Building Web Resources: A Workshop

Karen P. DePauw, Virginia Tech
Manuel Perez-Quinones, Virginia Tech
Jo Rae Wright, Duke University

Council of Graduate Schools Annual Meeting
December 2, 2009
San Francisco, CA
Session overview

- Framing and context
- Life cycle of graduate student
  - Identification/recruitment, application, & admission
  - Enrollment, orientations, academic progress, degree completion/ETD, student services and resources for faculty and students
  - Commencement, alumni connection and giving back
- Social networking and communication
- Administrative functionality and efficiencies
- Ground rules: brief presentations, discussion, Q&A, sharing, and more
Topics and choices

- **Life cycle of graduate student**
  - Recruitment and Applying
  - Virtual orientations (int’l students; info fairs, fellowships)
  - Academic progress, final examinations, ETD
  - Commencement

- **Social networking and communication:** twitter, featured graduate student, blogs/wikis, “forms”, interactive catalog

- **Administrative functionality and efficiencies**

- **Others:** admissions, alumni connection, degree completion
Challenge & Innovation

- Technology advancements & tools; **Tower & Cloud**
- Transforming processes
- Digital network more than just delivery system

- Ne(x)t generations of students and faculty
- Digital natives and immigrants (faculty, staff and students)

- Communication and collaboration
- Learning and learner (student) focus
- Personalized and unique contexts
- Knowledge as process; knowledge sharing
Web 2.0 resources

- Identify friends (facebook, orkut, friendster)
- Education (citeulike, campusbug, carmun, koofers, rateteachers)
- Share resources: movies (youtube), pictures (flickr), status (twitter), bookmarks (del.icio.us, stumbleupon), news (digg, reddit), citations (citeulike), exams (koofers), slides (slideshare)
- Wikis, Blogs, Second Life, and more
For Prospective Students

To get to know Duke through the eyes of some of its graduate students, alumni, and faculty by checking out the resources on this page. Prepare yourself for the process of choosing and applying to graduate schools with our special Advice video. Familiarize yourself with some of our recruitment initiatives for students from underrepresented groups (including summer research opportunities!). Then click on “Prospective Student Profile” to receive automatic updates about application deadlines, summer research programs, and other opportunities to learn more about Duke.
Web resources - life cycle of a graduate student – *Prospective students*

Web based system for prospective students to input data and request additional information.

Links to program description.

Generates an email response.

http://www.gradschool.duke.edu/admissions/prospective_student_profile.html
Web resources - life cycle of a graduate student – Resources for prospective students

Statistics on Departments, Programs, Time to degree

http://www.gradschool.duke.edu/about_us/statistics/
Apply Yourself –
http://www.applyyourself.com/

Applicants can check status of application on line

At Duke applicants receive weekly emails updating them on status of application

Applicants can accept on line

Duke is transitioning to paperless application.
Personalized Recruitment

- Personalize information based on initial contact
  - Degree, Department, Ethnicity, Gender, etc.
- App provides access to information available on the web with personalization as a filter
- Same service available on web
People search

- Search VT’s LDAP
- Provide list of default contacts
Courses

- Listing of all graduate programs
- Course listings from website
- Personalization trims list of depts and courses
Quick Demo

- **News**
  - 3-4 common feeds for all
  - Others depending on the department of interest

- **Courses - from department list**

- **Points of Contact**
  - From department, ethnicity background, etc.

- **Sample profiles**
  - Vidya (physics), Matt (fisheries), Sama (architecture), Roy (finance, business, law)
Video Postcards

- Personalized message sent to students as a link to a video on website
- Video is personalized, plays …
  - Professor: Dear David. Congratulations, you have been admitted to Virginia Tech’s graduate program in Computer Science.
  - <camera fades away> other clips play in sequence
  - Professor: As you can see, we offer … Hope to see you in the Fall.
Video Postcard

- Only part that needs to be personalized is the intro to the video.
  - Departments pick from existing clips of other pieces of information, some department specific, others more generic
- Graduate School is building infrastructure to provide this service to the departments.
  - We hope to have a testing phase in the Spring.
Pulse Pen
Life cycle for graduate education

- Orientations
- Workshops – fellowships
- Writing support
- Academic progress
- Scheduling examinations
Virtual Orientation for International Students

