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Who Will Be the Next GPSA President?
by Monika Bertaki

Graduate and professional students talk about changes they want to see but few have the opportunity to actually act on those wishes. The GPSA election is that opportunity. If you are interested in running, GPSA is looking for applicants for the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary positions.

Applicants should be in good academic standing and currently admitted to a graduate or professional program. The application is due in the GPSA office, LLB 3251 by Friday, March 23rd.

Each candidate will be expected to make a speech to the GPSA council on Monday, March 26th at 2pm in the Student Union: Room 208A, where the council members will then cast their ballots.

Results of the GPSA elections will be announced and posted by Monday April 2nd.

Budget Considerations and its Impact on Graduate and Professional Students
by Jennifer Liese

Tuition will increase 5% for graduate students for the 2012-2013 school year. Many students are asking themselves: How much more are classes going to cost? Can I afford to go to school? Will tuition continue to rise?

Las Vegas’ economy has been crippled by the economic recession in the last 5 years, and tuition has been raised exponentially since 2007. Tuition increases, salary and benefit cuts, furloughs, and a loss of more than 700 positions responded to the $73.2 million dollar budget cuts since 2007.

With the new rise in tuition, registration fees will have spiked 76.29% since 2007 for graduate students. Currently, graduate courses are $251.50 per credit, and starting this summer will go up to $264.00.

As fees increase for graduate students, financial aid options diminish. Starting

Budget Update continued on page 4
New and Improved Graduate Commons
Area in Lied Library!

Psst! (soft whisper...Hello?)
As a serious graduate student who's made Lied Library a second home, perhaps you have not paid much attention to the remodeling project on the second floor as you head to the Graduate Student Commons on the third floor. You might want to make a mental note: the project is on schedule for the move to the second floor projected for late spring or early summer. Check it out by taking the escalator instead of the elevator or stairs. Do you wonder if it will serve our needs?

They asked. We spoke. They listened! A committee has been working on the details with architects and designers with the Las Vegas firm Lucchesi Galati to focus on the needs of graduate students at UNLV. The new space promises to be attractive and user-friendly, comfortable, and conducive to individual and small group study. We think we'll be happy and productive in our new space.

Victoria A. Nozero, Director of User Services, University Libraries, will provide more information at the March 5th GPSA meeting and will be happy to answer questions about the planned move. Remember, to check the GPSA website to find the hours of operation; they are not the same as Lied Library's hours. The website also lists the computer programs and other services available.

The current GPSA leadership is looking forward to the new space. GPSA President Michael Gordon said, “The library has been very proactive in seeking our input in the design and layout. They have been willing to change certain aspects, they have really been a partner. This has been a collaborative effort, and they have been responsive to student needs and inputs. We are glad to continue this relationship with the library and look forward to this new era.”

When the move to the new second-floor space is complete, there will be twice as many computers (including 4 new MACs) as well as attractive, functional, modular new furniture that will complement existing furniture. Printing still will be available at the rate of $0.03 per page, which is helpful when printing academic journal articles and conference papers. Yes, a snack area with microwave and refrigerator is included in the plans and snacks will continue to be for sale.

The GPSA Spring 2012 Office Hours
Monday–Thursday — 7:30am –10:45pm
Friday — 7:30am–6:45pm
Saturday — 10am – 5:45pm
Sunday — 11am–10:45pm
*Please note the GPSA will have special hours on the following dates:
Presidents’ Day: Monday, February 20, from 9:00 pm to 8:45pm
Easter: Sunday, April 1, from 11:00am to 5:45pm
Spring Break Recess: April 2 – 7, from 8:00am to 7:45pm

HYDRATION STATION

Hydration stations, like this one recently installed on the second floor of Lied Library, are being put in various locations throughout the campus. GPSA supports the project, and paid for one station located near the new Graduate Student Commons area. CSUN, the undergraduate student governing board, and the University are underwriting additional filtering units at a cost of $3,000 each.
Spring 2012 Workshops of Interest to Graduate & Professional Students

Beginning Monday, February 6, the Writing Center will be offering free workshops to UNLV students and staff. These 50-minute workshops will cover:

- Essays: The Basics
- Essays: Introductions/Thesis Statements
- Essays: Writing Paragraphs & Conclusions
- Grammar Refresher I & II
- Writing With Style I & II
- Punctuation
- Mastering the APA Style
- Mastering the MLA Style
- English for International Students I & II
- Writing Timed Essays
- Writing Effective Arguments
- Writing a Research Paper
- How to Avoid Plagiarism
- Top Ten Grammar Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

A complete schedule can be found at: http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/wkshops/Workshops_Schedule_Spring%202012.pdf. To sign up for workshops, please call the Writing Center at 895-3908, or stop by CDC Building 3. More information can be found here: http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/

Contact: Jacquie Elkouz—writingcenter@unlv.edu Phone: 702-895-3908

Graduate Student Workshops by Lied Library

RefWorks: Learn how to create citations and lists of works cited in the various citation styles. Conducted by Rachelle Weigel, UNLV Libraries Instruction Department.

