Teaching Assistant Workshop

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

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM  Coffee and Registration

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

9:10 AM - 9:45 AM  Graduate Assistants United (GAU) Q & A
Danielle Dirocco, Executive Director, GAU
Learn more about your employment at the university and what it means to be part of a union. This session will provide answers to all your questions, from how to use your health insurance to when to expect your first paycheck. It will also cover important recent changes to your TA union contract.

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

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM  “All the World’s a Classroom: Performing as Teachers and Learners (PTL)” Performance Tools for Teaching Effectiveness
The craft of theater offers techniques to help 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  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  Creating an Inclusive Classroom
Professor Annemarie Vaccaro, Human Development and Family Studies

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM  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
   Coordinator: Sydney Sweck, MA Candidate, TA

   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
   Coordinator: Francesca Borроме, PhD Candidate, TA

   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.