Back by Doctoral Demand: Dissertation Boot Camp

Attention dissertators! Is your funding clock ticking? Proposal deadline looming? Need “degree in hand by time of appointment”? Or just fed up with your own lack of progress? Whatever the situation, make your dreams of writing productivity come true by “enlisting” in SU’s antidote to chronic procrastination, the Winter Break Dissertation Boot Camp, to be held Friday, January 6, and Mon-Thurs, Jan. 9-12, in the lower level of Bird Library. Provisions include:

- At least 6 hours of dedicated, distraction-free writing time per day
- On-site writing consultants, subject librarians and data services specialists
- Optional workshops on dissertation-completion-related topics
- “Mental Recharge Station” and “Zen Zone” de-stressing area
- Lunch provided!
- Coffee, tea and light refreshments available all day
- Opportunities to form peer support groups and find writing buddies
- Desktop and laptop computers and wifi available

PhD students in all programs and at all stages of the dissertation (including proposal-writing) are eligible.

How to apply? Be online at 9:00 a.m. EST on Thursday, November 10, when this APPLICATION LINK becomes active. The first 30 applicants will then have 3 business days to submit a pre-camp self-assessment (which you will receive by email) and $10 refundable deposit to Master Sgt. Peg De Furia in the Graduate School, 304 Lyman Hall. Bear in mind that last year’s boot camp “sold out” in less than an hour and had 92 on the wait list!

Questions may be directed to Master Sgt. Peg (x4646; mldefuri@syr.edu). The boot camp is co-sponsored by the Graduate School and SU Libraries.

Seeking Nominations for Excellence in Graduate Education Awards

Is there an outstanding professor you would like to honor? Let us know! The Graduate School is now accepting nominations for the annual Excellence in Graduate Education (EGE) Faculty Recognition Award, designed to honor exceptional graduate educators here at SU. Awards will be made on the basis of the nominees’ mentorship, graduate-level teaching, career advisement, and advocacy efforts on behalf of grad students.

See the EGE web page for complete information about eligibility requirements and the nomination and selection processes. Only one faculty member from each department can win the award in a given year, so please consult with your department chair regarding prospective nominations.

Send nomination materials to Dina Ioannidis (kioannid@syr.edu) in 304 Lyman Hall by Wednesday, February 15, 2017. Questions? Contact Peg De Furia (x4646; mldefuri@syr.edu) in the Graduate School.
The Graduate School invites experienced current and former Teaching Assistants to apply for the position of Teaching Mentor. The designation of Teaching Mentor signifies excellence in both teaching and graduate study and constitutes a notable academic and professional honor. We seek Teaching Mentors with a range of disciplinary backgrounds; fair representation in terms of nationality and gender is also important.

The responsibility of Teaching Mentors is to serve as the core instructional staff during the August Teaching Assistant Orientation Program. During the August orientation, Teaching Mentors serve as session planners and presenters as well as small-group leaders and mentors to the University’s approximately 300 new TAs. All interested Teaching Assistants are invited to attend one of the informational meetings listed below to learn more about this paid position. No pre-registration for these information sessions is necessary. Sessions will be held as follows:

- Tuesday, November 29, 2016, 2:30–3:30 pm, 114 Lyman Hall
- Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 10:00–11:00 am, 228 Lyman Hall
- Friday, January 20, 2017, 2:00–3:00 pm, 229 Lyman Hall
- Monday, January 23, 2017, 9:00–10:00 am, 228 Lyman Hall

Applicants must be available to attend the following training and TA Orientation days:

- Friday, April 21, 2017, 3:30–5:00 pm
- Wednesday, August 9 to Friday, August 18, 2017

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Shawn Loner (x3431; scloner@syr.edu) in the Graduate School, 304 Lyman Hall. View more information on the Teaching Mentor application webpage.
Information Technology Services (ITS) offers an array of technology resources and information and communications technology that you can leverage for your projects. Visit the [ITS Student Services page](https://answers.syr.edu) in Answers.syr.edu for a list that includes:

### Ensuring Accessibility Using Technology

Our goal is that all University technology is usable by the greatest number of students, faculty and staff possible. Accessibility enables full participation by all people regardless of their individual learning styles and abilities. To explore and take advantage of these resources, visit the [ITS Accessibility page](https://answers.syr.edu).

