President’s Welcome

Dear Graduate and Professional Students,

Welcome back! The GSA is excited to host several events this Spring semester specifically for graduate and professional students. We will be continuing our Certification Series with Self Defense Training tomorrow from 2:00 to 4:00 pm (page 5). We are also partnering up with Counseling Services to offer Suicide Prevention training on February 12th 3:00 to 5:20 (page 6).

This year Graduate Student Week will be held April 6th through April 10th! The GSA will be hosting events throughout the week, including Trivia Night at World of Beer, Cookout and Pool Day at Strom, and a Field day, among others. We will be finalizing the plans soon, so keep an eye out for updates.

Graduate Organization Leaders, please be sure to check out the new Graduate Organization Funding webpages HERE. On these pages you will find a step-by-step guide for requesting funds, funding codes and guidelines, forms, and other important information.

Finally, we hope you will join us for a Valentine’s Happy Hour on February 11th at Liberty Tap Room. GSA Happy Hours are a great way to hang out with friends and also to meet other graduate students outside of your program. Don’t forget to like us on Facebook HERE to stay up-to-date with graduate students news and events.

Sincerely,

Brittany Walter
President, Graduate Student Association
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/uscgsa  www.twitter.com/uscgsa

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

University of South Carolina Graduate Student Association

www.instagram.com/uscgsa
GSA FALL EVENTS

We have several events planned for the Spring semester!

**Self Defense Training**  January 28th  |  2:00-4:00pm  |  Strom 116

**GSA Meeting**  February 5th  |  5:30-6:30pm  |  Grad Council Room

**Happy Hour**  February 11th  |  5:00-7:00pm  |  Liberty Tap Room

**Suicide Prevention Training**  February 12th  |  3:00-5:30pm  |  Russell House 303

**GSA Meeting**  February 19th  |  5:30-6:30pm  |  Grad Council Room

**Feedback Forum**  March 19th  |  12:00-1:30pm  |  TBA

**Grad Student Week!**  April 6-10th

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

**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/pjn1pbgtohn5apf80ck6p72ag4%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics](https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/pjn1pbgtohn5apf80ck6p72ag4%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.
The Graduate Student Association presents

The Certification Series

The GSA is offering a series of training workshops to help graduate students become certified in various aspects of professional development and useful skills.

Next workshop:

Self Defense Training

*with* Teena Gooding

January 28th 2-4 pm

Strom Wellness and Fitness Center 116

This workshop will provide an introduction to basic techniques for self-defense and awareness. Attendees will have opportunities to participate and practice with others in a safe and supportive group environment. Workshops are open to everyone.

Register HERE

Upcoming workshops:

- CPR training
- Green-zone Training
- Suicide Prevention
- and more!

@uscgusa
Learn how to help a friend who may be struggling.

Join the Counseling & Human Development Center, in partnership with the Graduate Student Association, for **Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training**.

**Thursday, February 12**
3 - 5:30 p.m.
Russell House Room 303

To register, visit [www.sa.sc.edu/shs/chdc/training](http://www.sa.sc.edu/shs/chdc/training)

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 18-24 year olds. Most individuals who attempt suicide communicate signs of their intentions in the week prior to their attempt. On college campuses, many of these students are not seeking services at the University Counseling center. Instead, these warning signs of a suicidal person are often observed by peers, faculty, staff, and family members. Often, individuals are unaware of these warning signs or do not know how to respond.

If you can't make it to the training but are concerned about a friend, call the Counseling & Human Development Center at 803-777-5223.

In support of a Healthy Carolina
Improving student success through healthy living

The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution.
Join us for our Valentine’s Happy Hour!

Wednesday February 11th
5:00 - 7:00pm
Liberty Taproom
(828 Gervais Street)

*Light appetizers will be provided*

**INTRAMURAL TEAM INFORMATION**

The GSA needs 3-5 girls for GSA’s softball team, the Nighthawks. Players need to be available all or most Thursdays during the season from 7-9 PM. The season starts on March 19 and runs for 3 more Thursdays plus the playoffs. Some amount of baseball/softball experience is preferred. Email Dom Casali (casali@email.sc.edu) by February 10th if interested.
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.

