



The University of Georgia

# GTA

# Teaching Assistant Newsletter

The Center for Teaching and Learning

Vol. 19, No. 1, Fall 2008

## 2007-2008 Graduate School Excellence in Teaching Award



From left: **Dr. Michael Adams**, President of UGA; **Danielle Webster**, Cellular Biology; **Julia Barnes**, Romance Languages; **Emily Jones**, Kinesiology; **Ava Howard**, Plant Biology; **Katherine Small**, Genetics; **Dean Maureen Grasso**, Dean of the Graduate School

Every year, the Graduate School awards the Excellence in Teaching Award to five graduate teaching or laboratory assistants in recognition of their contributions to classroom teaching and to the scholarship of teaching at the University of Georgia. This year's winners have all excelled in working with undergraduates in the instructional setting and have also been active in support of teaching beyond their own classroom duties. All of them have mentored new teaching and laboratory assistants and provided leadership in encouraging others to teach well. The winners were recognized at the Honor's Day celebration at Hugh Hodgson Hall as well as at the Faculty Recognition Banquet where they received their plaques and checks for \$1,000 from the Graduate School in appreciation of their dedication to teaching.

## Teaching Support Seminars Fall 2008 GRSC 7770 & ELAN 7768/69

University policy requires that all TAs receive support for their teaching. Check with your Graduate Coordinator for discipline-specific teaching support. If you have never taught at university level in the United States, you must sign up for one of the GRSC 7770 teaching support seminars or a departmental course specifically to help you develop your teaching.

If you are an international student who has not taken or achieved a 26 on the speaking section of the iBT-TOEFL, you must sign up for ELAN 7768 where you will be given a language evaluation and placed in the appropriate teaching support seminar. You may review the full TA Policy Statement at:

[http://www.ctl.uga.edu/teach\\_asst/pdf/  
Fall08Policy.pdf](http://www.ctl.uga.edu/teach_asst/pdf/Fall08Policy.pdf)

**GRSC 7770** (01-539)  
Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am

POD contact:  
Dr. Paul Quick  
Center for Teaching  
and Learning  
542-0534  
[pauquick@uga.edu](mailto:pauquick@uga.edu)

**ELAN 7768** (01-931)  
Tuesday/Thursday  
11:00-12:15pm  
**ELAN 7769** (21-932)  
Tuesday/Thursday  
11:00-12:15pm

Contact:  
Dr. Linda Harklau  
Language and Literacy  
Education  
542-4521  
[lharklau@uga.edu](mailto:lharklau@uga.edu)

## The Outstanding Teaching Award 2008

The Office of the Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Provost recognizes teaching assistants throughout campus with the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. Each year, up to 10% of graduate student TAs in a department are recognized for their contributions to the instructional mission of the University of Georgia. Winners are given a certificate of appreciation from Academic Affairs and are recognized at Honors Day.

\*Indicates 2007-2008 OTA winners selected to participate in the 2008-2009 Future Faculty Program, which focuses on preparing graduate students for careers in higher education.

**Tara Abbott**, Speech Communication  
**William Abrams**, International Relations  
**\*Carolyn Alford**, Music  
**Ashley Askew**, Statistics  
**Liana Babayan**, Romance Languages  
**Irfan Bagci**, Mathematics  
**Julia Barnes**, Romance Languages  
**\*Tina Bell**, Genetics  
**Mark Bilbrey**, English  
**Jennifer Blair**, English  
**Brandy Blake**, English  
**Christen Bradley**, Sociology  
**Amber Brewer**, Child and Family Development  
**Laura Buffardi**, Psychology  
**\*Daniel Bulger**, Geology  
**Caran Cagle**, Microbiology  
**Kathrine Campbell**, Animal and Dairy Science  
**Lauren Chambers**, English  
**Chung-An Chen**, Comparative Literature  
**Elizabeth Coggins**, Political Science  
**Vanessa Corriher**, Animal and Dairy Science  
**David Cotten**, Physics and Astronomy  
**Ashley Davis**, Management Information Systems  
**\*Patti Davis**, Department of Psychology  
**\*Mahamadou Diaby-Kassamba**, Romance Languages  
**Dawn Drumtra**, Ecology  
**Rudy Dunlap**, Counseling and Human Development Services  
**Diana Durbin**, Elementary & Social Studies Education  
**Nancy Edwards**, Language and Literacy Education  
**Allison Foote**, Psychology  
**Jennifer Formwalt**, Romance Languages

