Message from GPSA President Michael Gordon

With tax day around the corner (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 a third 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 $125,000, one of the highest in GPSA history! On the activities front, we tried something new this year and had free 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 GPSA lounge. Highlights of the rest of the budget was paying the student workers who staff the GPSA lounge, equipment maintenance, free editions of the NY Times and the salary for our wonderful business manager Becky Boulton.

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 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. The next funding formula committee meeting will be held on Wednesday April 25 from 9am-12pm at a location to be determined.

Good luck with finals, and, if you are graduating this semester, a hearty congratulations from your 2011-12 Council!

Michael Gordon
Student Body President
Graduate & Professional Student Association

GPSA is an opportunity to showcase your talents and further the goals of your student government! Join us on this adventure!! All we ask for is willingness on your part – willingness to share your ideas, attend our meetings and events and willingness to engage with us and your fellow students on pertinent issues.
Introducing the Incoming GPSA Executive Board

The 2012–2013 GPSA E-Board elections were held Monday, March 26th through Friday, March 30th. The candidates introduced themselves at the March 26th GPSA Council meeting. After a week of elections, the results are in...

President: Michael Gordon

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 Greenspun College of Urban Affairs Alumni chapter 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

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

Secretary: Jennifer Liese

Jennifer Liese is a current representative of the Journalism and Media Studies program, member of the Publications committee and writer for the Luminary. She is also a freelance writer for the Rebel Yell. Prior to joining UNLV as a graduate student, Jennifer served as the Chapter President of Golden Key International Honor Society at Towson University. She is working on her M.A. in Journalism and Media Studies.

Contact: liesej@unlv.nevada.edu

Treasurer: Jennifer Reid

Jennifer Reid is a current representative of the Sociology Department. She joined movements to Carson City to protest tuition increases and budget cuts to public education. She has spoken at NSHE Board of Regents meetings, on KNPR State of Nevada radio, and Higher Education Funding Formula Committee meetings. Jennifer works with many local social justice organizations and has constantly fought over the past two years for access to and support for higher education.

Contact: reedj32@unlv.nevada.edu
Graduate Student Commons Area Relocation Project

Vicki Nozero, Director of User Services, University Libraries, spoke to GPSA members at the March 5 meeting about the process and status of relocating the current graduate student lounge from the third floor to the second floor of Lied Library. She said she and others who have been involved in the relocation project are excited about the new space and opportunities for improved collaboration between the Libraries and graduate and professional students. She provided this “finish board” illustration, which shows the floor plan, furniture, and some furnishings decided through a process of meetings.

Ms. Nozero said construction has been in the planning stage for about two and a half years; attention to décor details is now taking place. She said many groups have been involved, and that the architects and designers have responded well to students’ suggestions. A variety of spaces for meetings, seminars, and other activities are being built in the new “commons.” The enclosed meeting room is designed not only to be reconfigured for lectures and seminars but also will be equipped with a DVD player, hookups and docking stations for laptops.

She said the design of the floor plan is mainstream to the library, which means it will feel more a part of the library. The main wall will be made of textured and colored glass with double doors leading into the designated space. The front part will be a group area; there are three group areas separated by white boards that can be moved.

Technology also will include a 45-inch to 50-inch touch-screen, space for a laptop(s) with keyboard(s) to move around, wall monitors, tables without computers or monitors, furniture with upholstery, and laminate tops. She noted that the interior designer suggested glass for the walls and space to share research with others through whiteboards on inside and outside walls. Discussion about the longevity of whiteboards led to the plan to have opaque glass that you can write on (and erase). Outlets will be plentiful for recharging laptops. The back part of the space will have individual study areas; carrels will be equipped with chairs on wheels that can move around; the group study areas will have a modern look. Work areas will be separate but their design will help define and integrate their functions. Another area will have a refrigerator, sink, and a counter rather than a table because it is in a quiet area.

Ms. Nozero said that an open group area is integrated into the common space, but that noise reduction materials should mitigate noise problems. In response to questions, she also said that the square footage of the graduate study area is smaller than the current space but “it will not seem smaller” and that the number of computers available will be greater than the current number. She also said that subject librarians may be able to come in and offer seminars in the graduate student commons area as a service to graduate students.

A board with samples of carpet, glass, and materials for interior spaces is on display in the current graduate study space on the third floor.

Do you know what to do in case of an emergency on campus?

Emergency preparedness presentations by Campus Police are available on campus, but that office has prepared a brochure that explains how the Emergency Notification System (ENS) works and what you can do to help yourself and others in the case of an “active shooter” situation. See page 7 for information.

