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President’s Welcome

Dear Graduate and Professional Students,

Happy Holidays! This will be the final GSA newsletter of the Fall semester but we already have a ton of great events planned for the Spring! The GSA-sponsored Certification Series will be back and include CPR training, Suicide Prevention training, Self Defense workshop, and GreenZone training. We will be offering more of these trainings during the day to accommodate the graduate student’s busy schedule as well.

Before the semester ends we have one more event to offer. The GSA will host a Grading/Writing party this Thursday, December 4th, from 5-7 pm in Russell House 322. Come be efficient and social at the same time with some cookies and coffee to keep you going (page 5)!

Also, in this issue, we have put together a page of University resources that graduate students may not be aware of. Resources like the Gamecock Pantry, where you can pick out 10 food items a week, and Carolina Cab, that can get you safely home at night, are available to all students, including graduate Gamecocks (page 9). Be sure to take advantage of these great resources offered by the University of South Carolina!

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 (page 2).

Sincerely,

Brittany Walter
GSA SOCIAL MEDIA

The Graduate Student Association has very active social media accounts where current information is posted daily about opportunities for grad students, including events, workshops, seminars, and general information we think you should know.

You can also use Facebook to ask us questions or make suggestions.

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter if you don’t already by clicking on the links below.

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

While Facebook and Twitter are our most popular sites, we also have an Instagram account as well as a LinkedIn Page!

www.instagram.com/uscgssa

University of South Carolina Graduate Student Association
GSA FALL EVENTS

We have several events planned for the Fall semester!

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

We’re planning events for the Spring semester, including Graduate Student Week, so keep checking for those dates.

Please view our Google Calendar and add it to see the most up-to-date GSA event info.

To view our calendar, [click here](https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/pjn1pbgtohm5apf80ck6p72ag4%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics).

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.
GRADING/WRITING PARTY

Need a Little Holiday Cheer?

The Elves will host a Grad Student Grading/Writing Party with free coffee and traditional holiday treats. Bring your laptop, bring those end of semester assignments, and spend some time with your fellow students.

Russell House, Room 322
December 4
5pm-7pm
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.
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**

- **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](http://my.sc.edu).
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/

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 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.
Carolina Cab is a free evening taxi service for USC students. The safe ride taxi service runs Thursday through Saturday from 10 p.m. until 3 a.m. Checker Yellow taxi cabs pick up from the transportation hub in front of the Gourmet Shop in Five Points (where the university shuttles pick up) and provide transportation to residences within a five-mile radius of USC’s campus. Students just need their Carolina Card.

Thomas Cooper Library has the solution to your problem with the Umbrella Checkout program. Students can check out umbrellas at the circulation desk at T. Coop for a 24-hour period. The desk is open from 8am until 10pm and there are fifteen umbrellas available to rent. Simply present a valid Carolina Card in order to rent one.

Off-Campus Lounge

Did you know that there is an Off-Campus Student Lounge located in the Russell House?! Perfect for graduate students who need a place to work or relax. Check out the excellent slideshow with directions and visit the Off-Campus Student Services website for additional resources!

The Gamecock Pantry is open to serve! Because attending the University and paying for housing is expensive, we know that it is hard to make ends meet, and the campus food pantry is here to help. Any current USC student with a valid Carolina Card is able to receive 10 food items each week. The Client Intake Information form can be found online under the “register” link at http://www.sa.sc.edu/sg/gamecockpantry/

If you have any questions, please email gamecockpantry@sc.edu. Fall semester hours: Tuesdays 6-8 pm, Wednesdays 5-7 pm, Thursdays 8-9:30 am. Location: McBryde Quadrangle A - on the corner of Sumter Street and Blossom, behind Thomas Cooper Library, across from the Honors Residence, and next to Market 101.
The Garnet Graduate
Graduate Student Association
sogsa@mailbox.sc.edu

Connect with us! Stay up to date on the latest graduate school news.

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