Teaching Assistant Workshop

Wednesday, August 28, 2019
8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.   /    Swann Hall

8:30 AM - 9:00 am
1st Floor Lobby
Coffee and Registration

9:00 AM - 9:10 am
Auditorium
Welcoming Remarks
Nasser Zawia, Dean, Graduate School

9:10 AM - 9:45 am
Auditorium
Graduate Assistants United (GAU) Q & A
Danielle Dirocco, Executive Director, GAU
Learn more about your employment at URI and being part of a union. We will cover what you can expect and recent changes to your TA union contract.

9:45 AM – 10:15 am
Auditorium
Navigating Difficult Situations – Resources & Advice
Cara Mitnick, Director, Professional Development, Graduate School
Lindsey Anderson, Director, Psychological Consultation Center

10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Auditorium
“All the World’s a Classroom: Performing as Teachers and Learners (PTL)” Performance Tools for Teaching Effectiveness
The craft of theater offers techniques to increase your confidence and effectiveness as educators. In this session, you will practice: (1) presenting an authentic persona students can invest in and find genuinely approachable; (2) validating students’ ideas and perspectives by experimenting with the improvisational concept of “Yes, and”; (3) relaxation techniques that allow instructors to think on their feet with more agility; and, (4) strategies to facilitate community building in the classroom.

12:30 PM - 1:15 pm
1st Floor Lobby
Lunch

1:15 PM - 1:50 pm
Breakout Session (choose to attend one of the two listed on the back)

2:00 PM - 3:30 pm
Auditorium
Creating an Inclusive Classroom
Professor Annemarie Vaccaro, Human Development and Family Studies

3:30 PM – 4:30 pm
Auditorium
Teaching Assistant Panel
TAs fill many different roles depending on the discipline and even the specific position. This panel will allow you to hear from and ask questions of teaching assistants from a variety of positions/departments.
Teaching Assistant Workshop
Breakout Session Options
(1:15 PM - 1:50 PM)

1. How to Ensure your Class Runs Smoothly: Classroom Management – Common Scenarios & Resolutions, Room Assignment TBD

   Coordinators: MS Candidates Sydney Sweck and Aubree Jones

   From the first day of class until finals, establishing and managing student expectations and behaviors to create a productive learning environment can be difficult even for experienced instructors. In this workshop, we highlight effective communication techniques when assessing student learning. We will cover common issues such as students who aren’t participating, students who are stressed/overwhelmed, students who question why they need to take the class, and others. We will also discuss methods for dealing with difficult situations.

2. Teaching in a Second Language: Tips from International Student TAs, Room Assignment TBD

   Coordinators: PhD Candidates Francesca Borrione and Xinqiang (“Cole”) Chang

   In this session, we will discuss the experiences of international students who are TAs at URI and provide advice about teaching in a second language. We will offer methods, strategies, and approaches to teaching in the U.S. classroom.