GPSA Funding Workshop and the Sponsorship Application

The recent How To Get Funding Workshop, held on October 12th, was a smashing success. 55 graduate and professional students spanning the disciplines came to find out how to secure funding for their research projects, conferences, and other research related expenses. The high attendance indicated how dedicated UNLV’s graduate and professional students are to achieving success as researchers, and scholars. The GPSA held an additional How to Get Funding Workshop for the students at the Shadow Lane campus in the School of Dental Medicine, October 18th.

Dr. Dan Benyshek, Associate Professor in Anthropology and recipient of the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation grants, shared his 25 Tips for Successful Grant Writing. These included: finding institutional support opportunities available to you; paying close attention to deadlines, funding limits, and other specific requirements for your grant; preparing your grant proposal early—do not wait until the deadline; and, above all, NOT GIVING UP.

The purpose of the GPSA Funding Workshop was to provide:

- General knowledge about GPSA sponsorships, grants and funding opportunities.
- Tips for effective sponsorship and grant writing
- Insights from the GPSA sponsorship committee (those in charge of making funding award decisions)
- A forum for asking questions about funding opportunities

Sharon Young, GPSA Vice President and Chair of the Sponsorship Committee, detailed the specificities associated with securing funding for research and/or conference travel from the GPSA. Sharon also explained how recipients of GPSA funding are required to participate in the annual research forum. Read more about the Research Forum on page three. Handouts from the workshop are available on the GPSA website as well as a video of the event. More information about GPSA sponsorship funding can be found at: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants/grants.html. Questions about the application process can be addressed to either Sharon Young: smith232@unlv.nevada.edu or Becky Boulton: rebecca.boulton@unlv.edu. Spring Sponsorships applications are due November 15th.
Who is your GPSA Representative??

The GPSA Council consists of a representative from each academic department offering either a graduate or a professional degree. Your representative is a valuable resource. Contact them with any questions, comments or concerns that you may have. If your department has a vacancy get in touch with your graduate coordinator or GPSA President Michael Gordon for more information.

GPSA COUNCIL FALL 2012 – SPRING 2013

Executive Board: President – Michael Gordon@unlv.edu; Vice President – Sharon Young@unlv.edu; Treasurer – Jennifer Reed@unlv.edu; Secretary – Jennifer Lisse@unlv.edu
Faculty Advisors - Dr. Kate Korgan and Dr. Peter Gray Manager – Rebecca Boulton@unlv.edu

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This information is also available at: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/council/
In 2009 and 2011, because of Nevada’s budget woes, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas was forced to implement furloughs, unpaid leaves and pay cuts that detrimentally affected the university’s faculty and staff. These measures have also negatively impacted the quality of education, availability of offered courses, and the degree value for graduate and professional students at UNLV.

Given the circumstances, UNLV’s graduate and professional students should be aware that, on 1 October 2012, the GPSA Council approved a corresponding resolution indicating its full support of the UNLV Faculty Senate Resolution of April 17, 2012 to restore faculty and staff compensation to its previous levels.

As such, Dr. Neal Smatresk, President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the entire Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, have been duly notified that the GPSA and its constituent members expect them to do everything within their power to restore faculty and staff remuneration to what it was in 2009 and 2011 during the next biennial session of the Nevada State Legislature in the spring of 2013. Graduate and professional education is too important to students, to UNLV’s mission of becoming a top-tier research institution, to the local Las Vegas area, and to the state of Nevada as a whole, to do otherwise.

GPSA Annual Research Forum, March 16, 2013

The GPSA and the Graduate College will co-host the annual research forum on the second floor of the student union on Saturday, March 16, 2013. All graduate and professional students at UNLV are welcome to participate. The research forum provides an opportunity for graduate and professional students to share their research with peers and faculty through either a poster or an oral presentation. All GPSA sponsorship award recipients for the 2012-2013 school year must present at the research forum. The deadline to register for the 2013 GPSA research forum is Friday, February 15, 2013. Abstracts will not be accepted after this date. At the close of the research forum, awards are presented during a luncheon in recognition of outstanding poster and oral presentations. Last year’s event had over 250 students and faculty participating.

For more information or to register for the 2013 research forum go to the GPSA webpage at http://gpsa.unlv.edu/forum/index.html.
Health Insurance to be REQUIRED for Graduate Students?

by Anthony Patricia

At the request of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), the UNLV Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC) has formed a committee to study a prospective policy. This policy would REQUIRE all graduate students to secure health insurance for themselves as a pre-condition of registration and enrollment in courses during the entirety of their tenure with the Graduate College. If NSHE were to adopt such a policy, it could have far-reaching effects on the ability of graduate students to pursue their degrees. To make your voice heard on this important issue, touch base with Jennifer Reed (reedj32@unlv.nevada.edu), GPSA Treasurer and representative on the NSHE/SRWC committee, charged with considering this policy, as soon as possible.

