



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

Teaching & Learning Transformation Center

4120 McKeldin Library  
College Park, MD 20742

301.405.9356  
tltc.umd.edu



teaching & learning  
transformation center

The Graduate School & TLTC  
**Graduate Student Teacher Orientation**  
Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**MORNING PROGRAM- 1101 Bioscience Research Building**

**8:30-9:00 Registration and Refreshments**

**9:00-9:20 Welcome Remarks**

Dr. Charles A. Caramello, Associate Provost, Academic Affairs & Dean, Graduate School  
Dr. Kumea Shorter-Gooden, Chief Diversity Officer & Associate Vice President  
Dr. Benjamin B. Bederson, Executive Director & Associate Provost, TLTC

**9:20-9:50 A Tale of Two Classrooms**

Writer/Director: Jessica Lloyd Krenk

**9:50-10:20 Getting Started: Advice from Outstanding Faculty**

Dr. Scott Roberts, Director of Instructional Excellence & Innovation, TLTC  
Dr. Sheri Parks, Assoc. Dean, Arts and Humanities, Assoc. Professor, American Studies

**10:20-10:30 BREAK**

**10:35-11:35 Q&A with Experienced Graduate Student Teachers**

**Breakout Session 1 (Room 1101)**

Panelists: Khara Schonfeld-Karan, TLTC; Shaun Edmonds, SPHL; Margaret McAdam, CMNS; Daniel Vivas, COE

**Breakout Session 2 (Room 1103)**

Panelists: Lisa Swan, TLTC; Kim Lien Huynh, CMNS; Alice Olmstead, CMNS; Rob Wells, JOUR

**Breakout Session 3 (Room 1243)**

Panelists: Alexis Ymon Williams, TLTC; Sebastian Bartis, SLLC; Aaron Geller, CMNS;  
Annie Laurie Nichols, COMM

**Breakout Session 4 (Room 1250)**

Panelists: Alison Burns, TLTC; Charles Christopher Ferraioli, CMNS; Emily Hestness, COE; Khalid Yaya Long, TDPS

**11:45-12:20 LUNCH** Bioscience Research Building Downstairs Courtyard

**AFTERNOON PROGRAM- Plant Sciences Building**

**12:30-1:30 Workshop Session 1**

**1:45-2:45 Workshop Session 2**

**2:45-3:00 Orientation Evaluations**

All workshops are held in Plant Sciences (PLS) and offered during sessions 1 and 2.  
Workshop descriptions located on the reverse side of this program.



#teacherps – Share your teaching plans and ideas with our campus community @TLTC\_UMD

## **AFTERNOON PROGRAM WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS**

### **International Graduate Teaching Assistants (PLS 1180)**

Facilitators: Lijuan Shi, *Teaching & Learning Transformation Center*; Yang Qu, *Animal & Avian Sciences*; Xiaying Zheng, *Human Development and Quantitative Methodology*; Liang-Chun Wang, *Academic Affairs & Office of the Provost*; Ning Xie, *Communication*

In this session, international students will learn about American educational culture and will get practical tips and advice from experienced international GTAs. Topics include overcoming language barriers, culture shock, and the American grading system, Understanding American students' expectations, and finding and using resources on campus.

### **Conducting Effective Discussion Sections (PLS 1111)**

Facilitator: Brittany Vinciguerra, *Chemistry & Biochemistry*

For many teaching assistants, one of the primary responsibilities is to lead a discussion section that supplements the course. Worried that there will be silence and you will not know how to engage your students in conversation? Get tips for encouraging student participation and structuring your section.

### **Teaching Undergraduate Science (PLS 1115)**

Facilitator: Gretchen Peters, Taylor Plank & Jason Hustedt, *Chemistry & Biochemistry*

Most students are required to take at least one science course during their undergraduate career, but students often find science courses difficult, stressful, and even pointless. This workshop will include tips and tricks to prepare you for the most usual and unusual things that undergrads will say and do in your science course.

### **How to Stay Sane as a Graduate Student Teacher (PLS 1119)**

Facilitators: Allison Schroeder & Jenni Young, *Family Science*

Are you worried about balancing the demands of your assistantship with the demands of your coursework? Wondering how to manage all the other responsibilities that are also part of your life? You're not alone! Speaking both as doctoral students and mental health practitioners, Allison and Jenni will facilitate a conversation about strategies for creating a rewarding GTA experience. Join this workshop to learn more about juggling multiple roles, managing and reducing stress, and maintaining (or regaining) life balance.

### **Orientation to ELMS for New Instructors and Teaching Assistants (PLS 1184)**

Facilitator: Sue Johnston, *Instructional Designer, DIT Learning Technology Services*

As a teaching assistant or instructor you will find that the ELMS learning management system is a valuable tool for hosting course content, organizing assignments and assessments, and managing grades. This one-hour session will orient you to the environment and help you to identify helpful resources for you and your students. \*Note: *It would be helpful to bring a laptop to this workshop, although it is not required.*

### **Serving Students from Diverse Backgrounds (PLS 1113)**

Facilitators: Mary Graham-Fisher & Jazmin Pichardo, *Office of Diversity & Inclusion*

In this session, graduate student teachers will discuss the benefit and challenge of serving students from diverse backgrounds. We will offer practical tips and suggestions geared toward a more inclusive and welcoming learning environment. We will visit topics such as representation in the room and micro aggressions. Get strategies for creating an inviting classroom.

### **Navigating the Role of Graduate Teaching Assistant (PLS 1117)**

Facilitators: Scott Roberts, *Teaching & Learning Transformation Center*

It is not always easy being a graduate teaching assistant – your students expect you to help them and instructors expect you to support them. In this session, we will discuss some of the problems that GTAs might face in navigating this balance and explore ways of cultivating strong working relationships as a GTA with students and instructors. We will also brainstorm strategies for preventing and resolving conflict, and ways to effectively advocate for yourself.