Graduate & Professional Student Association
Executive Board – Declaration of Candidacy
May 2016-2017

Name: **Meghan Pierce**
Department/School: **Psychology/COLA**
Office Sought: **President**

Please list any relevant experience/qualifications for the position:

*(GPSA experience, student government, extracurricular activities, or other interests)*.

Over the past six years, I have been involved in several leadership positions in different community and university organizations. My first academic leadership position was as President of the Student Organization of Addiction Professionals (SOAP) from 2010-2011. During my presidency, I worked closely with the State of Nevada Association of Addiction Professionals (SNAAP) to organize student training opportunities and community outreach. This relationship led to my nomination as secretary for the 2010-2012 term. I served as secretary for SNAAP for two terms. During my tenure with SNAAP I was involved in developing and initiating a scholarship program for students studying addiction therapy. I was also involved in planning our monthly luncheons and organizing our regional conference the years it was held in Las Vegas.

In addition, I served as Secretary and President of the Psychology Department’s student government, the Experimental Student Committee (ESC). During my term as secretary I documented and distributed our meeting minutes, and helped to plan our department’s interview weekend. During my term as president, I planned and ran our monthly meetings, organized luncheons, and was a liaison between faculty and students. I was also in charge of planning our interview day weekend by working with faculty to schedule interviews, meetings and parties. In addition, I was in charge of organizing housing for applicants and was the point of contact for applicants during the months leading up to the interview.

Most importantly, I have served as Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA). These positions have given me great insight into graduate student issues and university policies. Through these positions I have served on several campus-wide committees and GPSA committees. Over the years, I have worked closely with the President and feel I have a deep understanding of the responsibilities this position holds. I feel like my experience has provided me with the skills needed to fulfill the role of President. I truly believe in the goals and mission of the GPSA and hope to continue serving the organization in the best way possible.
Please explain why you are interested in serving in this position:

Serving as GPSA Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President over the past 3 years has been a great learning experience. I am passionate about the needs of graduate students and truly believe the GPSA can help better our scholarship and sense of community. Thus, I seek the position in order to serve our students in a greater capacity. The GPSA serves an important role in the graduate community, both in increasing graduate student scholarship and providing a voice for graduate students. I am specifically interested in leading this organization through the upcoming legislative session. This will be an important year for higher education and we will need a leader who will passionately advocate for graduate education through working with higher administration, the Board of Regents, and the community.
To the GPSA elections committee:

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend Meghan Pierce's candidacy for GPSA president. She is in good standing as a doctoral student in the experimental area within the psychology department. I have talked at length with Meghan about her tenure as treasurer and vice president, the GPSA position she has held since joining my lab. It is clear how seriously she takes her obligations to the GPSA and to representing graduate student interests to the university and the state legislature (which she did last year as government relations chair). This year, she has served as the student's voice on advisory committees for UNLV Parking and Student Union, the Graduate College Program Review committee, and the College of Liberal Arts Dean search committee. She is a tireless advocate who works to inform students of the panoply of opportunities available to them through GPSA, serving as chair of the GPSA Sponsorship Committee and the Research Forum Committee. For example, several graduate students in my lab have applied for conference travel funding as a result of her outreach efforts.

Meghan has also balanced her GPSA duties with her graduate education admirably. Even with the demands her duties as vice president entail, she has been an invaluable addition to my lab. She has helped bring a screening study to fruition and learned to program in PsychoPy and solder circuits, the results of which lay the foundation for her ongoing dissertation. She has also been instrumental in devising protocols for collecting cortisol, training new students on how to collect data in my psychophysiological studies, conducting interviews to diagnose and schedule depressed and control participants for a federally funded study, and providing a steady hand to guide my lab personnel.

In short, Meghan has been an excellent citizen of my lab and the university and officer of the GPSA. I have full faith and confidence in her abilities to handle the duties entailed in the presidency. She is an excellent, proven leader in multiple roles. She is also more than able to serve the GPSA while conducting her dissertation research. I am pleased to give her my highest recommendation to run for this position.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Stephen D. Benning
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Meghan Pierce

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Education

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Degree: Experimental Psychology, Ph.D.
Emphasis: Neuroscience
Certificate: Quantitative Psychology
Estimated Graduation Date: Spring 2017

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Degree: Experimental Psychology, M.A.
Graduation Date: December, 2014

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Degree: Counselor Education, M.S.
Emphasis: Clinical Mental Health Counseling/Addictions
Graduation Date: August, 2011

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Degree: Psychology, B.A.
Graduation Date: May, 2009

Research Experience

08/2014-Present  **Doctoral Research Graduate Assistant**
• Supervisor: Stephen Benning, Ph.D.
• Duties: Conducting research on the hormonal and psychophysiological correlates of social support in psychopathy.

11/2012-Present  **Research Intern, Cleveland Clinic, Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health**
• Supervisor: Sarah Banks, Ph.D.
• Role: Visiting researcher
• Duties: Conducting research using MRI to examine structural and functional differences between wine experts and novices.

