

News	1
Events	3
Teaching	4
Formal Announcements	7
Funding Opportunities	8
Notes	8

News

Nemmers Prize

The winner of the 2010 Erwin Plein Nemmers Prize in Economics, **Elhanan Helpman** of Harvard University will be on campus for his second visit from April 24 to May 18 (in room 3236). The biennial honor is bestowed on an outstanding economist who has yet to win the Nobel Prize. Professor Helpman's work deals with international trade, economic growth, and the political economy of trade policy.

During his visit he will be giving a short course on international trade. Four lectures will be held on TTh 11-12:30 in AAH 3245 on May 1/3/8/10. See the events section for more details.

On Friday and Saturday May 11 and 12 the Nemmers Prize conference will be held on *The Political Economy of Growth and Development*. See the events section for more information.

Summer Funding

The Graduate School (TGS) provides us with a quota of summer funding slots for second through fourth year students. (Funding for the summer at the end of the first year is detailed in a student's admission offer letter. Students in years five and above are not eligible for TGS summer funding.)

TGS has set us a budget constraint of 48 summer fellowships. We have a total of 68 students in years 2 through 4. The first priority is those students guaranteed summer funding in their offer letters (typically those given a University Fellowship in their first year). Of course some students obtain paid RAships and others work away from Evanston.

We cannot guarantee that we will not have to ration this summer. Students,

especially those admitted without a University Fellowship, can obtain certainty of funding by seeking out paid RAships from Economics or Kellogg faculty.

Irrespective of your initial funding, you have to have met the Department's usual progress goals to obtain funding. That is to say that you need to have made sufficient progress to have been eligible to be a TA in the current academic year.

The application form for summer funding should be submitted between May 1 and May 15. You will receive an e-mail on May 1 with more details and a link to the form.

Econometric Society Summer Meeting

The University is hosting the North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society on Thursday - Sunday June 28 to July 1. Usually 200-300 papers are presented and there are invited lectures. While normally a registration fee is required, the Department is looking to employ 35 graduate students to act as helpers for the conference. In return for the ability to attend talks and social events for free we would need you to spend a few hours a day during the conference providing IT assistance to speakers in the rooms, staffing the registration desk, and giving visitors directions. Look for an e-mail soliciting applications in May.

Visitors

Luca Dedola and **Richard Steckel** remain with us for the Spring Quarter.

The Center for the Study of Industrial Organization will be welcoming **Robin Lee** from New York University for Spring Quarter (room 3221), and alumni **Jakub Kastl** from Stanford University for the

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Department of Economics
Northwestern University
2001 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60208-2600
www.econ.northwestern.edu

Ian Savage, *editor*
847-491-8241
ipsavage@northwestern.edu

months of May, June and part of July (room 3205).

Alumni **Nir Jaimovich** from Duke University will be visiting the Center for International Macroeconomics for the week of March 26 (and using room 3236).

Alumni **Francesca Molinari**, an econometrician, will also be visiting in the week of March 26, and using room 3231.

The Center for Economic Theory will have a series of visitors for one week each. They will be using room 3235. They are: **Rani Spiegler** of Tel Aviv University (week of March 26), **Tymofiy Mylovanov** of the University of Pennsylvania (April 2), **In-Koo Cho** of the University of Illinois (April 9), **Sergiu Hart** of Hebrew University (April 23), **Vijay Krishna** of Pennsylvania State University (May 7), **Eric Budish** of the University of Chicago (May 14) and **Qingmin Liu** of the University of Pennsylvania (May 28).

In addition we will be welcoming growth theorist **David de la Croix** of the Université catholique de Louvain for the week of April 16, and historian **Jeremiah Dittmar** of the American University for the weeks of April 30 and May 7.

In addition, Nemmers Prize Winner **Elhanan Helpman** will visit from April 24 to May 18, and Bies lecturer **Olivier Blanchard** will be here on April 30. See separate "News" or "Events" listings for more details.

Placement Report

Professor **Aviv Nevo**, Director of Graduate Placement, reports that demand for new faculty from top ranked schools is better than last year, but demand has weakened from business schools and public policy schools. Demand from private sector firms is much stronger than last year.

