Message from GPSA President Michael Gordon

With tax day just behind us (and since this is the "money" issue of the Luminary), we thought it might be time to also provide some feedback regarding your GPSA fees and how the Council has decided to spend your money this year. More than 40% of our annual budget went directly back to students in the form of grants for research, presenting and/or attending conferences. The total amount approved by the Council for the grants committee was $110,000, one of the highest in GPSA history! On the activities front, we hosted several mixers near the campus and continued with the popular bagels and coffee for all graduate and professional students during finals week of the Fall semester and the first week of the Spring semester in the Graduate Student Commons area. There will also be bagels and coffee offered during study week this semester. Highlights of the rest of the budget was paying the ever-present and helpful student workers and our business manager who staff the Graduate Student Commons, GPSA Book Scholarships, equipment maintenance and free editions of The New York Times.

Sticking with the finance theme, you may have also read about the revisions to the current funding formula. The formula is used to determine how general fund dollars from the State are divided between the community colleges and universities within the Nevada System of Higher Education. Historically, UNLV has not received its fair share from this formula based on the number of dollars our students have paid into the general fund. This will change during the current legislative session as Chancellor Klaich has gone on record to say that the formula needs to address these inadequacies especially for UNLV and CSN. If you would like to testify at one of these committee hearings and explain the value of research in higher education, please contact me at michael.gordon@unlv.edu. Legislators are still discussing the ins and outs of the new funding formula and your voice is important for ensuring a fair and easy-to-understand formula.

Good luck with finals, and, if you are graduating this semester, a hearty congratulations from your 2012-2013 Council!

Michael Gordon
Student Body President
Graduate & Professional Student Association

Congratulations 2013 Graduates!

May 19th is Spring Commencement at the Thomas & Mack Center. The two ceremonies are at 9:00am and 2:00pm. Check the Commencement website for more information http://www.unlv.edu/commencement
Introducing the 2013—2014 GPSA Executive Board

The 2013–2014 GPSA E-Board elections were held Monday, April 1st through Friday, April 5th. The candidates introduced themselves at the April 1st GPSA Council meeting. After a week of elections, the results are in...

President Michael Gordon served as the GPSA President during 2011—2012 and was the E-Board Treasurer the prior year. He is an active board member of the Alumni Association Board and has been a UNLV Presidential Student Ambassador since 2008. He is working on his PhD in public affairs. Contact: michael.gordon@unlv.edu

Vice President Sharon Young has been active the past two years in GPSA as a representative on both the Grants and Research Forum committees. She has served in leadership positions within department organizations: for three years as the secretary and treasurer for the UNLV chapter of Lambda Alpha society, the National Honor Society for the department of Anthropology, and two years as the newsletter editor and Fundraising Committee members for the Hormones and Disease Group on campus. Contact: smith232@unlv.nevada.edu

Treasurer Eshani Gandhi is a current representative for the Department of Chemistry in the College of Sciences. She is pursuing her doctorate in Chemical Education. Prior to starting graduate school, she served in leadership positions in student government and pre-health professional organizations. She has been involved in community outreach internationally and locally. She is an advocate for higher education and student rights. Contact: eshani.gandhi@unlv.edu

Opening for the 2013 - 2014 GPSA Secretary Position

Interested in serving on the 2013 - 2014 GPSA Executive Board? We are taking applications for the secretary's position. The GPSA Secretary is chair of the Publication Committee and also holds a seat on a Graduate College committee. The Secretary is responsible for preparing and posting the agenda/minutes for each Council meeting. This position also keeps minutes of Council meetings and sends them to the representatives. The Secretary is responsible for keeping roll call at the GPSA Council meetings which determines the representative’s eligibility for their semester stipend. Candidates must be in good academic standing and admitted to a graduate or professional program. If all duties are fulfilled a $350.00 stipend for each semester is awarded, including summer.

Please complete the online application and submit it to the GPSA, located in the Graduate Student Commons, Lied Library room 2141. The hours are posted here: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/labs/. The application deadline is May 1, 2013. E-Board vacancies are made by an appointment by the GPSA Executive Board utilizing an interview process. After the application deadline date, applicants will be called / emailed to set up an interview appointment.
Exciting Upcoming Changes for the Graduate College

This electronic announcement was sent by John Valery White, Executive Vice President and Provost, April 12, 2013:

President Smatresk announced the separation of the Graduate College from the Division of Research. Having taken that decision, the President is now poised to launch a search for a Vice President for Research. I am hereby announcing my plan for leadership of the Graduate College and the steps I am currently taking to consult on that plan.

Separation of the Graduate College from the Office of the Vice President for Research must be carefully executed to avoid negative effects on either graduate studies or research functions. We also hope to utilize the separation process to address some of the functionality issues in the Graduate College that were brought to our attention during our extensive consultation discussions on the proposed separation. Finally, in order to thrive, the Graduate College will need to develop a clear strategic vision that captures the aspirations of the faculty, university, and community. This transition will require the leadership of an Interim Dean.

