President’s Welcome

As the countdown towards the end of the semester begins, we are excited to fill you in on the recent efforts of the GSA as well as the details of some upcoming events.

Work with Other Graduate Student Associations:
Last week, I had the opportunity to travel with Brittany Walter (GSA Graduate Council Representative) to the Southeast Regional Conference of the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students, held at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. The conference was an excellent chance to network with the leaders of graduate organizations from schools across the southeast, to learn about the strategies they use for tasks such as engaging students as well as to discuss the ways that our organizations are structured and what changes we might make to be more effective. The USC GSA has also been invited to attend a regional summit of graduate associations, including Clemson, Georgia Tech, and Auburn University.

Graduate Student Association Elections:
Elections for the four executive positions on the GSA leadership team (president, vice president, treasurer, and graduate council representative) will take place online from April 14-16. Please see pages 4-6 (or the GSA website) to read more about the candidates.

Graduate Student Week:
In celebration of National Graduate and Professional Student Week, please join us for events to be held from Sunday, April 6 to Friday, April 11! See page 3 for all of the details... don’t miss out on this special week of fun!

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
Help us celebrate National Graduate and Professional Student Week with all of these upcoming events!

- **Sunday, April 6th: Sunday Funday!**
  4-7pm at Thirsty Fellow
  *Help us kick off the week of events by enjoying the outdoor patio and some snacks!*

- **Monday, April 7th: Remarks from Dr. John Dozier,**
  5:30-6:30pm, Russell House Room 205
  *A conversation with USC’s Chief Diversity Officer; join us to hear from Dr. Dozier and participate in a discussion about diversity. Refreshments will be served.*

- **Tuesday, April 8th: $tart $mart – Learning How to Negotiate a Salary**
  Co-Sponsored by The Graduate School, Career Center, Center for Teaching Excellence
  1-4pm, Career Center (BA 6th Floor) Rm. 602B
  RSVP is requested ([Click Here](#))
  *Not sure how to negotiate a salary? You are not alone! Stop by the $tart $mart Workshop to learn how to overcome the gender wage gap.*

- **Tuesday, April 8th: Mix and Mingle Game Night**
  5:30-7:30pm, Russell House Room 203
  *When is the last time you played a board game? Join us for a good old fashioned game night and some delicious Mexican food!*  

- **Wednesday, April 9th: Cardio Exercise Class**
  4-5pm, fitness classroom at the Blatt
  *Get your sweat on with a fun cardio/kickboxing/strength class taught by a fellow grad student!*  

- **Wednesday, April 9th: Chill and Grill**
  5:30-7:30pm, Strom Outdoor Pool
  *Time to kick back and enjoy the sunshine on the Strom pool deck; we will take care of the grilling—come make use of the pool, volleyball nets, and lounge chairs.*

- **Thursday, April 10th: We all scream for Ice Cream! @ Ropes Course (family friendly event)**
  4-6pm, Challenge course behind the Blatt Center
  *Come enjoy ice cream sundaes and test your skills on the USC Ropes Course! Families and spouses welcome!*

- **Friday, April 11th: Graduate Student Day**
  8:30am-2pm, Russell House
  *Congratulations to the students accepted to present their work at Graduate Student Day 2014!*  

- **Friday, April 11th: Credit 101: Building & Managing Credit,**
  Co-Sponsored by the USC Financial Literacy Program
  12-1pm, Thomas Cooper Library Room 412
  *What’s a credit score? How do I look up my credit report? What does it mean to build credit? Get all these questions answered and more by attending this workshop.*
Elections for GSA President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Student Council Representative will be held (online) from April 14th-16th. All USC graduate and professional students are permitted to participate in the election. Elections will be held on my.sc.edu and a link will be sent out soon.

Please read about our candidates over the next few pages.

