June 11, 2018

Dear Graduate Teaching Assistant:

The Dean’s Offices of Arts & Sciences and Engineering, in cooperation with the Center for Educational Resources (CER) and the Graduate Representative Organization (GRO), are sponsoring an initial teaching assistant orientation session, "Making the Difference." Since effective teaching is essential to both your academic future and our students' university education, attendance at the TA training orientation is mandatory for all students who will be TAs for the first time in either the fall or spring semesters of academic year 2018-19.

This year, we will hold the morning plenary session on Tuesday August 28, 2018 from 8:45 AM to 10:00 AM in the Hodson Hall auditorium. All new graduate teaching assistants are asked to register between 8:00 and 8:30 AM in the 2nd floor lobby. A continental breakfast will be provided there during that time. In the plenary session, faculty and members of the University administration will discuss a variety of teaching-related issues, including academic ethics, sexual harassment, dealing with “difficult” students, and suggestions to help you become an effective teacher. Questions are encouraged!

Following the plenary session, a series of breakout workshops on a variety of pedagogical topics given by faculty and members of the GRO will be offered. These workshops will run from 10:15 AM to 12:00 PM in various classroom locations throughout Hodson Hall (lunch will be provided afterward). You may access descriptions of these workshops at the following URL: http://www.cer.jhu.edu/tatrain. If you have questions about any of the workshops or about the registration process, please contact Lacey Henry of the Center for Educational Resources at 410.516.0052 or lacey.henry@jhu.edu.

In preparation for the day’s events, graduate teaching assistants will be provided a Teaching Assistant Training Manual entitled "Making the Difference," as well as additional information pertaining to the orientation program, future workshops and courses to support University teaching. Copies of the manual will also be available from the CER.

We enthusiastically encourage you to attend the entire TA Orientation session. Not only will you learn techniques and new ideas related to good teaching, but the event will provide a wonderful opportunity for you to meet fellow TAs. We look forward to greeting you on August 28th.

Sincerely,

Richard Shingles, Ph.D., B.Ed.
Director, TA Training Institute
Center for Educational Resources
Johns Hopkins University