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President’s Welcome

Welcome back from Spring Break—I hope you had some time to relax last week, even if you weren’t able to leave town for a vacation. As we approach April, your GSA team has been busy finalizing plans for our celebration of National Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week—April 7-11. We have an exciting lineup of events for you, ranging from a family-friendly ropes course event, to a panel discussion on intersectionality, to a new event this year—Sunday Funday at the Thirsty Fellow! See below for a list of events, and watch out for more details.

In January and February, the GSA collected feedback from graduate students in the form of online survey responses and two in-person forums. Thank you to everyone who submitted responses, comments, and questions! On page 3 of this newsletter you will find a summary of the responses we received and some of the steps we are taking to address your comments. In response to one comment we heard about keeping track of GSA events was to create a Google calendar for you to follow. See page 5 of this newsletter for more information.

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

Graduate Student Week
→ Sunday, April 6th: Sunday Funday: 4-7pm at Thirsty Fellow
→ Monday, April 7th: Panel Discussion on Intersectionality
→ Tuesday, April 8th: We all scream for Ice Cream! @ Ropes Course (family friendly event)
→ Wednesday, April 9th: Cardio Exercise Class at the Blatt
→ Wednesday, April 9th: Chill and Grill @ Strom Outdoor Pool
→ Thursday, April 10th: Mix and Mingle Party with the BGSA @ Golden Spur Room
→ Friday, April 11th: Graduate Student Day
Summary of Graduate Student Online Survey and February 27th Forums

Communication:
- About 50% of respondents follow GSA on social media, and most of those follow on Facebook
- About 66% of respondents reported reading the GSA newsletter
- Most respondents do not currently use the GSA discussion board, and there was little interest in the GSA trying to increase usage of it
- Participants at the forums reported a desire to see a central calendar with GSA events
  Action items for the GSA:
  - GSA has created a Google calendar with all of our events— the link is on page 5 of this newsletter

Social events:
- For respondents who have attended GSA events in the past year, they reported attending Happy Hours and Intramurals Sports most frequently
- Overall, respondents said they would be most interested in attending happy hours, tailgates, cookouts, and alumni networking events.

Informative events:
- Respondents said that special guest speakers and documentary film viewings appealed to them the most.

Service events:
- Respondents showed the most interest in participating in blood drives, domestic alternative break trips, and Habitat for Humanity.

Things that respondents have enjoyed about GSA and/or GSA events:
- The informal relaxed atmosphere, receiving responses to inquiries, opportunities to connect with other grad students, getting monthly updates, all of the planning that GSA does, newsletter format and content

Student Health Insurance:
- Respondents would like more information and clarification on the Student Health Insurance plan/coverage overall.
  Action item for the GSA:
  - GSA will provide information in each newsletter about various topics regarding the Student Health Insurance Plan.

Graduate Student Funding (research, conference, travel):
- Respondents said they would like to know more about funding opportunities for research, travel, and/or conference attendance.
  Action item for GSA:
  - GSA can provide students with resources, links, and relevant suggestions on obtaining funding in the GSA newsletter, the GSA Facebook page, etc.

GA/TA positions:
- Respondents requested information on available GA/TA positions.
  Action item for GSA:
  - A reminder to students will be included in upcoming newsletters regarding helpful resources and avenues to find these positions.
GSA EVENTS

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, Mar 20, 5-6:30 p.m.
- Wed, Apr 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Thurs, Apr 17, 5-6:30 p.m.

The GSA and Counseling and Human Development Center will be co-sponsoring a Stress Busters event March 18th from 3-4pm in Russell House room 303. Come check out ways to manage stress and participate in a relaxation exercise!

GSA ELECTION INFO

The Graduate Student Association announces the following dates regarding graduate student elections:

**Filing Deadline: March 28 by 12:00 PM**

**Elections: April 14—April 16**

The Graduate Student Body will elect a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and a Graduate Council Representative. Interested candidates are encouraged to read the position descriptions posted at www.gradschool.sc.edu/gsa, as well contact the current GSA officers for insights on the positions. More information regarding elections will be available at: www.gradschool.sc.edu/gsa
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.
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.
GSA WORKSHOPS

The CTE, Writing Center, Graduate School, and GSA have teamed up to bring you TWO workshops:

**Teaching Philosophy**

This workshop will be held in the CTE, Thomas Cooper Library Room L511, and there are two sessions available and advanced registration is required here.

Tuesday March 25th from 2:30-4:00pm
Thursday March 27th from 1:00-2:30pm

**CV Writing**

This workshop will be held in the Career Center (6th Floor of the H. William Close (BA) Bldg) and advanced registration is required here.

Wednesday March 26th from 2:30-3:30pm

Professionalism Workshop Series Part 2: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Wednesday March 19th, 2014
6pm – 7pm
Carolina Coliseum, Room 3003

Please join us for a presentation on sexual harassment in the workplace by Corey Ingram, Interpersonal Violence Program Coordinator for Student Health Services in Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention & Prevention (SAVIP) at University of South Carolina. Following the presentation there will be a panel discussion where we will further explore issues related to sexual harassment in the workplace, describe steps to take to seek help, and identify resources in the community. Pizza will be provided! The third and final workshop will be Diversity in the Workplace: A Panel Discussion on April 3rd (6-7pm).

