

July 2009

Greetings to our new Astronomy and Astrophysics Graduate Students!

I am writing to welcome you to the Graduate Program in Astronomy and Astrophysics this fall and to help you plan for the start of the new academic year. Please mark your calendar with these important dates:

Date	Time	Location	Event
Tuesday - 9/22	10am to Noon	TBA	UCSC Graduate Division - Campus Orientation – All new grad students
Wednesday – 9/23	*10am to 1pm 11am to Noon (lunch will be provided)	ISB 126	Department TA training for new grad students
Wednesday – 9/23	1pm to 3:30pm	ISB 126	Department Orientation
Wednesday – 9/23	3:30pm	ISB Courtyard	Astronomy Department Welcome Reception
Thursday – 9/24			Instruction Begins

(ISB – “Interdisciplinary Sciences Building” – location of the department office, most of our faculty and grad students.)

* Please note time change

Please keep us apprised of your arrival plans and check in with me at the department office once you do finally arrive in Santa Cruz.

Advising resources for our incoming students are the Graduate Advisory Committee and your assigned grad student peer mentor. Committee members for this year’s Graduate Advisory Committee are: Connie Rockosi (Chair), Graeme Smith, Rebecca Bernstein (Shepherd), Claire Max (Shepherd). The role of the committee is to advise new students through the transition to your research advisor. The committee will stay in contact with you through out your first and second years and is an additional point of contact at anytime during your grad career. Grad student Bulent Kiziltan is our “mentor czar” and will be assigning you a grad student mentor. Bulent may be contacted at bulent@ucolick.org.

Your mailing address will be UCO Lick/Astronomy, Interdisciplinary Sciences Bldg., Santa Cruz, CA, 95064. You will have a mailbox at this address. Virtually all information will be communicated to you via your ucsc.edu email account. Check your email account at ucsc.edu frequently, or have it forwarded to your active email account, as this email account is where the department will send all of your important email.

If you will be employed as a TA during Fall 2009, you will receive your first of three monthly paychecks (for the period of 10/1/09-12/31/09) on 11/1/09. Before starting

your student appointment you will need to go in person to the Physical and Biological Sciences Payroll Office (511 Physical Sciences Bldg.) to complete important payroll paperwork. If you are a U.S. Citizen you must bring a driver's license or picture ID AND social security card, birth certificate; or passport. If you are not a U.S. Citizen you must bring your visa, I-20 and or DS-2019, I-94 passport w/photo AND social security card. Each student will need to provide a document that establishes personal identity such as a passport, Driver's License, State ID card, or Valid Student ID. Each student will also need to provide a document that establishes employment eligibility such as a US Birth Certificate or Social Security card. All non-citizen and non-resident alien students will have to have a Social Security card and will also need to provide all visa and passport documentation, including the I-94 and I-20 forms.

Some time ago you should have received an email from the Division of Graduate Studies referring you to several links containing important information regarding fall registration and enrollment and several other topics. You should also have received information on how to access MYUCSC. MyUCSC provides students, faculty and staff access to a personalized portal full of campus resources. Through MyUCSC, students can register for classes; check grades, read news and updates, and much more.

At this time please enroll in the following courses for fall quarter:

- Astronomy 204 – Astrophysical Flows (5 units)
Professor Greg Laughlin will be teaching this required core course fall quarter, MWF from 9:30am – 10:40am in ISB 356. Since courses begin on Thursday, September 24 your first meeting of Astronomy 204 will be on Friday, September 25. Please note that this course is offered in alternate years only and will not be offered again until the 2011/12 academic year.
- Astronomy 205 - Introduction to Astronomical Research (5 Units)
This group meeting and required core course introduces you to the faculty and their work. The course meets MWF from 2pm – 3:10pm in ISB 126. Since courses begin on Thursday, September 24 your first meeting of Astronomy 205 will be on Friday, September 25.
- Astronomy 292 – Seminar (Colloquium)
This course carries no credit but will be one you will need to enroll in each quarter. Unless otherwise posted, Astronomy Colloquium will always take place on Wednesdays at 3:30pm in Natural Sciences Annex 101. Our first colloquium will be September 30.

Your requirement is to be enrolled in 10 units (2 courses), but you can add more if you wish. Since Astronomy 205 is undemanding, we strongly encourage you to do so. If you are planning on being a TA in the fall, please contact me first to discuss enrolling in an addition elective course, as your workload will need to be considered. Elective course offerings Fall Quarter are:

- Astronomy 240A - Galactic and Extra Galactic Stellar Systems
Professor Connie Rockosi, T TH 2pm – 3:45pm
- Astronomy 257 - Modern Astronomical Techniques
Professor Mike Bolte, T TH 10am -11:45am

Physics, Earth and Planetary Sciences, and Applied Math also offer many astronomy-useful courses. Elective course offerings Fall Quarter are:

- Applied Math & Statistics 217 – Intro to Fluid Dynamics
Professor Gary Glatzmaier, T TH 8am – 9:45am
- Physics 210 – Classical Mechanics
Professor A. Sher, MWF 11am – 12:10pm

Finally, we call attention to the many tips and hints for new grads on the department web pages. Specifically useful web pages are:

Grad Program – (a wealth of info on all pages!)
<http://www.astro.ucsc.edu/graduate/index.html>

Courses – (descriptions, schedules, syllabi)
<http://www.astro.ucsc.edu/courses/index.html>

Research Groups -
http://www.astro.ucsc.edu/research/research_areas/planetary.html

Useful Maps –
http://www.astro.ucsc.edu/about_us/visitors.html

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact graduate assistant, Maria Sliwinski at 831/459-2844 or sliwinsk@ucsc.edu. On behalf of the Astronomy faculty, I welcome you and look forward to seeing you in the Fall.

Sincerely,

Maria Sliwinski

Astronomy and Astrophysics
Graduate Advisor