- Objective: Provide EARLY orientation to Duke, Durham, US to international students
- Content established by working group of students, staff and faculty
- Produced locally; filmed and edited by Duke students. Cost ($450)
Virtual Orientation for International Students

- Virtual Orientation for International Students
- Offered on line in June
- 160 unique participants; questions asked via ‘chat’
- Evaluation on scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high) to “This webinar was helpful in preparing my transition to Duke University”. Average score was 8.43.
- Still available on line.
  
  http://ihouse.studentaffairs.duke.edu/services/orientation/graduate.html
VT Virtual Information Sessions

- Graduate School online group chat events....To participate in a Chat Event, you must first create your Username and Password.... a link will appear at the scheduled time which will allow you to log in to the chat. To register for a chat event click go to Chat Event

- NCR Research Methods Consortium
  The website describes available courses, examples of collaboration and in general, encourages information sharing and coordination of teaching. For more information see http://rmc.ncr.vt.edu/

- Writing center support – virtual hours and assistance
Web resources- life cycle of a graduate student – Final exam

- Students are required to come to Graduate School to receive their Final Exam Card and format check
- Appointments are made on line
Web resources - life cycle of a graduate student – Exit survey

Exit survey completion rate is approximately 98%
2009 Commencement will take place Friday, May 8 through Sunday, May 10. The Ph.D. Hooding Ceremony will again take place on Saturday evening. Further details will be updated here in the Spring semester.

NOTE: All students who submitted an Intent to Graduate form for May 2008 or who graduated in September or December 2007 should fill out the appropriate Commencement Information Form from the list below before April 4, 2008:

- Graduation Deadlines
- Ph.D. Hooding Ceremony Information
- University Commencement Site
- Academic Regalia Ordering Form (Deadline: March 17)
- 2006 Ph.D. Commencement Information Form
- 2008 Master’s Commencement Information Form

Graduate School Events

Saturday, May 10, 2008: 6:00-9:00 pm

“How many cares one loses when one decides not to be something but to be someone.”

- Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel
Social networking and communication

- **Final examination** announcements
- Graduate School Blog (**GSB**) and twitter, wikis
- Ethical Pursuits **Facebook**
- **Ombudsperson** homepage
- Graduate **Catalog**
- Featured graduate student
- Online [Web] IM
Deering Hall contains offices, classrooms, and laboratory space for many of the science programs at Virginia Tech, such as biological sciences and geological sciences. The Museum of Geosciences is also located in the building. Named after Paul Noyon Deering (1894-1973) who was Secretary of the YMCA from 1918 to 1957 and Director of Religious Affairs from 1957 to 1964. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate, Deering was the first blind man to complete college in Virginia.

**Department Head**: Robert H. Jones  
**Graduate Program Director**: Robin Andrews

- **Alumni Distinguished Professor**: Arthur Buikema  
- **University Distinguished Professor**: John Tyson

**Harold Bailey Professor**: Jeffrey Walters  
**Professor(s)**: Robin Andrews, Ernest Berndt; Donald Cherry, Klaus Elgert, Joseph Finkbeiner, Ishidir Hill; Robert Jones; Florence McKab; Enzi Nishi; Brent Ossip; John Phillips; David Popay; Jackson Wahl; Brenda Winkel

**Associate Professor(s)**: Luu Lu; Stephen Moore; Ann Stevens; Bruce Turner; Herbert Vallet; Richard Walker; Zhaoxin Yang; Jill Sible

**Assistant Professor(s)**: Diva Barre; John Barrett; Lisa Beiden; Daniel Capella; Daniela Cimino; Carla Finkbeiner; Dana Hawley; Jeffrey Kuhns; Ignacio Moore; Birgit Scher; Florian Schubert; Dorotha Thott; Jianhua Xing

**Research Associate**: Maria Lazar; Christopher Lawrence

**Program Information**

The Department of Biological Sciences offers research and training that leads to the M.S. and Ph.D. degree. Graduate students craft programs of study that include a cutting edge research project, courses that support their particular interests, and at least one semester of teaching experience in consultation with their research advisor and a faculty advisory committee. Opportunities for research span the biological disciplines from molecular biology to ecosystem ecology and include computational, experimental, theoretical, and applied approaches. Our faculty and staff encourage graduate students to reach their full creative and scholarly potential. We take a holistic approach to graduate education by conditioning not just research skills, but also the ability to communicate effectively with their professional colleagues and undergraduate students. In addition to their research program, graduate students may elect to earn a graduate certificate in "The Future of the Profession," which includes a mandated classroom teaching. In short, our program fosters individually tailored programs that lead to successful careers in research and education. We encourage prospective students to explore the research programs of potential sponsors. Faculty members maintain web pages that present their research activities. Contacting individual faculty and their students prior to formal application provides an opportunity to explore mutual interests.

