Second Annual Graduate School Colloquium for Minority Students To Be Held April 13 in Shapiro’s Davis Auditorium

BY LYDIA GARDNER

Last year, Columbia’s first Colloquium for Minority Students Preparing for Graduate School at the University was such a success that the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences have decided to continue it as an annual event again this year.

The colloquium, a day of informational workshops covering the graduate school admissions process, financial aid, research and career opportunities, will take place on Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This event, which is free of charge to all interested students, will be held at the Davis Auditorium in the Shapiro Center for Engineering and Physical Sciences.

“We initiated this event because we believed that there are students from traditionally underrepresented groups who are really interested in science and engineering but lack information on the opportunities available to them,” said Henry Pinkham, dean of GSAS. “We were pleased to find out from the enthusiastic response of last year’s attendees that we are correct.”

“Engineering and the applied sciences contain many ‘gateways to learning’ in exciting fields of science and engineering,” said Zvi Galil, dean of SEAS. “We are delighted to have the opportunity to explore the many ‘gateways to learning’ in engineering and applied science—those that are open to underrepresented groups.”

Gilda Barabino, vice provost for undergraduate education and professor of chemical engineering at Northeastern University, will return to speak at this event and avail themselves of the information and expertise that will be presented for them. We are looking for students with the confidence to invest in themselves and their futures and the perseverance to chart their own paths to success through the challenging and exciting fields of science and engineering.

Interested students may register by phone, mail or online at http://www.gsas.columbia.edu/colloquium and can obtain registration materials or directions to the colloquium by calling 212-854-3791 or 854-6438 or emailing gsasoma@gsas.columbia.edu.

The program will also feature a panel discussion with knowledgeable and experienced admissions officers about the day-to-day realities of graduate student life and possible career paths for scientists and engineers.

“We have students come from as far away as Virginia to attend the events,” said Pinkham. “We want to encourage minority undergraduates to begin thinking about graduate study and current M.A. or M.S. students contemplating doctoral programs to think ahead and apply to a Ph.D. to attend this event and avail themselves of the information and expertise that will be presented for them. We are looking for students with the confidence to invest in themselves and their futures and the perseverance to chart their own paths to success through the challenging and exciting fields of science and engineering.

Students interested in registering can contact the admissions office of the graduate school in which they are interested to learn about possible career paths for students in that field.

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