***New*** All funding forms and information on the funding process is now on the Student Government website!
$TART $MART WORKSHOPS

$Tart $Mart salary negotiation workshops empower college women who are starting their careers to overcome the gender wage gap. These workshops can be tailored to a broader audience as well, to provide men and women, graduate and undergraduate students who are approaching the job market knowledge and skills to negotiate salaries and benefits so that they receive fair and realistic compensation.

$Tart $Mart covers the following topics in a three-hour workshop:

- The personal consequences of the gender wage gap and what a $1 million loss means over one’s working life
- Resources for benchmarking reasonable salaries and benefits, including salary ranges, the impact of market realities on salaries, and how to compare skills and accomplishments to target a realistic salary range
- Negotiation skills that teach women how to aim high and be realistic, including practice through role play
- Recognizing your bottom line by developing a bare-bones budget to pay rent, buy groceries, repay student loans, and other basic expenses

Click here to register for one of the workshops below (more workshops will be added)

- **Thursday, February 26** (Focus on College of Engineering and Computing students but open to all)
  
  Location: 1A03 Swearingen Bldg. (Faculty/Staff Lounge)
  Time: 4 - 7 p.m.
  Food provided courtesy of SCANA

- **Tuesday, April 14** - Open to all students
  
  Location: TBA
  Time: TBA
HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

Student Health Insurance Plan through AIG

What You Should Know:
- $1,702 annual premium ($141.83 per month) for 2014-2015
- No pre-existing condition exclusion
- You should visit the Student Health Center first and be referred to outside facilities to reduce costs
- Lower deductibles, copays & co-insurance

What You Get:
- Worldwide coverage
- Easy enrollment
- Travel Guard benefits (coverage anywhere 100+ miles away)
- Most generic prescriptions just $20
- Most Services at the Student Health Center are reimbursed 100 percent
- Vision coverage (up to $300 annually)
- Preventive services*, including:
  - Depression screenings
  - Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) screenings
  - Tobacco cessation interventions
  - Adult immunizations
  - Routine gynecological services/well-woman exams

Enrolling a Spouse or Children
Spouses and children may be enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan through AIG. The student must also be enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan to add a spouse or dependent.

For more information about the Student Health Insurance Plan, spouse and dependent coverage and enrollment, visit www.studentinsurance.com.

*Subject to change each academic year

---Continued on next page---
HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

Student Health Services for Graduate Students

Student Health Fee
The student health fee, which is paid through tuition each semester, is dependent upon the number of credit hours a graduate student will be taking. The fee covers the costs for some, but not all, services at Student Health Services. Graduate assistants (GAs) will automatically be billed the full-time student health fee rate regardless of credit hours.

MyHealthSpace
www.sc.edu/myhealthspace
In addition to scheduling appointments, use MyHealthSpace to:
• Get Lab and Radiology results
• Communicate with providers
• Fill out the health history form
• Submit electronic notification of immunizations
• Submit permission to file insurance
• Submit the treatment agreement and privacy notice

Services covered through the Student Health Fee:
• Office visits for the treatment of routine and chronic illness (excluding sports medicine, physical therapy and psychiatric services)
• Up to 10 individual visits at the Counseling and Human Development Center per academic year
• Unlimited group counseling
• Support groups and workshops on issues including anxiety, couples therapy, grief and loss, substance abuse, international student support, sexual assault and more
• Preventative screenings including blood pressure and body fat percentage measurement
• Individual exercise and fitness consultations
• Individual nutritional consultations with a registered dietitian

Services not covered:
• Radiology, laboratory services and EKGs
• Prescriptions and over-the-counter medication
• Physical therapy (requires copayment)
• Physical exams
• Psychiatric services (requires copayment)
• Individual visits at the Counseling and Human Development Center over the initial 10
• Metabolic rate testing
• Flu shots, allergy shots and other vaccines
• Medical supplies used during administration of services (bandages, sutures, etc.)
• Sports medicine services (requires copayment for referrals)
• Travel consults
• Minor surgical procedures and other procedures (IV therapy, breathing treatment, injection of medications, etc.)
• Services received at any other hospital or clinic
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 opened January 15th for travel taking place 3/1 to 7/30, 2015.

The Graduate School will host Graduate Student Day on Friday, April 10, 2015. We will have four competition categories again this year: Poster Presentation, Oral Presentation, Creative Presentation, and 3-Minute Thesis/Dissertation Speech. Graduate Student Day is open to masters and doctoral students from all graduate programs. In order to participate, you must first submit a proposal and an abstract of no more than 300 words to the Graduate Management System (GMS) by noon on Mon. March 2nd. Students selected to participate will be notified the following week.

University Libraries offers workshops (research readiness orientation for new graduate students, advanced Google, managing citations with EndNote or Zotero, and impact measures) and plans to add more dates. Give the library your input on the best times to hold the sessions.

Technology workshops are sponsored by the Provost's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues (PACWI) and the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE). Each session is open to all USC faculty, staff and students. Workshops are limited to 25 participants and registration is free. Click here for a list of workshops.

Thesis and dissertation defense deadlines, format check deadlines, application for graduation, and other important dates for Spring and Summer 2015 are now on The Graduate School Calendar.

Thesis and dissertation formatting workshop dates for February 2015 (more dates on website):
- Tuesday, February 17, 10:30 AM.
- Thursday, February 19, 2:00 PM.
- Wednesday, February 25, 1:30 PM.
- Thursday, February 26, 10:00 AM.

Graduate civic scholars. The Graduate School at the University of South Carolina is delighted to announce the creation of the Graduate Civic Scholars Program (GCSP), a new and innovative professional development opportunity for master’s and doctoral students graduating in May 2016 or after who are interested in community and public engagement and action-based research. GCSP will provide opportunities for interdisciplinary research, involvement in social justice initiatives, and an enhanced understanding of the role of scholarship in addressing societal needs. Click here for information and to apply.

The Department of Educational Studies at USC’s College of Education is now offering the university’s first post-masters certificate in qualitative research. The Graduate Certificate in Qualitative Research program was developed in direct response to increasing academic and industry demand for qualified research methodologists. Open to post-masters graduates of any academic program from any accredited college or university, the 18 credit-hour certificate offers exploration and application of qualitative inquiry fundamentals including field research, in-depth interviewing, focus groups, participant observation, life narratives and ethnographies. Click here for additional information.
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.

CTE Workshop: Fostering Integrative Learning Through Reflection
Facilitators: Jimmie Gahagan, Director, Office of Student Engagement, and Dottie Weigel, Assistant Director, Univ. 101
Date/Time: Wednesday, January 28, 2015, 12:00 - 12:50 p.m.
Location: Thomas Cooper Library, CTE Room L511
Register here
As educators, we want students to make lasting connections between course material and real-world applications. One way to accomplish this goal is through critical reflection. Join us as we explore ways to promote reflection through a variety of classroom and beyond-the-classroom activities. Incorporating meaningful reflection not only enhances student learning, but can also make teaching more enjoyable. Participants will gain practical strategies for incorporating reflection into the curriculum and helping students apply knowledge in new contexts.

CTE Workshop: Flipped Learning Basics
Facilitator: Janet Hudson, Associate Professor, Extended University
Date/Time: Thursday, January 29, 2015, 1:15 - 2:30 p.m.
Location: Thomas Cooper Library, CTE Room L511
Register here
In this workshop, Janet Hudson will offer a sound pedagogical rationale for flipped learning and practical strategies for getting started. Workshop participants will discuss the challenges associated with this method and explore strategies for addressing them. Working collaboratively in small groups, participants will create flipped learning frameworks for two or three traditional courses.

CTE TA Workshop: Developing Your Teaching Persona
Facilitator: Michelle Hardee, Graduate Student Program Manager, CTE
Date/Time: Friday, January 30, 2015, 12:00 - 12:50 p.m.
Location: Thomas Cooper Library, CTE Room L511
Register here
Good teaching involves creating a teaching persona, your personal teaching style that's a balance between your authentic self and your professional self. Developing your teaching persona includes finding a personal classroom management style that's right for you, as well as enhancing your methods for promoting student learning. Thinking about this facet of teaching is important for new instructors and can be a helpful reflective exercise for more experienced instructors. This workshop will provide you with specific, interactive guidance and best practices on developing these aspects of your teaching, along with helpful advice for any who are still learning to become comfortable in front of a classroom.
Judges needed for Science Fair

Judges are still needed for the 59th Annual SC Region II Science and Engineering Fair, held at the USC Coliseum on Friday, March 13th, 2015. The judging process will require approximately three to four hours in the morning/afternoon or afternoon/evening of Friday, March 13th. Please note that this is the Friday of Spring Break. Judging categories include: Behavioral & Social Sciences, Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth and Space Sciences, Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Mathematics, Medicine and Health, Microbiology, Physics, Zoology. Junior division: Grades 5 - 8; Senior Division: Grades 9 - 12. If you participate in Preparing Future Faculty, this meets the requirements for 3.B. Service, Outreach.

If you are interested, please complete the attached form (“Request for Judges R2SE Fair 2015”) and return to Dr. Oscar Lopez, the R2SEF Director (instructions are on the form, and don’t worry about the deadline listed - just submit as soon as you can).

Healthy Carolina Councils needs Council Volunteers

Want to become involved in health and wellness initiatives at USC? Healthy Carolina is looking for motivated faculty, staff, students and community members to join our wellness councils which organize and lead innovative health initiatives for the USC community. Our councils include:

Healthy Lifestyles
Sexual Health
Mental Health
Working Well

For more information on the councils or to get involved email HealthyC@mailbox.sc.edu

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

Ally Lunch

Allies are invited to come together, enjoy lunch, and discuss or learn more about a specific topic or identity within the LGBTQ community. January 28th 12-1 pm, Russell House 348

Social Justice Activist Program for Spring 2015

- The Social Justice Activist Program (SJP) is a program designed to create a network of students/faculty/ and staff who acknowledge and know how to combat bias and who want to become activist within their community. SJP program is divided into three sections, each session lasting approximately six weeks. Participants will engage in intentional conversations and workshops about their own identity and that of their peers and colleagues. This Program begins the first week of February and runs through the middle of March. Many of the trainings we hold/attend count for credit in this program.

CAMPUS EVENTS

5th Annual Nutrition Symposium and Inaugural Meeting of the Southeastern Research Consortium March 19th and 20th

Healthy Eating in Context: Building and Strengthening Collaborations to Address Hunger, Poverty, and Nutrition in the Southeast

Early bird registration is now open. Click here for more details and to register.

March 19th  Welcome Reception and Student Poster Competition
  Time: 4:30pm - 7:00pm
  Location: Discovery-Room 140
  915 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29208

March 20th  5th Annual Nutrition Symposium & Inaugural Meeting of the Southeastern Research Consortium
  Time: 8:15am - 2:00pm

For more information or questions, please contact: Mary Wilson, MPH Director of Capacity Building Director, or Ranina Outing, MHA Communications Coordinator Center for Research in Nutrition and Health Disparities. Arnold School of Public Health, USC. 803.777.6363. nutrinfo@mailbox.sc.edu
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!

An Ad-Hoc Information Technology Committee was recently formed by the Faculty Senate about technology issues on campus. Joseph D’Addezio will be serving as the graduate representative for the committee. If you have any questions or concerns regarding technology on-campus please contact him at jdaddezio@geol.sc.edu. Also please check out the January Meeting Minutes.

The Thomas Cooper Library has created a designated area for Graduate Students only. You can find it on the 5th floor of TCL in room L517. Check it out today!
Connect with us! Stay up to date on the latest graduate school news.

gradschool.sc.edu/gsa
instagram.com/uscgdsa
facebook.com/uscgdsa
twitter.com/uscgdsa

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