

# THE GARNET GRADUATE

The Graduate Student Association Newsletter  
of the  
University of South Carolina

## “Participate, Innovate, Lead”

I trust you are off to a great start for this fall semester. I count it as a privilege to serve the graduate student body at one of America's finest research universities. It is a great time to be a Gamecock! Last week, I had the honor of joining President Pastides and over 800 people on the Horseshoe to celebrate our university. During this event, President Pastides shared his thoughts about the future of USC and encouraged students to “Participate, Innovate, and Lead.” If you were unable to join us at the event, I encourage you to visit <http://sc.edu/sotu> to listen to President Pastides' remarks.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as president. The GSA has many exciting events planned for this semester and I encourage you to get involved. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Wishes,  
*Andrew Dorsey*  
GSA President

## Upcoming Events

### ❖ Graduate Student Financial Literacy Seminar

On **Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** in the Russell House Room 203, the GSA will sponsor a financial literacy seminar conducted by Ms. Catherine Sale, Coordinator of financial literacy at USC's Student Success Center. Ms. Sale will present information on how to manage graduate student debt, how to live on a budget, and how to set financial goals. If you plan to attend this event, please email your name and program of study to [sogsa@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sogsa@mailbox.sc.edu) to register for this very popular seminar! Space is limited and spots fill quickly so email us today. The registration deadline is *Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>*.



Graduate Student  
Association

Your Advocates at Carolina

### ❖ South Carolina Graduate Student Health Insurance Summit

On **Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** (location to be determined), the graduate student associations of USC, Clemson, and the Medical University of South Carolina will gather on USC's campus to discuss health insurance issues with university administrators as they work to write a new bid for health insurance. This is your opportunity to provide input on the Pearce and Pearce health insurance plan. More details to come!

## CAMPUS RECREATION

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STUDENT LIFE

### ❖ Graduate Student Fall Fun Night

On **Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** the GSA will host an exciting fall fun night for all USC graduate students and their immediate family. The event will be held in the area adjacent to the pedestrian walkway bridge that links the area between Bates House Dormitory and the Blatt PE Center (look for our GSA signs). We are excited to partner with **USC Campus Recreation** to host this event. The GSA has reserved the high ropes challenge course for graduate students! This event is free. There will be lots of activities and plenty of refreshments.

This is a great opportunity for you to meet students outside your academic department. For more information, please contact:

Matt Laurer, GSA Graduate Student Life Liaison ([lauerem@email.sc.edu](mailto:lauerem@email.sc.edu))

Lauren Vervaecke, GSA Spouse and Family Liaison ([vervaeck@email.sc.edu](mailto:vervaeck@email.sc.edu)).



**Welcome to the new**  
**Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Lacy Ford!**

*By: Jason Alston,  
GSA Communications Liaison*

The new dean of graduate studies for the University of South Carolina may have as much personal interest in the success of the program and its students as he does professional interest. He is, after all, a standout alumnus himself.

Dr. Lacy Ford addressed graduate students as well as faculty on August 31<sup>st</sup> during a welcome reception sponsored by the Graduate Student Association. He replaces Dr. Timothy A. Mousseau, who had been serving in an interim capacity.

Ford spoke highly of the students currently comprising the graduate school, saying he felt the cohorts entering and studying within graduate programs at the school now are among the most talented in USC's history. He added that the breadth of faculty qualifications at USC are better now than at any other time during his association with USC. Ford lauded the efforts of the faculty in managing and protecting school resources in the midst of declining public funding.

Ford promoted a student-oriented approach in overseeing the graduate school. He said he would strive to have continued funds available for students to travel for presenting. Ford also said there was a need for the graduate school to talk to and communicate with the students; Ford plans to improve communication between students and the graduate school.

"I hope to stand before you a year from now and say we're doing a lot of things better than we used to, and we will hope you will agree," Ford told the audience.

Ford also spoke of working with a diversity task force to ensure that the graduate school's student body, "looks more like the world we live in." Finally, Ford promised that the graduate school would be conscious of the "life needs" of graduate students, not just their academic needs. He urged all graduate students to, "Remember to take care of your 'whole self.'"

Ford earned his Ph.D. in American History from USC in 1983. He has served as a faculty member at USC since 1984. Ford has authored three books and has held posts with numerous professional organizations including the Southern Historical Association and the Agricultural History Society.



