

Graduate Connection

Vol. 23 No. 3

March 2018

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News

Summer Funding

The Graduate School (TGS) provides us with a quota of summer funding slots for second through fifth 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 six 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).

Funding and Good Standing Guidelines for the Next Academic Year

The Department has a set of rules for what you need to do to remain in good standing and also to be funding eligible for the next academic year. These are described in detail in the "Formal Announcements." Please read these carefully, as action is

required by you or your advisor this coming summer.

Faculty Changes

We regret to announce that Professor **Luigi Bocola**, who is currently away on leave has joined the faculty of Stanford University effective from January 1, 2018. Also, this summer we will bid farewell to Professor **Cynthia Kinnan** who will be joining Tufts University.

Staff news

In January, the Center for Economic History welcomed **Priyanka Panjwani** as a full-time research assistant. She is in room 3287.

Visitors

Three of our existing post-doc visitors will remain with us for the entire academic year: **Michael Andrews**, **Fabrice Tourre**, and **Melanie Xue**.

In Spring we welcome two teaching visitors for the entire quarter. **Robert Miller** is from Carnegie-Mellon University, and he will be teaching a graduate labor economics class (Econ 440-2 – see the teaching section). He will be in room 3363. We also welcome **Joseph Zeira** from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem who will be teaching an undergraduate class on the economic history of Israel. He will be in room 3357.

Among our short-term visitors, we welcome economic historian and alum **John Nye** from George Mason University. He will be here from March 8 to 15 in room 3363. Theorist **Sergei Kobviasiuk** from the Eunaudi

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Institute will be here for the month of March in room 3361.

Honors

Congratulations to **Charles Manski** on being awarded an honorary doctorate by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In addition, the BBVA Foundation has given their Frontiers of Knowledge Award to **Robert Porter**, Timothy Bresnahan and Ariel Pakes for opening up the field of empirical industrial organization.

Placement Report

Professor **Matthias Doepke**, Director of Graduate Placement, reports that the job market for new PhDs continued a recent trend towards more postdoc and fewer tenure-track positions, but moved smoothly overall with good demand from the academic and private sectors. Some of our students have already accepted positions:

Arjada Bardhi – Duke University

David Benson – Federal Reserve Bank Board of Governors, Washington DC

Travis Howe - Spring Venture Group (insurance industry), Kansas City

Mariano Irace – Cornerstone Research, Chicago

James Myatt – Cornerstone Research, Chicago

Natalya Naumenko – Brown University (postdoc)

Susan Ou – Analysis Group, Boston

Lola Segura – Analysis Group, Boston

Among the students still considering offers, **Titan Alon** has an offer from UCSD, **Abdou Ndiaye** from Michigan, UCLA and NYU Stern, and **Sam Norris** from Chicago (Harris School).

Two alums currently holding postdocs have accepted positions: **Kym Pram** at the University of Nevada at Reno, and **Mikhail Safranov** at the University of Nottingham in the UK.

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 10 (see in the “Events” section below).

Eisner and Bies Awards

Each fall the Department awards the **Eisner Fellowship** (providing stipend and tuition for three quarters to a graduate student who has distinguished him- or herself in *both* teaching and research) and **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 > Funding section of our website.

Events

Open Day

The annual Open Day for prospective Ph.D. students will be held on a Tuesday this year - Tuesday April 3. Graduate students who would like to assist in welcoming prospective students should contact **Mercedes Thomas**, or Professor **Marciano Siniscalchi**, 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 Guild Lounge of Scott Hall. The entrance is at the corner of Chicago Avenue and Sheridan Road.

Job Market Orientation

Students who are thinking about going on the market next year should attend a 45-minute introductory meeting scheduled for 5:00PM on Tuesday April 17 in lecture room 1410. Professor **Matthias Doepke**, the current 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. Next year Professor **Alessandro Pavan** will be Director of Placement, but he is currently on leave, so Professor Doepke will lead the orientation.

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 Tuesday April 24. He will cover important deadlines, degree requirements, and funding availability. He will also answer your questions. The meetings will be held in lecture room 1410.

Second year students should attend from 5:00PM to 5:30PM, and third year students from 5:30PM to 6:00PM.

