Welcome message from GPSA President Sharon Young

Welcome to a new year at UNLV! As a graduate or professional student, you are a part of the GPSA, UNLV’s graduate and professional student government. The GPSA represents approximately 5,500 students, about a fifth of UNLV’s student population, with the mission of: advocating for graduate and professional students within the university system and the Board of Regents; providing funding to graduate and professional students for research and scholarly activities; and organize social events and professional development opportunities. The GPSA could not uphold our mission without the contribution and dedication of our Council Representatives. We would like to give a special thanks to this year’s Summer Council representatives who were especially productive and engaged, taking time from their summer schedules to attend monthly meetings and to serve on our various committees: Timothy Thatcher; Malori Monroe Clarke, Khaye Rufin, Pamela Juniel, Kishor Shrestha, Amanda Mayfield, Laura Boscarolo Book, Izaac Rowe, Denise Cook, and Terri Thomas. In addition to the information you will receive throughout the semester from your department’s GPSA Representative, this newsletter provides important and helpful information for incoming and returning students including a calendar of events, information about campus resources, funding opportunities, and much more! Best of luck in the Fall semester, and we can’t wait to see you at one of our upcoming events!

State of NV Legislative Session Planning Initiatives
By Meghan Pierce, GPSA Treasurer and Chair of the Government Relations Committee

This year will be an important year for UNLV in terms of leadership and success. A presidential search is currently underway to bring new leadership to propel our university forward. Further, our current leaders have laid the foundation for UNLV to become a Tier 1 research university. Thus, this upcoming legislative session will be important for continuing our forward trajectory in improving research and education.

There are several key issues that the GPSA feels are important in bettering graduate and professional student life meet its goal of Tier 1 recruiting and maintaining emerging students competitive sti-support our current faculty by teaching duties. Lastly, we need to recruit more faculty to conduct creative and innovative research. In order to achieve these goals, we must let our legislators know that education is a priority in Nevada.

(continued on page 2)
A Place to Study - Graduate Student Commons

Looking for a place to work on your group project, study for a test or write your thesis or dissertation? Come visit us in 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 PCs, 6 Macs and wireless access, 5 large LCD touch screen panels, whiteboards, a small kitchen, a meeting room for group study (reservations made with the office staff).

You can read your free copy of The New York Times provided by the GPSA on the comfortable couches. Last year the GPSA acquired a new plotter to print large posters for your conference presentations. The printing cost comes directly off of your RebelCard. Also a new addition to the Commons is an activity reader. Students swipe their RebelCards when they enter the Commons.

Graduate Student Commons located on the 2nd floor of the Lied Library

For the Late Night Dwellers on Campus

Please note the following campus food locations and available times of operation beginning Monday, August 25th:

- The Coffee Bean in Lied Library is open until 10:00pm, Monday - Thursday
- Einstein's at the SRWC is open Monday - Thursday until 9:00pm
- Dining Commons POD is open until midnight 7 days per week
- Dining Commons is open for late night all you can eat from 9:00pm - midnight Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday

The Advantages to Using Your RebelCard

Your RebelCard is more than your official campus identification. You can deposit money to your RebelCard and use it as RebelCash for dining on campus, for vending machines, and at a number of restaurants and shops both on and off campus.

The content of this information was retrieved from: http://www.unlv.edu/rebelcard.

State of NV Legislative Session Planning Initiatives

The GPSA has created initiatives to drive graduate and professional student involvement in this upcoming legislative session. First, we would like to make voting easier for graduate and professional students. We will provide instructions on how to find your local voting locations or how to submit an absentee ballot for your home state. Next, we will have voter registration forms available at our monthly council meetings and will ask that your department representatives also make the forms available in your departments.

Understanding legislator positions will be imperative for making informed voting decisions this year. The GPSA wants to help you get the information you need easily. We are working on collaborations with other campus groups to bring legislators to campus for a meet and greet event. In addition, we will be providing legislator cheat sheets, to provide an outline of legislator stances on relevant subjects. Last, we will host a debate viewing party, where students can come to hear or watch debates unfold. You can find all upcoming event information on the GPSA website: gpsa.unlv.edu
Meet your GPSA 2014 – 2015 Executive Board

The GPSA Executive Board would like to meet you. The e-board will have office hours, posted on the GPSA website, in the Student Union room 306.

GPSA 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 in biomedical anthropology. Her research focuses on maternal reproduction and health, investigating the growing practice of human maternal placentophagy in evolutionary and cross-cultural contexts. Previously, Sharon has served in the past, as the GPSA Vice President, the Anthropology Department’s GPSA representative and Chair of the GPSA Sponsorship Committee before becoming President this past Spring 2014.