Also note that the Campus Police web pages are a source of information for those looking for crime prevention tips [http://police.unlv.edu/tips/].
NEW AND EXCITING INFORMATION FROM THE GRADUATE COLLEGE!

- **Doctoral Stipend Increase**  We're thrilled to announce that for the first time in more than a decade, UNLV’s minimum doctoral stipend amount is increasing beginning in fall 2012. Doctoral GAs will receive $13,000 for a standard fall & spring contract; doctoral students who advance to candidacy prior to the deadline for each semester (Aug. 1st for fall; Dec. 23 for spring; May 1st for summer beginning in 2013) will receive a $15,000 stipend for the academic year.

- **Scholarships & Fellowships**  In addition to the annual scholarships distributed by Financial Aid, the Graduate College will be announcing the 2012-2013 graduate scholarship and fellowship winners by May 1st. This year we are awarding 68 scholarships and 7 fellowships which are together worth more than $350,000 -- this marks a significant increase in our graduate college awards from previous years (approx. $170,000 worth of new awards for 2012-2013).

- **Graduate Research Certificate Available in Fall 2012**  The Graduate Council’s Professional Development Committee and the Graduate College will be offering a free research certificate program for graduate students beginning in the fall 2012 semester. Please watch the Graduate College website for additional information and directions on how to apply.

- **Website Updates & New Features Coming this Summer**  The Graduate College website has undergone extensive updating and revision this semester. If you haven't visited the site at [graduatecollege.unlv.edu](http://graduatecollege.unlv.edu) recently, please do so. You'll find a plethora of new information to make your graduate experience easier. Additional pages and materials will continue to be added and a new look is on the way in academic year 2012-2013, too. As part of this next stage of website development to better serve graduate students, faculty and programs, the graduate college will be adding a series of online videos to provide information and guidance to prospective students, current students, graduate faculty/coordinators & program staff.

- **Annual Graduate Catalog Coming in August**  The 2011-2012 Graduate Catalog is available on our website via the link on the bottom right of the graduate college home page, but in August we'll be unveiling the first of our new, annual graduate catalogs! No longer will catalogs span 2 years and become outdated; beginning in August, we'll be publishing the new, annual catalog via our website every August.

- **Coming Soon: Information about New Recruitment and Retention Awards**  The graduate college will be announcing two new programs soon. One is a Graduate Access Recruitment Scholarship program to recruit the best and brightest new students into graduate programs all across campus; the other is a Graduate Access Retention Scholarship program to serve as one-time emergency financial assistance for qualifying students to keep outstanding scholars in their programs and increase graduation rates.

**Thanks to Dr. Kate Korgan, Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate College, for the important updates.**

**WebCampus Support Changes Beginning May 1st**

Starting May 1st, WebCampus support will be provided by trained specialists at the IT Help Desk in UNLV's Office of Information Technology. WebCampus support based here on campus should improve the quality of service, but will limit the hours of phone support to 7am-11pm, every day including holidays. Help requests and voicemails can be left 24 hours a day. Faculty are asked to consider making assignments due at 10pm instead of midnight so help will be available to students should they have issues submitting them.
The GPSA Research Forum

Every year, the GPSA hosts its annual research forum, providing an opportunity for graduate and professional students to share their research. For students new to presenting research, this proves an excellent opportunity to practice in a professional setting. Approximately $125,000 in grant money for student research and conference travel was awarded by the GPSA during the 2011-2012 academic year, and recipients of GPSA grant money are required to give a poster or oral presentation at the event.

This year’s forum was held on Saturday, March 17, 2012, and while the research forum is always one of the GPSA’s largest events, according to GPSA Vice President and Chair of the Grants and Research Forum Committees, Thomas Bussey, this was the GPSA’s largest event to date! We had approximately 167 participants, 41 judges and 18 volunteers.

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 GPSA Lounge and on the GPSA website: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/pdf/2012ResearchForumBooklet.pdf

The GPSA extends tremendous gratitude to the supportive faculty who served as judges and provided important feedback to presenters.

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/2012OutstandingPresentations.pdf

UNLV Cares Food Pantry

Randal Rosman, GPSA Council Representative and treasurer of UNLV Cares Food Pantry, announced at the March 26 GPSA meeting that the group has achieved “non-profit status” and is now able to accept donations that are made online. He also said that the Food Pantry would move to new and larger space across the hall in its present location on Maryland Parkway across from campus the second floor of the Promenade Center.