Brittany S. Walter, Candidate for President
Contact: walterbs@email.sc.edu

Biography
Brittany Walter is a second year doctoral student and Presidential Fellow studying biological anthropology in the Department of Anthropology. Her research interests include bioarchaeology and forensic anthropology. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Florida as a Florida Opportunity Scholar and her Master of Arts degree as a Deans Fellow from the University of Central Florida.

Brittany is the current Graduate Council Representative for the Graduate Student Association at USC and served as the Programming Liaison during 2012-13.

While at the University of South Carolina, Brittany has served as a member of the Graduate Finance Committee, Provost’s Advisory Committee on Women’s Issues, Graduate Women’s Committee, and has assisted with several events and policies for graduate students at USC through the GSA. She was also chosen as a student spotlight in the No Limits campaign for USC.

Position Statement
Representing the graduate student community as President of the GSA is a privilege that I am excited to undertake. Since 2012, I have been an active voice in the restructuring of the GSA to create a more involved and proactive organization. The GSA has developed several innovative plans and policies and has taken an active effort in working with several university institutions to create resources for graduate students. Having been involved with the GSA during this process, I am well acquainted with the trajectory of the association, and am looking forward to ensuring that current, effective policies are maintained and that new, exciting ideas are successfully implemented in the coming year.

Through my current position as Graduate Council Representative, I have established several connections with the administration, facilitating efficient communication for the needs and concerns of graduate students. In serving as your President, I pledge to represent and work on behalf of the diverse and unique nature of graduate student interests, and to build on the legacy GSA has recreated thus far. I am confident that I possess the necessary attributes to effectively act as an unyielding advocate on behalf of the needs and general welfare of the graduate student community.

------ Candidate list continued on next page ------
Meagan Conway, Candidate for Vice President
Contact: conwaymk@email.sc.edu

Biography
Meagan Conway is a second year doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology. Her current research interests include colonialism and cultural change, materialization of identity, and household dynamics in frontier spaces. She is originally from Newport News, VA, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and English from the University of Notre Dame. She received a Master of Arts degree in Historical Archaeology from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Meagan currently serves on the Graduate Student Association Treasurer, and she served on the Finance Committee during 2012-13. Through this role, she has worked on many different events and programs. She also serves as supervisory staff on the Cultural Landscapes of the Irish Coast Archaeology Project, which explores thousands of years of island heritage through archaeological excavations, archival work, and oral histories.

Position Statement
I am looking forward to the opportunity to continue to serve and build a productive community for the graduate students at the University of South Carolina. In my current position as Treasurer for the Graduate Student Association, I have gained a valuable insight of the many graduate student clubs, organizations, and their goals. I have also been able to work with many students in different schools and departments across our graduate community. I am familiar with the needs of the diverse graduate student population, and endeavor to continue to advocate and provide resources for our graduate student community. Because of my participation with planning and organizing GSA events in the past, and working closely with the current President, Vice-President, and the GSA liaisons, I can provide continuity to the office of Vice-President and continue to build off the great progress we have made to serve and assist graduate students with their needs and issues. As Vice-President, I will act to enhance the graduate school experience by continuing to work on facilitating and streamlining our access to programs and processes to better serve our students.

Brianna Hughes, Candidate for Treasurer
Contact: behughes@email.sc.edu

Biography
Brianna Hughes is in her first year of the Library and Information Science program at USC and is pursuing her MLIS degree. She is also working towards the Museum Management Certificate offered by USC and McKissick Museum. Since beginning her coursework, Brianna has discovered an interest in digital humanities, digital collections as well as preservation, in library, archival, museum settings. Brianna currently works on Special Projects in the Digital Collections Department and the Irvin Department of Special Collections and Rare Books at USC.

