

graduate student news

everything you need to know to
get through the academic year...

First Edition

Volume 1, Number 1 • Fall 2009

The ASU Graduate Student Newsletter is a once-a-semester publication with resources, advice, tips, and reminders for graduate students. This newsletter is from the **Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)**.

Items featured in this issue include: “Calendar of Graduate Events”, “Where Can I get Money?”, “How can I Meet People?”, “To Whom Do I Go with Questions?”, “Know Your Rights”.



GPSA is a part of the Associated Students of Arizona State University (ASASU).

GPSA provides advocacy, support and unity for the graduate and professional student community at Arizona State University. Their executive branch meets regularly with President Crow, other members of administration, and the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) to make sure graduate student needs and concerns are addressed. The GPSA External Affairs Office participates with the Arizona Students Association (ASA) to present issues of concern to the legislature in order to influence public policy on behalf of graduate students. The GPSA Internal Affairs and Professional Development offices provide graduate and professional students opportunities for professional development and recognition. GPSA maintains an open door policy. Feel free to contact the GPSA Executive Officers with any questions or graduate student concerns:

- President: Justin P. Boren (480-727-9878)
- Vice President of Internal Affairs: Tyler M. Barratt (480-727-9871)
- Vice President of External Affairs: Kelley Stewart (480-727-9873)
- Vice President of Professional Development: Jen Eden (480-727-9874)
- Assembly President: Carie Lyn Carnahan (480-727-9876)

GPSA keeps graduate students informed through two listservs: GradAd and Gradstu. All new students are enrolled in Gradstu which is intended for GPSA announcements, GSO announcements, messages of interest to ASU graduate students and more (though NOT want-ad type messages). GradAd is for advertisements, want-ad type announcements, searches and more.

As a currently enrolled ASU graduate student, you have been automatically subscribed to the Gradstu Listserv

You can sign off of the list by sending an email from your official ASU email address to listserv@lists.asu.edu and writing “signoff Gradstu” in *both* the subject and the body of the email.

Calendar of Graduate Events

To stay in the loop, please make it a habit to review the Graduate College’s Sun Spots at <http://graduate.asu.edu/>. The Graduate College makes every effort to keep graduates aware of events that matter. The Graduate College Website has got what you need.

For a sample of upcoming events at ASU, visit: <http://asuevents.asu.edu/>.

GPSA Events

Do you want your voice to be heard? Join the Graduate and Professional Student Association, Undergraduate Student Government, and the Arizona Students' Association for a semester kick-off event on September 9, 2009, from 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m. in the Memorial Union (MU) Alumni Lounge, Room 202! There will be speakers, discussion groups, music, and FREE FOOD! Remember **09/09/09** and look for more information coming soon at <http://www.azstudents.org/>.

The **Annual Research Grant competition** administered by GPSA has an application deadline of **October 2, 2009**. This competition awards grants of up to \$750 for independent research conducted by graduate students, and up to \$2,000 for thesis or dissertation research. Winners will be announced November 2, 2009. Go to the GPSA website for more information.

Annual Teaching Excellence Award (TEA) competition. The TEA program recognizes the contribution of graduate Teaching Assistants (TAs) to the scholarly community at ASU. There are two rounds of nominations, Fall and Spring, and one luncheon in the Spring where the winners are honored. This year's Fall nominations will be open **September 16th through the 30th**. Winners will be announced prior to the luncheon on **March 24th**.

December 4, 2009 will be **GPSA's Interdisciplinary Winter Social**. This free event is open to all graduate and professional students and is an excellent way to network with others in a relaxed, social environment. Come celebrate the semester's accomplishments with old and new friends. The location is yet to be determined.

American Indian Graduate Student BBQ

Thursday, September 3, 2009

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Discovery Hall, Room 313

Campus: Tempe

RSVP gretchen@asu.edu or guila.curley@asu.edu

ASU Community Service Program

Involve yourself in a community service project that makes a difference to ASU, our Arizona community, and beyond. Visit <http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/mu/community/> to find out how your volunteerism counts.

Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA): The BGSA was voted the 2009 most outstanding graduate student organization for by the ASU Student Organization Research Center. Join them!

