



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

To: Georgina Moore,  
Secretary of Senate

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

Date: October 25, 2011

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

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The School of Graduate Studies' orientation activities serve to welcome new and returning students to programs in all disciplines and provide information about services and resources available at Queen's and in the Kingston Community. The events are intended to complement the activities organized by the academic units.

### **University-Wide Welcome Activities**

Each September, the School of Graduate Studies partners with the Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS) and Student Affairs to host the **Welcome and Orientation Resource Fair**. This year, the Fair was held in the Biosciences Atrium on September 6, 2011. We invited more than 36 groups from campus and the Greater Kingston Area to showcase services, organizations and social groups. The booths covered all aspects of graduate student life at Queen's including Campus Security, Queen's Daycare, Immigrant Services, The City of Kingston, Student Alumni Association and the Centre for Teaching and Learning among many others. This event has proven very successful each year. Over 700 students attended the event. We are also grateful to the Principal who came to the event and offered a special welcome to our graduate students. Other speakers included Dr. Brenda Brouwer, Vice-Provost and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Ms. Anne Tierney, Associate Vice-Principal and Dean of Student Affairs.

The President of the SGPS, Jillian Burford-Grinnell, used the opportunity to present the **Graduate Support Award** to two Queen's members: Dr. Samantha King, the Graduate Coordinator in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies and Ms. Terrie Easter Sheen, the Graduate Assistant from Gender Studies. This award recognizes the recipients' commitment to helping graduate students during their studies at Queen's.

The Office of the University Registrar offers campus tours specifically designed for graduate students. The tour begins with information about the registration process for graduate students and culminates in a walking tour of campus. These tours ran hourly during the **Welcome and Orientation Resource Fair** and were very well attended. The University Admissions Team has arranged with a graduate student to provide future tours when they are requested.

### **Supporting Diversity and Inclusivity at Queen's**

The School of Graduate Studies participated in several events to bring together newly arriving students from different parts of the world. The number of international graduate students at Queen's has grown considerably over the years and providing opportunities to meet other students promotes a sense of belonging. At the invitation of Vice-Provost (International) Dr. John Dixon, Dr. Brenda Brouwer (Vice-Provost and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies) and Ms. Anne Tierney (Associate Vice-Principal and Dean of Student Affairs) welcomed the arrival of our international graduate and exchange students during a reception held on September 13, 2011. The event was an opportunity for the international students to speak with the senior administrators in a casual and informal manner.

To promote cross-cultural awareness and understanding, the Queen's University International Centre (QUIC), with participation from the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), the Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS) and Health Counselling and Disability Services (HCDS) facilitated a case study workshop for international graduate students. School of Graduate Studies' Associate Dean, Dr. David Rappaport worked together with two SGPS Peer Advisors, as well HCDS and QUIC staff to help the students reconcile the cases. Various academic issues were discussed including the evaluation of students, roles of academic supervisors and teaching assistants. Discussion also included non-academic issues such as immigration and taxation.

### **Orientation to Teaching at Queen's**

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) participated in the Centre for Teaching and Learning's annual Teaching Development Day held on September 9, 2011. Welcoming remarks by Drs. Susan Cole (Deputy Provost) and Brenda Brouwer (Vice-Provost and Dean, SGS) were followed by a keynote address from Dr. Alan Ableson, Department of Mathematics and Statistics and Queen's University Chair in Teaching and Learning. His talk on supporting effective teaching set the tone for the day-long event of workshops focusing on new and interesting developments in teaching and learning. Associate Dean, Dr. David Rappaport provided a workshop on the role of Teaching Assistants at Queen's.

### **Orientation Activities in the School of Graduate Studies' Academic Units**

Students in the *School of Policy Studies* Public Administration and Industrial Relations programs were welcomed by the School's Director, Dr. Peter Harrison. Dr. Harrison provided an overview of the School and its programs which was followed by the **Welcome and Orientation Resource Fair**.

Over the following two days, workshops such as "An Introduction to Queen's Information Resources" led by Queen's librarians, and "Professional Writing" coordinated by the Writing Centre were held. Team-building activities for the students, an alumni panel and a special presentation by Director Harrison on **Public Service and Professional Ethics** completed the orientation program.

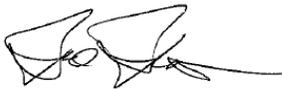
New students were also invited to participate in a special celebration recognizing the School's fifth year of the "Indigenous Policy and Governance Initiative." The celebration included a traditional Mohawk blessing and smudging ceremony.

***The School of Urban and Regional Planning*** started their orientation early in August led by the second year students' Orientation Committee. A Facebook page that facilitated communication between new and returning students provided information and tips about housing and life at Queen's. They also sent new students a comprehensive "welcome package", providing a synopsis of what to expect in the program.

In September, the School ran a five-day orientation program. New students were introduced to faculty, staff and colleagues and everyone mingled over a catered luncheon. The School's Director, Dr. David Gordon provided an overview of the program, while one-on-one meetings with faculty academic advisors provided opportunity to discuss personal plans of study and goals. Students also received an introduction to the University's library system. Social events included a picnic mixer, urban planning trivia games, pizza night, the Wolfe Island Corn Maze, sporting activities and walking tours of the campus and downtown Kingston. Socializing formed an important part of orientation week and helped build community among students.

The School of Graduate Studies, through our orientation programs, strives to facilitate the transition to graduate studies and promote a positive experience for all.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Brouwer, Ph.D.  
Vice-Provost and Dean