Week 1: Instructors Outline

Instructors: Remli Celenligil, Jay Peng, Amy Bradley, Sean Elliott, John Porco and Amy Mullin

2:00 pm
Introduction by John Straub and SuzAnn Hertzler

Student Introductions (one thing about themselves that they'd like to tell the group)

2:15 – 3:00
Panel discussion

1) In your opinion, what is the purpose of graduate school?

2) What is the hardest thing you encountered in graduate school?

3) What is the easiest thing? The most exciting thing? The scariest thing? The most satisfying thing?

4) What was your background as an undergraduate and did you feel prepared for your first year in graduate school? Did it matter?

5) Did you have clear career goals when you entered grad school? If not, how did they evolve throughout your training?

6) What made you come to graduate school in chemistry?

7) Did you know when you were an undergraduate that you wanted to go to graduate school in chemistry?

8) How did you pick a research group? Why did you choose the one you work/worked with?

9) Did you ever feel overwhelmed by the pressures of graduate school/ workload? If so, how did you deal with the pressures? (PORCO)

10) Why did you go into industry? What was your motivation for returning to an academic environment? (PORCO)

3:00 :Break for refreshments

3:15 - 3:15
Small group discussion
Students will break into four groups (5-6 students in each group) to explore their motivations, expectations and objectives for graduate school. Instructors will lead the
discussion by asking a series of common questions that get the student discussing and can also provide feedback on our admissions activities. We anticipate these questions to spark additional discussion. Following the small group discussion, the class will reconvene as a whole and contribute to a top ten list of motivations, expectations and objectives for pursuing graduate study in chemistry. Later, group leaders will be asked to provide feedback from students' impressions of the admissions process.

**Discussion questions (small group discussions):**

1) Why did you decide to enter the graduate program in chemistry at BU?

2) What are your objectives for graduate school?

3) Have you found your mentor helpful? If so, in what ways? If not, can you suggest ways to improve their usefulness?

4) In your opinion, is the following statement true or false: Graduate school is a constant test. It is similar to being dropped in the ocean and teaching yourself to swim.

5) What was the relationship between faculty and students at your last school? What are you expecting here?

Conclusion and top ten list