Dear College of Education Graduate Students,

It may be cold and dreary outside, but the College of Ed has many exciting events happening this month. Shake off the winter doldrums, read on, and get involved because this is a busy month for the COE GSC. You’ll notice something new this month as well - we’ve updated our monthly newsletter format. Please click here for details of events. If you have any comments, concerns, or questions, we would love to hear your feedback.

The week of February 9th, we will hold **GSC elections** for 2015-16 academic year. We have many talented people who have stepped up to the plate, and this is your chance to elect representatives. A link to the ballot will be sent out on February 9th.

**Please note:** due to some technical difficulties, we had to postpone our town hall in January. As soon as the town hall has been rescheduled, we will email a flyer.

As always, please contact the CoEGSC at psucoegsc@gmail.com if you would like to share upcoming events and/or have other relevant announcements. Please consider joining our list serve and following us on our Facebook Group and Twitter (@COEGSCpsu) for more up-to-the-minute information.

Wishing you a productive February,
Graduate Student Council

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CoE GSC Highlights

Symposium on Academic Support for International Students
February 6th @ 12:00PM in Rackley 303

College of Education Graduate Student Council (COEGSC) will hold a one-hour symposium on academic support for international students on 2/6 (Fri) at noon (@Rackley 303).

The purpose of this symposium is to identify and share concerns that international students struggle with for their academic success here in the U.S. The structure of this symposium is “panel discussion + small group discussion.” Although this symposium is specifically geared towards international students, all students are welcome to attend!

Potential topics would be, but not limited to:

- Writing papers (e.g. literature review)
- Keeping up with the reading assignments
- Verbal participation in class
- Taking notes in class
- Talking with teachers/professors/advisors
- Talking with American students
- Emailing professors
- Research partnerships
- Managing time effectively.

Attached please find the flyer for this event. If any questions, please feel free to email Saki Ikoma at sui114@psu.edu.

GSC elections

The week of **February 9th**, we will hold GSC elections. We have many talented people who have stepped up to the plate and this is your chance to elect those folks whom you would like to represent you to the Deans and the College of Ed. A link to the ballot will be sent out on February 9th and we hope you participate.

Dissertation Safety Net and Support Group
February 11th @ 5:00 p.m. in Pattee W126

Please join us for our first Dissertation Safety Net and Support Group. This inaugural meeting will establish expectations and give attendees a chance to discuss their needs throughout the dissertation process. This
group will meet every other week but participants will have a chance to establish schedules based on their own needs. For more information please email, Daniella Hall at daniella.nmi.hall@gmail.com.

1st Annual College of Education Graduate Research Symposium
Friday, February 27th @ Krause Innovation Studio in Chambers Building

Please attend the Symposium and support your fellow of College of Education student. This is a great chance to get to know your fellow College of Ed peers.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Events by Week

Week of February 2nd

Tiptoeing Around Diversity Featuring Molly Secours
February 2nd @ 6:30 p.m. in Freeman Auditorium, HUB-Robeson Center

Secours is a writer, filmmaker, and speaker, who uses her artistic talents to effect social change and public policy regarding various issues. She incorporates compassion and humor to honestly examine throughs, behaviors and history regarding race.

IESA Business Meeting with Dr. LeTendre
February 3, 11:00am, 303 Rackley

Join the IESA business meeting for a review of how you can get funding for CIES as well as a presentation by Dr. LeTendre on making the most of your experience at the conference (and other conferences). We look forward to seeing you all there!

Food will be provided!

Graduate Student Research Journal Club
TBD

Do you ever crave to share with other students the exciting research findings and cutting-edge methods you read about in a recent journal article? Are you interested in honing on your analytical skills in reviewing and presenting academic journal articles? Are you interested in learning more about research in other sub-fields of education? Then the Journal Club is for you!

Journal Club provides a forum for the review of the current literature on relevant topics in educational research for graduate students in the College of Education. The aim of these sessions is not only to help students stay abreast of important current research findings and methods, but also to further develop our analytical skills to critically review the literature. Journal Club seeks to create an open environment where everyone feels comfortable asking questions. It also seeks to build a community where graduate students can learn more about current research in other sub-fields in education and have an opportunity to connect with other students who share common research interests.

