pursuing studies in fields supported by the National Science
Foundation. Women, minorities, and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply for the EAPSI. Applicants must be enrolled in a research-oriented master’s or Ph.D. program and be U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents by the application deadline date. Students in combined bachelor/master degree programs must have matriculated from the undergraduate degree program at time of application.

For more information, please contact Mr. Ergys Ramaj at eapsi@asee.org or by phone at 866-501-2922.

New Rackham Policy on Expanded Cost Sharing for Graduate Fellowships and Awards

The Rackham Graduate School is pleased to announce a newly expanded policy on cost sharing for graduate fellowships and awards.

Graduate students are strongly encouraged to seek funding from sources external to the University of Michigan. Cost sharing acts as an incentive for graduate students and program faculty to do so and supports the ability of students to complete their programs of study. Rackham partners with graduate programs to provide cost sharing to ensure that students who compete successfully for selected external awards are better off than would be the case without the external award.

Rackham provides cost sharing in several categories. The details of stipend, tuition, GradCare, dental insurance and/or summer support coverage differ for each category depending on the specifics of the support offered by the external award and are available on the Rackham Graduate School cost sharing website. In almost all cases, cost sharing is arranged by having the graduate chair or graduate coordinator contact Rackham on the student’s behalf. Students should notify their programs when they have received an external award, so the faculty and staff can work with Rackham to provide the best possible package.

For details, visit http://www.rackham.umich.edu/rhd.php?id=212

Mellon Humanities Dissertation Seminar: Culture, Interpretation, and the Rhetoric of Critical Discourse

In May and June 2009, Professor Linda Gregerson convened a seminar for humanities students on “Culture, Interpretation, and the Rhetoric of Critical Discourse.” Sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the seminar provided a forum in which twelve Ph.D. students from the humanities explored the challenges and the pleasures of dissertation writing with each other and with the seminar leader, as well as with visiting scholars. Seminar participants explored questions like: How does one balance the need to address a specialized audience and establish professional credentials with the need to speak beyond a narrow circle of initiates? How does one authentically submit the imagination to a field of evidence without losing track of a coherent through-line?

The seminar will be repeated in 2010. It will meet for eight weeks, from May 4 through June 22, during which participants will be expected to draft or revise a chapter or a significant portion thereof. It is open to all humanities students who have entered candidacy and begun dissertation writing at any but the final stage. Each participant will be awarded a stipend of $5,000. Students must be nominated by their department or graduate program.

Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society

Rackham Graduate School is pleased to announce the application period for the Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. The U-M Chapter is currently accepting applications and nominations for graduate student and postdoctoral membership. The
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purpose of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society is to recognize outstanding scholarly achievement and promote diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate. The Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society seeks to develop a network of preeminent scholars who exemplify academic and personal excellence, foster environments of support, and serve as examples of scholarship, leadership, character, service, and advocacy for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in the academy. The deadline is November 15.

Information and applications are available at http://www.rackham.umich.edu/current_students/bouchet/application/. For more information about the Bouchet Honor Society please contact Ali Salamey at duras@umich.edu.

U-M Graduate Teacher Certificate Program

The Rackham Graduate School and the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT) invite you to participate in the U-M Graduate Teacher Certificate Program. This program offers U-M graduate students an opportunity to document and receive recognition for professional development as college-level instructors and to prepare for the faculty job search.

By completing Certificate requirements, participants develop and refine teaching skills, obtain feedback on their teaching and teaching philosophy statement, receive recognition for pedagogical training and experience, and increase their marketability for faculty positions.

This program is free and open to all U-M graduate students. Participants who complete the program receive a U-M Graduate Teacher Certificate.

The Certificate does not appear on official U-M transcripts but may be included on one’s curriculum vitae. Please note: a U-M Graduate Teacher Certificate is not a teaching license or credential for K-12 instruction from the State of Michigan.

For more information visit http://sitemaker.umich.edu/um.gtc. If you have any questions, please contact Chad Hershock, at chersh@umich.edu or by phone at 734-615-8060.

AAAS Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program

The 2010 AAAS Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellowship application is now available online. Learn more and download an application at http://www.aaas.org/programs/education/MassMedia/

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellowship seeks to increase communication skills in student scientists. From grant writing to interaction with their community, today’s young scientists must also be able science communicators. The lessons they learn through the Fellowship experience will benefit their career path and help them increase public understanding of science and technology.