Brianna currently is serving as the Graduate Assistant in the Distributed Learning office at the School of Library and Information Science. She is also the Student Health Insurance liaison for the Graduate Student Association and the Graduate Student Representative for the Thomas Cooper Society. Recipient of the Martha Jane Zachert Scholarship, an award for an MLIS student pursuing a career in Special Collections, Brianna is also a member of the SCLA, ALA, and the Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society. She is originally from Baltimore, Maryland. Brianna received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Music and History from St. Mary’s College of Maryland, in Southern Maryland. (…continued on next page)
Position Statement
The position of treasurer is an essential one, and I recognize the importance of finding the right person to fill that position. The treasurer coordinates funding for both the Graduate Student Association and Graduate student organizations so that they can provide their services to the student body. The treasurer must understand the rules that bind the GSA and Graduate student organizations and how that affects funding. The treasurer must be someone who is efficient and understands working on a schedule. Finally, the treasurer must be someone who is dedicated to supporting the GSA.

I am the person to fulfill all of those duties. I have been part of the GSA the past year in the capacity of Student Health Insurance Liaison. As treasurer, I hope to work with more graduate students. I am a dedicated and goal-oriented individual—someone who will work hard to process funding requests and reimbursements in a timely manner. I enjoy meeting new people and working with them to accomplish their goals. I am an active GSA member, attending all of our Graduate student forums and many other events that the GSA hosts. I actively attend and participate at our bi-weekly meetings, and look forward to further collaboration with the rest of the GSA and the graduate student body.

Danielle E. Schoffman, Candidate for Graduate Council Representative
Contact: schoffmd@email.sc.edu

Biography
Danielle E. Schoffman currently serves as the President of the USC GSA, and has had the honor of serving as President since December, 2012. A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, Danielle received a dual Bachelor of Arts Degree from Stanford University majoring in Human Biology and Anthropological Sciences. After graduation, Danielle worked as a project coordinator at the Stanford Prevention Research Center, managing clinical trials for behavioral weight management. In the fall of 2011, she entered the Arnold School of Public Health’s Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior PhD program, and was awarded a Presidential Doctoral Fellowship. Danielle’s research interests include family interventions for obesity prevention and the use of mobile technologies in health behavior research. She is a Graduate Research Assistant for the USC Prevention Research Center, where she works on research projects related to community-engaged physical activity interventions. Danielle has served as a member of numerous University committees including the Tobacco Free Task Force, the $tart $mart Steering Committee, and the Provost’s Committee for Women’s Issues, and the Dean’s Student Advisory Committee for the Arnold School of Public Health. Prior to serving as the President of the GSA, Danielle held the positions of Graduate Assistant Liaison, Programming Liaison, and Vice President.

Position Statement
I have had the opportunity to be involved in the GSA for all three of my years at USC, during which time I have served as Graduate Assistant Liaison (1 year), Programming Liaison (5 months), Vice President (1 month), and most recently as President (1.5 years). Through this time I have established excellent working relationships across the USC campus as well as with the graduate student leadership at other universities. Through the role of Graduate Council Representative, I would be able to continue to utilize these connections to be a strong advocate for graduate and professional students. With knowledge of the way that USC works, I will have a small learning curve for this position and thus will be able to “hit the ground running”. Additionally, I have been very involved in many projects for graduate and professional students that will require on-going attention, and the role of Graduate Council Representative would allow me to continue my involvement in the organization and help to ensure the ongoing success of its efforts.
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:

Wed, Apr 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Thurs, Apr 17, 5-6:30 p.m.

Green Zone Training
April 17, 4-5pm Coliseum 3007

The military is a culture all on its own. You can be "Green Zone" trained by the Student Success Center's Phil Hardy as you learn about the military and how to work with them. The Graduate Student Association's Military Affairs Liaison, Aubrey Sejuit, will also present information. For current military and veterans, this is an opportunity to get information about campus resources.

Diversity Panel Discussion
Thursday, April 3, 2014, 6-7pm
Carolina Coliseum, Rm 3003

Join the Graduate Student Association for a panel discussion regarding diversity. A representative from the Office of Student Disability Services and Military Veteran, Ed Lilly, will join us to discuss the current trends and challenges regarding these special populations on our campus.
ADD OUR GOOGLE CALENDAR!