Our students are currently evaluating their various offers. However, some students have already decided:

Pak Hung Au - Shanghai University of Finance and Economics

Javier Donna - Ohio State University

Ignacio Franceschelli - National Economic Research Associates, New York City

Joseph Goodman - Compass Lexecon, Chicago

Toomas Hinnosaar - Collegio Carlo Alberto, Italy

Brendan Kline - University of Texas, Austin

Riccardo Masolo - Bank of England

Andrew Nowobilski - PIMCO, New York City

Ketan Patel - GETCO LLC, Chicago

Toan Phan - University of North Carolina

Pablo Schenone - Arizona State University

Ariel Shwayder - McKinsey & Company, Chicago

Greg Veramendi - Arizona State University

Students who intend to be on the job market next year, or are just curious about what it entails, are encouraged to attend an orientation on Tuesday May 15 (see in the "Events" section below).

TA Duties in Other Departments

The Department has a policy that any other Departments that desire to hire an Economics student as a Teaching Assistant must discuss this with us first.

This is partly to ensure that only students who are making appropriate progress in their studies are funded, and partly because the Department must ensure that our own faculty and classes receive first priority. WCAS has been very generous in providing us with TAships to support our large undergraduate enrollments. This means that we are normally able to fund all eligible students as TAs within the Department and the MMSS Program.

The Department wants to make it very clear that it is inappropriate for graduate students to conduct private arrangements to TA for faculty in other departments. If you are approached in this way, direct the faculty member to contact our Associate Chair.

Copiers

Our copiers are obtained on three-year leases. On the Monday or Tuesday of

Spring Break week we will be receiving new copiers. Because the selected models are simply updated versions of our existing machines, it is anticipated that you will be able to use the existing print drivers on the lab computers or your personal computer.

The main change you will notice is that both machines will now have the ability to scan in color. However, neither machine will print in color.

Students Working on NSF Grants

Under new federal legislation, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has started requiring all students supported by NSF to undergo training in the responsible conduct of research. This will be accomplished by a one-time registration in ECON 519 that has two components: an online class and a "face-to-face" component. The online part asks the student to complete a 2-3 hour online class administered by a private company that Northwestern has hired. DGS Professor **Joe Ferrie** will lead the face-to-face part of the class.

If you are being supported on an NSF grants for the first time, please contact Professor Ferrie for instructions.

Eisner and Bies Awards

The Department has establish a more formal timetable for deciding on the winners of the Eisner Fellowship (awarded annually to a graduate student who has distinguished him- or herself in *both* teaching and research) and the Bies Prizes (given to the best public policy papers presented as part of the Economics 501 seminar). A committee, chaired by DGS **Joe Ferrie** will meet in late August. The period for nominations will run from June 1 to August 15, and the winners will be announced by August 31 with the formal awards given out at the Fall Buffet.

Spring Seminar Registrations

Students can, if they wish, register for our regular workshop series in the Fall and Spring Quarters. The purpose of registration is to act as a commitment and

signaling device. The Department recommends that all students in years two and above identify themselves with one or more seminar series.

The course numbers are in the Econ 5XX range. New this Spring Quarter is Econ 535 which is for the new Workshop in Applied Microeconomics which incorporates the existing workshops in labor, public and development economics.

Applied Micro Reading Group

A new weekly lunch in applied microeconomics meets on Friday from 11AM to 12:20PM in Andersen 3204. The target audience is graduate students in the second year and above who are interested in labor, public, development, environmental, and other applied micro fields. There will be student presentations on research in progress some of the weeks. Other weeks, this will be a reading group to discuss working papers or recently published papers in the above-mentioned fields, with one student presenting the paper followed by group discussion.

Students who are interested will need to commit to attending regularly and to taking their turn as the presenter. For more information see Professor **Seema Jayachandran**.

New Building Update

As you may be aware the Kellogg School of Management is intending to construct a new building. This will be located north-east of the Allen Center. It would appear that Economics will also be moving to the new building. The good news is that preliminary specifications greatly increase the number of graduate carrel spaces. The bad news (for current students) is that the earliest opening date will be the Fall of 2016. Currently fund raising is occurring and the selected architects are preparing new drawings.

