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President’s Welcome

We are happy to share the first February issue of the GSA newsletter with you—an issue full of upcoming events for February and March.

Here are a few highlights:

1. Valentine’s Day Dessert Social at World of Beer (902 Gervais Street) Thursday, February 13th, 7:00-9:00pm Come enjoy cupcakes and drinks at the WOB—spouses and significant others welcome! RSVP on Facebook
3. Graduate Student Forums: Thursday Feb 27, Davis 209 Early session (1-2pm), late session (6-7pm)

We would also like to remind you to please fill out our informational survey. PLEASE take 5-10 minutes to fill out the survey and help us shape our programming for the semester: http://tinyurl.com/pj7hglb

Lastly, we have expanded our social media presence! You can now find us on Instagram (uscgsa) and LinkedIn (go to http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=7449101&trk=anet_ug_hm to request permission to join the University of South Carolina Graduate Student Association group).

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can assist or support you—we are your advocates on the USC campus. You can connect with us via email (sogsa@mailbox.sc.edu) or social media (www.facebook.com/uscgsa and www.twitter.com/uscgsa).

Best wishes,
Danielle Schoffman
President, Graduate Student Association
GSA EVENTS

Join the GSA for our Valentine’s Dessert Social at World of Beer (902 Gervais St) THIS Thursday February 13th from 7-9pm. Significant others are welcome! RSVP on Facebook!

We want to know what’s on your mind! Please join the Graduate Student Association for an informal conversation concerning important issues of graduate and professional students at the University of South Carolina. After the success of our first Graduate School Forum last semester, we will be holding a second forum! Potential topics: event ideas, student health insurance, Graduate School policies, and GA positions. Refreshments will be served!

Thursday, February 27th
Early session: 1:00pm – 2:00pm
Late session: 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Location (click for map): Davis College, Room 209

GSA monthly meetings are open to all graduate students. This is your chance to let us know what we can do to make your graduate student experience even better. Our meetings are held in the Campus Life Center, 2nd floor of Russell House, across from Einstein’s Bagels. For more information, email us at sogsa@mailbox.sc.edu. Meeting dates this semester:

Thurs, Feb 20, 5-6:30 p.m.
Wed, Mar 5, 5-6:30 p.m.
Thurs, Mar 20, 5-6:30 p.m.
Wed, Apr 2, 5-6:30 p.m.
Thurs, Apr 17, 5-6:30 p.m.
Attention all Graduate Student Clubs and Organizations!

GSA has a fund for you to apply for money to aid you in putting on your events and activities. We are on an all-rolling process this year, so we just ask that you apply at least 4 weeks ahead of time to give the Budget Committee time to process your requests. We want and NEED to allocate this money - you just need to ask for it! Please email Meagan Conway, GSA Treasurer at conwaymk@email.sc.edu with questions.

- If you ask for more than $1,000, we ask for you to schedule a time to come in for a dialogue.
- If you are charging for an event, any money you ask for is a loan which must be paid back!
- If an event you applied for in the past was rejected, we encourage you to apply again, taking into account the comments from the committee about why it was not awarded initially.
- We can only allocate for certain things. Please check the Treasurer's Manual for more insight on that.

We also remind you of the mandatory treasurer's workshops for all clubs and orgs to be able to apply for money next year. Clubs can start applying for money for events they want to hold next year starting on March 1st. Applications are on a rolling deadline, but they must be in at least 4 weeks before the proposed event. The committee also suggests earlier if it is for a large event or they want time to put in a purchase requisition.

Workshop dates:

   Monday, February 17 12:00pm RH 322
   Tuesday, February 18 5:00pm RH 303
   Wednesday, February 19 5:00pm RH 205
Check out these CTE events!

1. **GRAD 701 Session: Developing Your Teaching Persona**
   Facilitator: Sara Schwebel, Assoc. Professor of English
   Date/Time: Thursday, February 13, 2014, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
   Location: WMBB 502
   Registration is not required - all are welcome!

   Good teaching involves creating a teaching persona that is authentic, requiring a balance between establishing authority, content mastery and classroom management style. Tips for developing these skills will be discussed, along with a discussion of common concerns of TAs new to the classroom, and helpful advice for any who are still learning to become comfortable in front of a classroom.

2. **Three Effective Strategies for Engaging Undergraduate Students in Large Online Courses**
   Monday, February 17, 2014, 10:50 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.
   Center for Teaching Excellence, Thomas Cooper Library, Room L511

   Vera Polyakova-Norwood, Director, Online Learning, College of Nursing
   Beverly Baliko, Associate Professor, College of Nursing
   Mary Boyd, Associate Professor, College of Nursing

   Do you find it challenging to teach large online classes? In this informative session, you’ll learn about three successful strategies and easy-to-use technologies for designing, teaching and managing interactive courses for large cohorts of undergraduate students. For more information and to register for this event visit [http://www.sc.edu/cte/spring14/LargeOnlineCourses.php](http://www.sc.edu/cte/spring14/LargeOnlineCourses.php)

   You may also register for events and get more information by e-mail cte@sc.edu or by calling 803-777-8322.