CAPS is here for YOU—

by Anthony Patricia

Being academics, we live, work, and study in a world where acronyms proliferate. One that you may not be familiar with is CAPS. CAPS stands for Counseling and Psychological Services, a professional on-campus entity housed in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC).

CAPS is not just for undergraduates; admitted and enrolled graduate students who have paid the health fee for the current semester are eligible—and encouraged—to take advantage of all the totally confidential and free services CAPS provides to the university community. CAPS’ offerings include: individual and group counseling and therapy, as well as a range of self-help virtual pamphlets on everything from anxiety management to dealing with non-medical related sleep disturbance issues. This collection of self-help materials can be found at the following URL: http://www.unlv.edu/srwc/caps/self-help-resources.

Don’t let the many stresses of being a graduate student get you down. Let CAPS “help you manage your feelings so that you can make the most out of your college experience.” The CAPS “clinicians are trained to help you work through problems commonly experienced by college students of all ages and backgrounds.” Let them be there for you. The CAPS office is open Mondays to Thursdays from 8:00am—6:00pm, Fridays from 9:00am—5:00pm. Call CAPS at 895-3627 to schedule an intake assessment so that they can best assist you to get the help you need. More information on CAPS is available here: http://www.unlv.edu/srwc/caps/about.

Free Tickets to Athletic Events

UNLV Student admission to Football and Men’s Basketball is available on a first come, first serve, general admission basis. Full-time students can receive one ticket at no cost with the option to purchase one additional discounted ticket. Part-time students can purchase up to two discounted student tickets. Admission is not guaranteed so be sure to reserve your ticket in advance. More information: http://www.unlvtickets.com/students/

Students MUST have a valid RebelCard. For those students that still own the old gray RebelCard you will need to visit the Student Union to be issued the new RebelCard. You WILL NOT be issued a ticket unless you have the new card that displays your NSHE Number.
The Battle of Student Loans

by Sara E. Kaplan

The amount of student loan debt in America has topped one trillion dollars—surpassing credit card debt. It has been pointed out that credit card debt and student loan debt are very different, and most of the debt represented by the one trillion owed in student loans is for degrees earned, which the student is responsible for full repayment.

However, there are some shocking facts about student loan debt. One in every six borrowers are in default, making up $76 billion of the one trillion owed. Also, the government has the right to seize tax refunds, garnish wages, or take social security earnings to collect on student loan debt. There is no statute of limitations on collecting federal loans, unlike with private student loans, which in Nevada have a limitation of four years.

Students need to be wary when taking out student loans. Unexpected expenses may arise during a school year, but many costs can be estimated up front. As graduate students pay higher interest rates than undergraduates, it is important to understand exactly what their education is costing. Preparing ahead of time for the expenses of tuition, housing, transportation and books is extremely important. Schools also need to start working on more comprehensive cost disclosure policies. Some universities do provide a list of costs, but it is typically averaged, and sometimes out of date for the current costs of attending school. These debt numbers can be highly discouraging for those getting ready to graduate and facing repayment of their loans. It is important to remember that you earned a degree that you will hold forever, and no matter how many times student loans are compared to credit cards, they are two very different types of debt and should remain that way.

If you find yourself struggling to make payments on your student loan debt there are programs available to students. One of the most popular is the IRB, or income based repayment program. Under this program students pay 15% of their discretionary income for up to 25 years, after that if any debt is remaining it is forgiven. However, be careful when using these types of programs. Most of the time when debt is forgiven, the amount is added to the individual's income for the year in the eyes of the IRS and could affect their tax return.

Whether you are getting ready to graduate and begin working, or proceed further into your schooling keep in mind the costs and prepare yourself ahead of time so you do not find yourself in default when you go to begin repaying the loans you may take out.
GPSA Research Brown Bag

This fall semester the GPSA has hosted a 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

- November 7th from noon—1:00pm: GPSA Hotel College Research Brown Bag
- December 5th from noon—1:00pm: GPSA Health Sciences Research Brown Bag

Yun-Ying (Susan) Zhong will be presenting her research at the November 7th brown bag. Susan is a PhD Student in Hotel Administration. She is specifically interested in consumer behaviors and technology applications in the hospitality and tourism industry. Her research includes developing a mobile application for a tourism destination, identifying profitable customer segment for guest-room technology, and benchmarking the lodging technology investment. Her presentation is built on these previous studies, and discusses the role of hotel technology amenities as a value cue for hotel customers.

The New York Times now available online

Launch of the E-New York Times Readership Program - now get the New York Times online. We are pleased to announce the launch of NYTimes.com/AcademicPasses (https://myaccount.nytimes.com/verification/edupass) a brand new benefit 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. NYTimes apps are not supported on all devices. Other restrictions may apply.