Interest meeting: Wednesday, Feb 4th at 12:15-1:15pm, at Rackley 303 (Brownies will be provided!)
Who: You! All graduate students within the College of Education and students from other academic disciplines who are interested in educational research

What: Review and discuss recent key journal articles in the field of education (participants take turns to present one article of their choice)

When: TBD

Frequency: Monthly (to be discussed at the initial meeting on Feb 4)

Topics and Themes: To be discussed at the interest meeting

Questions? Contact HyoJung Jang (hxj139@psu.edu)

Pennsylvania Educational Equity Project General Meeting

*February 4th @ 3:00PM in Chambers 221*

The Pennsylvania Educational Equity Project (PEEP) will have a general business meeting. New members and interested participants are welcome to attend.

Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence workshop: Teaching a Large Class Efficiently

*February 5th @ 1:00-2:15 PM in 315 Rider Building*

*February 9th @1:00-2:15 PM in 7A Sparks Building*

Takeaways: Tips on mapping out punctuated lectures, creating a small-class atmosphere, and using assessments that gather key information without overwhelming the instructor.

Register at


Week of February 9th

The future of Teach For America: A conversation with Co-CEO Elisa Villanueva Beard

February 11, 2015 @ 3:30 – 4:45 p.m. in AEI offices (Washington, D.C.) or Online

Elisa Villanueva Beard, co-CEO of Teach For America (TFA), and AEI's Rick Hess discuss school reform and TFA's vision for the future. Teach For America (TFA), a national education nonprofit, was launched 25 years ago to bring young professionals into hard-to-staff schools and to inspire future leaders to tackle education's most pressing issues. It has since grown to be one of the most well-respected and widely known organizations in the education field, drawing scores of young people into the teaching profession and producing thousands of alumni who are now influential education advocates. The organization has also generated a bit of controversy along the way.
We welcome you to join us at AEI to hear TFA Co-CEO Elisa Villanueva Beard discuss the lessons TFA has learned and her vision for its future.

REGISTER

RSVP to attend this event or to watch live online, click here on February 11 at 3:30 PM ET. Registration is not required. For more information, please contact Sarah DuPre at sarah.dupre@aei.org, 202.862.7160.

Speaker: Dr. Joy DeGruy
February 12th @ 7:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall, HUB-Robeson Center

Sponsored by the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, DeGruy is a nationally and internationally renowned researcher, educator, author and presenter on the topics of culture, race relations, and contemporary social issues. She is best known for her book, “Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome”.

Brown bag: Non-university careers
February 13th @ 12:15-1:15pm in 303 Rackley

EPSSA and IESA will cosponsor this workshop on non-university careers. Guest speakers will be David Baker and Felicia Sanders (EDTHP alumna, Associate Research Scientist at the Institute of Educational Sciences).

Week of February 16th

An Anti-Citizenship Polemic: Immigration, Identity, and Resistance
February 16 @ 06:00 PM to 07:30 PM

2014/2015 Alain Locke fellow Natalie Cisneros will give a lecture on race, immigration, and identity during the 2015 Spring Semester. Her talk, which will be drawn from her book manuscript on the topic, will engage with the discussions generated as part of the Critical Philosophy of Race Initiative’s year-long project on the topic of Race, Immigration, and Refugees. For more information contact: Carolyn Umbricht, ccu1@psu.edu, 814-863-031

Academic Writing for Multilingual Writers
February 18 @ 6:00-8:00 PM in 112 Walker Building (Instructor: Shakil Rabbi)

This workshop will discuss some of the more common obstacles faced by non-native and multilingual speakers as they adapt to the conventions of academic written English. It will be divided into two sections: a discussion of the rhetorical strategies and tools to address common problems in terms of grammar, organization, and style, and a peer review session as a way to practice the strategies outlined in the lecture. Participants are encouraged to bring two copies of an example of writing in their fields and two copies of one of their own works to workshop.

EPSSA Business meeting
February 19th @ 6:00pm, 403 Rackley
We will talk about: (1) joint activities and upcoming EPSSA events, (2) structure of EPSSA and the relationship with other organizations, (3) upcoming EPSSA elections, and (4) UPAC funding for AERA.

**CIES practice presentations - Call for participation due Feb 6**
*February 20, 12 - 2:00pm, 403 Rackley*

If you are presenting at CIES and would like to practice your presentation, please email psu.iesa@gmail.com with your name, the title of your presentation, and a brief abstract. You will have 15 minutes to present and the opportunity to receive feedback from colleagues and faculty at Penn State.

Food will be provided!

**Week of February 23rd**

**Finding Kind**  
*February 23, 2015, @ 6:30 p.m. in Freeman Auditorium, HUB-Robeson Center*

Co-sponsored with Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) and the Center for Women Students, *Finding Kind*, filmmakers Lauren Parsekian and Molly Thompson, who met while in school at Pepperdine University, set out in a cross country journey of discovery and education. Interviewing women and girls along the way about their lives and experiences, Parsekian and Thompson find, among all of the unique personal stories, some universal truths about growing up as girls.

