The Luminary

A Newsletter for Graduate & Professional Students

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Surbhi Sharma
Editor

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Meet GPSA Executive Board 2010-11

Kyle George, President
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Looking for another career change from IT, Kyle enrolled at UNLV in 2004, where he has since earned both his Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Chemistry. Kyle is currently working on his Ph.D. in Chemistry, and is conducting research on materials for solar water splitting for hydrogen production.

Outside his professional interests, Kyle is also an avid photographer, taekwondo coach, and most importantly, the father of a young toddler.

The GPSA Book Scholarship Program is Up and Running!

Ten scholarships for book purchases at the UNLV Bookstore are available for this coming spring semester! Applications are due this November 17th by 5 p.m. at the GPSA office on the third floor of the library (LLB 3251). Scholarship amounts are $100, and full-time graduate students with at least six credit hours under their belts (and with a minimum 3.0 GPA) are eligible to apply.

GPSA Disease Prevention Plan

This fall, the GPSA Lab (located in Lied Library room 3251) is continuing our “Disease Prevention Plan” began during last year’s cold and flu season. Clorox wipes are available upon entry to the computer lab for wiping down your computer station and preventing infection. Additionally, GPSA staff are wiping down the lab once a week to avoid the spread of things we like to avoid, such as the ‘flu, H1N1, and cold bugs.

The GPSA Lab (LLB 3251) is on Facebook!

If you’re a regular at the Grad Lounge and you’d like to know about early closings and other goings on in the lab, search for UNLV GPSA Office/Computer Lab on Facebook and become a fan!

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Antonio Gutierrez, Vice President

Antonio Gutierrez is currently a third-year doctoral (PhD) student in the Department of Educational Psychology. His areas of specialization include research methods and statistics, and his emphasis area is learning and cognition. Antonio's research interests include metacognition (calibration, monitoring, bias, accuracy of feelings-of-knowing), critical thinking, problem solving and reasoning, motivation, and the executive function, among others. He has co-authored two published, peer-reviewed articles; moreover, he currently has two manuscripts submitted for peer review and three more in preparation. After graduation, Antonio intends to seek an academic position at a research university focused on research and teaching. His passion for and love of research is what led him to run for the GPSA Vice-Presidency, knowing that as VP he would be able to directly influence the research mission of GPSA and UNLV at-large.

Diane Owen, Secretary

Diane has lived in Las Vegas since she was 6 months old and thus considers herself a “native.” Graduating with honors from Green Valley High School in 2006, she enrolled at UNLV to pursue a degree in English and was accepted into UNLV’s Honors College. During the summer of 2007, Diane studied abroad in Alicante, Spain studying Spanish in order to complete the foreign language requirements for her English degree. In the Fall of 2007, UNLV opened the Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC) and Diane began work there as a Building Manager. She completed her English degree in 2009 and was offered the Aquatics Graduate Assistantship at the SRWC. This was the push she needed to enroll in Graduate School and change directions in her life by pursuing a Master’s degree in Sport and Leisure Services Management with a focus on youth development through youth camps. Diane holds many certifications through the American Red Cross, including an instructor level certification, and she enjoys teaching CPR classes at the SRWC and for other nonprofit youth groups. Outside of her professional and academic life, Diane is a huge fan of the UNLV Runnin’ Rebels basketball team; enjoys swimming, biking, reading, and spending time with her husband; loves being ‘Aunt Diane’ to her 34 nieces and nephews; and has a dog named Abraham.

Michael Gordon, Treasurer

Michael Gordon came to Las Vegas from Cape Town, South Africa in September 2006 on a Rotary International Ambassadorial scholarship. He received both his LLB (bachelors) and LLM (masters) from the University of South Africa. Gordon has been a founding member of four student organizations on the UNLV campus namely Rotaract, UNLV Toastmasters, UNLV Racquetball club and the Public Administration Graduate Association. He is also involved in other on-campus organizations such as Christian Grads, Student Alumni Association, International Council, Student Conduct Hearing Board and serves as a Senior Presidential Student Ambassador. He is a member of the National Scholars Honor Society, National Residence Hall Honorary, Pi Alpha Alpha, and Golden Key International Honour Society. Gordon graduated from UNLV in May 2008 with a Masters in Public Administration and was honored at the ceremony as an “Outstanding Graduate”. He is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. (Public Affairs) program and hopes to one day ensure the continued existence of ethical governments worldwide. At present, Gordon teaches Environmental Politics & Policy for the School of Environmental and Public Affairs at UNLV. He serves on the board of the Rotary Club of Las Vegas and was fortunate enough to be named “Rotarian of the Year” for the 2009-10 year.