Events

Open Day

The annual Open Day for prospective PhD students will be held on Friday, March 30. Graduate students who would like to assist in welcoming prospective students should contact **Mercedes Thomas**, or Professor **Igal Hendel**, the Co-Director of Graduate Admissions. The day will culminate in a reception to which all the graduate students and faculty are invited. The reception will start about 5:30pm and will be held at the John Evans Alumni Center which is at the corner of Clark Street and Sheridan Road.

Bies Lecture

This will be the fifth year of the annual Susan Bies (PhD, 1972) departmental lecture on economic policy. The lecture alternates between macro and micro-oriented lectures.

This year's speaker will be **Olivier Blanchard** from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the International Monetary Fund. The lecture will be at 5:15PM on Monday April 30 in Leverone Auditorium.

Short Course on International Trade

Professor **Elhanan Helpman**, the winner of the Nemmers Prize will be giving a short course consisting of four lectures on international trade. It will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11AM to 12:30PM in Andersen 3245. The dates are May 1, 3, 8, and 10. (The lecture on May 3 ends at noon.) Registration is not required.

Professor Helpman writes that the analysis of international trade in the last decade has focused on firm-driven features of trade flows and foreign direct investment, emphasizing heterogeneity of firms within industries. The lectures will discuss this literature, including the impact of firm-specific productivity differences on organizational forms, the structure of wages, unemployment, and

interdependence across countries. Since much of this work attempts to explain features of the data, the discussion will include theory and empirical studies.

Schwartz Lecture

The annual lecture series organized by the Kellogg School of Management to honor the late Nancy Schwartz will be at 5:45pm on Wednesday, May 2 in the McCormick Auditorium of the Allen Center. This year's lecturer is noted industrial organization researcher **Jean Tirole** of the University of Toulouse.

NU-Toulouse Conference

The annual joint conference between the Center for the Study of Industrial Organization and the IDEI group at the University of Toulouse will be held at Northwestern on Thursday and Friday May 3 and 4. Look for announcements regarding the program.

Second & Third Year Orientation

Professor **Joe Ferrie**, the Director of Graduate Studies, will be holding mandatory meetings for the second and third year students on Tuesday, May 8. He will cover important deadlines, degree requirements, and funding availability. He will also answer your questions. The meetings will be held in Andersen 3245.

Second year students should attend from 5PM to 5:30PM, and third year students from 5:30PM to 6PM.

Nemmers Conference

A conference on *The Political Economy of Growth and Development* will be held at the Allen Center on Friday May 10 and the morning of Saturday May 11. This is associated with the awarding of the Nemmers Prize.

A very impressive set of speakers and discussants has been invited. The preliminary program can be viewed from the link on the front page of the Department's website.

Free on-line registration will be needed. Registration will open after Spring Break. Watch for an e-mail announcement.

Job Market Orientation

Students who are thinking about going on the market next year should attend an introductory meeting scheduled for 5:00PM on Tuesday, May 15 in Andersen 3245. Professor **Matthias Doepke**, who is taking over as the Director of Graduate Placement, will provide an orientation for those considering going on the market in the fall. However, any student in the third year and beyond who is curious about the job market process is welcome.

Field Course Meeting

An orientation session for students entering their second year will be held on Monday, September 24 from 1pm to 4pm in Andersen 3245. The session will discuss the 501 requirement, funding criteria, and include presentations on each of the field course sequences that you can take in both the Economics Department and KSM. Prospective second year students who also expect to be Teaching Assistants will need to return to Evanston the previous week for mandatory training (see "Formal Announcements" section).

Teaching

Next Year's Course Schedule

We are still working on the teaching schedule for next year. The schedule of courses will be posted on our website at the start of Spring Quarter.

This Quarter's Course Descriptions

The Department has a policy to avoid excessive awarding of incomplete grades. Please see our web site for a complete statement. Report any problems to the Director of Graduate Studies.

Economics 414-3

Economics of Information
Professor Olszewski
TTh 1:30-3:30 AAH 3204

The course will comprise some topics from the frontier of research in economic theory. The material will typically be more advanced than Drew Fudenberg and Jean Tirole's *Game Theory* (MIT Press, 1991). The topics will be selected - jointly with students - from the following list: (1) cheap talk, herd behavior, reputational and informational cascades; (2) classic models of repeated games; (3) repeated games with private monitoring, and repeated games with continuous time; (4) reputations; (5) higher-order beliefs, implications for game theory and mechanism design; (6) basics of search theory and experimentation; and (7) strategic manipulation of empirical tests. Other topics may be added.