*Finding Kind* is a document of that journey, and of the filmmakers’ quest to take these experiences and find a common ground of kindness and mutual respect. In addition to all the individual girls and women who share their personal experiences about girl-on-girl bullying with the filmmakers, Parsekian and Thompson include interviews with respected experts and authors in the fields of psychology, education, and the interrelationships of women and girls.

**"Mandela's Words: Mightier than the Sword": The Nelson Mandela Lecture with Garrey Dennie**  
*February 24 @ 6:00-7:30 p.m. @ Nittany Lion Inn, Board Room 1*

**FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Garrey Dennie, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History at St. Mary's College of Maryland  
Nelson Mandela’s death has triggered global outpouring of grief and memorials, a testament to his role in the struggle against apartheid. As a scholar of death, bereavement, and grief in South Africa, and as a former speech writer of Nelson Mandela, my lecture will speak to the intersection of these dual roles. As a scholar, I will explore how the language of liberation in the 1960s and the 1990s was deeply influenced by the specificities of time and place. As a Mandela speech writer, I will detail how living in the moment, the speech writers struggled to craft the language that would give momentum to the struggle to defeat apartheid.

**Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence workshop: Writing a Teaching Philosophy: First Steps**  
*February 26th @ 1:00-2:15 PM in 315 Rider Building*

Teaching philosophy statements are commonly used in the hiring and tenure processes. But it can be challenging to put your “philosophy” into words. Perhaps you are not sure if you even have a philosophy. This
interactive workshop is designed to help you begin articulating and developing your statement of teaching philosophy.


Scholarship and Funding Opportunities

AERA Funded: Institute on Statistical Analysis for Education Policy: Causal Analysis Using International Data

Due date: February 17th, 2015

- The AERA Grants Program is accepting applications to attend the Institute on Statistical Analysis for Education Policy: Causal Analysis Using International Data, with a deadline of Tuesday, February 17, 2015. The Institute will be held May 19-22, 2015 in Washington DC. Those selected for participation will receive support covering the Institutes fees, transportation, housing, and meals for the dates of the Institute. Advanced graduate students and early career scholars and researchers are especially encouraged to apply. Please help us in disseminating information to colleagues who may be interested.

- Supported by the National Science Foundation, the Institute’s goal is to build the capacity of the U.S. education research community to use large-scale national and international data sets such as those from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), NSF, and other federal agencies for basic, policy, and applied research. The focus of the 2015 Institute will be on inferring causality and the methodologies available to support causal inferences using data from Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Advanced doctoral students and recent doctorates are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants must have completed at least one year of statistics courses at the doctoral level and have familiarity with multiple regression methods.

- For further information about the AERA Grants Program and the Institute review the Call for Applications. You may also contact the AERA Grants Program at (mailto:grantsprogram@aera.net), (202) 238-3226.

College of Education Scholarship

The College of Education’s scholarship committee is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2015-16 academic year. The College has academic awards within all fields of study so please take advantage of this opportunity to be recognized for your achievements and, most especially, to alleviate your tuition bill and other expenses.

You are eligible to apply for a scholarship if you are an undergraduate or graduate student who is currently enrolled in or has secured their enrollment in the College of Education at Penn State University Park for the 2015-16 academic year. The application deadline is April 1, 2015. If you filled out a scholarship application for a previous academic year, kindly note that you are still required to submit a new one this year in order to be considered for a scholarship.

Applying for a scholarship won’t take you long and the results can be very rewarding. You’ll need to fill out two forms, the College of Education application and a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA. Once your FAFSA is complete, the information is routed to the College by Penn State’s Office of
Student Aid. (Please note: international students are not required to fill out a FAFSA – see our website for more information.)

The College of Education application form is accessed through ANGEL:
1. Go to the ANGEL home page
2. In the Log On box enter your permanent PSU Access ID and password. **NOTE:** If you will be new to Penn State in the fall of 2015 and don’t yet have an ID and password, please select Friends of Penn State, click Log On and enter your information.**
3. From My Groups, select Find a Group
4. Using the Keyword Search, type Scholarship Application
5. BEFORE you click on College of Education: Scholarship Application, you may see ‘Enroll (no PIN required)’ to the right of the application link. You must enroll in the group before you can access the application.
6. Then choose the application appropriate for your academic standing, graduate or undergraduate.

If you have any questions on the application process, please contact education@psu.edu. We read all emails and will respond to your inquiry. Additionally, you can also check out the frequently asked questions page of our website as a resource.