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 Monday April 30 in the McCormick Auditorium of the Allen Center. This year’s lecturer is **Susan Athey** of Stanford University. Her talk is titled “Marketplaces, Intermediaries, and Product Quality.” There will be a reception beforehand starting at 4:30PM.

Econometrics Conference

A conference featuring five former Northwestern econometrics students

will be held all day on Friday, May 18 in KGH 4101. See the Center for Econometrics website for the schedule and full details.

Field Course Meeting

An orientation session for students entering their second year will be held on Wednesday September 26 from 12:30PM to 3PM in lecture room 1410. 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).

Start of Fall Quarter

Because of religious holidays in September, the start date of Fall Quarter is rather unusual this year. The first day of classes is Thursday September 27.

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.

Spring Quarter 2018

First day of class is Tuesday April 3. However, on that day, classes normally scheduled on Monday will meet. So for that week only:
MW classes meet TW
TTh classes meet Th only

However, Kellogg may not follow this pattern, and also may hold classes on Monday April 2. If you are taking a Kellogg PhD class scheduled

for Monday or Tuesday, check with the instructor for the first day of class.

Advice on Field Sequences

The Department has guidance on acceptable field course sequences. These are posted in the Graduate > Degree Requirements and Goals > Second and Third Year Goals section of our website.

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 Strulovici
MW 1:30-3:20 KGH 3301

The objective of the course is twofold. First, to help theory students develop a skill and interest in thinking about applied questions and identifying how theoretical tools and concepts can contribute to these questions. Second, to expose applied students to modern theoretical tools and concepts to incorporate into their own work. The course will focus on applied fields for which theory is relatively undeveloped and clear opportunities for theory exist, such as health economics, law and economics, regulatory and institutional economics, and development economics. Theoretical tools include mechanism design, reputation and bargaining models, contract theory, comparative statics, and dynamic methods.

The course also aims to foster collaboration and help students uncover arbitrages and complementarities across theory and applied fields that will strengthen their research portfolio.

Evaluation will be based on assignments, a paper presentation, and the submission of a research project.

Economics 416-2

Advanced Macroeconomics
Professors Rognlie
TTh 6:00-7:50pm KGH 3301

The course focuses on the theory and applications of heterogeneous agent models and the New Keynesian model — first individually, and culminating in the now-emerging intersection of the two. It will build both conceptual understanding and computational techniques. Evaluation will be based on regular problem sets. Lectures and course notes will synthesize material from various texts and papers, with no individual required text.

Economics 420-1

American Economics History
Professor Ferrie
TTh 9:00-10:50 KGH 3301

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. All of the readings will be available on the first day of class through a DropBox link.

Economics 425-3

Theory of Economic Development
Professors Kinnan and Udry
TTh 11:00-12:50 KGH 1410

The central questions of this course are why, and to what extent, households and firms in poor countries fail to achieve efficiency in consumption and production. The course will focus on three related concepts of efficient allocation: across time (via credit), across states of the world (via insurance), and across productive units/space (via investment and migration). The course will cover frictions in credit market and possible solutions (e.g., microcredit); fully-efficient and constrained-efficient informal insurance; interactions between insurance, investment and credit; investment, firm productivity and misallocation; and barriers to and impacts of migration. Emphasis will be on implications that can be used to measure models' ability to explain data in light of concerns of measurement error, heterogeneity and endogeneity.

Economics 440-2

Economics of the Labor Market
Professor Miller
MW 5:30-7:20pm KGH 3301

Taught by Professor Robert Miller of Carnegie-Mellon University. The second quarter in the labor economics sequence develops structural estimation approaches for analyzing large cross sectional and longitudinal data sets. The analyses exploit restrictions derived from dynamic outcomes of equilibrium models in labor economics. Topics include: lifecycle labor supply; fertility; contracting with private information and moral hazard; executive labor markets; procurement; job matching;

migration, search and unemployment; competitive bargaining. Evaluation is by several problem sets and a final exam. The supplementary text is *Labor Economics*, by Cahuc, Carcillo and Zylberberg (MIT Press, 2014).

Economics 450-3

Industrial Organization and Prices
Professors Bhattacharya and Illanes
MW 9:00-10:50 KGH 3301

This is a topics course, covering recent developments in auctions, matching, innovation and R&D, and moment inequalities. The emphasis will be on empirical aspects of these topics. Evaluation is by several referee reports and student presentations.

