



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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To: Lon Knox,
University Secretariat

From: Brenda Brouwer
Vice-Provost and Dean
School of Graduate Studies

Date: November 2, 2012

Re: Report to Senate – School of Graduate Studies Orientation Activities

The 2012 orientation for graduate students began with our **Annual Welcome and Orientation Resource Fair** held on September 4, 2012 in the Biosciences Atrium. Approximately 600 new and returning graduate students attended the event which included a welcome from Principal Woolf and presentations on “*Strategies for Success*” covering topics such as achieving life balance, academic integrity, Expanding Horizons (professional and skills development) and the availability of various support services on campus. As in previous years, support service groups from Queen’s and the Kingston Community hosted booths and provided information geared to our international and domestic graduate students. The volunteers who manned 31 booths were extremely busy talking with students about how they can assist with their transition and help to ensure a positive graduate experience.

Matthew Scribner, President of the Society for Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS), presented the **2012 Graduate Support Award** to Ms. Jennifer Read, Graduate Program Assistant in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. The award recognizes the recipient’s commitment to helping graduate students during their studies at Queen’s. Congratulations to Ms. Read!

Campus tours were available after the orientation as well as throughout the first two weeks of September. These are always popular with student new to Queen’s.

The Queen’s University International Centre (QUIC) offered an **International Graduate Orientation**. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to socialize with QUIC staff, members of the SGPS, SGS, and other students from across the university. As well, the gathering provided an opportunity to explore and discuss both academic and non-academic issues of importance to graduate students.

Orientation Activities in the School of Graduate Studies’ Academic Units

School of Policy Studies (SPS)

Students in the Public Administration and Industrial Relations programs were welcomed by Dr. Peter Harrison, Director of the SPS. Dr. Harrison provided information about the School, its programs and summarized the orientation program.

Over a two day period, a series of workshops and activities were held. These included presentations on Queen's Information Resources and Professional Writing delivered by Queen's librarians and the Writing Centre, respectively. Alumni panel presentations and a special presentation by Malcolm Brown, Executive Vice-President, Canada Border Services Agency focused on career paths, how their MPA/MIR programs prepared them for the job market, and the opportunities available to graduates holding SPS graduate credentials. The final orientation event was a BBQ social hosted by the School's director.

School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP)

The SURP orientation was organized by the second year students' Orientation Committee. Prior to the arrival of the incoming graduate class on campus, much information and practical advice has been provided via social media. As such, there was already a sense of community by the time students arrived at Queen's to begin a five day orientation. All students received a *Welcome Package*, were provided with a program overview by Dr. David Gordon, the Director of the School and engaged in a variety of resource-focused and academic planning activities. These were interspersed with several social events attended by faculty, staff and students.

The School of Graduate gratefully acknowledges the support provided from the many campus services and units who contribute to making the graduate orientation such a success.

Respectfully submitted,



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Vice-Provost and Dean