**Marc Gilley**, Music  
**Martin Gueorguiev**, Music  
**Amanda Hamsley**, Forestry and Natural Resources  
**Megan Harlow**, Geography  
**Jennifer Harper**, Educational Psychology and Instructional Technology  
**Shawna Harris**, Speech Communication  
**Jean Harrison**, Textiles Merchandising and Interiors  
**\*Neely Heidorn**, Animal and Dairy Science  
**Christine Hladik**, Marine Sciences  
**Yi-Chun Hong**, Educational Psychology and Instructional Technology  
**Peter Hossler**, Geography  
**Brian Howell**, Philosophy  
**Chrisa Howell**, Music  
**M. Ozgu Issever**, Statistics  
**Andrew Jameson**, English  
**\*Sarah Jardeleza**, Plant Biology  
**Melissa Jersawitz**, Elementary and Social Studies Education  
**Joy Johnson**, English  
**Emily Jones**, Kinesiology  
**\*Carly Jordan**, Cellular Biology  
**\*Jeff Kilpatrick**, Linguistics Program  
**Catherine Kilroe-Smith**, Music  
**Jae Kyoung Kim**, Theatre and Film Studies  
**Margaret Kinsella**, Geology  
**Clayton Kitchings**, Mathematics and Science Education  
**Lisa Kobs**, Foods and Nutrition  
**Christopher Lawton**, History  
**Qing Liu**, Psychology  
**Nathan Lord**, Entomology  
**Karen Lux**, Kinesiology  
**Karen Lynch**, Social Work  
**\*Jennifer Malto**, History  
**Rosaria Mangiavillano**, Romance Languages  
**Sarah Martin**, Romance Languages  
**Thomas McGahee**, Economics  
**Bobby McKnight**, Computer Science  
**Melanie McNaughton**, Speech Communication  
**Matthew O'Donnell**, Comparative Literature  
**Tore Olsson**, History  
**Andrew Owen**, Accounting  
**\*Michele Parker**, Child and Family Development  
**Jill Parrott**, English  
**Kenyon Platt**, Mathematics  
**John Powers**, Art  
**Alison Price**, Forestry and Natural Resources  
**Jacob Resch**, Kinesiology

**Jessica Richardson**, Communication Sciences and Special Education  
**Amy Roeder**, Theatre and Film Studies  
**Ajchareeya (Miki) Ruangprasert**, Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Sciences  
 \***Michelle Samuel-Foo**, Entomology  
 \***Adam Schneider**, Physics and Astronomy  
**Paul Schueller**, Forestry and Natural Resources  
 \***Pooya Shareghi**, Computer Science  
**Luciana Silva**, Child and Family Development  
**(Trey) Donald Skaggs**, Music  
**Brian Smith**, Computer Science  
**Richard Smith**, Geography  
**Cynthia Tant**, Ecology  
**Jennifer Trilk**, Kinesiology  
**Megan Van Etten**, Plant Biology  
**Eric Verhine**, Classics  
**Qin Wang**, Statistics  
**Michael Ward**, Religion  
**Frankie Weinberg**, Management  
**Jennifer White**, International Relations  
 \***Shannon Whitlock**, English  
**Dwight Wilson**, International Relations  
**Stephen Winburn**, Mathematics  
**Carl Wise**, Romance Languages

### Mid-Term Evaluations: Getting Feedback about Your Teaching When it Matters

One problem with end-of-course evaluations is that they come too late for students and for you to make adjustments in classroom management or teaching.

Mid-term evaluations can provide valuable information about what your students are thinking with regard to your course, the material, and your teaching. Information gleaned from these informal assessments can help you address student concerns, whether they are legitimate or not, and possibly make adjustments *before* the end of the semester. In Thomas Angelo and K. Patricia Cross's *Classroom Assessment Techniques*, they suggest asking students to answer three items anonymously:

- Give one or two examples of specific things your instructor does that really *help you learn*.
- Give one or two examples of specific things your instructor does that *make it more difficult* for you to learn.
- Suggest one or two *specific, practical changes* your instructor could make that would help you improve your learning in this class.

Be sure to address student concerns after you have read them, either explaining why you are doing what you do or discussing what you will try to do differently.

