Northwestern University - Department of Economics

Graduate Connection

News

Nemmers Prize

The winner of the 2012 Erwin Plein Nemmers Prize in Economics, **Daron Acemoglu** of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be making his second visit to campus from May 6 to May 30 (in room 3236). He will also be teaching a short course. More details are in the teaching section.

Jean Tirole of the Toulouse School of Economics has just been announced as the 2014 prize winner. Professor Tirole will visit Northwestern next year, give a public lecture and participate in a conference on his work. The biennial honor is bestowed on an outstanding economist who has yet to win the Nobel Prize.

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.)

To be eligible, you have to have met the Department's usual progress goals. 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. Students holding an outside fellowship that provides summer tuition and stipend are ineligible.

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. You will have to certify that you are limited to 120 hours of paid work over the summer, and that you will not take more than three weeks of "vacation" or non-research time away from campus (but it is permissible to be absent from campus to conduct research).

Visitors

In addition to Nemmers Prize winner **Daron Acemoglu**, the Department will be hosting other visitors in the remainder of the winter quarter and in spring.

Miltos Makris, a theorist from the University of Southampton will be visiting from March 10 to April 11 in room 3231

The Center for Economic Theory will be hosting a series of short term visitors for one week each. They will be in room 3213:

Renato Gomes (Toulouse) – week of March 24 (Spring Break)

Shachar Kariv (UC Berkeley) - week of March 31

Ilya Segal (Stanford) - week of April 7

Philip Reny (Chicago) - week of April 21

Sujoy Mukerji (Oxford) - week of April 28

Tomasz Strzalecki (Harvard) - week of May 5

Jihong Lee (Seoul National) - week of May 12

Matthew Jackson (Stanford) - week of May 26

Joel Watson (UC San Diego) - week of June 2

The Center for Econometrics will be hosting alumnus **Federico Bugni** (Duke) for the week of March 31, **Sokbae Lee** (Seoul National) for the week of April 14, and **Kirill Evdokimov** (Princeton) for the week of May 12.

Industrial organization economist **Gautam Gowrisankaran** of the University of Arizona continues with us for the Spring Quarter in room 318. He will co-teach Economics 450-3 (more details in the teaching section).

Placement Report

Professor **Matthias Doepke**, Director of Graduate Placement, reports that demand for new Ph.D.s from the private sector continues to be strong, whereas demand for new faculty from U.S. economics departments is still weak.

Our students are currently evaluating their various offers. However, some students have already decided (academic appointments are in the economics department except where indicated):

Henrique Roscoe de Oliveira - Pennsylvania State University

Thiago Teixiera Ferreira - Federal Reserve Bank Board of Governors, Washington DC

Fernando Luco Echeverria - Texas A&M University

Christian Lund - Copenhagen Economics, Copenhagen, Denmark

Ryan Marsh - Analysis Group, Dallas

Ken Onishi - Singapore Management University

Ahmad Peivandi Karizbodaghi - Georgia State University

Yannay Spitzer - Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Arkadiusz Szydlowski - University of Leicester, United Kingdom

Jun Yu - Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, China

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 April 8 (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.

Eisner and Bies Awards

Each fall the Department awards the **Eisner Fellowship** (providing stipend an tuition for three quarters to a graduate student who has distinguished him- or herself in *both* teaching and research) and up to two **Bies Prizes** (providing a research account for the best public policy papers presented as part of the Economics 501 seminar). The faculty nominate candidates for the Eisner Fellowship, and students can nominate themselves for the Bies Prizes. The period for nominations runs from June 1 to August 15. A committee, chaired by DGS **Wojciech Olszewski** will meet in late August, and the winners will be announced by August 31 with the formal awards given out at the Fall Buffet. For more information see a link in the "Graduate > Current Students" section of our website.

Faculty Honors

Aviv Nevo has been elected as a Fellow of the Econometric Society.

Joel Horowitz will be awarded an honorary doctor degree by Humboldt University, Berlin in June.

Faculty News

We were sad to announce the passing of longtime faculty member and Nobel Laureate **Dale Mortensen** on January 9. Professor Mortensen joined the Department in 1965. A University memorial service was held in Alice Millar Chapel on January 31.

A memorial service and a symposium were held on February 7 to celebrate the life and work of **Leon Moses** who passed away last October.

Events

Open Day

The annual Open Day for prospective Ph.D. students will be held on Friday April 4. Graduate students who would like to assist in welcoming prospective students should contract **Mercedes Thomas**, or Professor **Marciano Siniscalchi**, the 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 5:45PM 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 seventh 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 **Christina Romer** from the University of California, Berkeley, and a former chair of the Council of Economic Advisors in the Obama administration. The title of the talk is "The Aftermath of Financial Crises: It Doesn't Have to be Terrible." The lecture will be at 5:15PM on Monday April 7 in Leverone Auditorium.