Panel Discussion Participants:
- Corey Ingram
- Dale Moore, Graduate School Ombudsman
- Karen Sunstrum, Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands
TEACHING

Check out these CTE events!

1. Dealing with Disruptive Students
   Tuesday March 18th, 2014, 2:50-4:05pm
   Center for Teaching Excellence
   Thomas Cooper Library, Room L511
   Facilitator: Michelle Hardee, Program Manager for grad student programs at CTE
   Registration Required [Here]

2. CTE Event: Sustainability across the Curriculum
   Facilitator: Katherine Robinson, Instructor, Philosophy
   Date/Time: Friday, March 21, 2014, 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
   Location: Center for Teaching Excellence, Thomas Cooper Library, Rm. L511
   Registration Required [Here].

3. GRAD 701 Session: Planning a Good Class Presentation
   Facilitator: Michelle Hardee, GRAD 701 Instructor
   Date/Time: Friday, March 21, 2014, 1:10 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.
   Location: WMBB 502 (no registration required)

4. TA Workshop: Getting in Touch with your Inner-Undergrad: The Importance of Relatability
   Katie Becofsky, Doctoral Candidate, Exercise Science
   Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 10:50 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.
   Center for Teaching Excellence, Thomas Cooper Library, Room L511
   Registration Required [Here].

Other events can be found on the CTE calendar.
**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.

**Workshop Times:**
- Monday, March 17 from 3:30 – 5pm
- Thursday, March 20 from 1 – 2:30pm
- Tuesday, March 25 from 2:30 – 4pm

**Thesis and Dissertation Formatting Workshops**

The Graduate School is hosting Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) Formatting Workshops this semester to help simplify the processes of formatting and submitting student research. Students who are writing a thesis or dissertation and will graduate in May 2014 or August 2014 are encouraged to attend. The 90 minute workshops start Tuesday, February 18 and will be offered regularly through March. All sessions will be held in the Russell House University Union Room 305. Click [here](#) for more information/to register.

**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**

For Anna Battiata, long-distance running is more than a passion. It’s a sport that took her on a two-year journey of nonstop training and inspired the focus of her current graduate studies. Click [here](#) to read more about this USC grad student’s story!

Do you know a graduate student who should be highlighted in our newsletter? Please email us at sogsa@mailbox.sc.edu!
1. Science Fair Judges Needed
Judges are still needed for the 58th Annual Central South Carolina Region II Science and Engineering Fair on Friday, March 21. Please email Dr. Oscar Lopez, LOPEZ@mailbox.sc.edu for more information and to sign up.

2. Serve Carolina
   - *Service Saturday* - Registration for our next Service Saturday event is now open! You can sign up to serve on March 22nd [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
   - *Impact Weekly Service Projects* - Impact Weekly Service Projects have begun! These trips are an opportunity for students to visit agencies in the community and engage in service projects for a few hours during the week. Schedules vary and transportation is provided. A listing of available trips and links to registration can be found [here](#).

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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.
1. CAROLINA INTERCULTURAL TRAINING  
March 26, 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.  
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  
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!

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.

6. On March 31, 2014, Carolina Dining and the Office of Multicultural Student affairs will be hosting a breakfast to recognize influential university women who have enriched the lives of others on campus. If you would like to nominate a female student, faculty, or staff member that has made an impact on your life or the lives of others, please complete the following form by Monday, March 24, 2014. The women with the most nominations will be honored at the breakfast. Click HERE for the nomination form.
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/uscgssa

www.facebook.com/uscgssa  www.twitter.com/uscgssa

University of South Carolina Graduate Student Association

President
Danielle Schoffman
schoffmd@email.sc.edu

Vice President
Sadie Molinet
molinet@mailbox.sc.edu

Treasurer
Meagan Conway
conwaymk@email.sc.edu

Graduate Council Representative
Brittany Walter
walterbs@email.sc.edu

Secretary
Md Hassan Zamir
zamir@email.sc.edu

Communications Liaison
Emily Garnett
garnette@email.sc.edu

Diversity Affairs Liaison
Cameron Horne
chorne@email.sc.edu

Events and Community Service Liaison
Michaela Schenkelberg
schenkm@email.sc.edu

Graduate Assistant Liaison
Tiffany Rogers
trogers@email.sc.edu

Graduate Student Life Liaison
Dominic Casali
casali@email.sc.edu

Health and Wellness Liaison
Jenna Rogers
jerogers@email.sc.edu

Health Insurance Liaison
Brianna Hughes
behughes@email.sc.edu

Organizational Outreach Liaison
Lydie Marc
lmarc@email.sc.edu

Military Affairs Liaison
Aubrey Sejuit
astover@email.sc.edu

Spouse and Family Liaison
Kathleen Franke
kfranke@email.sc.edu

Teaching Assistant Liaison
Leia Cain
leiacain@email.sc.edu