The Luminary
A Newsletter for Graduate & Professional Students

Volume 3, Issue 1

A Welcome to New and Returning Students
from Jeremy Houska, GPSA President

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The Graduate & Professional Student Association is the recognized governing body serving the enrolled UNLV graduate and professional student population. Forty-nine representatives, one appointed from each department and professional school, serve on the GPSA Council. The Executive Board, also members of the Council, are elected positions consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Council meets each month at 2 p.m. in the Student Union, in an open forum to discuss current issues, activities, and address concerns that impact graduate and professional students.

I send you my best wishes for a productive and enjoyable year. This is an exciting time for our campus community, in particular for graduate and professional students. This Fall we will begin to take advantage of our University’s unprecedented growth. We will enjoy the second phase of the Student and our new Student Recreation Center. Our Recreation Center is anticipated to be an epi-center of activity in which students, faculty, and administration can come together. The re-emergence of our men’s basketball team on a national stage has also unified the University and local community. I hope we continue where we left off last year and support our sports teams, organizations, departments, and student life. We all take responsibility in ensuring our campus is an active and supportive environment. As UNLV evolves into a premier research institution, graduate and professional students play a considerable role. We must not lose sight of that. In President Ashley’s inauguration speech he stated “research is the precursor to enterprise, and enterprise is the engine that drives an economy. No research, no engine.” As graduate and professional students we are fully immersed in this endeavor. We support our mentors’ research efforts, we conduct our own research, and we attend seminars and conferences. At the end of the day, we contribute to the bench strength of the faculty and to the advancement of the curriculum.

The following are the Fall Council dates: Wednesday, September 5th; Monday, October 1st; Monday, November 5th and Monday, December 3rd.

The GPSA hosts regular social hours and community service events, and sponsors an Annual Research Forum held in the Student Recreation Center. The GPSA offers UNLV graduate and professional students an opportunity to contribute to the campus community.

Al Cademic’s — What we are all about . . .

GPSA — What we are all about . . .

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This month’s column, I will share with you some of my top haunts suitable for all-nighters. My definition of “suitable” is that these venues are 1) affordable on a GA/ship, 2) close to campus, 3) some-what accepting of members from the graduate student cult, and 4) employees refrain from overtly gawking at us when we engage in common graduate student behaviors (e.g., reading journal articles at the bar, plugging in laptops to work on thesis revisions, or grading stack of assignments).

#1. Marilyn’s Café at Tuscany Suites & Casino (255 E. Flamingo Road). For those of you who like quiet, the Tuscany is like a morgue. The casino is typically deadsville all in a wonderfully non-script ambiance. Marilyn’s late night specials are around $4.60. Best of all, you don’t have to worry about your hip undergrad students catching you there...well, unless you wander into the Tailgate Sports Lounge on a Thursday.

#2. The Restaurant at Ellis Island Casino & Brewery (4178 Koval Lane). This restaurant features cheap eats and frequent specials all in an old-school, low key, divey atmosphere. More importantly, Karaoke is next door until 3 a.m. nightly, and microbrews abound—at the rate of a few packs of Maruchan. I love to belt out a rock ballad and get back to work. It keeps me sane after reading my students’ writing.

#3. The 24 hour Starbucks at Hughes Center (4400 Paradise Road). I’ve witnessed the break of dawn here many times. Bring your laptop and get down to (academic) business here while caffeine combades (i.e., taxi and limo drivers, scholars, degenerate gamblers, vega-bonds) come in to get their fixes.