**Degree Requirements**

M.S. must take 12 hours at the 5000 level, 3 hours at the 4000 level, and 3 additional hours for seminars.
Ease annual update

Allow for in-line changes as they are effective (policy, faculty, contacts)

Encourage multi-level review process via workflow (no paper!)
For the last eight years Sven has pursued a career in physics. He had the chance to work and study in Germany, Luxembourg and in France before entering graduate school in 2006. This was a unique chance for him to experience subtle cultural differences. Besides research that has become an important part in his life, Sven is trying to absorb and understand as much as possible of the culture and lifestyle of the countries that he visits.

More >>
Featured Graduate Student, November 2008
Sven Dorosz

For the last eight years Sven has pursued a career in physics. He had the chance to work and study in Germany, Luxembourg and in France before entering graduate school in 2006. This was a unique chance for him to experience subtle cultural differences. Besides research that has become an important part in his life, Sven is trying to absorb and understand as much as possible of the culture and lifestyle of the countries that he visits.

Interview:

How would you describe your area of study to your grandmother?
Last summer I was at my grandparent’s house when I listened to a conversation in the next room. My grandpa asked about me and what I was doing. He sounded so proud when he was talking about water freezing solid and melting back to water, metals heating up and deforming and that all these phenomena are described by a large number of interacting atoms. I was so surprised and happy in that moment.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?
Graduate school is giving me the freedom to chose my own research projects and to spend as much time as I need to study theories that I find interesting. So in the end I might even come up with my own theory. I am enjoying this time of my career without teaching duties and administrative deadlines that will probably take most of my time if I’m offered a faculty position.

Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?
I definitely think social networking is very important. Graduate school enables you to interact with people of different cultural as well as academic backgrounds. This is a great opportunity here at Virginia Tech. For future projects, that might ask for more than just one's own expertise, this will be a great advantage.
This student is published on the website.

Information for Abdel-Salam G. Abdel-Salam

The minimum requirements are complete. Information is ready to be processed and published.

PID: abdo

E-Mail: abdo@vt.edu

User has successfully submitted the information.

Biography:

Abdel-Salam G. Abdel-Salam ("Abdo") is from Egypt, where he obtained his BSc in 1998, and his first M.Sc. in 2004 from the Department of Statistics, Economics and Political Science at Cairo University. Abdo received his second M.Sc. degree in statistics in 2006 from Virginia Tech. He is currently working towards a Ph.D. in the area of quality control using nonparametric and semi-parametric regression methods. He also appreciates his wife, Sherin Gaafer, for her unlimited and kind support.

Save Biography Changes

December featured graduate student
Bits not Atoms

- Information is in digital form, treat it as a digital medium not as a physical medium
  - What is the “original” of a document?
  - What does “physical copy” mean anymore?
- Implications are significant...
  - View documents online (browser, phones, XBox)
  - Classification is not strictly hierarchical
  - Copy/Paste is wrong model
How to make the Deans more functional and efficient

- Use calendar to answer 2 simple questions
  - *What (and where) is my next meeting?*
  - *Am I available on day X at time Y?*

- Multiple sources makes task complicated
  - Work, family, entertainment, town (football games), upcoming deadlines, conference schedule, etc.
Solution

- Calendar information in one location
- Reduce management
  - Collaborators enters appointments directly
  - Subscribe to other calendars
- Organizations
  - Publish calendar data in a standard format
  - Grad School Events publicly available
Shared Calendars

- Keep track of upcoming deadlines
- Group responsibility to post/manage
- Google Calendar, iCal or even Exchange
Once setup... fun begins

- Calendar services available
  - Trip calendars out of Tripit.com
  - Sports calendar out of school athletic department
  - Holidays calendar
  - Family birthdays out of address book
  - etc.