The Fellowship places senior undergraduate and graduate science, engineering and mathematics students at media sites nationwide to work as science reporters for ten weeks. Past sites include the Chicago Tribune, NPR and Scientific American.

AAAS selects 15 - 20 Fellows each summer. There is a $4,500 stipend plus travel expenses. The deadline is January 15, 2010.

ENRICHMENT

Cross-Cultural Adjustment Series: Field Trip to Meijer

Sunday, November 08, 2009

1:00 pm in front of the Rackham Building

Adjusting to a new culture is a multi-faceted process, from learning about new foods to preparing for a different climate. This off-campus workshop will give participants an opportunity to shop at Meijer, a Michigan-based “superstore” that sells groceries, clothing, furniture, home goods, electronics, and much more. Participants may choose for
themselves whether they want to shop on their own or as a group. Upon arriving at the store, we’ll go first to the winter clothing section, where the workshop coordinator will give a brief presentation about clothing suitable for Michigan’s cold weather.

A bus will take students between Rackham and Meijer according to the following schedule:

1:00 pm Bus departs from Rackham Building (915 E. Washington St) PROMPTLY at 1:00 pm; students are strongly advised to arrive by 12:45 pm.

3:15 pm Bus departs from Meijer (3145 Ann Arbor – Saline Rd) PROMPTLY at 3:15 pm; students are strongly advised to check out with any purchases no later than 3:00 pm.

For those who miss either bus or would like to spend more time shopping, the AATA bus route #16 runs between the Blake Transit Center downtown (331 S. Fourth Ave) and Meijer. U-M students with a valid M-Card ride for free.

Contact Kim Greenwell, at kgreenwe@umich.edu if you have any questions.

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

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**Multicultural Taste Fest**

**Monday, November 09, 2009**

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm, 2nd and 4th floors, Rackham Building

Join us for an event to celebrate the cultural diversity of Ann Arbor’s cuisines! A dozen local restaurants will be preparing a sampling of their menu for you to enjoy.

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

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**How to Give an Academic Talk**

**Tuesday, November 10, 2009**

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm, Johnson Rooms, Lurie Engineering Center, North Campus

Professor Paul Edwards from the School of Information will cover 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

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**Writing and Completing the Dissertation**

**Tuesday, November 10, 2009**

11:00 am - 12:30 pm, Assembly Hall, 4th Floor, Rackham Building

Presented by Louis Ciciarelli from the Sweetland Writing Center and the Department of English Language and Literature, this workshop provides strategies for completing the dissertation. We will discuss managing your materials, staying motivated despite obstacles, and putting the pieces together to articulate an argument that is both coherent and relevant to the field.

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**Cross-Cultural Adjustment Series: Tips & Resources to Improve Your English Language Skills**

**Wednesday, November 11, 2009**

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, East Conference Room, 4th Floor, Rackham Building

For many international graduate students, life at U-M and in Ann Arbor involves full-time immersion in a second language. The ability to speak more than one language fluently is an increasingly valuable skill, but acquiring it can seem overwhelming at times. Fortunately, there are many resources on campus, online, and around Ann Arbor...
to help in this process. This workshop, presented in association with the English Language Institute (ELI), aims to equip participants to assess their own language development goals, identify campus and Ann Arbor resources for English language study and practice, introduce free English learning websites for self-study, and provide tips for efficiently enhancing one’s English language skills, given an already extremely busy graduate student schedule.

Participants are invited to bring laptops to this event, so the group can explore various online resources together. Dinner will be provided.

Contact Kim Greenwell at kgreenwe@umich.edu for more information regarding the CCAS workshops.

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

**Imposter Syndrome**

**Thursday, November 12, 2009**

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, West Conference Room, 4th floor, Rackham Building

Do you find yourself plagued by feelings of doubt and constantly asking yourself the question “how did I get here and when will they find out I don’t belong?” You are definitely not alone. Many graduate students wonder whether they really belong in graduate school, especially during their first year. Confronting the Imposter Syndrome will enable you to confront the root of many of the other obstacles you may also be facing such as: procrastination, worry, anxiety, lack of confidence, and stifled performance. Join us in this roundtable discussion where we will address this syndrome and develop concrete strategies for overcoming its effects.