Evaluation will be based on several problem sets and a final take-home exam.

Economics 416-2

Advanced Macroeconomics
Professor Matsuyama
MW 5:15-7:15pm AAH 3245

The focus of the course is mostly on macroeconomic growth and development. It can be taken independently of 416-1. Topics will be chosen, partly based on the interest of students, among the following: (1) endogenous technological change: innovation, R&D, and technology adoption; (2) dynamics of firm size and productivity distributions; (3) nonhomothetic preferences and the role of demand factors in growth; and (4) financial frictions such as development traps and macro volatility, inequality across households and nations, global imbalances, liquidity, financial crises, and bubbles.

Readings include lecture slides, journal articles and working papers, as well as selected chapters from Acemoglu *Introduction to Modern Economic Growth* (Princeton University Press, 2008); and from Tirole *Theory of Corporate Finance* (MIT Press, 2005), Holmstrom and Tirole *Inside and Outside Liquidity* (MIT Press,

2011), or Allen and Gale *Understanding Financial Crises* (Oxford U.P., 2009) for some standard materials, and compilations such as Allen et al *Liquidity and Crises* (Oxford U.P., 2011).

Depending on the class size, evaluation is based on a class attendance and participation, and a class presentation (for a small class, no more than six registered students) or a take-home exam (for a larger class).

Economics 420-1

American Economic History
Professor Ferrie
TTh 9-11 AAH 3204

The course (1) acquaints students with research on long-term factors in the development of the American economy that are overlooked in the contemporary focus of other courses; and (2) familiarizes students with the methods and materials of economic history. Topics include the growth and spread of labor and capital markets, technological change, long-run macroeconomic developments, the evolution of health and living standards, and the changing role of government. The emphasis will be on students' participation in discussions and their demonstration of the mastery of the tools of economic history in evaluating the materials presented in class and in completing a significant piece of original research using primary materials.

Evaluation will be based on participation in discussions (20%), weekly presentations summarizing and critically evaluating the readings (40%), and a final paper (40%). There is no textbook for the course. A CD-ROM containing all of the readings will be available on the first day of class.

Economics 450-3

Industrial Organization and Prices
Professors Hendel and Whinston
MW 1:30-3:30 AAH 3245

The first part of the course will cover papers in several areas: (1) empirics of

contracts, and (2) estimation of dynamic IO models. The former will cover empirical attempts at testing contract theories, including hidden information as well as incentive models. The latter covers dynamic estimation methods and their application to IO.

The second part of the course will cover issues related to antitrust (e.g., merger policy and vertical contracting issues), and depending upon time, may also cover issues related to intellectual property, network effects, and/or strategic precommitment.

Economics 481-3

Econometrics

Professor Torgovity

MW 9-11

AAH 3204

This course covers microeconomic models that allow for heterogeneity in treatment response. Topics include matching estimators, instrumental variables, difference-in-difference estimators, regression discontinuity design and recent work on panel data. Brief coverage of nonparametric estimation methods will be provided as needed. Evaluation is by weekly reports, a presentation and a research proposal.

Finance 486

Seminar in Corporate Finance

Professors Krishnamurthy

TTh 1:30-3:30

AAH 4214

The general topics include corporate financing and investment decisions, optimal financial contracting, financial intermediation, and law and finance. In the context of these topics, the course will examine the implications of incentive problems, asymmetric information, taxes, and product market competition. The course will devote special attention to the topic of financial intermediation and financial crises. The course requirements will include problem sets, referee reports, and a final exam.

Finance 520-0

Seminar in Finance

Professors Andersen and Rauh

TTh 3:30-5

AAH 4214

The first half of the course, taught by Professor Rauh, will begin with considerations of empirical methods relevant for applied microeconomics generally, with a focus on identification and panel data issues. Thereafter, students will be required to give short presentations on the empirical papers from the reading list, which is divided into topics including: financial contracting (liquidation and renegotiation), risk management, labor and corporate finance, leveraged buyouts, executive compensation, and household finance during the financial crisis. Grades will be assigned solely based on the quality of the presentations and class participation.