During our recent graduate student forum there was discussion regarding the best way to get the word out about events that may be of interest to graduate students. We have decided to create a Google Calendar, which you may view and/or subscribe to. In this way, if you use Google Calendar already, the GSA calendar will show up automatically in the list of calendars. When selected, GSA events will show on your calendar as well. Each event will have details, time, location, and a link to pre-register when required. We hope this will be a more efficient way of informing you about events, and it will be updated frequently. We will still have the events here in the newsletter.

To VIEW our calendar at any time (without subscribing) please click here.

To ADD our calendar to your list of calendars, please complete the following steps:

1. Log in to your Google Calendar
2. On the left click on the arrow next to “Other calendars”
3. Choose “Add by URL”
4. Paste the following link into the box: https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/pjn1pbgtohm5apf80ck6p72ag4%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics
5. The GSA Calendar should now show in your list of calendars. You can toggle it on/off by clicking on the colored square to the left of the calendar.
**DISCOVERY DAY 2014 JUDGES NEEDED**

**Discovery Day Volunteers Needed!**

We need your help! Discovery Day (Friday, April 25) is USC’s annual showcase of undergraduate activities. Students present on any beyond-the-classroom experience including leadership experiences, global study, service, internships, and research. We are seeking graduate students willing to listen, learn, and ask questions of our presenters. You do not need to be an expert in the field or topic. Sound interesting? Send an email to our@sc.edu with the information below or let us know if you would like to be a general volunteer for the day. We would love to have your help!

- Your name
- Your title/position/affiliation with USC (including public/friend)
- Your preference for: morning (8:30-11:30), afternoon (12-3), OR no preference
- Your preference for: posters, oral/creative presentations, no preference, OR general volunteer
- Your areas of interest/what topics you would be willing to review.

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**GSA HAS MONEY FOR YOUR ORG!**

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 want and NEED to allocate this money. There is A LOT of it - you just need to ask for it!** 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. Please email Meagan Conway, GSA Treasurer at conwaymk@email.sc.edu with questions.

*Also you can now apply for money for events for next academic year (any events after July 1) by selecting “GRAD 2014-15” on the budget worksheet.*

- 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.
Check out these CTE events!

1. Creating Effective and Interactive Adobe Presenter Presentations: An Easy Approach
Facilitators: Lenny Bularzik and Ryan Rucker, Instructional Designers, CTE
Date/Time: Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 10:50 - 11:40 a.m.
Location: Center for Teaching Excellence, TC Library Rm. L511
Registration required here

2. GRAD 701 Session: Assessing Student Learning
Facilitator: Michelle Hardee, GRAD 701 Instructor
Date/Time: Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Callcott 101
Registration is not required - all are welcome!

3. GRAD 701 Session: Overcoming Apathy and Maintaining Student Motivation
Facilitator: Michelle Hardee, GRAD 701 Instructor
Date/Time: Saturday, April 5, 2014, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Location: Sumwalt 213
Registration is not required - all are welcome!

4. Teaching Science Courses with Labs Online
Hélène Maire-Afeli, Chemistry Instructor and Lab Manager, USC Union
Monday, April 7, 2014, 9:40 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Center for Teaching Excellence, Thomas Cooper Library, Room L511
Register here.

5. Digital Pedagogy in the Humanities Classroom
Michael Gavin, Assistant Professor, English
Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Center for Teaching Excellence, Thomas Cooper Library, Room L511
Register here.

6. Teaching Leadership across the Disciplines: Faculty Showcase
Thursday, April 10, 2014, 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Center for Teaching Excellence, Thomas Cooper Library, Room L511
Register here.
Zotero Workshop by the USC Libraries
Zotero is a FREE citation manager. Organize your research with Zotero and you’ll never have to track down a missing source again! Zotero lets you save and edit citation information and PDFs and create bibliographies right from your browser. Click here for more information.

