



KEYnotes

Volume 9, Issue 3

Spring 2008

Spring Drop-In Hours

Monday

Stacia 3-5

Tuesday

Dawn 4-6

Thursday

Stacy 3-5

Spring KEY Events Not to Miss



Evergreen welcomes Neil deGrasse Tyson, one of today's premier leaders in science, astronomy, and education, to Olympia for a presentation and question and answer session on

April 29, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at Evergreen's College Recreation Center (CRC).

Renowned astrophysicist, director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, and host of PBS's Nova Science Now, Dr. Tyson is a leading voice in astronomy who has appeared alongside Johnny Carson, Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert. The presentation is being offered in cooperation with KCTS9 Television and the Pacific Science Center in Seattle.

KEY has a limited number of tickets for this event. See Jenny to sign up.

"We must act
as if our

institutions are
ours to create,
our learning is
ours to define,
our leadership
we seek is ours
to become."

Peter Block
Philosopher



Are you a painter? Poet? Musician? Know any tricks or jokes? If you answered yes to any of the above questions let KEY know if you would be interested in performing at our Spring 5th Week Gathering and Talent Show. Last year Jenny rapped the theme song to The Fresh Prince of Bel Air, so that should tell you how informal the event is!

Even if you don't have a talent to showcase we want you to take a break from the mid-quarter stress to relax and cheer on your fellow students. Lunch and cake will be provided.

Wednesday, April 30th from 1:00-2:30 pm in the Longhouse



NOLA *Partners in Success*

KEY invites Chris from the Northwest Education Loan Association to present a workshop on Personal Budgeting. This workshop will include important information on handling your finances now and in the future.

Wednesday, May 7th from 12:30-2:00 in SEM II A3109 (note new time)

Using Those Lazy Days of Summer



Research graduate programs:

Why? There are so many schools out there; you want to find the best matches for you. Who has faculty with similar research interests? What schools are in the right location for you (you will often do internships and have networking opportunities near the school, making your job search after school easier)? Compare curriculum and faculty information, and look for a sense of “fit” between you and that institution.

How? So where is the information you need? You can always go online and check with sources like grad-schools.com which lists programs by field of study. Professional associations in your career field also usually list graduate programs or you can research who’s publishing academic articles on a topic of interest and look at what institution they’re affiliated with. Another useful resource is the *Peterson’s Guide to Graduate Programs*, available in the Career Center.

The Next Level: Don’t decide on a program based purely on their written or online materials as these are basically promotional publications. You’re looking at making a huge investment of your time and money so go to the source and talk to people who’ve been there. Graduate programs should be willing to give you the names of recent alumni for you to contact.

You also want to talk to faculty at the program. Try to get a sense if this is someone you can work with, particularly if he or she is responsible for many classes in your program as is the case with many smaller graduate programs. This contact could also serve you well later when you apply as you’ll have name recognition.

Visit if you can, but be aware in the summer things may be a lot quieter. Hopefully there will still be enough going on that you can get a feel for things.

You’ve got your top programs figured out, now what?

Create a calendar that has all of your deadlines very clearly marked. They can be as early as December of the year ahead of when you want to attend or as late as May. A wall calendar that allows you to see the next six to nine months would be best—no surprises about what’s coming up. Mark application deadlines for each school, as well as for financial aid (which can be earlier), when to request transcripts (ours usually take two weeks) and faculty recommendations, time for writing application essays, practice exams, etc.

Create a list of prerequisite courses for each school you’re considering. Be sure to pay attention to entrance requirements for the school itself as well as to those for the grad program; sometimes they differ. Then, create one comprehensive list of all courses you’ll need to accomplish before enrolling. Sometimes you need to create a contract, sometimes talk with faculty about changing their course a bit if they’re willing, and sometimes take a course elsewhere. You can talk with Advising to find out how to meet your prerequisites here. Keep in mind that you generally apply for graduate school early in the academic year, so you’ll want to have some prerequisites out of the way before then.

Prepare for entrance exams if necessary: Many schools require the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Knowledge section which is kind of like the SAT but for graduate school. There are also subject tests such as biology, chemistry, literature and psychology. You can retake most entrance exams but that can get expensive (check with Financial Aid to see if you qualify for a fee waiver) and there’s no guarantee grad programs will just look your highest score. The best plan is to practice before taking it so you only have to do it once.

Cont...