Job Market Orientation

Students who are thinking about going on the market next year should attend an introductory meeting scheduled for 5:15PM on Tuesday April 8 in lecture room 3245. Professor **Matthias Doepke**, 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.

Investiture Ceremony

An investiture ceremony to mark the awarding of endowed chairs to **Martin Eichenbaum** and **Elie Tamer** will be held on Tuesday April 29 at 4PM in Harris Hall room 107. A reception will follow. Professor Eichenbaum becomes the Charles Moskos Professor of Economics and Professor Tamer the Robert E. and Emily King Professor of Business Institutions.

Second & Third Year Orientation

Professor **Wojciech Olszewski**, the Director of Graduate Studies, will be holding mandatory meetings for the second and third year students on Monday May 5. He will cover important deadlines, degree requirements, and funding availability. He will also answer your questions. The meetings will be held in lecture room 3245.

Second year students should attend from 5:15PM to 5:45PM, and third year students from 5:45PM to 6:15PM.

Industrial Organization Conference

The Center for the Study of Industrial Organization will host the annual joint conference with the University of Toulouse in Evanston on Friday and Saturday May 16 and 17. The program will be posted on the CSIO website which can be found under the Centers tab on the Department's website.

Schwartz Lecture

The annual lecture series organized by the Kellogg School of Management to honor the late Nancy Schwartz will be at 5:30PM on Wednesday May 21 in the McCormick Auditorium of the Allen Center. This year's lecturer is **Colin Camerer** of the California Institute of Technology. His topic is "When Game Theory Predicts Surprisingly Well, and

Why." There will be a reception beforehand starting at 4:30PM.

Field Course Meeting

An orientation session for students entering their second year will be held on Monday September 22 from 12:30PM to 3PM in lecture room 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 Kellogg. 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 the problem of 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 Pavan
MW 1:30-3:20   Jacobs 3204

The course has two parts. The first part covers advanced topics in in the theory of contracts and mechanism design: envelope theorems for stochastic dynamic problems, ratcheting, renegotiation-proofness, type-dependent participation constraints, dynamic VCG mechanisms, bandit auctions, dynamic profit-maximizing mechanisms, and competing principals.

The second part examines models of coordination under incomplete information: global games, equilibrium selection, higher order uncertainty, beauty contests, social value of information and coordination.

Evaluation is based on a take-home final exam.

Economics 416-3
Advanced Macroeconomics
Professor Doepke
TTh 9:30-10:50   Jacobs 3204

This class covers topics at the intersection of macroeconomics with development economics and economic growth. The first part of the class will be devoted to "family macroeconomics." We will discuss issues such as fertility choice, household bargaining, female labor supply, models of marriage and divorce, and intergenerational preference transmission.

The second part of the class will deal with political economy in macroeconomics. In particular, we will discuss voting models and models of institutional change.

Evaluation will be by problem sets, class participation, and by the submission and presentation of a paper idea.

Economics 450-3
Industrial Organization and Prices
Professors Hendel and Gowrisankaran
TTh 11-12:50   Jacobs 3245

The course will cover papers in three areas: (1) empirics of contracts, (2) estimation of dynamic IO models, and (3) energy and environmental economics. The first will cover empirical attempts at testing contract theories, including hidden information as well as incentive models. The second part covers dynamic estimation methods and their application to IO. The new part of the course will cover empirical papers that answer questions of interest in energy and environmental economics using IO institutions and methods.

Economics 460-3
International Economics
Professor Allen
MW 1:30-3:20   Jacobs 3245

This course provides an introduction to modern international trade theory and empirics. Topics include: gravity trade models and their micro-foundations, heterogeneous producers and trade, economic geography, and trade and development.

The goals of the course are threefold: (1) to ensure that students master the major "workhorse" trade models used today; (2) to introduce students to the empirical methodologies used in trade research; and (3) to acquaint students with some of the most recent research in the field.

Evaluation will be by several problem sets and a final project; readings will be from class notes and the relevant journal articles.

Economics 481-3
Econometrics
Professor Torgovitsky
MW 9-10:50   Jacobs 3204

Applied Microeconometrics: Tools and Theory. This course covers econometric tools that are commonly used in empirical work in applied microeconomics and discusses their practical implementation. It also covers the shortcomings of these tools and discusses the frontier of theoretical research aimed at addressing these deficiencies. Five topics will be discussed this year: panel data, instrumental variables, matching estimators, regression discontinuity design and difference-in-differences.