Economics 460-3

International Economics
Professors Matsuyama and Mestieri
MW 3:30-5:20 KGH 3301

Building on the materials studied in Econ 460-2 taught in the winter quarter, this course covers selected research topics in international trade and its implications on economic growth and development. This year, it also has guest lectures by Ufuk Akcigit (on innovation and growth), Jing Zhang (on comparative advantage, trade and structural change), Jonathan Dingel (sorting and heterogeneity across space and empirics on the home-market effect) and Rodrigo Adao (labor market impacts of trade).

Evaluation will be based on a research proposal (90%) plus class participation (10%).

Economics 481-3

Econometrics
Professor Canay
TTh 1:30-3:20 KGH 3301

The course covers modern econometrics topics from a theoretical point of view but with lessons for

practitioners. It is divided in four parts. The first part is about different ways to do asymptotic approximations, including notions like local asymptotic comparisons, contiguity, and local asymptotic normality. The second part covers uniformly valid approximations, with applications to the bootstrap, subsampling, and inference in moment inequality models. The third part discusses methods for assigning units into treatment and control in randomized controlled experiments, and studies inference on the average treatment effect in experiments involving covariate-adaptive randomization. The last part covers inference with few heterogeneous clusters.

Evaluation is by problem sets, weekly reports and a topic presentation. The books *Asymptotic Statistics* by van der Vaart (Cambridge U.P, 1998) and *Testing Statistical Hypotheses* by Lehmann and Romano (Springer, 2010) include many of the topics of parts I and II. Selected readings and lecture notes are provided for the last two topics.

Economics 498-1

Advanced Topics
Professor Reguant
MW 1:30-3:20 KGH 1410

This course can count towards a sequence in industrial organization. This course will focus on covering dynamics, multi-unit auctions, pass-through and regulation. It will emphasize applications in energy and environmental markets to show how to use these tools in practice.

Evaluation will be based on a number of problem sets and a take-home exam. Readings will be based on selected articles, working papers, and a number of chapters from the *Handbook of Industrial Organization*.

Finance 585-3

Asset Pricing
Professors Andersen & Jagannathan
W 2-5 KGH 5301

This course deals with the use of econometric tools for asset pricing. Topics include: generalized method of moments (GMM); cross-sectional Regression (CSR) methods for large unbalanced panels; latent variable models (hidden Markov models, asymptotic principal component models, partial least squares); volatility models with low- and high-frequency data; affine models for asset, derivative, and term structure modeling; and nonparametric high-frequency data techniques

Recommended books include *Asset Pricing* by Cochrane (Princeton U.P., 2005) and *Time Series Analysis* by Hamilton (Princeton U.P., 1994). Evaluation will be by problem sets and a final exam or project.

Finance 586-3

Corporate Finance
Professors Benmelech and Sapienza
F 9-12 KGH 4302

This course provides a theoretical and empirical treatment of major topics in empirical corporate finance, including: applied financial contracting, banking, executive compensation, entrepreneurship shadow banking, financial regulation and household finance. It is the continuation of 586-2.

MECS 540-3

Political Economy: Social Choice and Voting Models
Professor Egorov
W 9-12 KGH 4273

This course is about collective decision-making, both on the micro level (how people aggregate information or preferences through voting) and on the big picture level (how societies choose institutions to live under). The course initially

surveys some classical results from social choice, and finds limitations with the cooperative approach. The course then looks at models of strategic behavior in collective decision-making, voting over binary agendas, and models of legislative bargaining. The course then considers all aspects of elections – decisions whether and how to vote, whether to run, and how to campaign. The last topic is institutions, including consideration of revolutions and coup d'états, and how, when and why countries democratize. The course concludes with models of forward-looking behavior in collective decision-making and dynamics of institutions.

Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions, present a paper from the reading list, and write a research proposal on a related topic.

MECS 540-4

Political Economy: Topics in Development Economics
Professors Deserranno, Morjaria & Qian
MW 10:30-12 KGH 4130

This course focuses on big picture questions in development economics. Specifically, it introduces students to three important topics: firms, long-run development, and political economy. This course familiarizes students with the frontier of the literature, the questions being asked, the methods most prevalently used, and the evidence thus far. Some examples of topics that we will cover include contract enforcement, relational contracting, misallocation, firm organization, procurement inefficiencies, corruption, foreign aid, conflict, institutions, community delivery agents. The class will focus on empirical methods and how they connect with theory. Evaluation will be based on in-class presentations and exams.