Other entrance exams include the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT), PRAXIS (for teaching), and various others. Application and preparation materials are available in the Career Development Center. If you're not accustomed to taking tests, it's very important to get familiar with them so you can show what you're capable of doing. For schools that use test scores as a screening device, it's critical you be in the ballpark, particularly as you'll have no GPA for your time here.

Research funding options: As with undergraduate studies, there are numerous means of funding graduate education. While some of the grants disappear, fellowships and research assistantships are a new option. Most schools offer some of their own scholarship monies and then there are scholarships and fellowships that are open to winning applicants attending any accredited US program. Researching these is key. Some are listed under gradschools.com. There are also scholarship directories available in the Career Development Center and at many libraries. Some other sources include: www.fastweb.com , www.finaid.org , www.scholarship-page.com , www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/dollars/dshome.htm , and www.srnexpress.com/index.cfm.

Work on your application essays: It's very important that these essays are articulate examples of your best writing. They need to make you stand out, giving the schools a chance to hear your voice and understand why you are choosing their program. Remember, admissions committees are trying to assess your likelihood of persistence and graduation from their program with only a handful of materials—people don't usually transfer at the graduate level and so if students drop out, those are open spaces that won't get filled. You have to help them trust that you belong there, and if you've done your research that should be much easier. So, write several drafts and have them reviewed by folks here at KEY or in Career Development.

Practice interviewing: Yes, some graduate schools require an interview. Medical schools in particular really emphasize this. Interviewing is an art so be prepared. Think about why you are choosing a particular program, what you have to offer, your career goals and research interests, and some questions. Show that you've done some reading in your field and know some current topics of interest. You can do a mock interview at Career Development if you would like to practice.

As you can see, there's a lot of legwork to be done to apply to graduate school. A little hard work over the summer will make a world of difference in this process and help you put your best foot forward when the time comes.

Recipe for something healthy, cheap and easy....

Italian Spinach and Chickpea Soup

2 cans chickpeas (garbanzo beans) drained and rinsed
1 package frozen spinach, thawed or 2 cans spinach
Diced shallots or onion (to taste)
2 cans diced tomatoes with Italian Seasoning
2 cans vegetable broth
Garlic



Have crock pot on high and add a dab of oil, sauté onion and garlic. Add remaining ingredients and cook on low for 6-8 hours. Serve with warm crusty bread and cheese if you please.

Summer Financial Aid and Work Study

Summer Aid

Evergreen's Financial Aid Office will soon be sending emails to inquire about your interest in attending Summer quarter. Summer quarter is optional and financial aid is not automatically calculated for it, so you must inform the Financial Aid Office (FAO) if you intend to enroll. You will be directed to visit the FAO's website and print off a form and submit it to them.

You will need to decide what your enrollment plans are for the Summer prior to completing the form. Will you attend full time, part time, one session, or both?

The type of aid you will have for the Summer quarter depends on your individual package and how much you used during the year as well as what year you are in school. *Summer is almost completely funded through loans.*

Two Important Notes

- ◆ Because the Summer aid process is calculated manually and individually for each student who applies, the FAO will only make one change after your original form is submitted. So if you say you are going full time and then decide you want to go part time, they will adjust your budget and award. If you then decide you really do want to be full time, the FAO will not make this adjustment another time. So be certain of your intentions when you submit the form.

- ◆ If you are enrolled for Second Session only, the session begins July 28th, so your financial aid would not be available until that time. This can be problematic for registering early, since your funding will not be available until your class starts. Talk to them about your options.

Summer Work Study

Need a summer job? You might not be aware of this but a **very limited** amount of **work study** is available for students during Summer quarter. You do *not* have to have been awarded work study during the academic year in order to receive these awards. Summer work study is full time only and you need to meet several criteria outlined by Financial Aid. Some important things to know about Summer work study include:

- ◆ You don't have to take a class, but if you choose to, you can register for no more than 4 credits. And you will not be eligible to receive financial aid to help pay for the credits.
- ◆ 40% of your earnings from Summer work study will be counted as a resource towards your 2008-2009 financial aid. How this will affect your entire aid package depends on your financial need and other awards.

If you have questions please consult your KEY Advisor or the Financial Aid staff.

An Introduction to Poetry

By: Billy Collins

I ask them to take a poem
and hold it up to the light
like a color slide

or press an ear against its hive.

I say drop a mouse into a poem
and watch him probe his way out,

or walk inside the poem's room
and feel the walls for a light switch.



I want them to water ski
across the surface of a poem
waving at the author's name on the shore.

But all they want to do
is tie the poem to a chair with rope
and torture a confession out of it.

They begin beating it with a hose
to find out what it really means.