GPSA Vice President Michael Alires currently is a 3L at the Boyd School of Law. He formerly attended Lincoln Christian University, where he obtained his Bachelors degree in General Ministry and his Masters degree in Organizational Leadership. This past summer Michael worked with the Legal Department at The Cosmopolitan, focusing on contracts and employment issues. After graduation, he intends to pursue business litigation and transactional law. As GPSA Vice President, Michael hopes to work towards creating more collaborative opportunities for all departments across the campus.

GPSA Treasurer Meghan Pierce served last year as the GPSA Secretary. Meghan began her studies at UNLV in 2003, where she completed a BA in psychology and a MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Currently, she is working on her PhD in Experimental Psychology with an emphasis on neuroscience. Her research examines the neuroendocrine correlates of stress, specifically markers of the HPA axis in various populations of veterans, females, and individuals with PTSD.

GPSA Secretary Kirk Askia Talib-deen received his BA in English with an emphasis in British Literature and literary theory. Currently, he is working on his Master’s thesis, focusing on the 20th century African-American authors and the Black lived experience written from a Jazz paradigm. Kirk currently sits on the Executive Board of the Black Graduate Student Association and is involved in mentoring and tutoring minority youths.

Getting the most out of Campus Resources

* 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.
UNLV Campus Police Works to Create a Safe Environment

by Terri Thomas, School of School Work GPSA Representative

As students our schedules and lives are busy with classes, writing papers, preparing presentations, and studying. In addition, many students have familial and professional obligations outside of campus. Our lives are so busy that safety is not always in the forefront of our thoughts. Thankfully for us, there are people and departments on campus whose sole focus is student safety. The Department of Public Safety is diligent in protecting UNLV students, faculty and guests.

During several days in July, UNLV Police Services conducted hostile intruder response training (Active Shooter) exercises. These training drills simulated events similar to situations that have taken place on school campuses throughout the United States. In the mock scenarios, a report is dispatched to UNLV Police that a “gunman” is on campus in one of the buildings and shots are being fired. UNLV officers then simulate the procedures involved in locating the gunman, evacuating the building and apprehending the suspect. While these incidents are conducted for training our UNLV police officers and personnel, Police Services take these training exercises seriously. According to UNLV Assistant Chief of Police Sandy Seda, “active shooter training provides real world advice on how to decrease your risk and exposure if you find yourself in an active shooter situation.”

Hopefully, we will never have to experience an active shooter situation on any of our campuses. It is comforting to know that we have people who are diligent, dedicated and prepared to protect and keep everyone on the UNLV campus safe.

New This Fall: Zip Cars Available for UNLV Students

This fall, Zipcar is coming to campus for all 18+ UNLV students. Zipcar is car-sharing, an alternative to bringing a car to school, that gives members 24/7 access to vehicles parked right on campus. Low hourly and daily rates include gas, insurance, and 180 miles per day to go wherever you want to go. Members can reserve cars online or with a smart phone for as little as an hour or up to four days. This semester, enjoy all the freedom of owning a car without any of the hassle. The content of this information was retrieved from: http://www.zipcar.com/

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.
Fall 2014 Professional Development Workshops

The GPSA / Graduate College are hosting a series of professional development workshops:

- September 15th—Meet your subject librarian. Light refreshments will be served (see flyer to the right). 1:30-3:00pm, LLB 1149, Amargosa Room.

- September 19th—How to successfully start your graduate program. 10:00-11:30am, LLB 2141, Graduate Student Commons.

- September 25th—Coping in graduate school. 3:00-4:30pm, LLB 2141, Graduate Student Commons.

- October 9th—CV construction. *Bring your laptop and your resume and/or CV work-in-progress.* 1:00-11:30am, LLB 2141, Graduate Student Commons.

- October 17th—Applying to academic and non-academic jobs. 10:00-11:30am, LLB 2141, Graduate Student Commons.

- October 24th—GPSA Sponsorship and external funding resources. 11:30am–1:30pm, Location TBA.

- November 14th—Academic time management. 10:00-11:30am, LLB 2141, Graduate Student Commons.

Workshop registration must be made from your UNLV Rebel mail account. The registration link is provided on the GPSA website: http://www.unlv.edu/gpsa/development

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Graduate College - Graduation Deadlines for Fall 2014

Wednesday, October 1, 2014
Final day to apply and submit application for graduation through MyUNLV account.