To access these passes -- users will qualify by having a valid e-mail address from your school domain: unlv.edu and unlv.nevada.edu

Hard copies of the New York Times are located in the main lobby of the William S. Boyd Law School and the Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141.

University’s Hours of Operation during Intersession

UNLV’s winter break is Dec. 22, 2012-Jan. 1, 2013. During winter break, the university remains open to the public in key public service areas such as Human Resources, University Police and selected Library facilities. However, since faculty and students are generally not on campus during this period, most internal service activities and nonessential business operations are suspended.

All offices will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 in observance of state holidays. UNLV will reopen for regular business on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013. Before visiting campus during this period, we recommend contacting the office or department you need to ensure it is open.
New Graduate College Research Certificate Program

The Graduate College just launched the Graduate College Research Certificate Program (GCRCP). The purpose of the GCRCP is to provide graduate students “with the skills and knowledge necessary to initiate, conduct, and successfully conclude research projects”—in other words, all of the hallmarks of a distinctive graduate education.

Any currently enrolled graduate student in good academic standing is eligible to apply for admission to the GCRCP. Applications can be submitted in accordance with the guidelines found at: http://graduatecollege.unlv.edu/.

Upon acceptance into the GCRCP, participants will be required to complete six different modules chosen from the myriad free workshops and courses that are offered regularly on campus. A sampling of these workshops and courses includes: Mentor/Trainee Responsibilities; Publication Practices and Responsible Authorship; RefWorks Workshop; Detecting and Preventing Plagiarism; and Tips and Tricks to Successfully Write and Publish a Journal Article, among a host of others. Participants will also be required to present their research or creative activity at the Graduate & Professional Student Association Research Forum held annually every spring term as the culminating experience of the program.

Students who finish the GCRCP successfully will receive a Certificate of Completion and a note on their official UNLV transcripts indicating this prestigious accomplishment, and they will be able to reference the program on their curriculum vitae—a definite plus when it comes time to enter the increasingly competitive job market of the early twenty-first century.

UNLV Cares Food Pantry

by Megan Gilliland

The UNLV Cares Food Pantry is designed to support the UNLV staff and student population. As a consequence of a rough economic climate, those in the UNLV community may be struggling to afford food. Through a discreet process, the UNLV Cares Food Pantry provides food items to anyone who has a need and is associated with the campus. Beneficiaries of this program do not need to show identification or submit any personal information.

This GPSA recognized student organization is run by UNLV students, staff and faculty members who volunteer their time to support this effort. Making the food pantry permanently available is their main goal. Anyone can help sustain their supply of food items by dropping off canned goods at donation boxes located at: Science and Engineering Building, Lied Library, Law School, Student Union, and Wellness Center. UNLV community members may also volunteer time to the organization. Volunteer schedules for donation pick-up and operation times, as well as the volunteer registration forms are available online at https://orgsync.com/39787/chapter.

The UNLV Cares Food Pantry is located at the Promenade Office Building on the northeast corner of Maryland Parkway and Harmon at 4440 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite 213, Las Vegas, NV 89119. For more information, and dates and hours of distribution, please call 702-895-2261, or go to http://www.facebook.com/unlvcaresfoodpantry.
November 6  Chamber Orchestra Concert, 7:30-8:30pm, Dr. Arturo Randol-Grillot Recital Hall. Event is free.

November 14 Brookings Mountain West presents "Climate Change and International Trade: Conflict or Opportunity?" a talk by Joshua Meltzer, Fellow, Global Economy and Development., GUA Auditorium, 5:30-6:30pm. Event is free.

November 15 GPSA Sponsorship Application deadline: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants/grants.html

November 29 GPSA Social 4 –7pm @ Murphy’s Law Bar and Grill

December 3 GPSA Council Meeting, 2:00—3:30pm in SU 208B & C

December 6 GPSA Award Applications due: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants/awards.html

December 4—8 Last week of instruction - Bagels and coffee in the Graduate Student Commons in Lied Library 2141

December 18 Winter Commencement, 4:00pm at the Thomas & Mack Center

January 22 – 25 Back to school week - Bagels and coffee in the Graduate Student Commons in Lied Library 2141

Nominate a well deserving person on campus—GPSA Student and Faculty Awards

Now is the time to give that special person on campus the recognition they deserve. Each year, the Graduate & Professional Student Association recognizes a variety of individuals from across disciplines and classifications at the University for their contributions to the development and continuing growth of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Deadline for nominations is December 6. Please submit nomination packets to the Graduate Student Commons, Lied Library room 2141. The awards are:

- Outstanding Mentor
- Distinguished Contribution
- Graduate / Professional Student Merit Award ($100)
- Graduate / Professional Student Service Award ($100)

For more details: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants/awards.html