New Student "Orientation"

Cognitive & Neural Systems Student Organization

Department of Cognitive & Neural Systems
Boston University
http://cns.bu.edu/~cnso

August 31, 2007
Outline

1. Classes
   - Introduction
   - Qualifying Exams
   - Research Issues

2. Reference Management
   - Introduction
   - Examples
   - Notes

3. Funding

4. Future Meetings
Things to consider while choosing classes:

- You need to take *Qualifying Exams* (usually in January of your 2nd year)
- You are paired with your adviser midway through your second semester (so take classes with faculty you’re interested in working with)
- You have less choice than you think:
  - Not all classes at BU are an option
  - Not all available classes are offered in a given semester
  - There just aren’t that many CNS courses
For quals, you need **8 CNS Classes**, at least four of:
{530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580 }

You also need a specialty:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>550, 710</td>
<td>Gail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor</td>
<td>540, 720, 740</td>
<td>Dan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>530, 730, 780</td>
<td>Ennio, Eric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audition/Speech</td>
<td>560, 740</td>
<td>Barb, Frank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your *academic* adviser has nothing to do with your research career at CNS

Talk to faculty members all semester to find a good research fit

You will be paired with a *research* adviser midway through your second semester
Your academic adviser gives you academic advice
(Nearly) everybody at CNS takes CN530
Post-masters students only take CNS classes (8)!
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What is it?

**Reference Management** refers to what you do with the 19,238,314 papers you will read while at CNS

- Help you find that awesome paper that you vaguely remember reading
- Help you keep electronic versions of your papers in order
- Automatically generate a bibliography when the time comes to write a paper/report/final project
Advantages:

- Infinite PDF storage online
- Access from anywhere (entirely web-based)
- Add automatically from a web-page

Disadvantages:

- You don’t control it
- Doesn’t work if you’re lazy
Advantages:

- Infinite PDF storage on your CNS machine
- One large BibTeX file
- Access from anywhere, you control the settings

Disadvantages:

- You have to build it
- Only manual entry
And so many more!

Everyone has a Reference Managing scheme! Pick one now and stick with it!

A Few Notes...

- Google Scholar is your best friend (and it does \texttt{BIBTeX})
- You will find papers that BU doesn’t have access to
  - Do inter-library loan
  - Make friends with people at Harvard/MIT
You need money.

- Many students funded by department for first year
- After first year, your adviser pays for you
- PS, YOU GET PAID LESS IN THE SUMMER
Advantages to External Funding

- External funding often pays you more than you make at CNS
- You never have to worry about your research adviser running out of money
- Being in a lab is not contingent upon that lab having money
### Funding to apply for

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellowship</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Stipend</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSF Graduate Fellowship</td>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nsfgradfellows.org/">http://www.nsfgradfellows.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDSE (DoD) Fellowship</td>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>$31,000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.asee.org/ndseg/">http://www.asee.org/ndseg/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computational Science (DoE) Fellowship</td>
<td>Jan. 10</td>
<td>$31,500</td>
<td><a href="http://www.krellinst.org/csgf/">http://www.krellinst.org/csgf/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And many, many more:

- [www.bu.edu/bufellow](http://www.bu.edu/bufellow)
- [http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/grad_fellows/](http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/grad_fellows/)
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<tr>
<th>CNSO Meetings</th>
<th>Meet with fellow CNS students to <strong>eat free pizza and drink free beer</strong> and talk about whatever issues you want. <strong>September 7</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bowlby Meetings</td>
<td>Meet with sysadmin/M:TG afficionado Brian Bowlby to talk about computer issues at CNS. Free cookies and soda. Date TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student-Faculty Meetings</td>
<td>Meet with entire faculty and entire student body to address shared concerns. No free food. <strong>September 14</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matlab Sessions</td>
<td>Meet with {Alex, Jasmin, Tim, Arun} to figure out how Matlab works. <strong>September 4 11am, more to follow</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Which of these ships was not one of the three taken over by colonists during the Boston Tea Party?

- A: Eleanor
- B: Dartmouth
- C: Beaver
- D: William