*Please note: A $75 graduation and commencement fee will be placed on your student account (one fee per degree/certificate) beginning the first day of registration for the semester in which you have applied to graduate, or, if registration has already opened, your fee will be applied within two business days.*

Saturday, November 15, 2014
Last day to take comprehensive exam, or to defend your thesis or dissertation.

Friday, November 21, 2014
Last day to submit the final, properly formatted hard copy of your thesis or dissertation on 20lb watermark bond paper to the Graduate College for final format review; all final exam results and final documents must be submitted to the Graduate College by this date.

Thursday, December 4, 2014
Last day for electronic submission of final thesis/dissertation to the Graduate College. All final, properly formatted hard-copies of theses, dissertations and doctoral projects printed on watermarked bond paper are due.

Saturday, December 6, 2014
Last day for electronic submission of final thesis/dissertation (with formatting pre-approved by the Graduate College) to ProQuest.

Saturday, December 16, 2014
UNLV Commencement at the Thomas and Mack Center—4:00pm
Benefits of Google Tools as a Resource for Graduate and Professional Students

By Pamela M. Juniel, GPSA Representative for the Department of Educational and Clinical Studies

What is GoogleTools?
Google Tools is a suite of free, secure, tools (e.g., Calendar, Gmail, Drive, Sites & Documents) that you could use to communicate and collaborate with colleagues and faculty using multiple devices (e.g., tablet, laptop, home computer, smartphone). You could work online or offline to help you remain organized regardless of the demands of your home, work, and school schedules.

How can Google Tools improve my performance as a graduate and/or professional student?
Here are some examples of how Google Tools are great for you!

Gmail – a customized email free address that contains 30 GB (gigabytes) of storage
Calendar – online calendar that you can sync with your personal calendar to stay current with workshops and events at UNLV
Drive – a storage program that allows you to store, access, and share files, images, videos, and documents on a hard drive, remotely, or via the web
Docs, Slides, and Sheets – collaborate with others in real time to create, format, and share word-processed documents, presentations, and spreadsheets
Sites – create and/or access a shared workspace for organizations

Because graduate and professional students have tremendous demands on time, it is essential to use software programs to expedite the completion of tasks associated with scheduling meetings and teaching commitments, creating publications for presentations and conferences, and sharing data. Google Tools is hailed for its accessibility and how easy it is to use to consolidate personal and professional schedules, while keeping data secure.

MyUNLV: A Portal to Information and Resources

By Kirk Askia Talib-deen, GPSA Secretary

As graduate and professional students, we have all utilized MyUNLV for specific tasks, but MyUNLV delivers so much more to assist in a student’s journey toward completing their academic program. It gives the students—and faculty—access to an impressive array of resources that allows undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to easily access their information through their MyUNLV portal. These resources center help you prepare, progress, and succeed academically (e.g. grades, courses, financial aid, etc.).

If you are an instructor, through your MyUNLV portal, you are able to maintain students’ grades and class rosters, view exam schedules, survey the history of terms and grades submitted, and submit the present term grades when required.

The Self Service area includes the Student Center, where students are able to manage school related activities, academic planning, browse the course catalog, view their degree progress report, apply for graduation, maintain personal information, review account holds, a “to-do” list, view unofficial transcripts, and so much more. So this fall, take some time to get familiar with your MyUNLV portal, and most important, enjoy UNLV!
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 2015 semester? GPSA sponsorship information and application are available at http://www.unlv.edu/gpsa/sponsorship-awards/sponsorships. For the academic year 2014-2015, the GPSA has allocated $100,000 for student research and conference travel. This year the Graduate College has contributed $50,000 towards supplementing the Sponsorship program. Deadline for the GPSA Spring 2015 sponsorship is November 15, 2014. Summer sponsorship deadline is March 15, 2015. Also available are emergency travel funding (for conference presentation or research travel only). Check the GPSA website to see if you qualify.

GPSA Book Scholarships

The GPSA has 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 graduate and/or professional career. The application is available at: http://unlv.edu/gpsa/sponsorship-awards. Incomplete or late applications will be ineligible.

GPSA Student and Faculty Awards

The GPSA recognizes students and faculty from across disciplines and classifications for their contributions to the development and continuing growth of UNLV. The four categories are: Outstanding Mentor Award, Service Award, Merit Award and Distinguished Contribution Award. Learn more about how to nominate a deserving student or faculty member: http://unlv.edu/gpsa/sponsorship-awards. Application deadline is December 6, 2014.