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

**The Role of Your Mentors as You Complete Your Program: STEM**

**Thursday, November 12, 2009**

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Assembly Hall, 4th Floor, Rackham Building

As your focus shifts from research and dissertation to completing the degree, the roles of your mentors also shift as they assist you in launching your career. Theodore Goodson, Professor of Chemistry, and David Engelke, Professor of Biological Chemistry, present this workshop that will help you consider the ways in which you can best work with your mentors to map out the strategies and take advantage of their networks and experience.

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

**Tour of Washtenaw Dairy**

**Saturday, November 14, 2009**

8:30 am - 10:00 am, Washtenaw Diary, 602 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Washtenaw Dairy is an Ann Arbor icon, famous for its ice cream and donuts. In our tour, grad parents and their children will learn how they make donuts. With staff help, children frost two donuts and later, once they have all cooled, we’ll eat our donuts with milk. Donut demonstrations begin promptly at 8:30 am.

Pre-registration required at https://secure.rackham.umich.edu/Events/wssel.php
Understanding Bias in Research Questions and Findings

Monday, November 16, 2009
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, West Conference Room, Rackham Building, 4th Floor

This interactive workshop aims to explore the concept of “bias” and how it relates to academic research and social identities. Participants will engage in interdisciplinary discussion around the following questions:

What is “bias” and is it always a bad thing? In what ways can it also be seen as productive?

Are there patterns to how and when we tend to identify bias, and when we don’t?

How is bias thought about in different disciplines?

How do our social identities shape the very topic we choose, the questions we ask, the methods we use, the way in which we interpret our findings, and who we present those findings to?

What strategies can be used to minimize the negative effects of bias on research?

What strategies can be used to turn bias or one’s social location into a positive and valued aspect of research?

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

PLEASE NOTE: Participants are strongly encouraged to arrive early, as this event will begin promptly at 6:00 pm, NOT on “Michigan time.”

Career Identity Beyond the Ivory Tower

Tuesday, November 17, 2009
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, West Conference Room, 4th floor, Rackham Building

Making the decision to switch from a tenure-track path to pursuing other career options may raise a variety of career and personal issues. Tom Lehker, Senior Assistant Director for Graduate Student Services at The Career Center, and Doreen Murasky, Senior Counselor at the Center for the Education of Women, present this program that will offer an opportunity to explore the often emotional move away from a tenure-track career. Please join us for this thought-provoking conversation to help you develop confidence as you embark on a meaningful post-academic career. Co-sponsored by The Career Center, the Center for the Education of Women (CEW), and Women in Science and Engineering (WISE).

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

Taste of Vietnam Lunch

Wednesday, November 18, 2009
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm, Assembly Hall and East Conference Room, 4th Floor, Rackham Building

This lunch will provide an introduction to the delicious world of Vietnamese cuisine, famous for its light flavors and use of herbs such as lemongrass, mint and cilantro. Open to all graduate students. Vegetarian and non-vegetarian options will be provided. Catered by Saigon Garden (1220 S. University).

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

Introduction to Personal Safety

Wednesday, November 18, 2009
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Assembly Hall, 4th floor, Rackham Building

This workshop will include risk assessment, information about the most common perpetrators and victims, and an introduction to many simple and effective physical, verbal, and emotional skills for empowerment and self-defense. We will learn techniques appropriate to both stranger and acquaintance danger. All participants will have the opportunity to practice physical techniques and to practice set-
Negotiation Skills: Negotiating a Job Offer

Tuesday, December 01, 2009
12:00 - 2:00 pm, Assembly Hall, 4th floor, Rackham Building

You’ve prepared a great resume or CV and practiced interviewing, but do you know how to negotiate a job offer? Come to this workshop and learn how to prepare for this important process in your job search. Topics include the employer’s perspective and the steps in negotiating the offer. Lunch will be served.

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

My Urban Toddler Grad Parent Social

Saturday, November 21, 2009
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, My Urban Toddler, 7025 E. Michigan Ave. Saline, MI

Join us at My Urban Toddler, an indoor play space that encourages creative play in a clean, safe and warm environment. The cityscape includes a kitchen, market, theater, library and arts room for children. There is also a reserved area for babies to play. This event is ideal for children 6 months - 6 years. Socks are required for all children and parents. Admission is free.

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

Negotiating a Job Offer. This class is open to all genders, abilities, and identities. You do not have to be physically fit or wear gym clothes (though you may if you prefer) and we will not be learning martial arts. Empower yourself!

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