***Dr. Lacy Ford (center), the new dean of graduate studies, poses with USC graduate students***

### **University Committees**

The University has a variety of special committees and there are a number of student slots available for graduate students. These committees provide a great opportunity for you to network with students, faculty, and administrators from across the University as you advocate for graduate students issues. Committees with open slots include:

- Disability Affairs Committee
- Health Services Advisory Committee
- Parking and Transit Committee
- Provost Advisory Committee on Women's Issues
- Registration Committee
- Retention Committee

*If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please contact Catherine Kenimer of the Student Government Association at [kenimer@email.sc.edu](mailto:kenimer@email.sc.edu).*

### **Congressional Advisory Board**

Did you know the GSA not only advocates for you at USC, but also before the United States government!?! In March, GSA President Andrew Dorsey will travel to Washington, DC as a member of the USC Congressional Advisory Board to talk with South Carolina's senators and congressmen about issues of importance to graduate students at USC. The GSA wants to know what issues you would like Andrew and the Board to address during these discussions. Please take a moment to click on the below link and fill out this brief survey to voice your concerns:

<http://studentvoice.com/usc/2012congressionaladvisoryboardpoll>

## Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) Upcoming Events

Listed below are some outstanding seminars sponsored by the USC Center for Teaching Excellence. Teaching Assistants may find these seminars very useful. To register, please follow the link under the desired event(s). **For more information, please visit: [www.sc.edu/cte](http://www.sc.edu/cte)**

### **Integrative Learning is...Research**

Monday, September 19, 2011, 2:30-3:20 p.m.

<http://cte.sc.edu/workshops/iresearch/>

### **Theory to Practice: Teaching Critical Thinking**

Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 11:00a.m.-12:15 p.m.

<http://cte.sc.edu/workshops/criticalthinking/>

### **Interactive Questioning in Online Lectures**

Wednesday, September 21, 2011, 1:25-2:15 p.m.

<http://cte.sc.edu/workshops/onlinequestions/>

### **Voyages into the Technology Frontier: Moving Images**

Monday, September 26, 2011, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

<http://cte.sc.edu/workshops/voyages/>

### **Digging Deeper: Discussion Strategies to Get Students Talking (on topic!)**

Wednesday, September 28, 2011, 1:25 -2:15 p.m.

<http://cte.sc.edu/workshops/discuss/>

### **Teaching and Engaging Very Large Classes Online**

Thursday, September 29, 2011, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

<http://cte.sc.edu/workshops/largeonline/>

### **Theory to Practice: Teaching Creative Thinking**

Thursday, October 6, 2011, 12:30-1:45 p.m.

<http://cte.sc.edu/workshops/creativethinking/>

### **Tweeting Together: Building Community and Engaging Students in Learning**

Monday, October 10, 2011, 2:30 – 3:25 p.m.

<http://cte.sc.edu/workshops/tweet/>



## GSA Meeting

The GSA will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 21st from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Russell House, Room 315. All graduate students are encouraged to attend. There will be an opportunity for graduate students to share your concerns during the public forum portion of the meeting.

**Getting ready for an adventure this fall??**  
**Check out USC Outdoor Recreation's Backcountry Education Clinics!**



**The clinics are free for all USC Graduate Students**  
<http://campusrec.sc.edu/orec>

- **Wilderness First Aid Clinic**  
*Thursday, Sept. 22, 5:00pm – 6:00pm, Outdoor Recreation Office*  
 When venturing into the backcountry it is very important to be able to treat yourself and others if any illness or injuries occur. Outdoor Recreation will show you basic backcountry first aid techniques, like splinting and wound management, so you can be prepared to stay safe on your next trip. We'll go over everything from campsite selection to travelling techniques.
- **Backcountry Survival**  
*Monday, Oct. 10, 6:00pm – 7:00pm, Outdoor Recreation Office*  
 Ever wonder what would happen if you were stranded in the woods and had to survive on your own knowledge and creativity? Join us at the Outdoor Recreation Office with a sense of creativity and a need to survive!
- **Cookin' with Pumpkins, Backcountry Style**  
*Thursday, Oct. 27, 6:00pm – 8:00pm, Outdoor Recreation Office*  
 It's that time... Fall is in the air. So for a new twist on our backcountry cooking clinic we're going pumpkin style. Come learn and enjoy some great breakfast and dessert options for you next autumn camping experience!
- **Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics Clinic**  
*Tuesday, Nov. 15, 7:00pm – 8:00pm, Green Quad Learning Center*  
 We all know Big Foot exists but have you ever wondered how he stays hidden so well? It's because he follows Leave No Trace Ethics!!! Come out with the ORec crew and learn how to stay as clean and trace-free as Big Foot on your camping and backpacking trips.

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