06/2014- 08/2014  **Research Assistant, Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy**
• Supervisor: Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Ph.D.
• Duties: Writing reports, collecting and organizing data, and assisting in publishing original research.

06/2011-05/2013  Graduate Research Assistant
• Supervisor: Laurel Pritchard, Ph.D.
• Role: Research and Teacher Assistant
• Duties: Conducting research, teacher assistant duties, and other related projects.

Teaching Experience

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
• Introductory Psychology (PSY 101)
• Psychopharmacology of Abused Drugs (PSY 422)
• Foundations of Physiological Psychology (PSY 303)
• History of Psychology (PSY 308)

Nevada State College
• Physiological Psychology (PSY 403)

Professional and Clinical Experience

05/2013-Present  Graduate and Professional Student Association
• Supervisor: Peter Gray, Ph.D., Kate Korgan, Ph.D.
• Role: Vice President (2015-Present): Chairing sponsorship committee, working with the President to complete goals set for the GPSA.
• Duties (Treasurer): Preparing and analyzing monthly budgets, chairing the government relations committee.
• Duties (Secretary): Preparing and posting meeting agenda and minutes, sitting as chair of the Publication Committee and holding a seat on Graduate College committees.

05/2010-08/2011  Harrah’s Graduate Assistant in Problem Gambling Counseling
• Supervisor: Larry Ashley Ed.S, LCADC, CPGC
• Role: Lead Counselor
• Duties: Conducting individual counseling, research and other related projects.

01/2010-08/2011  Counseling Intern, U.S Veteran’s Initiative
• Supervisor: Shalimar T. Cabrera, MSW
• Role: Counseling Intern
• Duties: Conducting individual and group counseling.
Publications

In Preparation

Submitted
Pierce, M. E., & Pritchard, L. M. (Submitted). Blunted Cortisol in Female Veterans Associated with Military Status not PTSD.

In Revision

Published

Presentations


**Poster Presentations**


**Awards and Honors**

**Grants:**
INBRE Small Grant, 2013: $4130.00
GPSA Research Grant, 2014: $1114.20
GPSA Travel Grant, 2011: $150.00

**Awards:**
Graduate and Professional Student Association Service Award, 2016 ($300.00)
3rd Place in Preliminaries, Rebel Grad Slam, 2015 ($100.00)
Summer Session Scholarship, 2013 ($2000.00)
Patricia Sastaunik Scholarship, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015 ($2,500 each)
Chi Sigma Iota, Alpha Omega, Outstanding Research Contribution, 2010

**Honors:**
2007-2009 Dean’s List

**Nominations:**
Outstanding Graduate Student, Spring 2015 Commencement
Nevada Regents Scholar, 2010
Chi Sigma Iota, Outstanding Masters Level Student, 2010

**Service**

2015-Present UNLV Parking Advisory Committee
2015-Present: College of Liberal Arts Dean Search Committee
2015-Present: Student Union Advisory Board
2015-Present **Chair:** GPSA Sponsorship Committee
2015-Present **Chair:** Research Forum Committee
2015-Present **Neuroscience Emphasis Representative:** Experimental Students Committee
2013-Present **Campus Representative:** Association for Psychological Sciences Student Caucus
2013-Present Graduate College Program Review Committee
2014-2015 **Chair:** GPSA Awards Committee
2014-2015 Graduate College New Program Evaluation Committee
2014-2015 **Chair:** GPSA Government Relations Committee
2013-2014 Graduate College Curriculum Committee
2013-2014 **Chair:** GPSA Publications Committee
2013-2014 **Chair:** GPSA Social Media
2013-2014 **President:** Experimental Students Committee
2012-2014 **Peer Reviewer:** RISE award, Association for Psychological Sciences
2012-2013 **Secretary:** Experimental Students Committee
2011-2012 **First Year Cohort Representative:** Experimental Students Committee
2010-2013 **Secretary:** State of Nevada Association of Addiction Professionals
2010-2011 **President:** Student Organization of Addiction Professionals

**Ad-Hoc Reviewer**

Assessment
Sage Publications
APS Rise Research Award
Nevada State Undergraduate Research Journal

**Professional Affiliations**

2008-Present Association for Psychological Sciences
2011-Present Society for Neuroscience
2014-Present  Western Psychological Association  
2010-2013  The Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC)  
2010-2013  State of Nevada Association of Addiction Professionals (NAADAC affiliate)  
2009-2012  American Counseling Association  

**Student Affiliations**  

2010-Present  Student Organization of Addiction Professionals  
2011-Present  Experimental Students Committee  
2008-Present  Psi Chi  
2010-2012  Chi Sigma Iota-Omega Alpha Chapter  
2010-2011  Neuroscience Journal Club  
2011-2013  Graduate Neuroscience Association  

**Certifications**  

2010-2012  Certified Problem Gambling Counselor, Intern  

**References**  

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