Friday, April 4 from 9:30 - 11am
Monday, April 7 from 2:00 - 3:30pm
Tuesday, April 15 from 1:00 - 2:30pm
Thursday, April 17 10:30am - 12:00noon

Graduate School Communication Workshops
The Graduate School is sponsoring workshops designed to help you learn how to talk about your research in a way that your peers, your family, your prospective employers, and your academic colleagues across all disciplines will be able to understand. All current graduate students are invited to attend, and pizza will be served. Click here for more information! The next workshop is April 4th!

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

1. Most American civilians aren’t looking for reasons to go to Iraq and Afghanistan these days. But Ronald Bradley hasn’t let war zone dangers stop him from trying to make a big difference in the lives of little students there. Read the UofSC story here.

2. Chase W. Nelson is a third year doctoral student in bioinformatics and recipient of two prestigious National Science Foundation grants. But you won’t find him around the lab in the evenings, because for the next few weeks Nelson is starring in Trustus Theatre’s latest musical production, See Rock City and Other Destinations. Read the story here.
Leadership Opportunities available! – Applications due April 10
The Leadership and Service Center offers a variety of student leader opportunities in its service initiatives. We are recruiting students who are passionate about service and social issues to serve as Service Saturday Site Leaders, Impact Leaders, Community Service Ambassadors, Hunger and Homelessness Week Committee members, and MLK Week Committee members. Gain valuable skills and leadership experiences while serving your fellow students and community! All applications are due by **4 PM on Thursday, April 10.** To view descriptions of the opportunities and to apply, please visit our website.

Service Saturday—April 12
Registration for our next Service Saturday event is now open! You can sign up to serve on March 12th [here](#). Check-in for pre-registered volunteers will begin promptly at 8:30am, transportation and lunch are provided and service projects will take place from 9:30am until 12:30pm. For more information, contact Martha Scott Johnson via email at [MSJ@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:MSJ@mailbox.sc.edu)

Impact Weekly Service Trips
How will you fit service into your schedule this week? Impact Weekly Service Projects are a great way to take a break between classes and make an impact in the Columbia community. Transportation is provided to and from the project site, and registration is completed on a week-by-week basis. You can serve once, serve a few times, or come back every week!

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service Site</th>
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<td><strong>1</strong> and <strong>3</strong>&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Monday of the month</td>
<td>11:00-2:00</td>
<td>Transitions</td>
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<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>10:00-1:00</td>
<td>Healthy Columbia</td>
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<td><strong>2</strong>&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; and <strong>4</strong>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Tuesday of the month</td>
<td>1:15-4:15</td>
<td>Girls on the Run</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3:30-6:30</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Kids Café</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1:15-4:15</td>
<td>Atria Senior Living</td>
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<td>9:00-12:00</td>
<td>Washington Street Soup Kitchen</td>
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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know?

New and current students (as well as USC faculty and staff) looking for housing options in Columbia can take advantage of an **up-to-date database of rental properties** near the university. Contact **Off-Campus Student Services** for details: Russell House Suite 115, Columbia, SC 29208; Phone: (803) 777-3366; email: saocss@mailbox.sc.edu.

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**INFO: Investigate National Fellowship Opportunities.**

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!](#)

Part of the **Office of Fellowships and Scholars Program**, **INFO** is a searchable database for national fellowships.
1. CAROLINA INTERCULTURAL TRAINING  
April 23  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Byrnes 704  

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. Contact Binda Niati, International Student Advisor, at niati@mailbox.sc.edu. Please register here.

2. Women’s Self Defense Workshop  
April 25th, 12-4pm  

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. Students, faculty, and staff can register by emailing Toni Lawrimore at toni.lawrimore.savip@gmail.com

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!

4. 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/

5. The USC Counseling and Human Development Center has a Drop-In Guided Relaxation Group every Thursday at 3:30 in 617 Byrnes.
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/uscsosa
www.facebook.com/uscsosa  www.twitter.com/uscsosa

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