GPSA Executive Board 2013—2014 Elections
by Megan Gilliland

It is almost time to appoint new GPSA Officers. The GPSA election is an opportunity for graduate and professional students to take part in student government and support issues concerning their academic careers.

All graduate and professional students are able to vote for the GPSA officer positions as long as they are currently enrolled and show their RebelCard. Election week runs April 1-5, 2013.

**President**: chairs the GPSA Council and is responsible for guiding the organization on general issues such as goals of the Council, etc. This position receives a tuition waiver of up to 9 credits a semester and a monthly stipend equal to that of a graduate assistant.

**Vice President**: chairs the Sponsorship Committee which evaluates applications and distributes GPSA funding allocations for research and conference travel.

**Treasurer**: chairs the Government Relations committee and presents a financial report at each monthly GPSA meeting.

**Secretary**: chairs the Publications Committee and responsible for preparing and posting the agenda and minutes for each Council meeting.

Those who wish to apply needs to be in good academic standing and currently admitted to a graduate or professional program. Applications are available: [http://gpsa.unlv.edu/council/e-board-elections.html](http://gpsa.unlv.edu/council/e-board-elections.html)

Each candidate will make a speech to the GPSA Council on Monday, April 1 at 2:00pm in the Student Union room 208 A&B. Candidates’ applications can be viewed by voters online at: [http://gpsa.unlv.edu/council/e-board-elections.html](http://gpsa.unlv.edu/council/e-board-elections.html) after March 29th. Voting begins at 4:00pm on Monday, April 1st and ends at 5:00pm on Friday, April 5th in the Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141. For questions concerning the application or voting process, please call 895-2261.

**Important Dates:**
Submission deadline: Friday, March 29, 2013
Candidate speech: April 1, 2013, 2:00pm
Voting: 4:00pm April 1st—5:00pm April 5, 2013
Results announced: Monday, April 8, 2013
Spring 2013 Important Events and Dates

Friday, March 1  
Last day to apply to graduate in Spring

Friday, March 15  
Last day to order academic doctoral regalia from the UNLV Bookstore for Spring Commencement

Friday, March 22  
Last day to order standard doctoral regalia from the UNLV Bookstore for Spring Commencement

Tuesday, April 9  
First day for Masters and Law students to purchase regalia

Saturday, April 13  
Last day to defend thesis/dissertation

Monday, April 19  
Last day to submit thesis/dissertation to the Graduate College

Monday, May 13  
Last day to submit thesis/dissertation on ProQuest

Friday, May 17  
Doctoral Candidate Reception

Sunday, May 19  
Spring Commencement

More information about Graduate College dates & events are available at: http://graduatecollege.unlv.edu/

Graduate & Professional Student Research Forum  
By Sarah E. Kaplan

The Graduate and Professional Student Research Forum allows for students across campus to come together and share their research with other students and faculty. Students can present their research either as a poster or in an oral presentation. This provides an opportunity for students to practice presenting for future conferences in a professional setting. The forum is open to all graduate and professional students at UNLV. This year the GPSA has allocated $110,000 to fund students for research and conference travel. Any graduate and/or professional student who has received GPSA funding for the 2012-2013 year are required to present at the Forum. Awards for outstanding presentations will be announced at the end of the event. Faculty are also encouraged to attend to support their students research and to see other research being conducted campus-wide.

- This year’s Graduate and Professional Student Research Forum will be held on March 16th on the second floor of the Student Union Building.
- To register or to get more information about the event visit the GPSA’s website at http://gpsa.unlv.edu/forum/.
- The deadline to register is Friday, February 15th
The Fight is Not Over
Why Engage in Education Activism at the Legislative Level?
by Jennifer J. Reed
GPSA Treasurer and Chair of the Government Relations Committee

Since the economic downturn began in 2008, the higher education budget has been repeatedly cut. These cuts resulted in a loss of full-time faculty, classes, and programs at UNLV. These losses resulted in UNLV graduate assistant’s workloads increasing, leading to mandates of 80 percent teaching positions and double assignments. At the same time, there has been an increase in the amount of money students have had to borrow in student loans, a loss of government subsidized loans (where the interest is deferred while completing your degree), and an increased burden of debt. As difficult as the last few years have been, it could have been much worse.

