President’s Welcome

Graduate and Professional Students,

This Thursday, November 20th at 6:00 to 8:00pm in Wardlaw 126 the GSA will be hosting our semesterly Feedback Forum (page 4). This Forum offers graduate students the opportunity to share any issues or concerns with the GSA and the Graduate School in an informal, conversational setting. Changes from your feedback have resulted in modifications to travel funding cycles and the new bi-weekly digest from the Graduate School, among others. So please join us for some free pizza and let us know how we can make your time at USC even better!

As the holiday season and the end of the semester draws nearer, the Graduate Student Association hopes that you will take a break from preparing term papers and grading midterms to take care of yourself. We will be offering a Shopping on a Stipend workshop next week that will provide tips on how to shop on a grad student budget (page 5). We will also be offering a Grading/Writing party in December where graduate students can be social but efficient at the same time (page 5)!

Also, the new Graduate Student Study Space in the Thomas Cooper Library is now open in L517. We are currently looking for suggestions on how to furnish this space to meet grad student needs, so please participate in the survey on page 12.

As always, if you haven’t already, please follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Social media is the best way to stay up to date with GSA events and other opportunities for graduate students.

Sincerely,

Brittany Walter
GSA FALL EVENTS

We have several events planned for the Fall semester! Additionally, we are planning events for the Spring semester so keep checking for those dates. Please view our Google Calendar and add it to see the most up-to-date GSA event info.

Fall Feedback Forum  November 20\textsuperscript{th}  |  6:00-8:00pm  |  Wardlaw 126

Shopping on a Stipend  November 24\textsuperscript{th}  |  5:00-7:00pm  |  DMSB 136

GSA Meeting  November 25\textsuperscript{th}  |  5:30-7:30pm  |  Grad Council Room

Grading/Writing Party!  December 4\textsuperscript{th}  |  5:00-7:00pm  |  Russell House 322

To view our calendar, click here.

To subscribe, 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.
Graduate Student Association
University of South Carolina

Graduate Feedback Forum

Please join the Graduate Student Association for an informal conversation concerning important issues for graduate and professional students at USC.

Potential topics include:
- Event ideas
- Student health insurance
- Graduate School policies
- Library Resources
- Much more

Pizza will be provided!

THURSDAY
November 20
6:00 - 8:00pm
Wardlaw 126

Dr. Jessica Elfenbein, Senior Associate Dean of the The Graduate School, will be present!

If unable to attend the forum, please email sogsa@mailbox.sc.edu with any concerns or suggestions.
SHOPPING ON A STIPEND

November 24th
5:00 - 7:00 pm
The New Darla Moore School of Business 136

Lisa Money, Licensed Nutritionist, will present on how to plan and shop for healthy recipes realistic for a graduate student budget and lifestyle. She will incorporate healthy meal plans in collaboration with local deals and couponing strategies to help graduate students understand how to stretch their dollars. This workshop will be particularly oriented to graduate student needs - namely, working within our limited budgets and time frames for cooking meals at home.

GRADING/WRITING PARTY

December 4th
5:00 - 7:00 pm
Russell House 322

The Graduate Student Association will be hosting a Grad Student Grading and Writing Party. Come join us for coffee and traditional holiday treats, and take this chance to enjoy some holiday cheer while finishing up the semester. Feel free to bring along grading or your own classwork to work on while enjoying hot beverages and treats.
The GSA is hosting a *Getting into Graduate School Workshop*. See the flyer below and pass this on to undergrad students you know who are considering applying to graduate programs!

**Getting into Graduate School Workshop**

**November 18th 4-5pm**

**Davis 209**

**Questions about Grad School?**

Come learn how to get into the Grad School of your choice!

Listen to fellow graduate students & discuss how Grad School can enhance your career path.
The Graduate Student Association would like to take a moment of your time to be sure that you are informed about the upcoming deadlines regarding your health insurance coverage. As you may know, open enrollment began on November 15 for health insurance plans through the federal Marketplace. We want to be sure you are also aware that the next month or so is one of the only times over the next 12 months that many of you will be eligible to shop the Marketplace and compare plans to the AIG student health insurance plan offered for USC students.

