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# Beyond the Chemistry Web

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**Beyond the Chemistry Web...**

Bob Buchanan, Chemistry Librarian, Auburn University



This column looks at “words of wisdom” for students considering graduate school and for students already in graduate school. Across disciplines, it is striking how universal the advice is.

**How to succeed in graduate school: A guide for students and advisors** was written by Marie des Jardins in the mid-1990s for computer science students, but it applies equally well today. The first part addresses how to pick a graduate school, advisor, and thesis topic and gives advice on how to make the most of graduate school. The second part discusses attending conferences, publishing papers, getting financial support, and networking. A few sections are addressed to advisors and their role in the development of graduate students.

<http://portal.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1373576.1373578>

[http://portal.acm.org/ft\\_gateway.cfm?id=197895&type=pdf](http://portal.acm.org/ft_gateway.cfm?id=197895&type=pdf)

**Some Modest Advice for Graduate Students** by Stephen C. Stearns, Professor of Ecology and Environmental Biology at Yale, is a short essay on some of the hard truths of being a graduate student. Raymond Huey responds with a **Reply to Stearns: Some Acynical Advice for Graduate Students**.

<http://www.yale.edu/eeb/stearns/advice.htm>

<http://faculty.washington.edu/hueyrb/pdfs/reply.pdf>

**Resources and Advice for Students** – Mike Keough Professor of Evolutionary Biology at the Australian National University has created the sort of page that you used to see on the Web – a selective list of links with just enough annotation to be helpful. It points mainly to online resources but also to a few books.

<http://www.anu.edu.au/BoZo/Scott/Studentresources.html>

**Materials for Nurturing Scientists** is another short list of links to articles and videos chosen or created by Professor Uri Alon, a molecular cell biologist at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

<http://www.weizmann.ac.il/mcb/UriAlon/nurturing/>

**A Graduate School Survival Guide: So Long and Thanks for the Ph.D.** begins with a Chinese proverb: “To know the road ahead, ask those coming back.” Ronald Azuma, computer science Ph.D., shares what he would like to have known when starting graduate school.

<http://www.cs.unc.edu/~azuma/hitch4.html>

Photochemist Nicholas Turro discusses his research philosophy, including use of the chemical literature, in **How to skate on the edge of the paradigm ... and keep from falling off** which appeared in *The Spectrum* (2004), 17(1) 4-9, 34. This should be required reading for chemistry graduate students.

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/photochem/assets/pdf/spectrum/spring2004spectrum.pdf>

**Ten Simple Rules for Graduate Students** is one of fifteen editorials published in Computational Biology that go under the moniker “Ten Simple Rules...” Other topics in this series may also be of interest to graduate students.

<http://www.ploscompbiol.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pcbi.0030229>

**Succeeding in Graduate School – PhDs.org** is a collection of articles at PhDs.org, which is a portal for jobs and information about graduate school for Ph.D. students.

<http://www.phds.org/graduate-school-success>

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