Hard decisions determining the higher education budget for the state will be made in the 77th Regular Session of the Nevada Legislature that begins February 4, 2013 in Carson City. When students raised their collective voices during the last biennial session in 2011, law makers responded by lessening their proposed higher education cuts. The good news for 2013 is that there will be no more cuts as the economy is showing signs of recovery. However, maintaining the status quo of inadequate funding is not enough. Graduate students must continue to vocally advocate for restoring funding to higher education by convincing our lawmakers that we are a critical investment in the future. We can accomplish this goal by making sure the newly created funding formula gets passed, which provides greater financial equity to UNLV. Another step is to have funds allocated to the currently unfunded Knowledge Fund.

One opportunity to make our case to lawmakers is the “Nevada Education Awareness Day” scheduled for February 25, 2013, in Carson City and Las Vegas. Another way to get involved is by contacting your legislator and the state education committees through social media or official email. An online guide, League of Women Voters Las Vegas Valley 2013 Guide to Legislative Advocacy, and other resources are available at www.nved.org/guide-to-legislative-advocacy. If you are interested in talking with your U.S. Representatives and Senators about issues that affect your education and career at a national level, e.g., federal student loans, the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) is inviting students to unite with other graduate and professional students from across the country for the Advocacy Summit & Legislative Action Days, March 1-5, 2013 in Washington, DC. For more information, please visit: www.nagps.org.
GPSA Sponsorship Funding
by Sharon Young
GPSA Vice President & Chair of the Sponsorship Committee

One of the most important functions of the GPSA is to provide financial support to graduate and professional students for academic research, travel, and scholarly activity related to their degree programs. Each year, the GPSA gives a large portion of our budget back to students in the form of sponsorship support. Every graduate and professional student, currently enrolled and admitted to a program at UNLV, is eligible to apply for a portion of this funding. The total amount allotted to GPSA Sponsorship funding for the 2012-2013 academic year is $110,000. To date, approximately $75,000 has been awarded to over 200 applicants. Although these are competitive awards, we are able to maintain a high funding rate (typically, more than 2/3 of the applicants are at least partially funded each cycle) and provide assistance to students across the disciplines.

The Sponsorship Committee is composed of six graduate and professional students from different colleges who meet each month to review applications for sponsorship support. The time dedicated by the committee members includes considerable time spent evaluating applications in addition to their monthly meetings, which can last up to eight hours depending on the volume of applications received. During the most recent funding cycle, for activities that take place during the Spring 2013 semester, we received 132 applications requesting $144,500 in funding. The Sponsorship Committee met in December 2012 to carefully review and discuss each application and to determine sponsorship awards. After much deliberation, the committee awarded $46,205 to 94 students. Upcoming sponsorship deadlines include March 15th for Summer 2013 activities and April 15th for Fall 2013 activities, as well as the 20th of each month for emergency funding. For more information about sponsorship funding, or to access the application, please visit http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants/grants.html, or contact the GPSA Manager, Becky Boulton, at rebecca.boulton@unlv.edu, or the Sponsorship Committee chair, Sharon Young, at sharon.young@unlv.edu.

We would like to thank the Sponsorship Committee for their continued dedication: Christian Augustin, Boyd Law School; Juan Duhart, Science; Ezra Mahurin, Fine Arts; Kishor Shrestha, Engineering; Susan Zhong, Hotel Administration and Committee Chair Sharon Young representing Urban Affairs

UNLV VITA—Free IRS Income Tax Preparation

UNLV VITA is back! The on-campus FREE IRS income tax preparation service just for you*. Certified volunteers prepare and file your income tax return absolutely free. You even get a copy for your file! Don't delay, contact us for an appointment today, or stop by any Saturday** from 9am-12pm in the Student Union Green Room. VITA begins preparing taxes February 7, 2012. *Must have income less than $50,000 to qualify for services **UNLV VITA is closed for University holidays and breaks. For more information please contact: Belinda Foreman, email: unlv.vita@gmail.com / 702-895-5655

School of Dental Medicine: Complementary Dental Screenings

UNLV senior dental students are looking for individuals who may qualify as patients for their dental licensing board exams on February 9-10, 2013 or March 16-18, 2013. Screening dates available in January and February at 5:15pm. Additional benefits are available for those who qualify to participate as a patient for the licensing exam.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call Gil Manzano at 702-774-2460.
UNLV Cares Food Pantry, a GPSA recognized student organization, collects donations from the UNLV community to assist students and staff during these tough economic times. The idea is to provide a mode of support for members of the UNLV community struggling to afford food through a discreet system that allows Rebels to help one another.

