August 2013

Greetings to our new Astronomy and Astrophysics Graduate Students!

I am writing to welcome you to the Graduate Program in Astronomy and Astrophysics this fall and to help you plan for the start of the new academic year. Please mark your calendar with these important dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday - 9/24</td>
<td>10am to 11:30am</td>
<td>ISB 126</td>
<td>TA training with Department Head TA, Claire Dorman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday – 9/24</td>
<td>Noon to 4pm</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Graduate Student Assoc. Noon – 1 pm Orientation at Humanities Lecture Hall 1-2:30pm Resource Fair, 1-4pm BBQ at Cowell Provost House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday – 9/25</td>
<td>8:30am to 1pm</td>
<td>Earth Marine Sciences Lecture Hall B206</td>
<td>UCSC Graduate Division General Campus Orientation, General TA Orientation Lunch Provided</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday – 9/25</td>
<td>1pm to 3pm</td>
<td>ISB 126</td>
<td>Department Orientation for New Grad Students</td>
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<td>Wednesday – 9/25</td>
<td>3:30pm</td>
<td>ISB Courtyard</td>
<td>Astronomy Department Welcome Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday – 9/26</td>
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<td>Instruction Begins</td>
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(ISB – "Interdisciplinary Sciences Building" – location of the department office, most of our faculty and grad students.)

**Arrival**

Please keep us apprised of your arrival plans and check in with me at the department office once you do finally arrive in Santa Cruz.
Advising
Advising resources for our incoming students are the Graduate Advisory Committee and your assigned grad student peer mentor. Committee members for this year’s Graduate Advisory Committee are: Graeme Smith (Chair), Greg Laughlin, Charlie Conroy and Jonathan Fortney. The role of the committee is to advise new students through the transition to your research advisor. The committee will stay in contact with you up until the time you “Advanced to Candidacy” and is an additional point of contact at anytime during your grad career.

Contact Info.
Your mailing address will be UCO Lick/Astronomy, Interdisciplinary Sciences Bldg., Santa Cruz, CA, 95064. You will have a mailbox at this address. Virtually all information will be communicated to you via your ucsc.edu email account. Check your email account at ucs.edu frequently, or have it forwarded to your active email account, as this email account is where the department will send all of your important email.

First Paycheck
Before starting your student appointment you will need to go in person to the Physical and Biological Sciences Payroll Office (511 Physical Sciences Bldg.) with a picture ID and Social Security number to fill out paperwork to get you established in the system and determine where you want your paychecks sent or deposited. If you will be employed as a TA during Fall 2013, you will receive your first of three monthly paychecks (for the period of 10/1/13-12/31/13) on 11/1/13.

Enroll in classes
Some time ago you should have received an email from the Division of Graduate Studies referring you to several links containing important information regarding fall registration and enrollment and several other topics. You should also have received information on how to access MYUCSC. MYUCSC provides students, faculty and staff access to a personalized portal full of campus resources. Through MYUCSC, students can register for classes; check grades, read news and updates, and much more.

Please enroll in the following required core courses for fall quarter:

Astronomy 204 – Astrophysical Flows
Professor G. Laughlin MWF 9:30- 10:40am, ISB 356

Astronomy 205 – Introduction to Astronomical Research and Teaching
Lectures and seminar style class to integrate new graduate students to the research and interests of department Faculty, and to expose grad students to teaching skills & classroom techniques.
Professor Graeme Smith and Grad Student Jennifer Burt, MWF 2:00-3:10pm  ISB 356

Astronomy 292 – Seminar (Colloquium)
This course carries no credit but will be one you will need to enroll in each quarter. Unless otherwise posted, Astronomy Colloquium will always take place on Wednesdays at 3:30pm in Natural Sciences Annex 101.
Your requirement is to be enrolled in 10 units (2 courses), but you can add more if you wish. Since Astronomy 205 is undemanding, we strongly encourage you to do so. Elective course offerings Fall Quarter are:

**Astronomy 222 – Planetary Formation and Evolution**  
Professor Douglas Lin, MWF 10:45AM - 12:30PM ISB 356

**Astronomy 240A – Galactic and Extra Galactic Stellar Systems**  
Professor Charlie Conroy, T,Th 2:00 – 3:45 ISB 356

**Useful Links:**
Finally, we call attention to the many tips and hints for new grads on the department web pages. Specifically useful web pages are:

Grad Program – (a wealth of info on all pages!)  

Courses – (descriptions, schedules, syllabi)  

Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences Interdisciplinary Research at UCSC  

Useful Maps –  

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 831/459-2844 or sliwinsk@ucsc.edu. On behalf of the Astronomy faculty, I welcome you and look forward to seeing you in the Fall!

Sincerely,

Maria Sliwinsk

Astronomy and Astrophysics  
Graduate Advisor