Research Forum Schedule – Spring 2016

Sessions are from 5:00-6:00pm on Tuesdays and located in 1425 BPS.

January 12
Forum discussion and meeting:
The first meeting of the session will be a time for group discussion on forum organization and topics. This is a time to determine possible new meeting times and student feedback on future directions.

January 19
Teaching Workshop 1: Intro to teaching techniques, lesson plans and TAships
The session will be led by Dr. Tony Nunez and introduce the principles of TA-ship, expectations, resuscitations and teaching techniques. The speaker will start with an interactive discussion on teaching tactics and personal experience in both lesson plan preparation and presentation. At the end of the session, possible opportunities will be listed for Fall ’16 and Spring ’17, in order to prepare students to fulfill their teaching experience program requirements.
All students must attend

January 26
Teaching Workshop 2: Practice lessons
As an exercise in engaging the audience, each presenter will give background history and “story” behind a key scientific and/or medical discovery. These can be on any biology/psychology/medically relevant topic. The presentation will be 15-20min ea. These are practice “zingers” to grab your audience’s attention and use as an introduction or tie-in for a longer and more detailed lecture topic. (For example: the story of Gregor Mendel’s discovery of heredity with his experiments on pea plants. How this changed the field at the time, and why it mattered). There will be anonymous feedback given to each presenter at the end of session.
All students must attend (except dual-degree students, as their teaching requirement is waived, see Graduate Student Handbook p. 10)

Feb 2
Teaching Workshop 3: Practice lessons
Presentations will continue, focusing on using engaging story telling of scientific discoveries. Lessons will be approximately 15-20 minutes long. There will be anonymous feedback given to each presenter at the end of session.
All students must attend (except dual-degree students, as their teaching requirement is waived, see Graduate Student Handbook p. 10)

Feb 9
Teaching Workshop 4: Practice Lessons, Cont.
Presentations will continue, focusing on using engaging story telling of scientific discoveries. Lessons will be approximately 15-20 minutes long. There will be anonymous feedback given to each presenter at the end of session.
All students must attend (except dual-degree students, as their teaching requirement is waived, see Graduate Student Handbook p. 10).

February 16
Beyond the Degree: Tips on finishing the PhD and Job Searches.
The session will consist of a panel of post-doc, junior and senior faculty, and representatives of government/industry. They will lead discussion and share experiences and answer questions on topics such as: finishing graduate school, getting on the job market, appropriate job talk preparation and acquiring a post-doc position.
All 3rd – 6th year students must attend (others are encouraged to attend)
February 23
Upper classmen. Selected Presentations: dissertation/project talks
Presenters TBD 2 presenters – 30min ea.
The session will provide the opportunity for 5th to 6th year students to practice their job talks and or give a practice oral presentation of their dissertation work in order to prepare for their dissertation defense and/or job search.
All students must attend.
Extended time: 5-6:30pm

March 1
Planning for Brain Awareness Week
NSP GSC Outreach Committee
The session will be a planning meeting for Brain Awareness Week (BAW). Please come with calendars and planners as this time will be used to organize volunteers for BAW primary and secondary school presentations.
All students must attend.

March 8 – No Scheduled Session (Spring Break)

March 15
Upper classmen. Selected Presentations: dissertation/project talks
Presenters TBD 2 presenters – 30min ea.
The session will provide the opportunity for 5th to 6th year students to practice their job talks and or give a practice oral presentation of their dissertation work in order to prepare for their dissertation defense and/or job search.
All students must attend.
Extended time: 5-6:30pm

March 22
Comprehensive Exam Workshop 1: Tips on Databases, Writing, and Formatting Responses.
The session will review library resources that will be useful during the comprehensive exams. Dr. Sisk and/or Dr. Jordan will provide basic writing tips, and how to format responses for the Comprehensive Exam. In addition to this, practice questions will be given to students prior to this session to allow practice in these techniques. (Details of this homework portion will be provided ahead of time.)
All 1st – 2nd year students must attend

March 29
Comprehensive Exam Workshop 2: The Do’s and Don’ts to Success
Student Panel
The session will allow students to review practice responses to prepare for the Comprehensive Exam by identifying what makes an excellent response and what does not. The official schedule for the 2013 exam will be reviewed. The session will close with a student panel of 3rd year students to share experiences and answer questions.
All 1st – 3rd year students must attend (as well as all third-year students who have passed the standardized portion of the Comprehensive Exam).

April 5
Conflict Management and effective communication skills.
This session will focus on appropriate conflict management skills and communication. Students will be able to assess their conflict styles, and discuss science/laboratory/graduate school related issues and resolution strategies. In addition to this, tips for professional communication, and networking skills will also be discussed.
All students must attend.
April 12  
**Powerpoint presentations: 101**  
This session is back by popular demand! Topics will cover useful tips in designing science presentations, figures, posters and more.  
All students must attend.

April 19  
**Student Talks**  
1st Year Students  
The session will consist of the first-year students presenting their research from one of their rotation experiences. Students will then provide anonymous feedback. Presentations will be approximately 20 minutes long in total, including time for questions (i.e. 15 minute presentations, with 5 minutes for questions).  
All students must attend.

April 26  
**Student Talks, Cont.**  
1st Year Students  
The session will consist of the first-year students presenting their research from one of their rotation experiences. Students will then provide anonymous feedback. Presentations will be approximately 20 minutes long in total, including time for questions (i.e. 15 minute presentations, with 5 minutes for questions).  
All students must attend.

**A note on Attendance:**  
Several forum sessions are required for all students enrolled for pass/fail credit. Students who miss or leave significantly early from more than 3 required sessions will not receive a pass grade and may not receive NSP travel funding for the following year. Students with difficulty attending forum sessions due to courses, overlapping TA requirements, or other program commitments may petition the Chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee (GAC) in the NSP to request being excused from the course or specific sessions. This petition must be emailed 5 days prior to the missed session with the student leader copied on the email request. Petitions for release from forum entirely may be submitted at the start of each semester when appropriate. The deadline for semester-long release from Spring Forum 2016 will be **Jan. 26th** by 5pm.

**Contacts for Questions, Concerns, or Attendance Issues:**

**Student Leaders:**  
_Fall Semester:_{  
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_Spring Semester:_  
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