We are counting on campus generosity to restock our shelves. Please drop off canned goods and nonperishable foods in donation boxes located on campus: Lied Library, Greenspun Hall, Student Union, and the Student Wellness and Recreation Center. If you are in a teaching position please let your students know that this resource is available to them. **IDs are not checked of those that utilize the Food Pantry. The Pantry is open to everyone at UNLV.**

**New Location:** The UNLV Cares Food Pantry is located at the UNLV Paradise Campus, 851 E. Tropicana Avenue. The Pantry is located in the PAR6 building which is in the back of the Paradise Campus. Please visit this link for directions: [http://go.unlv.edu/maps/par600](http://go.unlv.edu/maps/par600). The Paradise Campus is located at the corner of Swenson and Tropicana Avenue. Swenson is one-way only at Tropicana exiting out of McCarran, so entering Boch St. from Tropicana is best. If you are going west on Tropicana turn left on Bock St., the street before Swenson. If you’re going east on Tropicana, it’s the street right after Swenson, turn right on Bock Street.

Food distribution times and dates: please note the new open pantry times. Wednesdays are now 10am to 2pm and Thursdays are from 1:00pm—6:00pm

- February 6th, 7th, 20th, 21st
- March 6th, 7th, 20th, 21st
- April 3rd, 4th, 17th, 18th
- May 1st, 2nd, 22nd

Contact information: unlvcaresfoodpantry@gmail.com / 702-895-2261
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/UNLVCaresFoodPantry](https://www.facebook.com/UNLVCaresFoodPantry)

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### Active Shooter Training Offered by UNLV Police Services

UNLV Police Services regularly receives active shooter training and is prepared to immediately move to eliminate this threat should it occur. Find out what to do to protect yourself if you are faced with this situation. An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, typically through the use of firearms.

**Get Out (if you can)...** Evacuate to a safe area away from the danger and take protective cover. 1) Stay there until assistance arrives. 2) While exiting, notify anyone you may encounter to exit the building immediately. 3) Stay away from all windows and doors until notified otherwise. 4) Call 9-1-1.

**Hide Out (if you must)...** 1) Go to the nearest room or office. 2) Close and lock the door. 3) Turn off the lights. 4) Seek protective cover. 5) Keep quiet (as if the room is empty). 6) Don’t answer the door. 7) If possible call 9-1-1 from your location.

**Fight It Out (if it’s necessary)...**
If confronted, respond with full force using whatever is available (objects as improvised weapons, etc.)

*This information retrieved from: [http://police.unlv.edu/tips/active-shooter.html](http://police.unlv.edu/tips/active-shooter.html)*
GPSA Research Brown Bag

This spring semester the GPSA is continuing with the research brown bag series. Each event has featured two graduate and/or professional students from designated Colleges that share their research. Time is 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

- February 6th from noon—1:00pm: GPSA Health Sciences Research Brown Bag
- March 6th from noon—1:00pm: GPSA Education Research Brown Bag
- April 3rd from noon—1:00pm: GPSA Urban Affairs and Law School Research Brown Bag

The New York Times Available on Campus and Online

The GPSA provides hard copies of The New York Times in the main lobby of the William S. Boyd Law School and the Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141. The GPSA also belongs to The New York Times Readership program. UNLV log-ins are limited to 200 daily e-passes. These passes provide full, complimentary access for 24 hours to The New York Times website and The NY Times smartphone apps. This does not include e-reader editions, premium crosswords or The New York Times crosswords apps. The NY Times apps are not supported on all devices. Other restrictions may apply. For more information: http://www.gpsa.edu

Best places to meet grad & prof students:
Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141

UNLV Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Workshop
Preparing for Graduate Student Success & Applying to Academic Jobs

Friday, February 22, 2013
1:00 – 3:00pm
Student Union room 208 B & C

Faculty panelists will share their tips and advice:
Dr. Sajjad Ahmad, Associate Professor, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
Dr. Lisa Prink, Academic Affairs Fellow, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
Dr. Peter Gray, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
Dr. Kate Korgan, Senior Associate Dean Graduate College and Associate Professor, Sociology Department
Dr. David Holland, Associate Professor, Department of History
Dr. Javier Rodriguez, Associate Dean College of Sciences and Associate Professor, School of Life Sciences