Dr. Kate Korgan is my choice for this position. As most of you know, Dr. Korgan has been largely responsible for running the Graduate College in its current form as Senior Associate Dean for the past several years. Consequently, I am confident she is best positioned to navigate the separation of the College from the Division of Research.

Pending further consultation with faculty and staff who would be most directly involved in the new Graduate College, I intend to appoint her as Interim Dean, beginning July 1, 2013. It is likely that the process of separating the Graduate College from the research division will take much of the next academic year; we feel it should be completed before a search for a permanent dean commences. This demands that Dr. Korgan’s term of appointment be for a minimum of two years.

I am continuing to gather input on this transition. I have already met with the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council and will soon meet with the GPSA, the Graduate Council, Academic Council and Cabinet, and Faculty Senate. In all of these meetings I am discussing both the appointment of Dr. Korgan as Interim Dean and receiving input on the proposal to make the term of the appointment at least two years. Should you wish to provide input outside these group meetings, please email my assistant, Sandie Gajkowski (sandra.gajkowski@unlv.edu).

As the President noted, our future depends on expanding and enriching our advanced studies offerings. A vibrant Graduate College, providing effective support to our students and to the faculty of our graduate programs, is essential. This is the first step in revitalizing our graduate programs for a greater UNLV.

This message is from Provost John White.
Go Digital With Your Scholarship

By Tony Patricia

Stop the presses! Digital Scholarship@UNLV recently celebrated its 1 millionth download!

Digital Scholarship@UNLV, an initiative supported by the UNLV Libraries, is an archive of local scholarly materials including more than 6,300 items created by UNLV faculty, students, and colleagues.

Visitors to Digital Scholarship@UNLV come from 192 countries around the world; the top five are the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, India, and Australia.

UNLV’s graduate students can submit their research or creative projects to this electronic repository through organized programs such as the annual GPSA Research Forum, or through hosted peer-reviewed, open access publications like The Journal of Praxis in Multicultural Education (sponsored by the Center for Multicultural Education at UNLV), and the university’s Gaming Research and Review Journal (sponsored by the College of Hotel Administration), to name but two.

Theses and dissertations are also available the community – inclusive of academics, other researchers, and the general public – through Digital Scholarship@UNLV.

What does all of this mean for graduate students? Digital Scholarship@UNLV is a great way to lead others to the innovative and creative work you do. As Jennifer L. Fabbi, Associate Dean of the University Libraries explains, “metadata (descriptions) of your research within the system along with search engine optimization makes your research very discoverable from the web, and you are provided with download counts as well as other statistics that tell you who is accessing your research.”

Coming Soon to a Library Near You... The Rebel Yell Digital Archives

The Rebel Yell, UNLV’s student newspaper, has been serving the university community since 1954. That’s why it is exciting to announce that all issues of The Rebel Yell from 1954 to the present have been scanned and digitized into a searchable electronic archive that will be hosted by the University Libraries – a project that the GPSA partially funded with monies amounting to $1,500. This resource will enable all kinds of intriguing research on UNLV and its remarkable evolution from historical, anthropological, ethnographic, sociological, and many other disciplinary perspectives. Look for the launch of the live site in the very near future.
2013 Graduate & Professional Student Research Forum

The Graduate & Professional Student Association and Graduate College jointly host the Graduate & Professional Student Research Forum each spring, which showcases excellence in research conducted at the graduate/professional level. The event provides an opportunity for graduate and professional students to share their research. This year’s forum was held Saturday, March 16, 2013.

For students new to presenting research, this proves an excellent opportunity to practice in a professional setting. **$110,000 in funding was awarded for student research and conference travel by the GPSA during the 2012-2013 academic year.** Funding recipients are required to give a poster or oral presentation at the event.

For those who were unable to attend the forum and are interested in the research that was presented, a book of abstracts is available in the Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141, and on the GPSA website: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/pdf/2013ResearchForumBooklet.pdf. **The GPSA extends tremendous gratitude to the supportive faculty who served as judges and provided important feedback to presenters.** We would also like to extend our congratulations to all the award-winners! A list of students recognized for outstanding presentations is available on the GPSA website: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/pdf/Research-Forum2013-OutstandingPresentations.pdf

**Mark your calendars—Next year’s Research Forum is scheduled for March 29, 2014!**
We’ve come a long way since 2011!
Nevada Education Awareness Day, February 25, 2013
by Jennifer J. Reed, MA
GPSA Treasurer and Chair of the Government Relations Committee

Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) President Michael Gordon, Vice President Sharon Young, and myself attended the first Nevada Education Awareness Day in Carson City at the Nevada Legislature on February 25, 2013. The good news is that there will be no more state education budget cuts this year. We collectively voiced graduate student support for restoration of employee pay and benefits, a more equitable higher education funding formula, and funding the Knowledge Fund. The political climate was much friendlier than when students descended on the legislature to protest proposed budget cuts in 2011. We scheduled appointments with several legislators who met with us to hear our stories and priorities. Our Senate representatives invited us to sit on the legislative floor with other student leaders from around the state to learn more about the political process and be introduced as guests. This experience speaks to the importance of staying engaged as citizens in our government. We hope that the Nevada Education Awareness Day becomes a student tradition. UNLV graduate student government is proud to have participated in this important inaugural event. We wish to thank Senator Ruben Kihuen and the Director of the Nevada Education Coalition Sebring Frehner for their assistance in getting the day of education on the official calendar. We anxiously await the outcome of this year’s legislative session near the beginning of June. You can still get involved and have your voices heard by contacting your legislators and the state education committees with your concerns through social media or official email. For more information, please visit the newly redesigned webpage: http://www.leg.state.nv.us/.

Graduate & Professional Students—Don’t miss out on a great resource

The Graduate Student Commons is a study facility that was designed specifically for UNLV graduate and professional students. The Commons is located on the 2nd floor of the Lied Library and is maintained by the GPSA. It is equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer and office supplies, 39 desktop computers, wireless access, 5 large LCD touch screen panels, whiteboards, small kitchen area and more. A small conference room is also available for meetings and study groups on a reservation basis, 702-895-2261. The facility recently added 3 MACs and 2 multi scanner feeders. Stop by and check us out.

The Commons technology needs are supported by IT staff, Michael Sy, Computer Facilities Supervisor and his assistant, John Ng. The two offer their invaluable support to the Graduate Student Commons. They’re an integral part of the lab’s success. We can’t thank them enough for their wonderful attitude and quick responses to students’ requests for technology assistance.
Graduate Student Spotlight

by Megan Gilliland

Ryan Harrod is a doctoral student in the Anthropology Department and recently won an award at the GPSA Research Symposium for his collaborative work with colleague, Anna Osterholtz. He uses bioarchaeology as a method to obtain biological and cultural data from studying ancient burials and human remains from cultures all over the world going back in time thousands of years.

His focus on the study of social inequality and violence at UNLV has provided a number of opportunities. Many of these opportunities are local, such as working with the ancient and historic human remains housed on campus, to working with archival and ethnohistoric data on the patterns of violence here in Southern Nevada.

Ryan’s presentation at the GPSA Research Forum placed 1st place in the Social Science Poster Session A. His research looks at violence during the Bronze Age in a population from the United Arab Emirates. The unique aspect of this project however, is not the role of violence but the methodological challenges of identifying violence when human skeletal remains are incomplete and commingled to the point that individuals are nearly impossible to identify.

Carol Servino is a doctoral candidate in the public affairs Ph.D. program in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. She began the program after meeting a man who dropped out of school many years ago and regretted not completing his degree. Her dissertation defense date is set for April 8 and she will be pursuing an academic position. Currently, Servino is a graduate research assistant for Jessica Word, the primary investigator on a nonprofit economic impact project report for The Lincy Institute and Brookings Mountain West.

Carol recently shared her research at the GPSA Research Brown Bag entitled: “Driving forces: Factors affecting police officer injuries in motor vehicle incidents in the United States.” She states that motor vehicle crashes caused the majority of fatalities to police officers in the U.S. for more than a decade, yet little is known about the factors contributing to injury crashes. Her research required original research and she conducted a national survey of police chiefs in state, county, and local agencies of all sizes.
Today
Open seats exist for GPSA’s Summer Council. Representatives are needed for the College of Allied Health, School of Law and the School of Nursing.

Tomorrow
Spread the word that representatives are needed for summer.

April 30
Book scholarship deadline

May 2
Final GPSA Social @ Paradise Cantina, 5:00-8:00pm

May 6
GPSA Council Meeting in the Student Union room 208B/C @ 2:00-3:30pm

May 13
If graduating this May this is the last day for electronic submission of final thesis/dissertation (with formatting pre-approved by the Graduate College) to ProQuest.

May 19
UNLV Commencement

June 5
GPSA Council Meeting, 10 a.m., Student Union room 211

July 1
GPSA Council Meeting, 10 a.m., Student Union room 211

August 5
GPSA Council Meeting, 10 a.m., Student Union room 213

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

Attend UNLV athletic events for free:
http://www.unlvtickets.com/students/

This final newsletter of the 2012–2013 academic year is brought to you by the Publications Committee:

- Jennifer Liese, Chair
- Tony Patricia
- Megan Gilliland
- Sara Kaplan

FREE COFFEE & BAGELS
Graduate Student Commons
Lied Library room 2141

from 8:00 – 11:00am
during last week of instruction:
May 6 – 10, 2013

(Available until refreshments are exhausted)

The GPSA would like to thank Einstein Bros. Bagels located in the Science & Engineering Building.