UNLV Cares is an independent student organization that provides a support system for any UNLV community member who may be struggling due to budget cuts. GPSA Community Service Chair Kyle Kaalberg explained that as a separate entity, the organization runs entirely on volunteer services and donations and that members of the GPSA Community Continued on page 6
The Funding Formula
Changes to the Funding of Higher Education and its Impact on UNLV
by Jennifer Liese

The formula deciding how Nevada higher education will be funded for the next decade is yet to be decided, but some headway has been made. Chancellor Dan Klaich has presented his proposal for an alternative formula, and recently an outside consulting firm has been hired.

The 12-member committee organized to examine the funding formula, voted to establish a contract with SRI International at the end of February. SRI International will study the current formula and work with the funding formula committee to propose an alternative plan. This new plan will be brought to Carson City in 2013 for the 57 legislators to examine, amend, and vote upon.

The latest version of Chancellor Dan Klaich’s funding formula benefits the southern schools over their northern counterparts. Much debate is currently underway on this proposal from Chancellor Klaich that rewards institutions with higher graduation rates and research missions over higher enrollment figures in the current formula. In the new proposed formula, 100 percent of student registration fees and non-resident tuition will be retained by their respective institutions. Course completions rather than enrollments will be rewarded, and research missions of universities will be accounted and weighted. For example, UNLV and UNR would be given 10 percent more than their base funding because of their research programs.

If approved, it has been estimated that UNLV and Nevada State College would receive an additional $3 million each, and CSN would get $7 million more. Northern NSHE institutions would see a decrease in funding. UNR would lose approximately $1.3 million; Truckee Meadows Community College could lose nearly $2.9 million. Also, Great Basin College and Nevada Western College would see estimated cuts of $4.6 million and $4.5 million.

In the current funding formula, most of the revenue collected from tuition and fees do not stay at their respective campuses. For example at UNLV: 100 percent of all non-resident registration fees, 65 percent of Undergraduate resident, and 70 percent of Graduate resident registration fees goes straight into the funding formula that is split between UNLV, UNR, and state community colleges.

Gerry Bomotti, UNLV Vice President of Finance and Business said, “We do get penalized for bringing in more non-residents.” Bomotti explained that in the current funding formula, institutions that draw more out-of-state and international students end up subsidizing the other institutions. Much interest will be focused on SRI International’s findings and alternative funding formula proposal.

With millions of dollars at stake, debate over new funding formula proposals are sure to heat up in the coming weeks and months. The next funding formula meeting is scheduled for April 25th, at 9am in the Grant Sawyer Building. Future meetings are scheduled for 9am on May 23rd and June 27th.
Dr. Dave James, associate vice provost for academic affairs, will be the guest speaker at the April 30 GPSA Council meeting. He will talk about his work with the Course Evaluation Task Group at UNLV, which has been involved in conversations with students and other groups regarding the student evaluation of teaching at UNLV. Student Sessions were held recently in the Student Union. Questions about the process may be addressed to Dr. Dave James via email at dave.james@unlv.edu or by phone at 895-5804.
Today Open seats exist for GPSA’s Summer Council. Representatives are needed for the College of Allied Health, College of Business, School of Nursing and the College of Science.

Tomorrow Spread the word that representatives are needed for summer.

April 20 If graduating this May, this is the last day to submit the final paper to the Graduate College for final format review; all final exam results and final documents must be submitted to the Graduate College by this date.

April 30 Book scholarship deadline

April 30 GPSA Council Meeting in the Student Union room 208A @ 2:00-3:30pm

April 30 Final GPSA Social @ Crown & Anchor, 4:00-6:00pm

May 1 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 12 UNLV Commencement

June 4 GPSA Council Meeting, 10 a.m., Student Union, 2nd floor

July 2 GPSA Council Meeting, 10 a.m., Student Union, 2nd floor

August 6 GPSA Council Meeting, 10 a.m., Student Union, 2nd floor

Noteworthy UNLV Dates

Save a Life - Join the Facebook Campaign

The path to completing a graduate degree can be difficult. The pressure of personal and academic responsibilities can build beyond one's ability to cope.

The National Graduate Student Crisis Line (800-GRAD-HLP) is available 24/7 to listen, connect and assist you right now. Grad Resources is available to support you throughout the rest of the year. www.gradresources.org Find us on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Grad-Resources/118050504916779

This final newsletter of the semester is brought to you by the Publications Committee: Chair Carol Servino, Monika Bertaki, Jared Goode & Jennifer Liese. Special thanks for help and support from honorary member Rebecca Boulton.