Other events can be found on the CTE calendar.
RESEARCH

Participate in research!

Younsuk Kong invites you to **participate in this research study** that examines leisure-time physical activity behavior of graduate students in order to identify factors that influence physical activity behavior. The questionnaire will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please follow the link below to complete the questionnaire and for any questions, contact: Younsuk Kong, Doctoral Candidate, Clemson University, younsuk@clemson.edu

Link: [https://qtrial.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6DXcU3PdFlLtQSp](https://qtrial.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6DXcU3PdFlLtQSp)

Check out this [story](#) on graduate student Erin Derrick, “Mapping an effective earthquake response” which originally appeared on the UofSC news site.

Submit your proposals by **March 11th** for Graduate Student Day 2014m to be held on **Friday April 11th**

Graduate Student Day, an annual celebration, competition, and award ceremony, is the University of South Carolina’s most comprehensive showcase of graduate scholarly and creative work. Sponsored by The Graduate School and held each spring, the event provides students an opportunity to present their work to the university and the larger community. Proposals are submitted through the Graduate Management System (GMS) and are **due March 11th**! Categories include oral, poster, and creative presentations, as well as the 3 minute thesis/dissertation! Graduate Student Day is held on Friday of Graduate Student week, an entire week devoted to Graduate Students.
1. Serve Carolina Workshop. Sunday February 16th 11:00am - 5:30pm

Do you have an interest in community service? Consider attending the sixth annual Serve Carolina Workshop! This workshop is perfect for students who are interested in learning how to create service opportunities for their organization, are already involved in service and want to delve deeper into its’ meaning, and/or are considering careers in service or non-profit work. Session offerings include presentations on social issues, the impact of a volunteer, building community partner relationships, how to plan a service project and more! Serve Carolina takes place Sunday February 16th from 11:00am until 5:30pm in the Russell House, lunch is provided and registration is free! To register now, please click here. For more information contact Martha Scott Johnson via email at MSJ@mailbox.sc.edu

Additional Volunteer opportunities can always be found at http://www.sa.sc.edu/communityservice/volunteer-2/

ASSISTANTSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Looking for Graduate Assistantships or Fellowships? Check out Job Mate! Part of the USC Career Center website, students can register for an account and select the types of opportunities (graduate assistantships, fellowships) they are interested in and browse. Students can also share an email address and a list of such will be emailed directly to their inbox. Click here to visit Job Mate!

INFO: Investigate National Fellowship Opportunities.
Part of the Office of Fellowships and Scholars Program, INFO is a searchable database for national fellowships.
Africa Night will be held on February 25th (please note the new, corrected date). This event is sponsored by Pan-African Student Association (PANASA).

#BanglaFest, the annual Bangladeshi Cultural Night organized by the USC Bangladesh Students Association (BSA), on 15 Feb at Russell House, starts at 6.30pm.

The event is FREE for all USC students, faculty, and staffs and only requires RSVP. There will be dance, music, fashion show, stand up comedy, poems, audience participations and many more with YUMMY Bangladeshi cuisines. Watch a teaser trailer for the event here and RSVP here.
1. **CAROLINA INTERCULTURAL TRAINING**
   February 19, March 26, April 23
   2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Byrnes 704

Did you know that the University of South Carolina hosts more than 1,300 international students from over 100 countries? Many of these students arrive at USC not knowing anyone and often struggle to find community and establish friendships on campus. The International Student Services office has launched a new program, “Carolina Intercultural Training”, which will help ease cultural clashes, miscommunication, and prejudices. Similar to “Safe Zone” and “Green Zone” trainings, faculty and staff members who complete this “International Friendly Zone” program will receive a certificate and will be better equipped to promote and provide an inclusive environment on campus for international students, in addition to preparing themselves for international experiences of their own. There are three training opportunities this spring: February 19, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., March 26, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., and April 23, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., all of which will be located in Byrnes 704. We encourage you to attend this cross-cultural training, and join with us in promoting inclusivity for USC’s diverse population. Questions, contact Binda Niati, International Student Advisor, at niati@mailbox.sc.edu. Please register at https://uscips.wufoo.com/forms/z3f95kw01yy9k9/

2. **Women’s Self Defense Workshop.**
   USC’s Student Health Services Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention & Prevention have partnered with the University of South Carolina’s Division of Law Enforcement and Safety to offer a Women’s Self Defense Workshop. The workshop will be offered four times this spring in the Strom Thurmond Wellness Center Martial Arts Room. Students, faculty, and staff can register by emailing Toni Lawrimore at toni.lawrimore.savip@gmail.com

   February 28, 12-4 PM
   March 28, 12-4 PM
   April 25, 12-4 PM

3. **USC Library Workshops.** Check out the workshops held by the Thomas Cooper Library. The Research Readiness is meant especially for new graduate students—all the stuff you’d want to know about the library but don’t even know to ask! Coming soon: Zotero training! http://guides.library.sc.edu/workshops
4. **February Technology Training** sponsored by the Provost’s Advisory Committee on Women’s Issues (PACWI), the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) and the Division of Information Technology (DoIT). Each session is open to all USC faculty, staff and students. Training sessions are limited to 25 participants and registration is free. For more information, contact Aisha Haynes at haynesa@mailbox.sc.edu.

