Week 2- August 23: Graduate School Expectations/ Life as a Graduate Student

Week 2 Business:

* How are classes going?
* Are rotations going well?

Week 2 Suggested Discussion Starters:

* First Year students: What are you looking for in a lab?
  + Research area
  + Lab environment (large lab, small lab, etc.)
  + PI involvement (hands on, hands off)
  + Lab statistics (typical time to graduation, typical papers published, conferences attended each year, etc.)
  + PI experience in graduate training (how many students have they trained previously, where are they now?)
* Advanced Students:
  + How did you chose your lab?
  + Did you have any issues during your rotations?
  + How did you balance classes and rotations?
* PI’s:
  + How do you decide if a student is a good fit for your lab?
  + What do you expect of students who are rotating?
* Is there anything that is worrying you? Have you found ways to de-stress?
* Advanced Students:
  + What hours do you typically spend in lab? Do you work weekends?
  + How does your PI communicate with you? How do you plan experiments/ day-to-day work?
  + What responsibilities do you have in your lab? (directing undergraduate volunteers, ordering supplies, managing animal colonies, etc.)
  + What have you found most difficult about graduate school? What have you found most enjoyable?