MECS 550-2

Economic Theory: Advanced Topics in Game Theory
Professor Martin
T 1:30-4:30 KGH 5301

First Class Tuesday April 3. This course deals with topics in behavioral economics. It does not serve as an overview or introduction to behavioral economics. Rather, it presents selected topics at the frontier of the field, with an emphasis on active research areas such as inattention/perception, biased beliefs, and failures of strategic reasoning. The class will strongly emphasize the key role of both theory and data in behavioral economics. Evaluation will be by weekly presentations and reports and a final presentation and report.

MECS 560-3

Research in Economics
Professor Matouschek

This is a Kellogg first year course, and is not appropriate as an Economics field course.

MECS 570-2

Economics of Organizations: Organizational Dynamics
Professor Barron
TTh 4:00-5:30 KGH 4301

This is the second in a two-class sequence on organizational economics, though students do not need to have taken the first quarter in the sequence. The course covers a mixture of mostly theoretical and some empirical work, with a focus on productivity dispersion among firms and other topics relevant to organizations. Lectures, discussions, and assignments emphasize open questions and development of independent research projects. Topics include: dynamic inefficiencies in organizations, with applications to incentive contracts, communication, delegation, and learning; stylized facts

and empirical evidence on the causes and consequences of productivity dispersion; the interaction between firm organization, financial contracts, and the labor market; the role of management; and the role of institutions.

Evaluated will be based on short model development essays and presentations. There is no required textbook, though *The Handbook of Organizational Economics* (edited by Robert Gibbons and John Roberts, Princeton U.P., 2013) is a valuable reference text.

Economics 501 Seminar

Third Year Students

The seminar will be held in the Fall and Spring Quarters on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11AM to 11:50AM, in room 1410. *Note that the first class is on Tuesday April 3.*

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	Mon 11-12	Wed 11-12
2-Apr	Daubenspeck*	Poggi
9-Apr	Danieli	Dahis
16-Apr	Bardoczy	Marchingiglio
23-Apr	Matsumura	Nikiforov
30-Apr	Xu	No Class
7-May	Loh	Sinander
14-May	Olmstead-Rumsey	Kozlov
21-May	Sedov	Valenzuela-Stookey
28-May	Memorial Day	Long
4-Jun	Manjeer	No Class

- = held on Tuesday April 3

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

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

- Topbas, Yunus
- Truffa, Francesca
- Muller, Joris
- Peck, Richard
- Kirkman, Aaron
- Machado Alves, Cassiano
- Bianchi Vimercati, Riccardo
- Wong, Ashley
- Camara, Modibo
- Lam, Honn Tai
- Magnaricotte, Matteo
- Guan, Junyan
- Porcellacchia, Michael
- Stillerman, David
- Gmeiner, Michael
- Vatter, Benjamin
- Camboni, Matteo
- Manysheva, Kristina
- Ma, Jiachen
- Andrews, Brendon

Spring Quarter

- Andrews, Brendon
- Wong, Ashley
- Muller, Joris
- Manysheva, Kristina
- Camboni, Matteo
- Gmeiner, Michael
- Camara, Modibo
- Peck, Richard
- Bianchi Vimercati, Riccardo
- Magnaricotte, Matteo
- Truffa, Francesca
- Stillerman, David
- Kirkman, Aaron
- Porcellacchia, Michael
- Machado Alves, Cassiano
- Vatter, Benjamin

- Guan, Junyan
- Ma, Jiachen
- Topbas, Yunus
- Lam, Honn Tai

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

2018-19 Quarter Dates

Fall: **Thur** Sept 27 - Fri Dec 14
 Winter: Mon Jan 7 - Fri March 22
 Spring: Mon April 1 - Fri June 14
 Note the unusual start day for Fall quarter.

Formal Announcements

Continuation Rule for Older Students

Dissertation Prospectus: Students must have completed the taught course component of Ph.D. degree and had their prospectus approved by their committee no later than the end of the Fall Quarter in their fourth year of study, which falls on the last date of the 13th quarter of study. Any student not meeting this milestone will be placed on probation. A student who fails to resume satisfactory academic standing after at most two quarters, which is the say the last date of the Spring Quarter in their fourth year of study, will be excluded from the program and Northwestern University.