The second half of the course, taught by Professor Andersen, will focus on derivatives pricing under stochastic volatility and jumps with specialization towards the variance risk premium and the market for volatility trading. It pays particular attention to derivatives representing pure plays on volatility, e.g., the market for so-called variance swaps. The associated ideas underlie the highly publicized VIX index, released on a real-time basis by the CBOE. This sets the stage for a study of the variance risk premium along with its manifestation in general asset pricing. The concept of realized volatility is critical for this topic as well, so we also review the measurement and forecasting of model-free volatility.

The final grade will be based on group homework assignments (50%) and a small final project (50%) that is to be completed individually.

Finance 530

Empirical Asset Pricing

Professor Bandyopadhyay

Th 6:30–9:30pm

Room TBA

Students will learn intriguing empirical regularities observed in the asset prices and the current state of research to model them. The course will review the necessary asset

pricing theory along the way. Thus, the course focuses on empirical evidences that both are guided by existing theory, and provide an important roadmap of ideas for future theoretical inquiry. Hence, the course has a broad coverage and a long reading list. Topics include, but are not limited to: (1) systematic risk factors (including size and value factors, momentum factor, proxies for (il)liquidity, jumps and statistical factors, and macro factors) in cross-sectional and time-series behavior of asset returns; (2) predictability and excess volatility of equity index returns; (3) stochastic nature of volatility and existence of variance risk premium; (4) term structure of riskfree rates and models for bond risk premia; and (5) robust empirical puzzles (such as, the equity premium puzzle) confronting neo-classical asset pricing theory. The course emphasize on studying the classic literature and a set of working papers.

The course grade will be based on writing referee reports, class presentation of a paper (preferably the students' own working paper), and on weekly homework. Tutorial sessions will be held on programming in MATLAB and WRDS databases, which will help doing some of the assignments.

MECS 460-3

Foundations of Management Economics

Professor Dziuda

T 10-1

LEV 586

This course is complementary to Economics 410-3 with a small amount of overlap. It covers conflict and cooperation among rational decision makers in economic, political and social systems.

Topics include games in extensive and normal forms (Nash equilibrium, the problem of credibility); repeated games (bargaining, folk theorem); and static and dynamic games with incomplete information (public goods and auctions, signaling models, games with communication / cheap talk, reputation).

Evaluation will be by several problem sets and a final exam. Selected readings will be announced in class. Useful

textbooks for reference are Roger Myerson *Game Theory – Analysis of Conflict* (Harvard University Press, 1997), or Fudenberg and Tirole *Game Theory* (MIT Press, 1991)

MECS 462

Decision Theory
Professor Seo
M 2-5

LVR 586

This course on decision theory focuses on axiomatic theories of individual decision making under risk and uncertainty. Topics include: (1) utility and preference, (2) classic theories of decision making under risk and uncertainty, (3) model of ambiguity, (4) intertemporal choice theory, (5) models of unforeseen contingencies/preference for/against flexibility and (6) learning.

Evaluation is by problem sets, class presentation, and participation in class discussion. One textbook in the reading list is David Kreps *Notes on the Theory of Choice* (Westview Press: 1988).

MECS 485

Empirical Issues in Strategy
Professor Watanabe (coordinator)
W 1-4

LEV 586

This course explores empirical methods used in industrial organization, strategy, and related fields, and ten faculty members of the Department of Management and Strategy will co-teach the course. The course exposes students to a wide variety of empirical techniques and emphasizes how the researcher can choose from a rich set of econometric methods to address interesting research questions. This course should help students to (1) understand empirical research in business economics and (2) perceive and comprehend numerous empirical avenues that can be used in one’s own research.

Evaluation is by a referee report and a 10 page research proposal. Reading list of related papers is provided for each week.

Economics 501 Seminar

Third Year Students

The seminar will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11am, and some Fridays at 1pm during the Spring Quarter in the Lecture Room (Andersen 3245). There will be one presentation and the seminar will last for fifty minutes including the question-and-answer period. Full practical details for the seminar are posted on our web site.