Below is information about the timelines for open enrollment and the waive-in/waive-out options for USC, as well as links to further information.

**Timeline:**
Open enrollment for Marketplace: November 15-February 15
Waive-out period for USC: November 3-February 5
*Deadline to enroll in Marketplace plan to have coverage by January 1: December 15

**Note:** all graduate students who are required to have insurance must have continuous coverage, so students must ensure that there is no lapse between their insurance periods if switching from AIG to a Marketplace plan or vice versa. **Students must ensure that they are covered by January 6th 2015, the beginning of the spring semester.**

For further information, see links below:
AIG student insurance:
http://www.studentinsurance.com/Schools/SC/USC/?CollegeID=41

Waiving in/out of AIG insurance:
http://www.sa.sc.edu/shs/billing/insurance/

FAQs about AIG student insurance:
http://www.sa.sc.edu/shs/billing/insurance/faq/

ACA Health Insurance Marketplace:
https://www.healthcare.gov/

USC Health Literacy Project:
http://www.sa.sc.edu/shs/healthliteracy/

If you have additional questions about the information in this email, you may contact GSA Graduate Council Representative Danielle Schoffman (schoffm@email.sc.edu) and she will try to connect you to the best place for your question.
OPEN GSA CABINET POSITIONS

The GSA Cabinet is a leadership team of graduate students for graduate students, and is comprised of graduate students who devote their advocacy initiatives to specific areas of the graduate experience. The Cabinet meets twice a month to discuss initiatives, plan events, and relay opportunities specific to their position focus.

We currently have two open positions: the Graduate Assistant Liaison and the Graduate Organization Liaison. If you are interested in either position, please contact us.

Graduate Assistant Liaison
The Graduate Assistant Liaison strives to help students locate resources for potential GA positions and aid current or potential GAs in resolving any issues that may arise within their assistantships. The Graduate and Assistant Liaison also serves as an advocate for GAs whenever necessary and seeks to promote a sense of community and support amongst GAs across the University. Time will be dedicated to planning workshops and forums based on topics that graduate assistants have expressed interest in learning more about, as well as including tips for potential and current GAs in the GSA newsletter.

Graduate Organization Liaison
The Graduate Organization Liaison advocates for the registered graduate student organizations. This role is responsible for informing student organizations about the support they have through the GSA as well as the resources offered through Student Organizations. This position also reaches out to organizations to elicit feedback on the GSA in order to better understand how to improve communication and how to facilitate resources to organizations to assist them in functioning efficiently. This liaison will work closely with the Diversity Affairs Liaison to reach out to various campus organizations and create programming to best support the graduate student community. Additionally, this liaison assists in networking organizations with similar interests and goals to further the goals, which is communicated to GSA, USC Student Organizations and the Graduate School.
FUNDING FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

Attention all Graduate Student Clubs and Organizations!

The 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 Finance Committee time to process your requests. If you ask for more than $1,000, we require that you 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 information.

RESEARCH AND FUNDING

- Applications for Travel Grants from the Graduate School are accepted in three cycles per year. Awards are made on a rolling basis until funds for each award cycle have been exhausted. Students who apply early in the award cycle will have a significant advantage. The next award cycle opens January 15th for travel taking place 3/1 to 7/30, 2015.

- The Upsilon Sigma Chi Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota has issued a call for proposals for its 9th annual USC Counseling Conference, which will be held on Saturday, 1/31/15. This year’s theme is “Intentional Counseling: Using Best Practices for Better Outcomes.” The keynote speaker is Dr. Michael J. Lambert, internationally renowned Professor from BYU. Students are encouraged to submit proposals for poster presentations for the conference. For more information about the conference, and to access the conference proposal form, please click here.
TEACHING

- The Center for Teaching Excellence will host a Developing a Course Syllabus workshop on Friday, 11/21 from 3:30-4:45pm in Thomas Cooper, room L511. In this workshop, you’ll begin to develop a syllabus for the course of your choosing. The importance of learning outcomes will be discussed and participants will interactively explore an online tool to help craft them. Other tips and advice for syllabus development will also be discussed, and attendees are invited to bring a partial draft of their syllabus for discussion with other participants in a small group setting.

