THE GARNET GRADUATE
USC Graduate Student Association
Academic Year 2013-2014 Summary

IN THIS ISSUE

President’s Welcome
Organization Advancement
Student Engagement
University Engagement
External Engagement
Professional Development
Enrichment Opportunities
Page 2
Page 3
Page 3
Page 5
Page 7
Page 7
Page 8
President’s Welcome (/Farewell)

It is with mixed emotions that I prepare my final greeting to all of you, the graduate and professional students of USC. This report marks the end of my year and half term as the President of the GSA, and truly ends one of the most important and memorable parts of my doctoral experience. When I came to USC in August of 2011, I never expected to become so involved in the GSA, but it has been a wonderful opportunity to learn about myself and this university.

I feel very lucky to have had the chance to meet many students, faculty, and staff across USC during my tenure as President, and as a result, my pride in being part of the Carolina community continues to grow. The graduate and professional students are a central part of USC and our contributions are invaluable—the GSA is dedicated to advocating for students and to making USC an event better place to live, learn, work, and thrive.

During the past year, we have made some remarkable progress for graduate students, and I am proud to share some of these accomplishments with you, via this report.

Among our top achievements of the year are the following:

1. Increased student engagement, via growing GSA leadership team, social media connections, and increased attendance at events
2. Large increase in GSA hosted and co-sponsored events, including a new three-part Professionalism Workshop Series
3. Creation of feedback systems to engage students and gather suggestions, through both an online survey and an in-person student forum
4. Formation and reinforcement of collaborations across USC’s campus, including strong ties with The Graduate School, the Career Center, the Center for Teaching Excellence, and the University Libraries
5. New relationships formed with outside groups sharing a common goal to support graduate students, including the National Association for Graduate and Professional Students and the GSA’s of other universities in the Southeastern US

I thank all of you for the opportunity to represent you across the university, the state, and the country. I am excited that this is just the end of one chapter of my involvement in the GSA and the beginning of another. I look forward to the chance to continue my work with the GSA next year as the Graduate Council Representative and a member of the Executive Team under our next President, Brittany Walter. We are in very capable hands!

Sincerely,

Danielle Schoffman
Immediate Past President, Graduate Student Association
ORGANIZATION ADVANCEMENT

- A restructuring of the GSA liaison positions, including new position descriptions, yearly expectations, and weekly check-in system (with support from Vice President, Sadie Molinet)
- New application process to fill GSA Liaison positions lead to higher interest in leadership roles and largest active GSA Leadership Team
- Doubling of GSA Leadership team meetings
- Large increase in number of programs and projects offered during the course of the year
- Establishment of new liaison positions, including the Military Affairs Liaison position (held by Aubrey Sejuit), which has helped to foster more engagement with this important sector of the graduate student population
- Restructuring of GSA Newsletter (thanks to Communications Liaison, Emily Garnett)
  - New recurring sections (teaching, research service, etc.)
  - Double distribution with two editions per month

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- New application process to fill GSA Liaison positions lead to higher interest in leadership roles and largest active GSA Leadership Team
- Social Media:
  - Use of social media has led to an increased engagement with graduate students and a new ability to distribute timely messages and share information from departments around campus
    - Facebook: our first pathway into social media remains our most utilized, and our Facebook likes increased by over 240% this year
      - www.facebook.com/uscsa
    - Twitter: linked to our Facebook page and also used to share real time updates during university events, etc.
      - www.twitter.com/uscsa
    - Instagram: new addition to the social media portfolio; used to share photos with students in real time; working to build a following on this platform
      - http://instagram.com/uscsa
    - LinkedIn: new addition to social media portfolio; group helps foster professional connections between current and past graduate students
      - https://www.linkedin.com/groups/University-South-Carolina-Graduate-Student-7449101/about
    - Google Calendar: after feedback received in a student forum, we created an online interactive calendar that is regularly updated with upcoming GSA events
      - https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=pjn1pbgtohm5apf80ck6p72ag4%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York
• Graduate Student Forums:
  o Establishment of Graduate Student Forums, with planning and agenda preparation by GSA Graduate Student Assistant Liaison, Tiffany Rogers
  o Forums held in November and February, where important reflections from graduate students were collected, and students had a chance to interact directly with a Graduate School Dean (Dr. Lacy Ford in November and Dr. Jessica Elfenbein in February)
  o Results of the forum discussions were summarized and shared in the GSA newsletter and in reports to The Graduate School and President Pastides
    ▪ Moving forward, we plan to hold these forums at least once per semester

• Online Survey
  o Development and distribution of a needs assessment survey for graduate students, informed by research by GSA Teaching Assistant Liaison, Leia Cain
  o Results of the survey:
    ▪ Were used to start addressing student concerns (primarily desire for more engagement by distance and commuting students)
    ▪ Will be used to develop future programming
  o Results of the survey were summarized and shared in the GSA newsletter and in reports to The Graduate School and President Pastides