The class material for these topics will be from articles, lecture notes, and the textbook *Econometric Analysis of Cross-Section and Panel Data* by Wooldridge (MIT Press, 2010), which is available for free in electronic form through the library.

Students may choose to be evaluated on any combination of problem sets, a presentation or a research proposal. The problem sets will be primarily programming assignments designed to

familiarize students with the inner workings of the tools covered.

Not for Credit Short Course
Political Economy, Institutions and Development
Professor Acemoglu
TTh 1:30-3:20   Jacobs 3204
May 8, May 13, May 15, May 20 and May 22

This short course is intended as an introduction to new research and the applications of dynamic political economy tools to an in-depth understanding of institutions and key problems of economic development. The emphasis will be on theory, but several recent research articles on empirical aspects of the problem will also be discussed.

Specific topics will be decide depending on the interests of class participants, but could include: (1) modeling of the political economy with both static models and models of dynamic voting and constitutional choice; (2) modelling institutions including issues of domination by elites, labor coercion, weak states and state building, institutional change and democratization, and persistent dysfunctional democracies; (3) the effects of beliefs, culture and institutions.

The draft syllabus can be viewed on the Department's web page under the "Events > Nemmers Prize" tab.

Finance 520-0
Topics in Finance
Professors Andersen and Todorov
F 9-12   Jacobs 4214

High-Frequency Financial Econometrics and Econometrics of Derivatives. High-frequency financial data presents a host of unique statistical problems requiring the use of specialized inference procedures. This part of the course provides an overview of some of the most important of these procedures. Existing methods for measuring diffusion risk and jumps will be reviewed as well as parametric and nonparametric methods for estimation of

continuous asset pricing models using high frequency data. Applications to the study of the risk premia in asset prices will be also considered.

The second part of the course focuses on extracting information from option prices along with the underlying assets under realistic assumptions regarding stochastic volatility and jumps. The emphasis is to learn about the variance risk premium, the market for volatility trading, and the manifestation of the volatility and jump risk factors for general asset pricing issues, including the equity risk premium.

There are no exams. The course will be graded based on group homework assignments, and an individual project and/or critical paper review.

Finance 530
Empirical Methods in Finance
Professor Bandyopadhyay
Th 6:30-9:30pm   Jacobs 166

This course is an introduction to two diverse topics: (1) empirical asset pricing (with strong emphasis on empirical factor models and less emphasis on consumption-based models), and (2) continuous-time models in asset pricing. The course will emphasize reading papers. Evaluation will be based on weekly assignments and writing referee report(s).

Tentative coverage is: (1) survey of recent developments in cross-sectional asset pricing models, (2) empirical risk-factors in cross-section and time-series of equity returns, (3) liquidity and asset pricing, (4) equity return predictability, (5) stochastic nature of volatility and variance risk premium, (6) models for term-structure of risk-free rates and factors affecting bond risk premia, and, as time permits, (7) current state of research on the long standing empirical puzzles, such as, the equity premium puzzle, and (8) some recent research on institutional investors (hedge funds, mutual funds, and ETFs) and their relation to the limits of arbitrage literature.

Several important tools of financial econometrics, such as, the Fama-MacBeth regression, GRS test, PCA, etc., together

with the mathematical methods for continuous-time stochastic processes (Itô calculus, jumps, and rules for measure change) will be developed within the course. However this is not a course on financial econometrics and the treatment of mathematics will be informal. The emphasis will "the ideas" from the current literature.

MECS 449-2
The Economics of Ideas, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship
Professor Jones
F 1-4   Jacobs 619

This course is the second of a two-quarter graduate sequence on innovation topics; however, this course can be taken on its own and all students are welcome.

This course will provide an integrated and holistic investigation of the economics of innovation, traversing theory and empirical work from microeconomic, macroeconomic, and institutional perspectives. Topics include: creativity at the individual level, strategic interactions between firms, the role of science and innovation policy and institutions, geography and innovation clusters, and endogenous growth.

Evaluation will include a problem set, a practice referee report, and a paper proposal. Primary readings will be collected in a course packet.

MECS 460-3
Foundations of Management Economics
Professors Gradwohl, Al-Najjar, Persico, Baliga and de Castro
F 9-12   Jacobs 561

This course simultaneously introduces the student to basic game theoretic concepts and exposes the student to a wide variety of fundamental models. Many of these models are sufficiently important that all students should understand them, even if their work lies in other areas. Also in the spirit of exposing the student to breadth of thought, the course will be taught by various professors.