Friday, February 17, 2012, 1-2:00pm, Pioche Room, 1st floor, Lied Library. To register: go to http://www.library.unlv.edu/inst/signup/

Workshop on Designing Effective Research Assignments: Learn how to articulate the skills that students develop through well-crafted research assignments; how to identify the characteristics of effective research assignments; and how to use the process of reverse instructional design to create or modify research assignments. Led by Anne Zald, Associate Professor and Head, UNLV Libraries Instruction Department.

Friday, March 2, 2012, 9-10:30am, Amargosa Room, 1st floor Lied Library. To register: send your contact information to profdev@unlv.edu with Assignment Design Workshop in the Subject line.

Plagiarism: Prevention is Better than the Cure

Conducted by Kate Wintrol, Assistant professor, University Libraries.

Friday, March 9, 2012, 9-10:00am, Pioche Room, 1st floor, Lied Library. To register: send your contact information to profdev@unlv.edu with Plagiarism Workshop in the Subject line. Note: Limited to 24 participants.

RefWorks: Learn how to create citations and lists of works cited in the various citation styles. Conducted by Rachelle Weigel, UNLV Libraries Instruction Department.

Friday, March 16, 10-11:00am, Pioche Room, 1st floor, Lied Library. To register: Go to http://www.library.unlv.edu/inst/signup/

Library Workshops presented by the University Libraries, the Graduate College, and the Consortium for Faculty Professional Opportunities (CFPO).

Great Places to Meet Single Grads #1 & #2

LIED LIBRARY & WORKSHOPS!

No More Subsidized Federal Graduate Student Loans

Learn about changes that may affect YOU!

UNLV’s financial aid office has up-to-date information on its website that may help answer questions regarding recent changes to the subsidized student loan programs and how it impacts graduate students.

To learn about how the Budget Act of 2011 visit the site at http://finaid.unlv.edu/loans/subsidized-eliminated.html.
July 1, 2012, subsidized loans will no longer be available for grad students. However, unsubsidized loans will still be available, which accrue interest at the origination of the loan.

But will tuition continue to rise? Michael Gordon, GPSA President (Graduate & Professional Student Association) explained how we are at the mercy of the state legislature. “We are still relying on appropriations from the state; we’re not a private school, we’re a state school” Michael Gordon says. “If the state doesn’t raise enough revenue through taxes, gaming, and mining taxes, tuition may continue to increase,” he added.

But the end of tuition hikes may be in sight. The General Fund revenues for the state are currently $38 million ahead of projections. “For four and a half years before this, it was the opposite,” Bomotti said. So the state budget is in a much better position and we may be nearing the end of this budget crisis. However, collecting more revenue and fees from increased tuition rates, does not necessarily mean UNLV gets to use that money.

In fact, the majority of the funds collected from tuition and fees do not stay at UNLV. One hundred percent of all non-resident registration fees, 65 percent of undergraduate resident and 70 percent of graduate resident registration fees go straight into the funding formula that is split between UNR and state community colleges. Bomotti and Gordon point out that the funding formula has major flaws especially concerning out-of-state and international students.

“We do get penalized for bringing in more non-residents,” Gerry Bomotti said. “We then – as the institution with the most non-resident tuition – end up subsidizing the other institutions. Although the student fee money does stay on the campus, the real trick is (that) the more that comes in, the more the state withdraws,” he added.

Currently, outside consultants are being sought to review and invent a new funding formula for Nevada. “If the funding formula can be fixed that will help the revenue problems,” Gordon said.

Research Forum Fast Approaching!

Be sure to register for GPSA’s annual research forum by February 17, 2012. The event will take place on the second floor of the student union on Saturday, March 17, 2012; it provides an excellent opportunity for graduate and professional students to share their research with peers and faculty through poster or oral presentations. What a great way to practice research presentations before that conference you are attending in a few months! All graduate and professional students at UNLV are welcome to participate and all GPSA grant recipients for the 2011-2012 school year are required to present. Awards for outstanding presentations will be presented at the close of the event. For more information or to register for the forum go to the GPSA webpage: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/forum/

The Graduate College will be holding informal informational open house/meet-and-greet sessions this semester. This provides an opportunity for graduate and professional students to become better acquainted with our Graduate College staff AND to have questions answered on all kinds of topics which directly affect YOU, the graduate or professional student. Take a look at the topics and dates/times... AND STOP ON BY!

