

Dear Students and Faculty of the Graduate School,

As we welcome 626 first-year graduate students and the start of a new academic year, I write with news from the Graduate School. First though, let me say how thrilled I am to serve as your new Dean. My first few weeks as Dean have been filled with getting settled in HGS and meeting people from across the University, all of whom are ready to help provide the best possible environment for your graduate education. I am very much looking forward to learning more about all of our graduate programs and working together on the challenges and opportunities ahead.

My appointment as Dean coincides with a new vision for a more unified Yale articulated earlier this summer by President Peter Salovey, '86 PhD, and Provost Ben Polak. On the academic side, I will be partnering with Jonathan Holloway, '95 PhD, the new Dean of Yale College, and Tamar Gendler, the new Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, to enhance your opportunities in your coursework, research and teaching. I will also be working closely with Secretary and Vice President for Student Life, Kimberly Goff-Crews, '83 and '86 JD, as well as with Scott Strobel, Deputy Provost for Teaching and Learning, to broaden your access to student life and professional development activities and resources. Below is information about changes in various GSAS offices and how those changes affect you.

#### Student Life

- *What's new:* Graduate School and Yale College Student Affairs offices will work more closely together under the Office of the Secretary and Vice President for Student Life, lead by Kim Goff-Crews.
- *What it means for you:* increased access to student life resources across campus, including the Chaplain's office, the Resource Office on Disabilities, and the Office of Gender and Campus Culture; innovative programming in social and cultural life, sports, health and wellness, and international and family life; current facilities of the McDougal Graduate Student Center at HGS, including the Common Room, Blue Dog Café and meeting rooms, will continue to serve the graduate student community.
- *Who:* Kimberly Goff-Crews, Secretary and Vice President for Student Life; Lynn Cooley, Dean of the Graduate School; Lisa Brandes, Assistant Dean for Student Life and Director of the McDougal Center; Jennifer Mendelsohn, Associate Director, Graduate Student Life; Graduate Student Life Fellows
- *Where:* Graduate Student Life at the McDougal Center in HGS.
- *Timetable:* effective immediately.
- *More information:* [mcdougal.center@yale.edu](mailto:mcdougal.center@yale.edu)

#### Office of Career Strategy (OCS):

- *What's new:* OCS will provide career development services and programming to both graduate and undergraduate students.
- *What it means for you:* more advising time, advisors, career resources, recruitment events, scores of workshops, access to online tools and employer

databases, Academic Job Search series, office hours with staff across Central, Medical, and Science Hill campuses

- *Who:* Jeanine Dames, Director of OCS; Meredith Mira, Senior Associate Director of OCS; one new staff member TBA; McDougal Career Services Fellows.
- *Where:* 55 Whitney; 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.
- *Timetable:* effective immediately.
- *More information:* be on the lookout for an email from OCS and visit the website at <http://ocs.yale.edu/>

#### Support for Teaching and Learning:

- *What's new:* A new Yale Center for Teaching and Learning (YCTL) under the direction of Deputy Provost Scott Strobel will provide comprehensive support in these areas to students, postdocs and faculty members.
- *What it means for you:* expanded access to all campus resources related to teaching and learning; in tandem with the YCTL, the McDougal Teaching Fellows will continue to provide programming, certificate training and other activities specifically for graduate students; the Graduate Writing Center will continue to offer individual writing consultations, a wide array of programming, and dissertation boot camps.
- *Who:* Scott Strobel, Deputy Provost for Teaching and Learning; Jennifer Frederick, Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning; Risa Sodi, Associate Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning; Elena Kallestinova, Director Graduate Writing Center
- *Where:* Teaching Center offices in HGS; Writing Center at 35 Broadway
- *Timetable:* The Center will be crafted during the next academic year
- *More information:* Teaching: [teaching@yale.edu](mailto:teaching@yale.edu); Writing: [elena.kallestinova@yale.edu](mailto:elena.kallestinova@yale.edu)

You will be receiving more information about these during the next few weeks. Planning for the changes announced here benefitted from the input of the [Graduate Student Assembly](#) and the [Graduate and Professional Student Senate](#). I urge students to participate in these organizations so their views and suggestions can be heard.

With very best wishes for a successful year,

Lynn Cooley  
Dean, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences  
C.N.H. Long Professor of Genetics  
Professor of Cell Biology and Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology