President’s Welcome

Graduate and Professional Students,

Please don’t forget to vote for Student Government positions until 5 pm today. That’s right, graduate students can vote too! The Student Government overlooks the entire student body, including graduate students, so be sure to get your vote in. See page 6 for details.

Graduate Student Week is not too far away! We’re looking forward to hosting several fun events throughout the week (April 6th-10th), including a competitive Field Day, a Pool day with BBQ, and a Trivia Night at World of Beer. Check out page 4 for a tentative schedule of events.

The GSA is currently pursuing a joint resolution with Student Government for an Open Access/Open Electronic Resource initiative. As part of this initiative, the Graduate School will help the GSA offer Intellectual Property and Copyright workshops this Spring so that you know exactly what you’re “signing over” when you publish or submit your thesis/dissertation. Keep an eye out for when these workshops will be offered. We will also be establishing a fund that will provide funding towards fees for grad students who publish in open access journals.

Finally, in light of recent events, the GSA will be offering Active shooter workshops within the coming weeks. These workshops will count towards Preparing Future Faculty credit and are open to all. We will advertise the dates for these workshops in the upcoming newsletter and through social media.

Sincerely,

Brittany Walter
GSA SPRING EVENTS

We have several events planned for the Spring semester!

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

Stress Busters
March 4th | 2-4pm | Russell House 302/303

Active Shooter Workshop

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

Intellectual Property Workshop
March TBA | TBA | TBA

Grad Student Week!
April 6-10th | Tentative schedule available on page 4.

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/pjn1pbgtshm5apf80ck6p72ag4%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 WEEK

Graduate Student Week
April 6th - 10th

Monday April 6th 4-6pm
Field Day at Blatt Field
Join us for a family-friendly field day. Teams will take part in activities like volleyball and a ropes course to see who wins! Face painting and balloon animals will be available for the kids!

Tuesday April 7th 5-7:30p
Pool day and BBQ at Strom
Enjoy the weather and some good BBQ with your fellow grad students at the Strom pool!

Wednesday April 8th TBA
Special Speaker at TBA

Thursday April 9th 7-9pm
Trivia at World of Beer
There’s nothing like a little friendly competition (and some good beer), especially for grad students. See who’s the smartest at our trivia night!

Friday April 10th
Graduate Student Day!

Department competition Food Drive throughout the week!
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.

All funding forms and information on the funding process is now on the Student Government website!

STRESS BUSTERS

Midterms stressing you out?

Join us for our Stress Busters Session, including helpful tips for coping with the stresses of graduate student life. There will be healthy food, yoga, massages, and more. This event is cosponsored by the GSA and the Counseling and Human Development Center.

When: Wednesday March 4th, 2015
Time: 2-4 PM
Location: Russell House Rooms 302 and 303
$START$ $MART$ WORKSHOPS

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

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**Graduate Students Vote, too!**

Student Government Elections will take place until Wednesday (2/18) at 5 pm. You have an opportunity to cast a vote for Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Student Body Treasurer, and Student Senators representing your school or college. The ballot will be available on sc.edu/elections beginning **Tuesday, February 17 at 9 a.m. and close Wednesday, February 18 at 5 p.m.** To cast your vote, follow these steps:

- Log on to sc.edu/elections.
- Enter your VIP ID and password.
- Select Student Government Ballot to vote for Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and Student Body Treasurer, and to vote yes or no on Referendum 1 and 2. Select Senate Ballot to vote for senators to represent your college or school.
- Click on the candidate to view photo and platform.
- Select your candidates and press preview.
- Press submit.

*Note: There is a separate elections process for Graduate Student Association seats that will take place in April*
RESEARCH AND FUNDING

- **Important changes have been made to the Graduate School Travel Grants.** Students may now only receive 2 awards while they are at USC, and there are now 4 application cycles. More information can be found on the [Graduate School website](#).

- 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 2\textsuperscript{nd}. Students selected to participate will be notified the following week.

- Thesis and dissertation defense deadlines, format check deadlines, application for graduation, and other important dates for Spring and Summer 2015 have been added to [The Graduate School Calendar](#).

- **Thesis and dissertation formatting** workshop dates for Spring 2015:
  - Thursday, February 19, 2:00 PM.
  - Wednesday, February 25, 1:30 PM.
  - Thursday, February 26, 10:00 AM.
  - Tuesday, March 3, 2:30 PM.
  - Friday, March 6, 10:30 AM.
  - Monday, March 16, 10:30 AM.
  - Friday, March 20, 1:30 PM.

- The following workshops are offered by [The Office of Fellowships and Scholar Programs](#). OFSP helps undergraduate and graduate students apply for nationally competitive fellowships and scholarships. Feel free to schedule an appointment with us [here](#) or send us an [email](#). If you don’t see a competition that interests you here, feel free to search our online [INFO database](#) for more opportunities.

- **Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Scholarship Workshop** (Tuesday, 2/24 at 3:30p.m., Gressette Room, Harper College 3rd floor). These scholarships support graduate study in the UK and Ireland.

- The **James Madison Graduate Fellowships** support the graduate study of American history by aspiring and experienced secondary school teachers of American history, American government, and social studies. Fellowships fund up to $24,000 of each Fellow’s course of study toward a master’s degree. The program must include a concentration of courses on the history and principles of the United States Constitution. Electronic applications are due [Sunday, 3/1 by 5p.m. CST](#). If submitting hard copy of transcripts, those are due to OFSP for mailing by Wednesday, February 25, 2015.
**TEACHING**

- **TA-Connect listserve 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 listserve to be informed of teaching-related activities on campus. [Sign up for this listserve.](#)

- **Crafting Dynamic Classroom Lectures.** Even the most experienced speakers and most talented teachers get nervous about public speaking, but we all want our class lectures and activities to be more effective. This workshop will share practical strategies to help you plan and deliver more engaging, organized and dynamic lectures. Participants will have the opportunity to briefly practice and receive constructive feedback about their presentation style.

  Thursday February 19, 2015
  1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
  Center for Teaching Excellence
  Thomas Cooper Library, Room L511
  [Register here.](#)

- **Taming the Stress Monster: Strategies to Manage and Thrive!** Are you stressed? Who isn't? Do you realize that "stressed" spelled backwards spells "desserts"? We sometimes turn to unhealthy behaviors to put a Band-Aid on stress. But there's a better way. In this interactive workshop, we'll explore the body's stress response and how to handle it. We'll also discuss and practice long-term stress management strategies. You'll learn how to overcome some stress myths and create practices that will help you sail through turbulent times.

  Thursday February 26, 2015
  11:40 a.m. - 12:55 p.m.
  Center for Teaching Excellence
  Thomas Cooper Library, Room L511
  [Register here.](#)

- The University of South Carolina lost a member of its family due to a tragic event on February 5, 2015. Professor Raja Fayad of the Arnold School of Public Health came to the university more than six years ago and had a tremendous impact through his teaching and research. The Raja Fayad Memorial Fund has been established to remember Dr. Fayad. This fund will be used to continue his positive influence on students and faculty within the Arnold School of Public Health. Gifts made in memory of Professor Fayad can be made online or by mail. Visit [http://www.sph.sc.edu/raja-fayad-donations.html](http://www.sph.sc.edu/raja-fayad-donations.html) for more information.
SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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, and 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 here.

Buddies Beyond Borders

Beyond Borders is an intercultural program through International Student Services that matches American students with new international students at USC. We do our best to match you based on personal preferences and interests that you and your international buddy share. If you have participated in the program in the past, or if you are new and have a genuine interest in other cultures, please consider filling out our Fall 2015 Application. Read more about the program here.

What you can expect to gain from this program:
- Increased cultural competence
- A better understanding of the world
- Awareness of what makes American culture different from other cultures
- A new friend!

What your buddy will gain from you being their American friend:
- A better understanding of American culture
- A higher chance to integrate within the USC community
- Explanations for why things at USC may be different from their home country
- Also a new friend!

If you have any questions or concerns about this program, please feel free to contact Leigh Eleazer (eleazerl@mailbox.sc.edu) or Ashley Jaramillo (jaramia@mailbox.sc.edu).
DIVERSITY EVENTS

February Ally Lunch

Wednesday, February 18th @ 12pm Russell House 348

Topic: Being Black and LGBTQ @ USC

Allows Safe Zone Allies and other interested participants to come together for ongoing education and dialogue about different topics within the LGBTQ Community.

Trans* Advocacy Workshop

Monday, April 27, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, Russell House 309.

If you are already trained as a Safe Zone Ally and would like to attend a workshop to delve deeper into issues of gender identity and expression, the Trans* Advocacy Workshop is the perfect opportunity for you. These workshops are two hours long and focus on trans* identities and experiences. We do ask that you be a trained Safe Zone Ally before taking the Trans* Advocacy Workshop. Contact LGBT Programs at lgbtusc@mailbox.sc.edu or click here to register.

CAMPUS EVENTS

International Mother Language Day celebration event organized by Bangladesh Student Association at University of South Carolina. The theme of this year’s event is ‘positive Bangladesh’. There will be dance, music, fashion show, trivia, comedy, free delicious Bangladeshi foods, games and more. The event is open for the entire USC community - students, faculty, and staff. However, limited free food passes will be provided. To collect free food passes please contact us before they run out. Register here.

Students, faculty and staff, come join First Lady Ms. Patricia Moore-Pastides at the third annual Heart Expo, Feb. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Russell House Ballroom. The theme this year is “Our Hearts Have No Limits”. There will be healthy cooking demonstrations (FREE food!), exercise demonstrations, free health screenings, prizes and more.

Sustainable Carolina and Green Quad are hosting the annual GREEN CAREER FAIR on March 18th at 6pm-8pm in the Darla Moore School of Business Pavilion. The Career Fair is an opportunity for students to learn about potential paid and unpaid internships, job openings, volunteer opportunities, and future career paths in the field of sustainability. Students of all majors and disciplines with an interest in sustainability are encouraged to attend. A list of attending employers can be found here. There will be two Professional Development events prior to the Career Fair, in the Green Quad Learning Center. CUPCAKES AND CAREERS will be held on February 23rd at 6pm and COFFEE WITH THE EXPERTS will be held on February 25th at 6pm. Contact Rebecca Littlefield at RML1@mailbox.sc.edu with any questions.
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.

The Graduate School invites students to submit designs for this year’s Graduate Student Day logo. We are offering a $100 award to the individual whose design is selected. A short, pithy tagline accompanying the logo is preferred but not required. The logo will appear on Graduate Student Day t-shirts and promotional materials. Color designs are welcome, and images should be formatted as PDFs or JPEGs. Email your entries to Wright Culpepper at culpeppa@mailbox.sc.edu by 5:00PM on Friday, February 27th.

Did you know that there is a widely-used USC Repository? Scholar Commons is an Institutional Repository to preserve, collect and disseminate the research and scholarship of the University of South Carolina. With scholarly content contributed by faculty, researchers and students associated with the University, this repository will expand the visibility, access and influence of the University. It will also support efforts to increase collaboration and cross discipline research within the University and with other organizations. Add your publication(s) to the Repository so that the world can access your research HERE!

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 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/uscgssa

facebook.com/uscgssa  
twitter.com/uscgssa

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**USC Graduate Student Association**  
304 Byrnes Building  
Columbia, SC 29208  
Office: (803) 777-2631  
www.gradschool.sc.edu/gsa

**President**  
Brittany S. Walter  
walterbs@email.sc.edu

**Vice President**  
Meagan Conway  
conwaymk@email.sc.edu

**Treasurer**  
Brianna Hughes  
bethughes@email.sc.edu

**Graduate Council Representative**  
Danielle Schoffman  
schoffmd@email.sc.edu

---

**Secretary**  
Michaela Schenkelberg  
Schenkm@email.sc.edu

**Financial Committee Chair**  
Ryan LaMonica  
rml@email.sc.edu

**Communications Coordinator**  
Emily Garnett  
garnette@email.sc.edu

**Diversity Affairs Liaison**  
Andie Bridgeman  
katina@email.sc.edu

**Health Liaison**  
Courtney Schrock  
courtneyschrock@msn.com

**Graduate Assistant Liaison**  
Bailey Sanford  
sanforj2@email.sc.edu

**Teaching Assistant Liaison**  
Dot Collins  
dorothyc@email.sc.edu

**Event Coordinator**  
Dominic Casili  
casali@email.sc.edu

---

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

**International Affairs Liaison**  
Md Hassan Zamir  
zamir@email.sc.edu

**Social Media Coordinator**  
Anais Parada  
paradaa@email.sc.edu

**Spouse and Family Liaison**  
Morgan Rackley  
Rackleytm09@gmail.com

**University Affairs Liaison**  
Andrew Fogner  
fogner@email.sc.edu

**Graduate Organization Liaison**  
Sara Rhodes  
rhodess3@email.sc.edu

**Community Service Officer**  
Sandra Green  
Sandra@schc.sc.edu

**Professional Development Liaison**  
Nathan Cornwell  
Nathan4fc@gmail.com