Good Progress on Dissertation: Students in their fifth year and above (that is to say any student who is entering the sixth or higher year) must be certified as making "good progress" on their dissertation by July 31 at the end of each year. Any student not meeting this milestone will be placed on probation. A student who fails to resume satisfactory academic standing after at most two quarters, which is the say the last date of the

following Winter Quarter, will be excluded from the program and Northwestern University.

Funding Guidelines

The Department has formal rules for the allocation of funding for students in years two through six. These are shown in the Graduate > Funding section of our web site. Please read this page 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. Forms to certify eligibility are in the Graduate > Current Student Resources > Frequently Used Forms page of our web site. In summary, the 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: 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 Year: Committee chair has certified by July 31 that the student has submitted a written paper sufficiently far in advance of the deadline for the faculty member to have comprehensively reviewed it, and can certify that it is of suitable quality to form at least one chapter of a dissertation. Funding is of two types. For students on the job market funding is a combination of University Fellowships and TAs. For non-job market fifth years, we will attempt to fund students to the extent possible within the budget that The Graduate School sets for us, but we have no obligation to fund such students. (If

the student has not provided a written paper, or if the paper is not of sufficient quality to form at least one chapter of a dissertation, or if the student's dissertation committee chair certifies that the student is not making good progress on their dissertation, the student will not be eligible for any fifth year funding.)

Sixth Year: Dissertation committee chair must certify by July 31 that the student is making good progress and will be on the job market. Funding is a combination of University Fellowships and TAs. Sixth year students who are making good progress but will not be on the job market may be funded as TAs to the extent that it is possible within the budget set by The Graduate School.

Seventh and Higher Year: In the unlikely event that there are still funds available after all of the qualified younger students have been funded, seventh and higher year students may be supported. The dissertation committee chair must certify by July 31 that the student is making good progress, and preference will be given to those on the job market. However, University Fellowships are not available, even in the event that the student is on the job market.

Preliminary Examinations

First year students should familiarize themselves with the Department's rules on continuation to the second year. These are posted on the Graduate > Degree Requirements and Goals > First Year Goals section of 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:

Monday July 16: Econometrics
Friday July 20: Microeconomics
Wed. July 25: Macroeconomics
All examinations will be held 1:30pm – 4:30pm in lecture room 1410.

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.

Please note the rules on committee composition. All dissertation committee chairs must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department or have a voted courtesy appointment in the Economics Department. In the event that the committee chair holds a courtesy appointment, at least one other member of the committee must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department. Exceptions to these conditions are only permissible with prior written approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

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 Monday March 26
Spring: Tues Apr 3 - Mon June 18

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 4:00PM, 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.

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.

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.

Carrel Office Allocations for Fall

In August we will have an on-line process whereby older graduate students can re-optimize the carrel room they occupy, current second year students can select vacant carrels in smaller rooms, and current first year students can select carrels in the three rooms for second year students (3424, 3430, 3436). Look for emails about this in August.

Students will move to their new carrels in the period between Labor

Day and the start of Fall Quarter classes.

Graduating Students

If you are leaving us this summer, please return your keys to the Graduate Program Coordinator when you depart. You should also leave us a forwarding address. You can do this by completing the "Exit form" on the Graduate > Current Student Resources > Frequently Used Forms section of our website.

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

May 11 for submission of completed dissertation and all supporting materials to The Graduate School to receive a Ph.D. degree in June.

May 18 for submitting Master's Candidate Certification for students expecting a Master's degree in June.

July 20 for submitting the *Application for a Degree* to graduate in August.

August 10 for submission of completed dissertation and all supporting materials to The Graduate School to receive a Ph.D. degree in August.

August 17 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 22 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 21 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 federal legislation, the National Science Foundation (NSF) requires 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 Olszewski for instructions.

Funding Opportunities

Funding Web Page

There is a page listing non-departmental sources of funding that you can connect to from Graduate > Funding section of our web site. 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 two conferences during your time at Northwestern that covers up to a

maximum of \$800 for each conference. Full details of the application procedures and links to application forms are on the web page.

Notes

Next Graduate Connection

Volume 24, number 1 will be published after Labor Day in the week of Sept. 10.