GPSA wants to hear from you!

2014 - 2015 GPSA Event and Activities Planning Survey

In addition to providing book scholarships, funding for conference and research, student and faculty awards and maintaining the Graduate Student Commons Computer Lab, LLB 2141, the Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) holds several events and activities throughout each semester. We would like your input for the upcoming academic year on what type of events, activities and/or programs you would be interested in attending. Please complete the brief survey - - on the GPSA website. We would appreciate your input on what type of events/activities you would be interested in attending for the upcoming 2014 – 2015 academic year.
Noteworthy UNLV Dates

August 25 Instruction Begins

September 1 Labor Day Recess

September 8 GPSA Council meeting. 2:00pm—3:00pm, Student Union rooms

September 10 Brookings Mountain West Lecture: Jonathan Rothwell

September 17 University Forum Lecture: What are Constitutions For? Marjorie Barrick Museum/Harry Reid Center @ 7:30—8:30pm. Admission is free.

September 18 President Synder’s State of the University Address. Judy Baley

October 2 Black Mountain Institute Reading Series: Poet Sasha Steensen;

October 7 UNLV Chamber Orchestra. Lee and Thomas Beam Music Center in the Dr. Arturo Rando-Grillot Recital Hall @ 7:30pm—9:30pm. Admission is free.

October 10 UNLV Football vs. Fresno State (Homecoming). Sam Boyd Sta-

October 21 University Forum Lecture: The Evolution of Area 51. Marjorie Barrick Museum/Harry Reid Center @ 7:30—8:30pm. Admission is free.

October 31 Nevada Day Recess

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/

Follow GPSA on:

facebook
twitter

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

Coming Soon:
Graduate College / GPSA
The Inaugural Rebel Grad Slam

What: UNLV’s first 3MT (3 minute Thesis) Competition

Where: Student Union, Greenspun Auditorium and the Barrick Museum

When: First Week of November

Who: You and all your colleagues

Why: Mad skills, self promotion, good practice for elevator speeches, fun & camaraderie, competition & prizes!

Registration and more details will be announced soon!
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<td>GPSA / Graduate College Workshop: Everything you need to know about the IRB process 11:00am, Location TBA</td>
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<td>GPSA &amp; UNLV Libraries: Meet &amp; Greet your Subject Librarian 1:30pm-3:00pm LLB 1149, Amargosa Room</td>
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<td>GPSA / Graduate College Workshop: How to successfully start your graduate program 10:00 – 11:30am, LLB 2141 Graduate Student Commons</td>
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<td>Final day to apply and submit application using MyUNLV for Winter 2014 graduation</td>
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<td>GPSA Council Meeting SU 208 A, B &amp; C, 2:00-3:30pm</td>
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<td>GPSA / Graduate College Workshop CV Construction; 3:00 – 4:30pm, LLB 2141</td>
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<td>Last day to take comprehensive exam, or to defend your thesis or dissertation</td>
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### GPSA – Fall Semester 2014 Schedule of Events

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<td>GPSA Council Meeting, SU 208 A, B &amp; C, 2:00-3:30pm</td>
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<td>Graduate College Workshop: Thesis &amp; Dissertation Formatting: 11:00am – 12:30pm, LLB 2141</td>
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<td>Last day to take comprehensive exam, or to defend your thesis or dissertation GPSA Sponsorship Spring 2015 applications deadline: <a href="http://gpsa.unlv.edu/sponsorship.html">http://gpsa.unlv.edu/sponsorship.html</a></td>
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<td>Veterans Day Recess</td>
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<td>GPSA / Graduate College Workshop: Academic time management: 10:00 – 11:30am, LLB 2141</td>
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<td>GPSA Sponsorship Emergency Applications Deadline: <a href="http://gpsa.unlv.edu/sponsorship.html">http://gpsa.unlv.edu/sponsorship.html</a></td>
<td>Last day to submit complete &amp; formatted hard copy of your thesis / dissertation to the Graduate College for Fall 2014</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Recess</td>
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<td>Last day to submit Thesis /Dissertation to ProQuest GPSA Student &amp; Faculty Awards Application deadline: <a href="http://www.unlv.edu/gpsa/sponsorship-awards/awards">http://www.unlv.edu/gpsa/sponsorship-awards/awards</a> Instruction Ends</td>
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<td>GPSA Emergency Sponsorship Applications Deadline: <a href="http://gpsa.unlv.edu/sponsorship.html">http://gpsa.unlv.edu/sponsorship.html</a></td>
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