MECS 462
Decision Theory
Professor Klibanoff
T 2-5   Jacobs 561

This course on decision theory will focus mainly on axiomatic theories of individual decision making under risk and uncertainty. First the course will briefly explore utility theory under certainty and the notion of preferences and their representation. Then it will look in detail at the classic theories of decision under risk and uncertainty. Then the course will explore a selection of topics that expand on the classical work in various directions and are nearer to the current research frontier. These topics may include: (1) Ellsberg's paradox, models of ambiguity and uncertainty attitude; (2) dynamics -- preferences over time, dynamic consistency, updating, time and risk; (3) probabilistic sophistication; (4) risk measures; (5) models of unforeseen contingencies and flexibility; (6) incomplete preferences; and (7) prospect theory. Which of these or other topics will be covered may vary depending on time and the interests of members of the class.

The course will be part lecture and discussion, and part prepared presentations by students. Evaluation will be by problem sets and an in-class presentation. The reading are *Notes on the Theory of Choice* by David Kreps (Westview Press, 1988) and selected papers.

MECS 466
Social Choice and Voting Models
Professor Egorov
T 9-12   Jacobs 561

The course focuses on collective decision-making, both from a theoretical and a more applied view. The course starts with classical results from social choice theory. It then looks at strategic behavior in collective decision-making: elections, voting in committees, agenda selection and legislative bargaining. Students will study both preference aggregation and information aggregation in voting, as well as theories of participation and turnout.

Finally, more applied topics, such as: coordination games and revolutions, dynamics of political institutions, and party politics will be considered.

Students are expected to attend and participate in class discussion, as well as make a presentation about a paper from the reading list at the beginning of a class. By the end of the term, students are expected to write a paper which either explores an original idea, or has a critical review of several related papers. The recommended textbook for the class is Austen-Smith and Banks *Positive Political Theory (I, II)* (University of Michigan Press, 2000, 2005).

MECS 475
The Economics of Organizations
Professor Powell
W 9-12   Jacobs 619

This course provides an introduction to the field of organizational economics, which can be succinctly described as the economics of managed relationships. Topics include: incentives in organizations; relational contracts; boundaries of the firm; decision making in organizations; persistent performance differences; and organizations in market equilibrium. The course will focus on both classic papers and recent developments in the field. The main practical emphasis will be on developing applied modeling skills.

Evaluation will be by one (3-5 page) model-development essay and one in-class presentation of a recent paper.

The required text is *The Handbook of Organizational Economics*, edited by Robert Gibbons and John Roberts, (Princeton UP, 2013). There will be additional selected readings posted on the course website.

MECS 478
Introduction to Applied Econometrics III:
Research Design for Causal Inference
Professor Black
MTh 3:30-5:30   Jacobs 166

The course will cover the design of true randomized experiments and contrast them to quasi- or "natural" experiments and to pure "observational studies", where part of the sample is "treated" in some way, and the remainder is a "control group", but the researcher controls neither the assignment of units to treatment and control groups nor administration of the treatment. The course will assess the causal inferences one can and cannot draw from a particular research design, threats to valid inference, and research designs that can mitigate those threats.

The goal of the course is credible causal inference, and the study of how to design research to come closer to that goal, using messy, real-world datasets with limited sample sizes. The course emphasizes intuition and hands-on work with real data (in Stata).

Evaluation will be by weekly problem sets, a midterm and final exam.

MECS 485
Empirical Issues in Strategy
Professors Brown, Busse, Dafny, Dranove, Garthwaite, Jones, Li, Mazzeo, and Watanabe
W 9-12   Jacobs 451

This course is an overview of empirical methods in economics. Each session of the course is taught by a different professor and covers a different empirical approach for economic research. Topics include: experiments in economics, differences in differences, regression discontinuity, structural methods in industrial organization, partial identification and estimation of games with multiple equilibria, estimating the ideas production function, empirical studies in antitrust with applications to hospital mergers, horizontal integration and implications for healthcare markets, and self-selection and empirical applications of the Roy model.

Students are required to read a set of papers from a course packet each week that illustrates the empirical approach that is the topic for the week. Evaluation will be by written referee reports of papers from the course packet and a proposal for an original research paper.

