



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

October 19, 2010

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**Re: Report to Senate – School of Graduate Studies Orientation, fall 2010**

The School of Graduate Studies orientation serves to welcome new graduate students to Queen's who will be beginning their studies in over 100 graduate programs offered across campus. Orientation introduces our students to resources and services available at the University and in the Kingston community.

As in the recent past, this year marked a very active orientation period.

- On September 7, 2010, Vice-Provost & Dean Brenda Brouwer provided the opening welcome at the annual Teaching Development Day for Students and Post-Doctoral Fellows organized by the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Associate Dean David Rappaport delivered a session titled "Teaching Assistants: Roles, Responsibilities, Expectations and Rewards".
- The School of Graduate Studies partnered with the Society of Graduate and Professional Students and Student Affairs in hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Orientation Resource Fair on September 8, 2010 in the Biosciences Atrium. The event showcased the breadth of services and resources available on and off campus to support graduate students in all aspects of academic, professional and social life. Booths featured representatives from 27 organizations, including Queen's Career Services, Queen's Day Care, Immigrant Services, the City of Kingston, and the Teaching Assistant & Fellows Association. More than 700 graduate students attended - visiting booths and participating in student-run campus tours. A free continental breakfast provided opportunity for informal socializing and introductions. Principal Daniel Woolf, Vice Provost & Dean Brenda Brouwer, AVP/Dean John Pierce, Associate Dean (SGS) David Rappaport and the faculty and staff from many graduate programs circulated among graduate students introducing themselves and offering their welcome.
- Vice Provost & Dean Brouwer and Principal Woolf joined Vice Provost (International) John Dixon in welcoming new international students to Queen's at a reception on September 14, 2010 organized by Queen's University International Centre. Each said a few words of welcome and provided information about the services and resources available at Queen's then engaged in informal discussions with students.

- On September 15, 2010, Associate Dean Rappaport, the Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS), and SGPS Peer Advisors facilitated an information session for international graduate students, organized by the Queen's University International Centre. Topics covered included the types of academic issues that might arise and how they can be addressed, how students are evaluated, the roles of teaching assistants and academic supervisors, immigration and taxation regulations.
- At this year's annual orientation and welcome session, the School of Policy Studies welcomed the largest cohorts to each of its Masters of Public Administration (MPA; 68 students) and Masters of Industrial Relations (MIR; 48 students) programs. This event was capped with a variety of social activities providing opportunities for new students to meet informally with faculty and staff and get to know each other. The MIR program hosted several mini-classes, testing team-building and negotiation skills in a "rock-climbing" exercise and held a special alumni event with rotating small group discussions, each headed by an MIR graduate.

The MPA program included a new team-building skills exercise, an alumni panel presentation and a special presentation by School Director, Dr. Peter Harrison, on Public Service and Professional Ethics. New professional (part-time) MPA and MIR students attended half-day welcome sessions and an orientation to the Queen's libraries.

- Orientation activities in the School of Urban and Regional Planning started in the summer with second-year students using Facebook to communicate with incoming students, offering information and advice, such as tips on housing. The School ran a five-day orientation program in September that included advising fo