The schedule for the Spring Quarter, based on the random order announced 12-months ago, is:

Week of	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
26-Mar	Li Bergolis	Zarezadeh	
2-Apr	Lau	Marshall	
9-Apr	Cohen	Lemus	
16-Apr	Prada Sarmiento	Pisano	
23-Apr	Sinha	Wray	
30-Apr	No Class	Howe	
7-May	Zaraga	Safronov	
14-May	Gilson	Luco Echeverria	
21-May	Zare	Temnyalov	Hoffmann
38-May	No class	Mermelstein	Molony
4-Jun	Hovenkamp	Petruzzello	

Pareto-improving exchanges are permissible, but should be coordinated with Professor Ely.

Second Year Students

Second year students should start to work on their first 501 paper which must be submitted for faculty approval by July 31. This paper will then be presented in the Fall. The second paper will be presented next Spring.

The presentation order for 501 papers has always been determined by a random number generator, and is conducted independently for the Fall and Spring. Here is the order for next year. The actual assignment of people to dates and times will be announced in the September *Graduate Connection*:

Fall Quarter

Jain, Aanchal
Peysakhovich, Yana
Selezneva, Veronika
Pram, Kym
Gaetani, Ruben

Mamadehussene, Samir
Farooque, Omar
Chu, Arlene
Khosroshahi, Amirreza
Saade Ospina, Agustin
Catepillan, Jorge
Labiano, Aubhugn
Ersahin, Nuri
Li, Christopher
Pique Cebrecos, Ricardo
Doval, Laura
Song, Derek
Bird, Daniel
Romeo, Christopher
Sun, Yi
Park, Sangyoon
Zimran, Ariell

Spring Quarter

Selezneva, Veronika
Chu, Arlene
Romeo, Christopher
Pram, Kym
Doval, Laura
Peysakhovich, Yana
Farooque, Omar
Gaetani, Ruben
Zimran, Ariell
Ersahin, Nuri
Pique Cebrecos, Ricardo
Labiano, Aubhugn
Mamadehussene, Samir
Bird, Daniel
Khosroshahi, Amirreza
Jain, Aanchal
Li, Christopher
Catepillan, Jorge
Song, Derek
Park, Sangyoon
Sun, Yi
Saade Ospina, Agustin

Second year students may wish to attend some of this spring’s seminars in order to get some idea of expectations for 501 papers.

2012-13 Quarter Dates

Fall: **Thur** Sept 27 - Fri Dec 14
Winter: Mon Jan 7 - Fri March 22
Spring: Tues April 2 - Fri June 14

Note the unusual day, and much later than normal start date, for the Fall Quarter. This is due to the Jewish holidays.

Formal Announcements

Funding Guidelines

The Department has formal rules for the allocation of funding for students in years two through six. This document is posted on our web site. Please read this document as *the Department strictly enforces these funding criteria*.

In general the cut off date for meeting the requirements for funding is July 31. However, the cutoff date for the prospectus is August 31. In summary, funding requirements are:

Second Year: Passed two or more prelims at the June sitting and have met the language requirement to be a TA. (Details on rules for those who pass zero or one prelim in June are posted on the web site.)

Third Year: Completed all prelims, and submitted an approved 501 paper.

Fourth Year: Dissertation prospectus by August 31 (includes completing course work and two 501 papers)

Fifth and Sixth Year: Committee chair certifies that you will be on the job market. (Funding is a combination of University Fellowships and TAships.)

Preliminary Examinations

The Department has rules on the number of times that students are allowed to take prelim examinations, and the conditions for such retaking. These affect whether some second and third year students will be allowed to continue in the program. The rules are posted on our web site. Please make sure that you are familiar with them.

One important implication is that each time the examinations are offered counts as an “attempt” irrespective of whether you attend. All first year students should make sure they are available to attend the September sitting, should that be necessary.

Dates for future prelim examinations have been set. The ordering of the three examinations will rotate each year. For the coming summer, the dates are:

Spring 2012 Sitting

Wed June 13 Econometrics

Wed June 20 Microeconomics

Wed June 27 Macroeconomics

All examinations will be held 1PM - 4PM.

Fall 2012 Sitting

Tues Sept 4 Econometrics

Wed Sept 5 Microeconomics

Thur Sept 6 Macroeconomics

All examinations will be held 1PM - 4PM.

Note that these dates are *after* Labor Day.