• Engagement with Graduate Student Organizations
  o Organized new networking luncheon event to bring together the leaders of graduate student organizations for idea exchanges
  o GSA Organizational Outreach Liaison, Lydie Marc, sent requests to all graduate student organizations to attend one of their meetings and provide information on the GSA and funding allocation systems
  o GSA Treasurer Meagan Conway continued to liaise with graduate student organizations on their funding needs and offered two sets of workshops for treasurers, including a fall and spring series

• Engagement with international students
  o Continued to reach out the international student community and received increased engagement in GSA activities during the 2013-2014 school year
  o Recruited first international student to the GSA Leadership team, GSA Secretary, MD Hassan Zamir
    ▪ Will continue to work with Zamir to increase engagement of this group of graduate students
UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT

- Continued opportunities to communicate with President Pastides about the issues of concern to graduate students and the work of the GSA to advocate for graduate students across campus

- A growing collaboration with The Graduate School which has helped to create meaningful changes in programming and communication, such as a restructured orientation for new students and weekly email updates from The Graduate School
  - GSA Graduate Council Representative, Brittany Walter, provided monthly updates to the Graduate Council to aid in increased communication and engagement

- New collaborations with:
  - **Student Success Center**
    - First workshop specifically for graduate students held during Financial Literacy Week (see below, Professional Development)
  - **Career Center**
    - Continued collaboration and new plans for future workshops
      - See below, Professional Development, for more details
      - Meetings to discuss the needs of graduate students and gaps in current programming, including future support for graduate students at career fairs and more collaboration across academic disciplines in planning career programs
  - **University Libraries**
    - Continued work with Dean McNally and Ms. Beki Gettys to develop plans for the future graduate student lounge in the Thomas Cooper Library
    - Collaborated with library leadership to hold the first library reception in the Hollings Special Collection Room for graduate students during orientation
    - Inclusion of the GSA President on the Library Affairs Committee to offer student input in USC library system decisions
  - **Healthy Carolina**
    - Continued collaboration with Ms. Jessica Johnston to engage graduate students in health initiatives on campus, including active involvement of the GSA in the USC Tobacco Free Initiative since 2012
- Continued inclusion of graduate students on Healthy Carolina coalitions, including a new role on GSA for a representative to serve on many coalitions each year (GSA Health and Wellness Liaison, held by Jenna Rogers)
- Inclusion of the GSA President on the Healthy Carolina Steering Council to offer input on the future directions of health programming

o **Student Health Services**
  - Continued collaboration with Dr. Debbie Beck, Director of Student Health Services, to offer input on current services and provide suggestions for new offerings and informational programming
  - Conducted benchmarking of the USC Student Health Insurance Plan and Subsidy in comparison to SEC schools and other universities; report on the state of USC in comparison to others compiled by GSA Student Health Insurance Liaison, Brianna Hughes
  - Report to be shared with the Graduate School Deans and President Pastides in May, 2014
  - Developing plans for new informational materials about student health fees and student health insurance, specifically for graduate students

o **Center for Teaching Excellence**
  - Continued collaboration with CTE staff including Dr. Michelle Hardee
  - Inclusion of GSA Teaching Assistant Liaison, Leia Cain, in the Teaching Assistant Orientation, to provide a contact for future questions
  - See below, Professional Development, for more details on specific programming

o **MyCarolina Alumni Association**
  - Plans to discuss future services for graduate students through MyCarolina, including a Professional Board for graduate students
  - Inclusion of the GSA in graduation activities, including a services fair held in April, 2014 for spring graduates (undergraduate and graduate students)
  - Invitation for GSA President to speak with undergraduate students about the graduate school experience

o **University Visitors Center**
  - Continued collaboration to advertise for and recruit graduate students to serve as University Ambassadors (tour guides for prospective graduate students)
  - Partnership established to offer GSA materials and contact information to prospective graduate students

o **Veterans Student Services Advisory Committee**
  - GSA Military Affairs Liaison, Aubrey Sejuit has forged important connections across campus for the military students, including securing a seat on the Veterans Student Services Advisory Committee for a graduate student representative
EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

- Participation in exchanges with other graduate student governments
  - GSA President Danielle Schoffman and Graduate Council Representative Brittany Walter attended the Southeast Regional Meeting of the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students in April, 2014
  - GSA Representatives Danielle Schoffman, Brittany Walter, Meagan Conway, and Brianna Hughes will attend a regional summit of graduate student associations at Clemson University in May, 2014

- GSA President Danielle Schoffman spoke at the Southeast Regional Meeting of the Council on Government Affairs of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities to discuss the issues of primary concern to USC graduate students

- GSA President Danielle Schoffman participated in a write-in event for national advocacy for graduate students to dispute the high interest rates of graduate student loans, as part of the Grads Have Debt 2 national campaign
  - The GSA plans to participate in future calling and writing campaigns for this issue