## Graduate School Teaching Portfolio Program Fall Semester Deadline:

**October 17, 2008**

[http://www.ctl.uga.edu/teach\\_asst/teaching\\_portfolio.htm](http://www.ctl.uga.edu/teach_asst/teaching_portfolio.htm)

Since the Spring semester of 2005, the Graduate School has sponsored the Teaching Portfolio Program. The purpose of the program is to encourage graduate students to document their teaching experiences at UGA in order to reflect upon and improve their teaching and to be prepared to present their teaching accomplishments on the job market. Many graduate students have found that preparing a teaching portfolio well before they begin their academic job searches has greatly helped them during the application process. Some credit a teaching portfolio for helping them get their jobs!

Every semester, the Graduate School considers teaching portfolios for certification. Participants in the portfolio program not only get Graduate School recognition for their portfolios but also receive feedback from faculty members on their individual portfolios. Additionally, the teaching portfolio is the cornerstone for the Graduate School's Interdisciplinary Certificate in University Teaching. For more information on the teaching certificate, visit the Graduate School's website at:

<http://www.uga.edu/gradschool/>

For Fall 2008, the Graduate School's deadline for the teaching portfolio program is October 17. To help graduate students prepare their portfolios, the Center for Teaching and Learning is offering a series of three workshops leading up to the deadline. Workshops will be held at the conference room of the Center for Teaching and Learning, which is located on the north side of the instructional plaza between Psychology and Journalism buildings. The workshops will be held on the following days:

### Teaching Portfolio Workshops

September 15--2:30-4:30

September 29--2:30-4:30

October 13--2:30-4:30

If you are interesting in participating in the workshops, please contact:

Cara Gormally

Assistant to the TA Program

[cgormally@plantbio.uga.edu](mailto:cgormally@plantbio.uga.edu)

542-1355

## The Center for Teaching and Learning Welcomes Dr. Denise Domizi

The Center for Teaching and Learning welcomes Dr. Denise Domizi as TA Program Coordinator starting in the summer of 2008.

Dr. Domizi earned her Ph.D. through the Department of Instructional Technology from the University of Georgia in May of 2008. She has seven years of experience teaching a number of different courses for the University, including *Learning to Learn* through Academic Enhancement, and *Exploring Teaching and Learning* through Educational Psychology.

Dr. Domizi's interests and research have focused on incorporating new media into the classroom, as well as informal and free-choice adult learning. She has published a number of chapters and articles highlighting instructional strategies, resource-based learning, and contextual influences on learning. As TA Program Coordinator, Dr. Domizi will assist in all of the programming that the Center for Teaching and Learning sponsors not only for graduate teaching and laboratory assistants but also for faculty. Dr. Domizi will co-teach the Graduate School's teaching seminar (GRSC 7770), co-direct the Future Faculty Program (formerly the TA Mentor Program), and help manage the departmental GRSC classes across campus. She will also take on new projects at CTL including leading workshops and seminars on teaching topics, facilitating Faculty Learning Communities, and using her technical expertise to develop online resources for graduate students and faculty alike.

If you have any questions about what Dr. Domizi, Dr. Quick, or the Center for Teaching and Learning can do to help you with your classroom or laboratory teaching, please do not hesitate to email us at [ddomizi@uga.edu](mailto:ddomizi@uga.edu), [pauquick@uga.edu](mailto:pauquick@uga.edu), or call us at (706)542-1355.

## The Center for Teaching and Learning

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) is a support unit of the Office of the Vice President for Instruction. It is devoted to the advancement of instruction and faculty development at The University of Georgia. CTL sponsors a range of services and enrichment activities designed to assist faculty and teaching assistants with instructional matters. *Dr. Nelson Hilton* is the Director of CTL. *Dr. Paul Quick* is TA Program Director and Dr. Denise Domizi is TA Program Coordinator.

- \* Fall Orientation for GTAs and LAs
- \* GRSC 7770 - teaching seminar for credit
- \* Handbook for TAs
- \* TA Newsletter, semester publication on teaching
- \* Teaching Resource File
- \* Individual Consultation

- \* University Awards for Outstanding Teaching
- \* TA Mentor Program
- \* Instructional Technology Resources
- \* Teaching Seminars
- \* Web Resources on Teaching (<http://wwwctl.uga.edu/>)
- \* Teaching Portfolio Samples and Consultation
- \* Certificate in University Teaching Support

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*GTA Newsletter* is a publication of the Center for Teaching and Learning. Teaching Assistants are encouraged to submit articles for publication in this newsletter. Submissions should be forwarded to Paul Quick, CTL.

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Teaching Support  
<http://wwwctl.uga.edu/>

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