A Welcome to New and Returning Students from
Michael Gordon, GPSA President

Welcome new and returning graduate and professional students! Congratulations on your admittance to UNLV. We wish you luck in your journey through graduate school. Your time at UNLV is sure to be challenging and meaningful. We invite you to take advantage of all the opportunities and amenities this campus has to offer. As a graduate and/or professional student you are a part of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), the recognized student government for all UNLV graduate and professional students. We represent around 5,500 students and exist to: 1) advocate for graduate and professional students within the university system and the Board of Regents; 2) provide funding to graduate and professional students for research and conference presentations; and 3) to organize fun and relaxing social events. This newsletter will be a helpful tool in the upcoming year providing important information for incoming and returning students: a calendar of events, resources available on campus, funding opportunities, and social and professional development activities. Best of luck for the upcoming semester. We can’t wait to see you at one of our Fall 2012 events!!

Michael Gordon, GPSA President

Studying on Campus just got a Whole Lot Better

Looking for a place to work on your group project, study for a test or write your thesis or dissertation? Come visit us in the new Graduate Student Commons, Lied Library room 2141. This state of the art facility is equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, 38 desktop computers, wireless access, 5 large LCD touch screen panels, whiteboards, a small kitchen and much more. You can read your free copy of 'The New York Times' provided by the GPSA on the comfortable couches. New this fall, the GPSA will be offering a Graduate Research Brown Bag the first Wednesday of the month to be held in the meeting room in the new space. Please check the GPSA website for registration details.

Be sure to mark your calendars on September 12, 2012 3:30—5:30 pm for the official grand opening of the Graduate Student Commons.
Meet your GPSA 2012 – 2013 Executive Board

The GPSA Executive Board would like to meet you. The e-board will have office hours from 3:30—4:30pm in the Student Union room 306, following every fall and spring semester council meeting. Fall meeting dates are listed below.

GPSA President Michael Gordon came to Las Vegas from Cape Town, South Africa on a Rotary International Ambassadorial scholarship. He received both his LLB and LLM degrees in private law from the University of South Africa. Michael received his Masters in Public Administration from UNLV in May 2008. He is currently a doctoral student in public affairs in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. Q: If you were a candy bar which one would you be and why? A: Snickers bar for two reasons. One it's my favorite candy bar and two, just like the Snickers commercials, I get cranky when I'm hungry.

GPSA Vice President Sharon Young began her studies at UNLV in 2007 as an MA student in the anthropology department, and is currently working on a PhD biomedical anthropology. Her research focuses on maternal reproduction and health, investigating the growing practice of human maternal placentophagy in evolutionary and cross-cultural context. Previously, Sharon served as the anthropology department GPSA representative and on the GPSA Sponsorship Committee before joining the E-board.

GPSA Treasurer Jennifer Reed came to Las Vegas in 2008 to pursue her PhD in sociology. She received her MA at the University of Akron in Ohio. Her areas of specialty include environment, health and technology, sexuality and gender, and politics, social movements and social change. Last year she served as the GPSA sociology department representative. Jennifer is a proud mom, grandma, and avid social justice activist. Q: If you were a candy bar which one would you be and why? A: Nutrageous. Because I am a great mix of sweet and nutty that is really different and cool.

GPSA Secretary Jennifer Liese recently began her studies at UNLV in 2011. She is working on her MA in Journalism and Media Studies. She received her BS from Towson University in Maryland. Her research examines visual rhetoric and narratives of published war images. Last year Jennifer served as the GPSA journalism and media studies department representative. Q: If you were a candy bar which one would you be and why? A: Payday. It has a perfect combination of peanuts and caramel, and it’s my favorite snack to keep me going for hours at the library.

Graduate & Professional Student Association—Who we are

GPSA is the official and recognized governing body that serves currently enrolled UNLV graduate and professional students. Its purpose is to enrich the experience of campus life for graduate and professional students. Serving on the council are representatives from each department and professional school. The executive board consists of four elected members of the council: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The GPSA Council, supported by Manager Becky Boulton, meets monthly in the Student Union in an open forum to discuss current issues, activities, events, and goals that impact graduate and professional students. GPSA activities include hosting regular social hours and community service events. GPSA allocates and awards $110,000 for student research and conference travel. One of GPSA’s main activities is co-hosting with the Graduate College an annual spring Research Forum held in the Student Union.
Don’t miss out on GPSA Funding Opportunities

GPSA Research and Conference Travel Sponsorships

Need funding for your research project or to attend a conference during the spring 2013 semester? GPSA sponsorship information and application is available at http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grant.htm. Deadline for the GPSA Spring 2013 sponsorship is November 15, 2012; Summer sponsorship deadline is March 15, 2013. Also available are emergency travel funding (for conference presentation only). Check the GPSA website to see if you qualify. These are a few projects the GPSA supported this past summer:

Graduate student Lauren Adkins received funding to purchase materials for her MFA thesis exhibition. The project, tentatively titled Love is Overtaking Me, will culminate in a live, performative art exhibition and experience, spanning the entirety of one evening in the early spring 2013 semester. During this event, Lauren will be conducting an elaborate performance piece wherein she will "marry" a popular fictional love interest in the form of a cardboard cut-out - Edward Cullen from the largely popular Twilight Series - in a Las Vegas wedding chapel. The wedding will be fully documented by a professional videographer and will include testimonials from guests.