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- In response to requests from faculty and students, developed and hosted series of Professionalism Workshops; the Professionalism Subcommittee was led by GSA Events and Community Service Liaison, Michaela Schenkelberg
  - Workshop 1: Soft Skills for Enhanced Employability:
    - Led by Mark Anthony from the Career Center
  - Workshop 2: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
    - Seminar and panel discussion featuring: Corey Ingram from the Sexual Assault, Violence and Injury Prevention Center, Dale Moore, Ombudsman of the Graduate School, and Karen Sundstrom from Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands
  - Workshop 3: Diversity in the University
    - Panel discussion with Charlotte Helms of the Office of Student Disability Services and Ed Lily of Veterans Affairs
• Organized and cohosted a variety of programs to promote professional development workshops:
  o CV Workshops: cohosted by the Career Center
    ▪ Offered in November and March
  o $tart $mart wage negotiation workshops
    ▪ Offered ten times throughout the year
    ▪ Co-Sponsored by The Graduate School, Career Center, Center for Teaching Excellence
  o Teaching Philosophy workshops
    ▪ Offered three times: once in November, twice in March
  o Panel discussion on career choices outside academia, cohosted by the Career Center
  o Seminar on credit management, cohosted by the Student Success Center
    ▪ Offered during Financial Literacy Week (April, 2014)
• Organized and cohosted a workshop on Veterans affairs, led by GSA Military Affairs Liaison, Aubrey Sejuit
  o Offered a Green Zone Training to students, facilitated by Mr. Ed Lily
• Hosted a seminar on Diversity in the University—a Conversation with Dr. John Dozier
  o Event organized by GSA Diversity Affairs Liaison, Cameron Horne

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

• Graduate Student Week:
  o In celebration of National Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week, the GSA held a week of events from April 6-11, and over 250 graduate students came out to help us celebrate (see photos on next page):
    ▪ Sunday, April 6th: Sunday Funday! at the Thirsty Fellow
    ▪ Monday, April 7th: Remarks from Dr. John Dozier
    ▪ Tuesday, April 8th: $tart $mart – Learning How to Negotiate a Salary
    ▪ Tuesday, April 8th: Mix and Mingle Game Night
    ▪ Wednesday, April 9th: Cardio Exercise Class
    ▪ Wednesday, April 9th: Chill and Grill at the Strom Pool
    ▪ Thursday, April 10th: We all scream for Ice Cream! @ Ropes Course (family friendly event)
    ▪ Friday, April 11th: Graduate Student Day
    ▪ Friday, April 11th: Credit 101: Building & Managing Credit
• **Health and Wellness:**
  o The GSA continued to collaborate with Healthy Carolina to promote existing health and wellness programs (the Farmer’s Market, etc.)
  o Additionally, GSA Health and Wellness Liaison, Jenna Rogers, organized a Stress busters event in collaboration with the Counseling and Human Development Center (March, 2014), as well as an exercise class for graduate students during Graduate Student Week

• **Intramural Sports:**
  o Creation of GSA-sponsored intramural sports teams made specifically for graduate students, thanks to the efforts of GSA Graduate Student Life Liaison, Dominic Casali
    ▪ Participated in basketball, bowling, softball, and volleyball.
    ▪ GSA’s softball team, the Nighthawks (right), finished in third place in the USC co-ed softball tournament during the fall semester. GSA also plans to start teams for flag football and soccer next fall.

• **Family-Friendly Events**
  o GSA participated with the undergraduate Greek organizations to have a family-friendly trick-or-treating event in October
  o GSA Family and Spouse Liaison, Katie Franke organized a study break during the week before finals week of the fall semester, and graduate students were encouraged to bring spouses or children.
  o In the spring, GSA hosted a dessert social for graduate students and families at the World of Beer, and held a family-friendly event at the ropes course during Graduate Student Week.

• **Social Events:**
  o GSA hosted happy hours at a variety of local restaurants, including the Tin Roof, SakiTumi, and the World of Beer

• **Community Service:**
  o In addition to helping to promote the service opportunities available through the Service Carolina department, the GSA organized its own service event
  o A group of graduate students, led by GSA Events and Service Liaison, Michaela Schenkelberg, volunteered at the Columbia Salvation Army in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of South Carolina Graduate Student Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russell House 227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia, SC 29208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office: (803) 777-2631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (803) 777-7132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.gradschool.sc.edu/gsa">www.gradschool.sc.edu/gsa</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle Schoffman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:schoffmd@email.sc.edu">schoffmd@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadie Molinet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:molinet@mailbox.sc.edu">molinet@mailbox.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meagan Conway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:conwaynk@email.sc.edu">conwaynk@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Council Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittany Walter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:walterbs@email.sc.edu">walterbs@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Md Hassan Zamir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:zamir@email.sc.edu">zamir@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Garnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:garnette@email.sc.edu">garnette@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity Affairs Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron Horne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:chorne@email.sc.edu">chorne@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events and Community Service Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michaela Schenkelberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:schenkm@email.sc.edu">schenkm@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Assistant Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiffany Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:tdrogers@email.sc.edu">tdrogers@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Life Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominic Casali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:casali@email.sc.edu">casali@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Wellness Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenna Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:jerogers@email.sc.edu">jerogers@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brianna Hughes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:behughes@email.sc.edu">behughes@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Outreach Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydie Marc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:lmarc@email.sc.edu">lmarc@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Affairs Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aubrey Sejuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:astover@email.sc.edu">astover@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse and Family Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Franke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:kfranke@email.sc.edu">kfranke@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Assistant Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leia Cain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:leiacain@email.sc.edu">leiacain@email.sc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>