### Turn your phone orange with Syracuse University Mobile

Syracuse University Mobile is available free in the [Google Play store](https://play.google.com/store) and [Apple App store](https://apps.apple.com). The app offers a wealth of current information about the University, and it provides safe, secure access to information in MySlice. Students can view their class schedules and grades and search for classes, access [Lynda.com](https://www.lynda.com) courses, view Centro bus status and schedules, and check out SU Food Services menus and locations. The app also delivers the latest University news and events and provides access to the University’s online directory, campus maps, interactive SU social media, and more.

### Find the Technology Guide in the SU Guides app!

The Technology Guide brings valuable advice and how-to information right to your mobile device. It’s your go-to source for a wide array of technology services and resources. To access the Technology Guide, go to the iTunes App Store or the [Google Play store](https://play.google.com/store) and search for “Syracuse University Guides.” Install the SU Guides app, then download the Technology Guide. You can also view the guide online through the [SU guides mobile site](https://syracuse.edu/su-guides/).

### Training and software for your academic achievements

Build your abilities and your career with [Lynda.com](https://www.lynda.com). Learn business, technology, and creative skills with unlimited access to a library of more than 3,600 engaging, top-quality courses, including 275,000 tutorials taught by industry experts. To get started visit the ITS [Lynda.com](https://www.lynda.com) home page.

**DatAnywhere** allows browser access to the same home directory you use in SU computer labs. SU’s DatAnywhere provides you with 100GB of online storage space that you can access from off-campus without having to use a VPN, and it’s more secure than online services available elsewhere.

Install the latest [Office 365 software](https://office.com) on up to five of your personally-owned computers and devices.

### Research Computing

If you need computing power to advance your research, you’ll find all about it on the [SU research computing](https://research.syr.edu) page. The website spotlights successful compute-intensive work and provides a technical overview of the variety of computing resources available to researchers from all disciplines at the University. The site helps faculty and students understand how they can best take advantage of those resources.
If you are a woman postdoc or graduate student considering the academic track in STEM, you won’t want to miss

**Navigating the Tenure-Track: A Panel Discussion for Women Postdocs and Graduate Students in STEM**

*Wednesday, November 16, 12:30pm-2:00pm*

*Lundgren Room, LSC 106*

Four women faculty in STEM will be sharing about the process of tenure from the moment of hiring negotiations to the final review of the dossier. Panelists will include Lisa Manning (Assoc. Prof., Physics), Tara Kahan (Asst. Prof., Chemistry), Laura Condon (Asst. Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences), and Minghao Rostami (Asst. Prof., Mathematics).

Lunch will be provided. If interested, please contact WiSE Program Specialist Stephanie Wyatt at smwyatt@syr.edu

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**Excellence in Communicating Science Series: Scientific Writing Workshop**

*Tuesday, January 10*

*8:30 am–4:00 pm*

*Link Hall 369*

Because this workshop for graduate students in STEM (with priority registration given to women and underrepresented men) was so well received last year, WiSE is bringing Dr. Elizabeth Paley of Duke University back for a second year. This workshop will give you concrete strategies for making science writing as clear and direct as possible. You’ll develop a toolbox of strategies for crafting, evaluating, and revising texts. Throughout the workshop, text examples will come directly from participants’ own writing. As a participant, you will be asked to submit a writing sample no later than December 10. Breakfast and registration will begin at 8:15 am. RSVP by December 1 to Stephanie Wyatt (smwyatt@syr.edu).
2017 Outstanding TA Award Nominations

The Graduate School is pleased to announce the 30th annual awards program recognizing Outstanding Teaching Assistants. This program was instituted to recognize TAs who have made distinguished contributions to Syracuse University by demonstrating excellence as primary instructors, lab or studio instructors, discussion/recitation section leaders, or assistants to faculty members for high-enrollment courses. Nominations for the OTA are put forward by the departments and programs, so if you would like to be considered, please inquire with your department regarding the nomination process. The nomination deadline is Friday, January 27, 2017.