Michelle Escasa is a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology working with Dr. Peter Gray. Her research interests include human relationships and behavioral endocrinology from an evolutionary and cross-cultural perspectives. Michelle has conducted research on the mate preferences of indigenous Achuar and Quichua women in the Ecuadorian Amazon and on the hormonal responses of men and women after exposure to sexual stimuli in local Las Vegas. Her dissertation research focuses on the influence of lactation on female sociosexuality and mate preferences in urban Manila. Breastfeeding women report differences in commitment to their relationship, jealousy levels, sexual functioning, and preferences for high-pitched voices. The dissertation also includes a discussion of the cultural factors that may also be playing a role in breastfeeding women’s mate preferences and sociosexuality.

GPSA Book Scholarships

The GPSA has set up a book scholarship program. It is designed to offer financial assistance to graduate and professional students purchasing textbooks for the upcoming semester. Ten (10) scholarships are awarded each Fall and Spring semester in the amount of $100.00 each.

Eligibility: To qualify for the GPSA Book Scholarship students must be admitted and enrolled full-time (9 credits or 6 credits with a graduate assistantship). Students must also have and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA, be in good academic standing and have completed at least six (6) graduate credit hours at UNLV. Students are permitted to receive no more than one GPSA Book Scholarship for the duration of their UNLV academic career. The application is available at: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grant.htm Incomplete or late applications will be disqualified.

Deadlines: Applications are due April 30th for the fall semester and October 30th for the spring semester.
Making the most of Campus Resources—Don’t miss out!

* The Writing Center is located in the Central Desert Complex (CDC), Building 3, room 301, 702-895-3908. The Center provides assistance to any student, from first-year students to graduate students working on their theses or dissertation. If you are a graduate assistant and would like a Writing Center consultant to come to your class to briefly discuss their services and provide informational material (such as brochures and bookmarks) for your students, you may either call or email the Assistant Director, Jacquie Elkouz, jacquie.elkouz@unlv.edu, with the time, location, number of students, contact information, and the desired date of the presentation.

* Student Wellness and Recreation Center is a state-of-the-art facility providing a wide variety of exercise equipment and classes, dissertation & thesis student support groups, workshops and much more. All of these opportunities are conducive to your physical and mental well being and educational success. More information is available at: http://hrwc.unlv.edu/

* Career Services provides: career counseling; resume critiquing; in-office resources including job search computer lab and library; employer events including UNLV Career Day held during the spring and fall semesters; and mock interviewing. In addition, the online job search and recruiting system, UNLV CareerLink, is available to you for 3 months after graduation, after which you can get a new account when you join the UNLV Alumni Association, 702-895-3621. Contact Career Services at 702-895-3495, located in Student Services Complex (SSC), Bldg. A.

Discounts offered just by showing your RebelCard

- Raisin’ Canes
- Venetian Show Tickets
- Pink Taco in Hard Rock Hotel – 30% off of bill
- Station Casino Movie Theatres
- Town Square Rave Motion Pictures
- Best Buy – Maryland Parkway – 10% off
- Apple Stores
- Del Taco – Maryland and Tropicana – 10% off
- The Rebel Den – Maryland Parkway – 20% off
- The Lunch Box – Maryland Parkway – 10% off
- Stephano’s – Maryland Parkway – Free drink with any plate or bowl purchase
- Baja Bar and Grill – Maryland Parkway – On Thursday, spend $10 and get a free potato taco
- Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf – Maryland Parkway – 10% off

For more discounts offered by local vendors please visit: http://rebelcard.unlv.edu/vendor.html

Fulbright U.S. Student Program & UNLV’s International Programs Scholarship Opportunities

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program provides prestigious awards that fund study and research abroad or English teaching abroad for graduating seniors and graduate students. For advising and coaching on the application process, please set up an appointment with the Office of International Programs at 702-895-3896. Campus deadline for the 2013—2014 year is October 1, 2012. For more information on the Fulbright US Student Program, visit: http://us.fulbrightonline.org/.