Managing your Digital Information  
Wednesday, February 19th, 2014 12:30-1:45 PM  
Location: UTS 304 (1244 Blossom St)

Properly managing your digital information is essential to being able to work effectively. This beginner training session will introduce ‘best practice’ concepts for storing and organizing your digital information so that you will be able to maintain and retrieve it efficiently. Participants will learn specifically about using Windows Explorer and Apple Finder to manage files and folders. Additional concepts such as information security and search strategies will be addressed if time permits. To register, [complete the Managing your Digital Information online registration form.](#)

5. **SWAG Student Wellness Achieving Goals** is a student weight management program open to all students on a first come first serve basis.  
[http://www.sa.sc.edu/shs/cw/gswag/](http://www.sa.sc.edu/shs/cw/gswag/)

6. **Fellow Graduate Student Chase Nelson stars at Trustus Theatre**  
**Wednesday, March 12th at 7:30 p.m.**

Chase Nelson, a third year Presidential Fellow in Biological Sciences, stars in *See Rock City and Other Destinations*, “a contemporary musical about connections missed and made at tourist destinations across America.” Tickets are $10 and will be available at the door. The theater opens at 6:30 and beer, wine, and popcorn are available. For more information, please see: [https://www.trustus.org/show.php?show_id=57](https://www.trustus.org/show.php?show_id=57).

7. **Carolina Beautiful Celebrate your Body Week Feb 24-28**  
Every year, the University of South Carolina holds Carolina Beautiful, to coincide with National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. Carolina Beautiful offers a number of events, services, and speakers to help students celebrate their bodies in a positive way and to prevent the development of body image issues and eating disorders.  
[http://www.sa.sc.edu/shs/cw/cb/](http://www.sa.sc.edu/shs/cw/cb/)
8. Doctoral and MFA Graduates with Tenure Track Positions
This is the second year that Provost Amiridis is hosting a dinner to celebrate USC graduates who secure tenure track positions. To make this event a success, we need your help: Wanted: Information on all USC Doctoral and MFA students who graduate August 2013, December 2013, or May 2014 and are offered and accept tenure track positions. These students and their advisors will be celebrated at a dinner hosted in their honor by Provost Michael Amiridis on Tuesday, April 29th at 6 p.m. Location to be announced. Please fill out the Graduate School’s form as soon as possible but no later than April 1st. For further information, please contact Hannah Spicher at hspicher@mailbox.sc.edu or 7-9086.

9. The **USC Counseling and Human Development Center** has a Drop-In Guided Relaxation Group every Thursday at 3:30 in 617 Byrnes.

**Feeling stressed or overwhelmed?**

**Need a minute?**

**Come to the Drop-In Guided Relaxation Group!**

Held every Thursday at 3:30pm in room 617 of the Byrnes Building. There is no need to register or reserve a space. Open to and free for all USC students.
USC has a new Postdoctoral Association!

At USC, postdoctoral scholars receive research training and professional opportunities to help them build upon the foundation they developed in their doctoral training. At the same time, these scholars provide great service to their academic communities, enhancing research and educational programs throughout the university. The USC Postdoctoral Association was formed in early 2014 to connect postdoctoral fellows from every discipline, and provide opportunities for them to share their experiences and learn from faculty and other mentors.

Please visit their website ([http://www.sc.edu/vpresearch/uscpostdoc.shtml](http://www.sc.edu/vpresearch/uscpostdoc.shtml)) for more information, resources, and upcoming events.

1. **Professional Development for Postdocs: Negotiating your first job offer**
   Invited Speaker: Dr. Gregory Hand, Associate Dean for Research and Practice and Professor of Exercise Science
   Brown Bag seminar- bring your lunch, we’ll provide drinks and snacks! Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 12:00-1:00 p.m. *(Event being rescheduled due to weather closures)*
   Discovery, Room 331
   To RSVP, send an email with your name and departmental information to USCPostDoc@sc.edu.

2. **USC Postdoctoral Association council meeting**
   *All are encouraged to attend!*
   Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 11:30 a.m.
   Location: Public Health Research Center room 319
   To RSVP, send an email with your name and departmental information to USCPostDoc@sc.edu.

3. **USC Postdoctoral Association Networking Happy Hour**
   Free Appetizers!
   Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 5:30 p.m.
   Location: Thirsty Fellow, 621 Gadsden Street
   To RSVP, send an email with your name and departmental information to USCPostDoc@sc.edu.
Connect with us! Stay up to date on the latest graduate school news. Check out our website, like us on Facebook, connect with us on LinkedIn, and follow us on Twitter and Instagram!

www.gradschool.sc.edu/gsa  
http://instagram.com/uscgsa

www.facebook.com/uscgisa  
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University of South Carolina Graduate Student Association