Economics 501 Seminar

Third Year Students
The seminar will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11am during the Spring Quarter in lecture room 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
31-Mar	Labiano,	Kropf
7-Apr	Kohls	Mensch
14-Apr	Bet	Budanova
21-Apr	Krishnamurthy	Chapman
28-Apr	Takahashi	Luo
5-May	Cianciaruso	Farragut
12-May	Rodina	Mekonnen
19-May	Gitlin	Wagner
26-May	No Class	Reich
2-Jun	Peluffo	Labiano

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

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 and March *Graduate Connection*:

Fall Quarter
Szabadi, Bela
Toyama, Yuta
Irace, Mariano
Chirakijja, Janjala
Kalisiak, Krzysztof
Leal Vizcaíno, René
Shalders, Felipe
Dalgic, Husnu Cagri
Naumenko, Natalya
Coskun, Sena Ekin
Alon, Titan
Myatt, James
Bardhi, Arjada
Mohnen, Paul
Fershtman, Daniel
Benson, David
Berkes, Enrico
Mbakop, Eric

Spring Quarter
Irace, Mariano
Szabadi, Bela
Coskun, Sena Ekin
Kalisiak, Krzysztof
Toyama, Yuta
Myatt, James
Fershtman, Daniel
Berkes, Enrico
Benson, David
Shalders, Felipe
Leal Vizcaíno, René
Naumenko, Natalya
Mbakop, Eric
Chirakijja, Janjala
Dalgic, Husnu Cagri
Bardhi, Arjada
Alon, Titan
Mohnen, Paul

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

2014-15 Quarter Dates

Fall: **Tues** Sept 23 - Fri Dec 12
Winter: Mon Jan 5 - Fri March 20
Spring: Mon March 30 - Fri June 12

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 cutoff 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: Demonstrated competence in the three core areas of study (microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics) and have met the language requirement to be a TA.

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). Students who hold their prospectus defense in September are not guaranteed funding.

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

Non-Job-Market Fifth Years: We will attempt to fund non-job-market fifth years as TAs to the extent possible within the budget that The Graduate School sets for us, but we have no obligation to fund such students. To be eligible for such funding, if it were available, the student must have completed their prospectus and the student's advisor has to certify that the student is making good progress on their dissertation by July 31.

Preliminary Examinations – Class of 2013

First year students should familiarize themselves with the Department's rules on continuation to the second year. These are posted on our web site.

Students can demonstrate competence and are exempt from the prelim exam in any area in which they achieved a GPA of 3.60 or greater in the three first-year classes (e.g. in 410-1,2,3 for the microeconomics prelim exam).

For students who have to take one or more prelim examinations the dates are:
Mon July 14   Macroeconomics
Fri July 18   Econometrics
Wed July 23   Microeconomics
All examinations will be held 1PM - 4PM.

Preliminary Examinations – Class of 2012

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 year students will be allowed to continue into their third year. The rules are posted on our web site. Please make sure that you are familiar with them.

Dates for this summer are:

Spring 2014 Sitting
Mon July 14   Macroeconomics
Fri July 18   Econometrics
Wed July 23   Microeconomics
All examinations will be held 1PM - 4PM

Fall 2014 Sitting
Because a fourth sitting is only possible if a student has already passed two examinations, students can take their remaining examination on one date, Wednesday September 3 from 1PM - 4PM. This date is *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. The prospectus must be completed by August 31 to guarantee fourth year funding. Students who hold their prospectus defense in September should expect to be unfunded.

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 24
Spring: Mon March 31 - Mon June 16

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 8. They will also be available on-line for anyone who is away from Evanston. Completed forms have to be returned by September 17. Unfortunately, the allocation can only be announced late on Friday, September 19 because we do not know enrollment in 201 and 202 until enrollment closes that afternoon. Classes start on the following Tuesday.

New TA Training The University runs a full-day training session for new TAs. It will be held on Thursday, September 18 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 15 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 4 for the start of winter classes.

Ongoing TA Training

Interested in training as a TA beyond the introductory new TA conference? The Searle Center holds a series of workshops to help you improve your teaching, and how to deal with issues in the classroom. You can find the schedule at the Searle Center's website under the "Programs > Grads > Workshops" tab.

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 awards degrees four times a year. You can graduate in June (and attend the commencement ceremonies) and in August.

April 18 for submitting the *Application for a Degree* to permit you to participate in the June Commencement ceremony and receive your diploma.

May 9 for submission of completed dissertation and all supporting materials to the Graduate School to receive a Ph.D. degree in June.

May 16 for submitting Master's Candidate Certification for students expecting a Master's degree in June.

July 7 for submitting the *Application for a Degree* to graduate in August.

August 1 for submission of completed dissertation and all supporting materials to the Graduate School to receive a Ph.D. degree in August.

August 8 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 20 at 9:30AM 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 19 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.

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 **Wojciech Olszewski** 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 Tamer for instructions.

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 20, number 1 will be published after Labor Day in the week of Sept. 8.