April 13, 2007

TO: CALS Department Heads

From: H. Thomas Stalker, Chair GSPDW Planning Committee

SUBJECT: 21st Annual Graduate Student Professional Development Workshop

The 21st Annual Graduate Student Professional Development Workshop for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will be held on October 10-12, 2007 at the Aqueduct Conference Center, Chapel Hill, NC. The goal of this workshop is to provide advanced graduate students with professional skills and experiences beyond those normally obtained during their formal academic training. The workshop is designed to expose participants to many professional development issues including personal management, role of personality types, interviewing skills, stress management, ethics, and interactions with the media. A copy of the program from last year is attached, and additional information can be obtained at [http://harvest.cals.ncsu.edu/index.cfm?showpage=591](http://harvest.cals.ncsu.edu/index.cfm?showpage=591).

The planning committee, consisting of Drs. Roger McCraw, Sam Pardue, and Tom Stalker, would like your assistance in selecting this year’s graduate student participants. Each academic department should nominate two Ph.D. candidates and an alternate. Nominations are needed by 15 May 2007. The committee will invite 36 graduate students to participate in the workshop. We will hold two places for each department and will place the two nominees into these slots. Please make certain that the individuals nominated will participate and that they are expected to attend the entire program by staying at the Aqueduct Conference Center. If one of those nominated cannot participate, we will attempt to fill that slot with the department’s alternate.

The process by which the department selects its participants is at the discretion of the department; however, we strongly recommend that you consider the following criteria:

- Participants will be Ph.D. candidates who have been on campus for at least 1 year (preferably 2 years), with at least 1 year remaining for completion of the degree.
- Departments should consider enhancing the diversity of participants when making their selections.
- Nominations should be submitted through the department head or the director of graduate studies.
- The college administration and the planning committee are interested in extending the experiences of participants to others in their respective departments. Thus, nominees should have good communication skills to enhance this process.
When the participant list is complete, participants will be asked to take the Myers-Briggs personality assessment. The location and possible dates for completing the instrument will be provided directly to the participants.

Please send names and full contact information for your two nominations and one alternate to me via email (Tom_Stalker@ncsu.edu) or via campus mail:

    H. Thomas Stalker  
    Department of Crop Science  
    Box 7629  
    NC State Campus

If you have any questions, please contact me at 513-2929. Thank you for your assistance in providing this exciting and meaningful opportunity for our graduate students.

cc: Dean Johnny Wynne  
    Dr. Kenneth Esbenshade  
    Dr. Roger McCraw  
    Dr. Sam Pardue  
    Ms. Marcy Bullock

att.