TAs receiving nominations are required to submit a teaching portfolio. To facilitate this process, the Graduate School Programs office will hold two portfolio information sessions in 312 Lyman Hall:

- Thursday, February 2, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 8, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Portfolios must be submitted to the Graduate School by Friday, February 24, 2017. If you have questions about the TA Award process, please contact the Graduate School Programs office at 443-3458 or stop by 304 Lyman Hall. Information is also available on the Outstanding TA call for nominations webpage.

Instant Messaging for Field Researchers

Taapsi Ramchandani is a SU PhD candidate who is less than two months away from completing long-term research in Trinidad. Fieldwork, as she discovered, is both inspiring and tremendously lonely. After two health scares and an acute awareness (now) that there are others searching for similar support in the field, she has taken the lead in setting up an online forum on HipChat where past, present, and future field researchers across disciplines can instant message each other, ask questions, give advice, raise concerns, or simply “hang out.” This is an invitation-only group. If you are interested, send Taapsi an email at taramcha@syr.edu.

Boren Fellowship Interest Session

The Center for Fellowship & Scholarship Advising will be holding an interest session for students interested in applying for the Boren Fellowship:

**Friday, Nov 11**

**2:00 pm**

**Eggers 111**

Boren Fellowships fund language training, research, and cultural immersion in languages and regions critical to US interests but underrepresented in study abroad. Boren Fellows study less commonly taught languages (such as Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili, Hindi, among others) and pursue coursework and/or research. All recipients must commit to serving at least one year in the federal government in a position relevant to national security.

Applicants must be matriculated graduate students and U.S. citizens at the time of application. Boren Fellowships provide up to $24,000 for overseas study. In addition, Boren Fellowships can provide limited funding for domestic language study that will supplement the overseas component. The maximum award for a combined overseas and domestic program is $30,000. The Boren Fellowship national application deadline is January 31, 2017.
Feds to Higher Ed:
University-subsidized Health Care for Grad Students Can Continue

Many thousands of grad students across the country were in danger of losing their student health insurance because of a provision in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) barring employers from subsidizing premiums on individual health care plans, including student plans commonly negotiated by universities with insurers. A temporary suspension of that provision was set to expire with the 2017-18 academic year.

But on October 21, federal regulators announced that non-enforcement would extend indefinitely, allowing universities to continue subsidizing health insurance for grad student workers. Good news for grad students at hundreds of universities that had been struggling to find alternatives — many already having announced the end of university subsidies for grad student health insurance. See Inside Higher Ed’s article for more details.

Post-PT Immigration for Int’l Grads

The Slutzker Center for International Services welcomes Hilary Fraser and Jane Zhang, immigration attorneys from the law firm of Miller Mayer in Ithaca, New York, who will present on

**Immigration Status after Practical Training**

**Wednesday, November 9**

3:00-5:00 p.m.

010 Crouse Hinds

Topics to be covered include:

- H-1B Temporary Workers
- O-1 Aliens of Extraordinary Ability
- TNs under NAFTA
- Permanent Residence/Green Cards
- Labor Certification
- Outstanding Professors/Researchers
- Extraordinary Ability Aliens

> Hilary Fraser  
> Jane Zhang

The Graduate School Newsletter is (usually) published once a month. If you have announcements or articles that you would like to contribute, please contact the editor at [gradnews@syr.edu](mailto:gradnews@syr.edu).

If you would like to remove your name from the email list, please send an email to [gradnews@syr.edu](mailto:gradnews@syr.edu) with the subject: "unsubscribe me"