- TA-Connect listserv for Graduate Teaching and Instructional Assistants at the University of South Carolina. All Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs), Graduate Instructional Assistants (GIAs), other Graduate Assistants, and Postdocs are encouraged to subscribe to this moderated listserv to be informed of teaching-related activities on campus. Sign up for this listserv.

- Are you interested in further developing your skills as an academic instructor in higher education at the college level? Dr. Michelle Maher, Associate Professor of Higher Education Administration in the College of Education, offers an excellent general teaching pedagogy/skills course that is open to all disciplines. The EDHE 738 course is 3 credit hours and has no prerequisites. Designed for prospective teachers in institutions of higher education. Considers the practice of teaching from philosophical, empirical, conceptual, and practical vantage points to prepare instructors for a changing and diverse student population.” Interested? Contact Dr. Michelle Maher at drmaherusc@gmail.com or register via http://my.sc.edu.

- GRAD 701 Session: Fish Bowl: Discussing Current Issues of TAs. Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Coker 102. Registration or class enrollment is not required - any TA is welcome to attend! It's later in the semester...and you've probably had some issues crop up during your GIA/TA responsibilities. Using a popular Active Learning technique called "Fish Bowl", participants will write down on a slip of paper specific issues, questions, concerns they have had or are worrying about, and place them in a fish bowl. The facilitators will then draw these topics out individually, and discuss their own strategies for dealing with each situation as well as encourage discussion with other participants. Bring your issues, concerns, questions, and be willing to contribute to an interactive discussion!
Impact Weekly Service Projects

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 and registration is completed on a week-by-week basis. You can serve once, serve a few times, or come back every week! A listing of available trips and links to registration can be found at http://www.sa.sc.edu/communityservice/van/

CAMPUS DIVERSITY EVENTS

Check out events for Trans* Advocacy Week November 15-21, 2014! We hope you will be able to join the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs for some of their events this week! For more information visit the Trans* Advocacy Week page or contact lgbtusc@mailbox.sc.edu.

November 20th - The True Story of Thanksgiving
Preston Common Room - 7PM

Before we all leave for Thanksgiving break and feast on stuffing, turkey, pie and more, OMSA will be hosting a Diversity Dialogue in honor of American Indian Heritage Month! We will dive into what really happened in 1621 between the Pilgrims and the American Indians. Winston Churchill said, “History is written by the victors,” and during this dialogue we will discuss the meaning of this quote and why we celebrate Thanksgiving the way we do today.

December 4th - Religious Diversity
Patterson 103/104 - 7:30 PM

During December we plan to celebrate religious diversity outside of just Christianity. The hyperbolic use of Christmas decorations undermines other religious holidays celebrated throughout the month. Join us this Diversity Dialogue to examine why saying, “Merry Christmas,” can be problematic and learn about other holidays outside of the red and green.
The Professional Development Certification Program is a new resource offered by the Leadership and Service Center to prepare students to be informed, effective contributors in the workplace. Originally designed for student workers here on campus, some graduate students have already begun to take advantage of this great opportunity. Stay tuned for more developments, as the GSA is working with the Center to expand the program. In the meantime, here is a list of workshops which are being offered this month as part of the PDCP that are designed for any and all future professionals. All of the workshops take place in RHUU 349. Click here for more information.

Social Media 411 - Wednesday November 19 from 5:30 pm-6:30 pm
Marketing Your Experience - Fri November 21st 4:00 pm-5:00 pm
Ethics and Values in the Workplace - Monday November 24th 3:00 pm-4:00 pm

The Thomas Cooper Library is creating a designated area for Graduate Students only. Please tell us your thoughts and ideas on what we can do with this space by taking this survey. We will strive to accommodate your ideas contingent on funding.
Connect with us! Stay up to date on the latest graduate school news.

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