Topics of discussion:
+ Expectations of graduate school, expectations of yourself, your department and your Graduate Committee Chair
+ Critical elements of graduate training and support for an academic faculty career: research, teaching, and service
+ The academic interview – how to prepare
+ The academic job offer – items of consideration
+ Transitioning into a professional position

Plenty of time will be given for Q & A. For more detailed workshop information please visit: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/development

Graduate & Professional Student Association • University of Nevada, Las Vegas • 4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-4015 • Phone (702) 895-2970
http://gpsa.unlv.edu
Graduate Student Spotlight

**Thomas Bussey, PhD Candidate**, has his Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Music from the University of Wisconsin, his Masters of Education Curriculum and Instruction (secondary education) from UNLV and is currently working on his dissertation titled “What can Biochemistry Students Learn About Protein Translation?: Using Variation Theory to Explore the Space of Learning Created by Some Common External Representations.” Thomas began his teaching experience in 2004 as a high school science teacher and says that he enjoys teaching because, “it is a different paradigm to interact with students than with research participants.” And praises his time at UNLV because it has given him unique opportunities to be involved with teaching and other programs.

Thom has also had the opportunity to participate in numerous research and training programs, two of which are MIST (Mathematics Integrated with Science through Teaching) and ACELL (Advancing Chemistry by Enhancing Learning in the laboratory). MIST is a summer training program for middle school and high school teachers where they participate in intense workshop training sessions to enhance their content knowledge to make teaching more comfortable. ACELL is a program for college faculty to help them recognize the power of labs in chemistry classes. Faculty members participate in labs with students who are brought in to be trained in different strategies to enhance the lab experience for students. Thom is on of this year’s GPSA merit award winner.

**Katie Baustian, PhD Anthropology Student**, has just returned from a month in New York where she was the Visiting Scientist in the Forensic Anthropology Unit of the New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. She spent time responding to crime scenes, assisting with casework involving human skeletal remains, and advancing her skills in forensic anthropology. The Visiting Scientists program is funded by the National Institute of Justice and is highly competitive. Only 6-9 individuals are selected to participate each year. More information about the [http://www.nyc.gov/html/ocme/html/anthro/anthropology.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/ocme/html/anthro/anthropology.shtml)
February 4  University Forum: Are People of Color More Homophobic? at the Marjorie Barrick Museum / Harry Reid Center, 7:30pm—8:30pm

February 6  Rebel Roundtable forum: Common Sense Safety at the Student Union, 11am—12:30pm

February 7  "New Again" Art Exhibit at the Marjorie Barrick Museum, 9am—8pm

February 9  UNLV Men’s Basketball vs. New Mexico, 6:00pm at the Thomas & Mack Center

February 13  Women’s Basketball vs. Air Force, 6pm at the Thomas & Mack Center

February 18  Presidents’ Day—No Instruction

February 27  Brookings Mountain West Lecture, Audrey Singer
Greenspun Hall @ 5:30pm

March 16  Mid-semester

This newsletter is brought to you by the
Publications Committee:
Chair Jennifer Liese, Megan Gilliland,
Sarah Kaplan and Tony Patricia

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

March 16, 2013—GPSA Award Recipients will be recognized at the luncheon following the Graduate & Professional Student Research Forum. We hope to see you there.

Photos of last year’s Award Ceremony during the luncheon at the Graduate & Professional Student Research Forum
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<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Recess</td>
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<td>New Graduate Student Orientation SU Ballroom 2-4pm</td>
<td>Graduate College 2013-2014 Scholarship &amp; Fellowship Deadlines: <a href="http://graduatecollege.unlv.edu/">http://graduatecollege.unlv.edu/</a></td>
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<td>GPSA Presents: “Campus Violence and Campus Weapon Policy” Panel Discussion – SU Theater 5:30 – 7:30pm</td>
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<td>GPSA Health Science Research Brown Bag LLB 2141 noon – 1:00pm</td>
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<td>Washington’s Birthday Recess</td>
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# GPSA – Spring Semester 2013
## Schedule of Events

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**Commencement**

Thomas & Mack Center 9:00am and 2:00pm

**Summer Semester Instruction Begins**

**Spring Semester Ends**

- **Spring Break Recess** -

For more information: [http://gpsa.unlv.edu/](http://gpsa.unlv.edu/) or call 702-895-2261