Activities of the Doctoral Students Association, 2013-2014

In the 2013-2014 academic year, the Doctoral Students Association (DSA) planned and organized more academic, professional development, and social events than in previous years to encourage collegiality and to provide social support to all of its members.

The PhD research days were well attended by the PhD students who presented their research and watched their colleagues present at both the upper-year presentations and the lower-year poster session. We thank all faculty and staff that came out to watch and question our members’ research. Following the PhD research days we held an end-of-term party with faculty and staff at the Free Times Café.

The DSA met with Leslie Shade to discuss suggestions by the ad hoc Supervisory Committee on May 14. We thank Leslie Shade and the ad hoc Supervisory Committee for their work and commitment to improving the doctoral experience. We look forward to working with the iSchool administration to implement the recommended changes.

Michael Dick solicited feedback from the doctoral students on the promotion and representation of doctoral students on the iSchool website. From the feedback, Michael Dick put together a report titled: “PhD Student Survey Concerning Promotion and Representation on the iSchool Website”, that summarized the general sentiments of the doctoral students that responded to the survey. This was a good first step to discuss ways in which the iSchool can improve doctoral students web presence.

The DSA held multiple “Forum Fridays” on Friday afternoons, followed by off-campus socializing. The “Forum Friday” events we have held so far this year are:

Welcome to Grad Life, September 20
Junior Professor Research Day, October 4
Grant Applications, October 18
Work-Life Balance, November 1
3-Minute Elevator Pitch, November 15
Supervision, Leslie Shade, November 29
Non-Academic Job Market, Kelly Lyons and Jeff Crelinsten, December 13
Designing and Presenting Posters, ginger coons and Jenna Jacobson, February 14
Stress management, The Family Care Office, March 7
Academic Job Market, Patrick Keilty and Irina Mihalache, March 14
NVivo workshop part 1, OISE Computer Labs, March 21
NVivo workshop part 2, OISE Computer Labs, March 28
NVivo workshop part 3, OISE Computer Labs, April 4
Post your PhD, Karen Smith, April 11

We invite faculty members to please contact Jenna Jacobson if you would like to host a “Forum Friday” in the upcoming 2014-2015 academic year—an informal knowledge-sharing event with the doctoral students. We are open to any ideas you may have and hope that faculty will be involved once a month in the Forum Friday events and socializing.

DSA elections will be held in September/October before the PhD potluck.

June 2, 2014