Through UNLV’s International Programs scholarships are available to qualified students for UNLV sponsored study abroad programs (including USAC programs). Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale. UNLV’s International Programs & USAC Scholarships are based on academic merit, an essay, and participation in a UNLV sponsored study abroad program. Scholarship applications are due in February for summer or fall scholarships and in October for spring scholarships. For application and more information: http://internationalprograms.unlv.edu/.
New Direction for Funding Higher Education in Nevada  
by President Michael Gordon

Senate Bill 374 adopted in the previous legislative session, created the Committee to Study the Funding of Higher Education with the main objective being the creation of a new higher education funding formula. This particular legislative committee has been busy over the last nine months hearing various presentations from interested stakeholders ranging from access for minority and low-income students to funding formulas in other states—all of which can be found here: http://leg.state.nv.us/Interim/76th2011/Committee/Studies/FundingHigherEd/index.cfm?ID=34

Additionally, Chancellor Klaich introduced his new funding formula proposal during the Spring 2012 semester. An updated version of his proposal can be found here: http://system.nevada.edu/tasks/sites/Nshe/assets/File/Initiatives/fundingformula/Funding%20Model%20Summary%20Revised_8_12.pdf

In it, the Chancellor proposes that institutions retain any tuition and fees collected on the individual campus together with an additional $362 million divided between the eight NSHE institutions. State funding will also be distributed based on a discipline matrix regardless of the institution’s size, type or mission. The discipline matrix assigns weights to each degree program based on the cost to the state. One of the debating points is how these weights are determined and whether specific degree programs should be weighted more to better reflect higher education’s alignment with the state development goals.

The main thrust of the Chancellor’s proposal is to bring Nevada in line with best practices found in other states’ higher education funding decisions and that is to reward institutions based on performance metrics specifically related to output/outcome measures.

The next steps for the Committee will be to come up with a list of recommendations for a new, transparent and easy-to-understand formula that will be presented to the 77th Regular Session of the Nevada Legislature—a formula all stakeholders, including students, will be able to support.

UNLV Police Services reinstates Public Safety Advisory Board

UNLV Police Services would like to congratulate and welcome graduate student Fred Myers as the newly selected graduate student representative of the UNLV Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB). This appointment was made by President Smatresk.

The PSAB was formed in 2002 and serves as a liaison between the campus community and the UNLV Department of Police Services. The relationship between the PSAB and the UNLV Police Services’ Department provides it with invaluable insights into the safety and security concerns of UNLV’s faculty, staff and students. Recently, this board had stopped its operations, and an effort has been made to reconstitute the board. Members of this board do not need a background in law enforcement, and they should represent the rich diversity found here on our UNLV campus.

The first meeting of the PSAB is still in the planning stage and no firm date has yet been established, but it will take place early in the upcoming fall 2012 semester. The PSAB was designed to have staggered representation with all members serving a full 3 year term. The Board will meet a minimum of two times each during the fall and spring semesters. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the PSAB prior to the first meeting, please don’t hesitate to contact Hobreigh Fischer at 702-895-1302.
In memorium, Vice President of Research and Graduate College Dean, Ron Smith

It is with profound sadness that UNLV announces the passing of Dr. Ronald W. Smith, vice president for research and dean of the Graduate College. Dr. Smith passed away June 23 following a long illness. VP Smith had just recently completed his fortieth year at UNLV having arrived in 1972. During that time he was a prodigious scholar and an excellent teacher and mentor to his students. For those of us who were his colleagues he will be known for always stepping up to serve the UNLV community when called upon. He served as department chair, associate dean, Dean of the Graduate College, Provost, and even as President for a short while. At the time of his death he was serving as Vice President for Research.

Dr. Smith is survived by his wife, Susan Thompson; his sister, Eleanor; his daughter, Kelly Pelligrino, and her husband, Paul, and Ron's lovely granddaughters, Zoe and Kate.

The family has established the Ron Smith and Susan Thompson Scholarship Fund through the UNLV Foundation, which will support students in sociology, anthropology and foreign languages.

A campus memorial service has been scheduled for September 28th at 4:00—5:00pm in the UNLV Student Union Ballroom for the service. A reception will immediately follow from 5:00-7:00pm

The content of this article was retrieved from http://news.unlv.edu/article/memoriam-vice-president-ron-smith

GPSA Research Brown Bag

New this fall semester the GPSA will be bring you a brown bag series. Each event will feature 2 graduate and/or professional students from designated Colleges that will share their research. Time will be given after each presentation for Q & A. Please join us from noon—1:00pm in the Graduate Student Common’s meeting room, LLB 2141. Questions: please contact GPSA Vice President Sharon Young—sharon.young@unlv.edu or GPSA Manager Becky Boulton—rebecca.boulton@unlv.edu / 702-895-2261