Any other favorite late-night spots? Please e-mail me your favorites whether they are close to campus or out in subur-bia. I will try to include them in next edition’s column. Al.Cademic@gmail.com

Keep it cheap.
Al

Noteworthy UNLV Dates

August 27 Instruction and late registration begin
August 31 Last day to add courses, switch sections, change courses, from audit to credit, or pay fees by 5:00 p.m.
August 31 Instruction and late registration begin
September 3 Labor day recess—no classes
September 5 GPSA Council Meeting —Student Union room 208
September 7 Final day to submit an application for December graduation to the Cashier WITHOUT a late penalty
October 1 GPSA Council Meeting—Student Union room 208
October 20 Mid-semester
October 26 Nevada Day recess—no classes
November 5 GPSA Council Meeting—Student Union room 211
November 15 GPSA Spring 2008 Grant Deadline
November 16 Last day to take comprehensive exam or defend the-sis dissertation

Information and dates of UNLV student activities can be found at: http://activities.unlv.edu/

Visit the GPSA at: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/

Attend UNLV athletic events for free: http://we.unlvbrickcats.com/students/
Get Acquainted @ the First Fall GPSA Social Event

Mark your calendars to meet, greet and eat with your fellow graduate and professional students, August 31st at the Freakin’ Frog, across the street from UNLV @ 4700 S. Maryland Parkwy. Appetizers are provided. Questions: contact Jessica Lucero, GPSA Secretary/Chairperson of the Activities Committee: 895-2261 or jessica.lucero@unlv.edu

Look forward to seeing you there!!!!!!

Celebrate UNLV’s 50th Anniversary

UNLV’s 50th birthday bash begins this fall and we invite you to be part of the fun.

The activities listed below are just some of the campus and community events and activities happening throughout the anniversary year. Check: http://celebrating50.unlv.edu/ for the latest details and for information about our festivities.

Mark your calendar and join us for these exciting events:

University Days
September 12-15, 2007
A celebration of the university’s founding that kicks off the fall semester with a university convocation, an academic showcase, special exhibits, and more.

UNLV Homecoming
October 16-21, 2007
A week of activities including exhibits, student performances, student art shows, dinner dance, golf tournament, tailgate, parade, and the unveiling of a new campus monument.

New This Fall: Grant Workshops
The GPSA and the UNLV Libraries’ Seminar Series present a specially designed Grant/Research Funding Seminar for graduate and professional students. These workshops, approached by discipline, are open to all graduate and professional students. The goal of these workshops is to familiarize graduate/professional students with a variety of alternative research and conference funding; sources introduced and examined include university, local, regional, and federal opportunities. The following are the scheduled dates for the workshops:

- Sciences: Tuesday, October 2nd 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- Humanities: Wednesday, October 3rd 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- Social Sciences: Thursday, October 11th 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Seminars will be held in the Pioche Room in the collaborative learning center located on the 1st floor in the Lied Library. Space is limited. To sign up for sessions, call 895-2123 or register online at: http://www.library.unlv.edu/inst/semsignup.html

University Forum Series
is a free lecture series funded by the College of Liberal Arts. All events are held in the Barrick Museum Auditorium, are free and no reservation is necessary. To receive updated information on University Forum events and personalities email: forum@unlv.nevada.edu and say “subscribe me”.

- Rebel in the Desert: Creating UNLV, 1957-1969: Wednesday, September 5th @ 7:30 p.m. Lecturer: Professor Eugene Moehring, Department of History, UNLV.
- The Climate History of the Earth: A View to the Future: Wednesday, September 12 @ 7:30 p.m. Lecturer: Professor Matthew Lachniet, Department of Geosciences, UNLV.
- The U.S. Constitution and the ‘Lessons of Its Judges? A Legal and Policy Analysis: Thursday, September 20 @ 7:30 p.m. Lecturer: Professor Sanford Levinson, W. St John Garwood, Jr. Centennial chair in Law and Professor Government, University of Texas.
- What’s Wrong With the Way Nevada Selects Its Judges? A Legal and Policy Analysis: Thursday, September 27 @ 7:30 p.m. Lecturer: Professor Tuan Samahon, William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV.

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computer lab in the Lied Library, room 3251. A primary goal of the GPSA is to maintain a sense of community among graduate and professional students through providing these support systems. Please take advantage of these opportunities and commit to strengthening our campus community.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Houska

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