Dissertation Prospectus

Third year students should have been thinking about preparing for their dissertation prospectus, which marks the end of the taught course part of their studies, and the formation of a dissertation committee. Please familiarize yourself with the administrative procedures for the thesis prospectus, which are posted on our web page in the section on goals for second and third year students.

TA Periods in Residence

Each quarter that you are a TA, you are expected to be in Evanston on weekdays from the first day of classes until the Monday after examinations end (which is the day that grades are filed). Absences during this period require permission of the instructor. In the past people have left early and arrived back late, in some cases without informing the instructor. The Department will not tolerate this. You must arrange your vacation airline flights so as to be able to fulfill your duties. Failure to do so will be grounds for rescinding your TAship. For the remainder of this year the dates for which you must be in attendance are:

Winter: until Mon March 19

Spring: Mon March 26 - Mon June 11

Attention Next Year's TAs

If you expect to be a TA next fall you need to be aware of the following arrangements:

TA Preference Forms The forms that allow TAs to indicate their preferences

for classes will be placed in your mailbox in the main office about September 10. They will also be available on-line for anyone who is away from Evanston. Completed forms have to be returned by September 21. Unfortunately, the allocation can only be announced late on Tuesday, September 25 because we do not know enrollment in 201 and 202 until enrollment closes that afternoon. Classes start on the Thursday.

New TA Training The University runs a full-day training session for new TAs. It will be held on Thursday, September 20 from 9:00am to 5:30pm, which is during the week before classes start. The Department regards your attendance as mandatory. If you believe that you will be serving as a TA for the first time next year, please arrange your schedules so that you are available in Evanston on that date.

Next Holiday Season All TAs will have to be in Evanston until Monday lunchtime on December 17 to complete grading duties. If you are making holiday travel arrangements, please ensure that you remain in Evanston until this date. In addition you will need to be back in Evanston by Sunday night, January 6 for the start of winter classes.

Office Allocations

The Department is short of space for graduate student carrels. We only have 56 carrel spaces, and we have almost 100 post-first-year students wanting space.

Based on a suggestion from the Graduate Studies Committee, students are allocated to a room rather than to a specific carrel. The number of students allocated to each room exceeds the number of carrels. The students allocated to that room then coordinate among themselves to determine who wished to use the room at what times of day and coordinate sharing of individual carrels.

The space allocation for next year will be announced just prior to Labor Day, and people move in and out between then and the start of classes.

If you are leaving us this summer, please return your keys to the Graduate Secretary when you depart, and leave us a forwarding address.

Graduate School Deadlines

Note that the Graduate School is now awarding degrees four times a year and not just twice a year. You can now graduate in June (and attend the commencement ceremonies) and in August.

April 13 for submitting the *Application for a Degree* to permit you to participate in the June Commencement ceremony and receive your diploma.

May 4 for submission of completed dissertation and all supporting materials to the Graduate School to receive a Ph.D. degree in June.

May 11 for submitting Master's Candidate Certification for students expecting a Master's degree in June.

Note that the submission deadlines are about two weeks earlier than in previous years.

July 6 for submitting the *Application for a Degree* to graduate in August.

August 3 for submission of completed dissertation and all supporting materials to the Graduate School to receive a Ph.D. degree in August.

August 10 for submitting Master's Candidate Certification for students expecting a Master's degree in August.

Commencement Arrangements

The main Commencement ceremonies will be held on Friday June 15 at 10:30AM at Ryan Field. Late in April students expecting to graduate in June will receive information regarding ordering academic costume and information about Commencement, including ticket information.

The Graduate School also organizes a "hooding ceremony." This is held from 3PM to 5PM on Thursday June 14 in Cahn Auditorium. At this event, your Ph.D. advisor will present you with your degree. If you are expecting to graduate this June, now is the time to ensure that your advisor

is available and willing to attend. If he or she is unavailable then you should ask for one of your other committee members to substitute.

Funding Opportunities

Funding Web Page

There is a web page listing non-departmental sources of funding that you can connect to from the page giving information for current graduate students. There is also information on how to obtain funds for research expenses and attending conferences. The maximum one-time research grant is \$3,000, and there is funding for one conference a year that covers up to a maximum of \$700. Full details of the application procedures and links to application forms are on the funding web page.

Notes

Next Graduate Connection

Volume 18, number 1 will be published after Labor Day in the week of Sept. 3.