All about Graduate Student Records—Feb. 29, 10-11am
All about Graduate Assistantships—March 8, 10-11am
All about Theses/Dissertations & Graduation—March 14, 1-2pm

The Graduate College office is located in FDH, Room 312. Open house snacks and drinks will be provided by GPSA.
A PhD student in the Sociology department, Brooke Wagner, a UNLV alumna is currently working on her dissertation which focuses on sexual deviance and sexual assault in Las Vegas. As a past volunteer at the Rape Crisis Center and current volunteer for the Jean Nidetch Women’s Center, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and primary organizer for the Commercial Sexualized Exploitation of Children (CSEC), she always finds time to juggle school and home.

Brooke recently won the Presidential Fellowship award granted to three students each year. In addition, she has received a handful of awards, scholarships and grants from the university, College of Liberal Arts and the department of Sociology including the GPSA Service Award and the Graduate Student of the Year award.

Prior to the Presidential Fellowship, Brooke taught courses at UNLV and the College of Southern Nevada, including the introductory Sociology course and 400 level research methods class; making her the only graduate student in the department to teach that course. Brooke has presented over ten papers at national conferences during her time as a doctorate student, co-authored two technical reports, published a book review, published a research paper that has since been translated for a German sociological journal and has three papers currently under review.

As some might know Brooke as a graduate student and a teaching assistant, many may not know that she has two young children. As the mother of a 2 year-old and a 9 year-old, Brooke has managed to balance her school, work and home life and still have such an impressive resume. During her teaching semester, Brooke gave birth to her second child and returned three days later to finish the semester. If that is not devotion to the institution, I don’t know what is!

As she approaches graduation, Brooke hopes to continue her research through a teaching position at a university to carry on her love for teaching and children.

Brooke is the 2012 recipient of the GPSA Merit Award.

Step 1: Contact your Graduate Coordinator to learn of academic conferences in your field of study.

Step 2: Research those conferences and familiarize yourself with those deadlines. Deadline submissions may be several months before the actual conference, so plan ahead.

Step 3: Familiarize yourself with all the submission requirements. Often, an abstract of your paper is part of the initial requirements.

Step 4: Contact the conference organizer, if possible. You may want to do this informally in advance. Concisely state your interest in the conference and use the opportunity to ask questions to bolster your submission. Send in all application requirements.

Step 5: Wait for your results. Upon acceptance, contact your Graduate Coordinator to find out if the department offers funds covering registrations fees or travel for academic conferences. Also, apply for GPSA Grants for research/scholarship. You can find those online at http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants/grants.html

Good Luck!
Noteworthy UNLV Dates

Feb.7 - April 14  UNLV VITA Free Tax Service, see pg. 2

February 17  Research Forum application deadline:
      http://gpsa.unlv.edu/forum/

February 25  Alumni Tailgate UNLV v. Airforce—***Graduate & professional student research posters exhibit

February 29  Funding Formula Committee Meeting - Grant Sawyer Building, 9am

March 1—2  Board of Regents Meeting—College of Southern Nevada (CSN)

March 5  GPSA Council Meeting in the Student Union room 208A, 2:00—3:30pm

March 15  GPSA Summer Grant Deadline: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants/

March 16  Set-up for GPSA Research Forum, Student Union 2nd floor, 3-5pm

March 17  GPSA Research Forum, Student Union 2nd floor, 8am—3pm

March 23  Deadline for applications for GPSA E-Board Elections

March 26  GPSA Council Meeting in the Student Union room 208A, 2:00—3:30 pm


April 9  GPSA Council Meeting in the Student Union room 208A @

April 28  Red Rock Canyon Hiking

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

Join the GPSA at the Pre-game Alumni Association Tailgate

$10 per person
Food and beverage included

- The GPSA will be hosting a research poster exhibit at the Tailgate -

Richard Tam Alumni Center
East side of the campus off of Maryland Parkway

Saturday, February 25, 2012
10:00am - 1:30pm

UNLV vs. Air Force
Game starts at 1:00pm* at Thomas & Mack Center

*Get your game tickets http://www.unlvtickets.com/students
For more information visit: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/alumni

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Join us on Facebook

http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/17807614260/

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Great Places to Meet Single Grads #5
TAILGATES & ATHLETIC EVENTS!

This newsletter brought to you by the Publications Committee:
Chair Carol Servino, Monika Bertaki, Jared Goode & Jennifer Liese