- September 5th from noon—1:00pm: GPSA Liberal Arts College Research Brown Bag
- October 3rd from noon—1:00pm: GPSA College of Sciences Research Brown Bag
- November 7th from noon—1:00pm: GPSA Hotel College Research Brown Bag
- December 5th from noon—1:00pm: GPSA Health Sciences Research Brown Bag

UNLV Campus Master Plan

At the June 4th GPSA Council Meeting David Frommer, Executive Director, Planning and Construction discussed the site plan diagram of the Master Plan for UNLV. This contained the 10 year horizon campus plan, with the intention of creating a cohesive integrated UNLV campus community. This plan would bring a “Mega-Events Center” and “University Village” (UNLV Now) to the campus, expanded academics and graduate student housing. There would be a move from surface parking to structured parking and integration of mass-transit into campus. This is on the Board of Regents agenda as an action item at the November 29-30, 2012 meeting.

Check out this website: http://www.unlv.edu/masterplan and see what you think of the plans. Concerns, suggestions, comments . . . contact President Michael Gordon, who is serving on the Master Plan Steering Committee.
Plan Ahead—Deadline Dates for Graduation Regalia

- **Juris Doctorate Regalia (Law Students):** available for purchase in the UNLV Bookstore after November 19, 2012.
- **Doctor of Medical Dentistry Regalia (Dental Students):** can be purchased and/or rented through the UNLV Dental School.
- **Master's Regalia:** available for purchase in the UNLV Bookstore after November 19, 2012.
- **Doctoral Regalia (Ph.D., Ed.D., D.N.P., D.P.T.):** the Academic regalia needs to be ordered on or before Friday, October 19, 2012 (8 weeks before Graduation). This regalia is recommended for students that are going on to work at a college or university. The standard regalia needs to be ordered on or before Friday, November 2, 2012 (6 weeks before Graduation).

Graduate College - Dates to Remember

**Fall Semester**
- August 24, 2012--New Graduate Student Orientation
- August 27, 2012--First day of Classes
- October 1, 2012--Last day to apply for fall graduation in MyUNLV
- November 17, 2012--Last day to take comprehensive exam or defend a thesis, dissertation, or doctoral project.
- November 27, 2012--Last day to submit first draft of thesis, or doctoral project to the graduate college.
- December 11, 2012--Last day to submit to ProQuest
- December 14, 2012--Doctoral Candidate Reception
- December 18, 2012--Commencement

**Spring Semester**
- January 18, 2013--New Graduate Student Orientation
- January 22, 2013--First day of classes
- March 1, 2013--Last day to apply for spring graduation in MyUNLV
- April 13, 2013--Last day to take comprehensive exam or defend a thesis, dissertation, or doctoral project.
- April 19, 2013--Last day to submit first draft of thesis, dissertation or doctoral project to the Graduate College
- May 13, 2013--Last day to submit to ProQuest
- May 17, 2013--Doctoral Candidate Reception
- May 19, 2013--Commencement

GPSA Awards

The GPSA recognizes students and faculty from across disciplines and classifications for their contributions to the development and continuing growth of UNLV. Learn more about how to nominate a deserving student or faculty member: [http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants/](http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants/). Application deadline is **December 7, 2012**.
Noteworthy UNLV Dates

August 24  New Graduate Student Orientation in the Student Union Ballroom from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Library tour immediately following.

August 27  Instruction Begins

August 29  “Welcome” GPSA Social/Mixer @ the Stan Fulton Building from 4:30—7:30 p.m. (see flyer below)

September 5  2012 Wellness Expo & SRWC 5-Year Premiere, Student Recreation and Wellness Center from 11am-2pm

September 10  GPSA Council Meeting, Student Union room 208A B & C from 2:00—3:30 p.m.

September 13  President Smatresk’s State of the University Address, Judy Baley Theatre from 10-11:30am

September 19  Chamber Orchestra Concert, Rando-Grillot Recital Hall, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Event is free.

September 19  Black Mountain Institute: Medical Ethics Panel, Student Ballroom, 7-8:30pm. Event is free.

October 1  GPSA Council Meeting, Student Union room 208A B & C from 2:00—3:30 p.m.

October 12  Women’s soccer vs San Diego State, Peter Johann Soccer Field @ 7pm

October 13  UNLV football vs UNR, @ the Sam Boyd Stadium, 12:00pm; UNLV tailgate from 10am—noon

October 22  UNLV Law Fair, Student Union room 208 from 10am-2pm

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

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

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GPSA newsletter archives are available: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/newsletter/

Make the most of your academic experience—meet your fellow graduate & professional students at one of GPSA’s scheduled events. Check http://gpsa.unlv.edu/ for upcoming activities!