BGSA Mix and Mingle Event
Wednesday, September 2, 2009
Time: 6:00pm- 7:00pm
Location: Student Services Building (SSV),
Room 165 Amphitheater

BGSA General Body Meetings
Fourth Wednesday of each month
Time: 6:00pm- 7:00pm
First Meeting: September 23, 2009
Location: Memorial Union (MU), Room Yuma 225

You can contact BGSA at bgsa@asu.edu

Latino/a Graduate Student Alliance (LGSA)

Have questions or interested in becoming a member of LGSA? Please contact april.bojorquez@asu.edu. LGSA has exciting plans for this academic year! Make sure you are part of it.

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Shane Hunt - Faded Silhouette Music

Thank you, Shane, for performing at the ASU New Graduate Student Receptions. Great Job!
Check out his music at: www.myspace.com/thelatterband.

For booking information, please contact Shane at thelatterband@gmail.com

Where can I get money?



GPSA offers several competitive funding opportunities for graduate students and graduate student organizations. In addition to the research grant competition mentioned above, there are a series of monthly awards given out as well. With departments cutting funding, and less grant money to go around, graduate students can end up losing out on invaluable opportunities to present research and engage in professional development because they lack the funding. GPSA helps fill that gap.

The **Conference Travel Grant Program** is designed for students who are presenting a paper or poster session at an academic conference. Up to **\$750** per person is awarded annually. For more information, visit the GPSA website or email Tyler Barratt at tmb@asu.edu

The **Professional Development Grant** is designed for students who are attending workshops, colloquia, or other competitive activities. Up to **\$750** per person is awarded annually. For more information contact **Jen Eden** at jdeden@asu.edu. The travel competitions are open to all graduate students enrolled in at least one credit hour of coursework at ASU.

Applications for both awards are due by the 15th of each month.

Testimonials from a student who has received funding from GPSA:

Alexandria Estrella, a 4th year PhD. Student in the college of education, "I have appreciated the support GPSA has provided with travel grants that I have been awarded the past two years. These travel grants have allowed me to expand my professional experience at several conferences and allowed critical opportunities for networking and presenting. Without these funds I would have not been able to attend these professional conferences to share my research. Travel can be very costly, especially on a graduate student budget, and this support has definitely made it a possibility to attend."

GPSA provides funding of up to **\$2,000** per event. "Event" means a single event, such as a single research symposium or conference, or a series of related events, such as a workshop series or speaker panel series. This money has helped bring a wide variety of distinguished guest speakers and dignitaries to the ASU campus. In the last year, GPSA helped make possible the presentations of Michael Berens, Gary D. Kinnaman, Paul Berman, Gustavo Esteva Figueroa, Tanja Softic, Burt Kotler, and many other specialists in various areas of interest to graduate students.

The **Arizona Students' Association (ASA)** is proud to announce the creation of the **ASA Fellowship Program** for the 2009-2010 academic year.

ASA Fellows will:

- Research, draft, and present pieces of potential legislation for the 2010 Legislative Session
- Research and present on topics including, but not limited to, financial aid, tuition, and voter Registration
- Assist ASA to expand its influence in the Arizona political arena

- Coordinate campus campaigns on issues affecting students

Upon successful completion of this year-long fellowship, fellows will receive a certificate of appreciation from the Governor's office, letters of recommendation, and eligibility for the **ASA Leadership Award**. The ASA Leadership Award will be given to the top students who exemplify what it means to be a student leader on campus and in the state.

For more information, contact Robyn Nebrich at robyn@azstudents.org.

Graduate College Funding Opportunities may be found at:

National Graduate Fellowship Workshop: <http://graduate.asu.edu/gradfellowships.html>

Graduate College Dissertation Fellowship: <http://graduate.asu.edu/dissfellowship.html>

Spring Graduate College Completion Fellowship: <http://graduate.asu.edu/completion.html>

Graduate College Conference Travel Grants: <http://graduate.asu.edu/travelgrants.html>

Earl A. and Lenore H. Tripke Professional Workshop Travel Awards:

<http://graduate.asu.edu/tripke.html>

Graduate Student Organization Award

The Graduate College Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Award recognizes ASU student programs, projects, and organizations that promote academic excellence, creative activities and diversity in graduate education. These awards may only be used to support the graduate scholastic agenda of professional development and social-embeddedness that best represents the ASU community. For more information on the GSO award please visit

<http://graduate.asu.edu/GSOawards.html>.

Have you exceeded your Cost of Attendance?

Visit the Student Financial Assistance Office Tuition and Cost of Attendance Estimator

<http://students.asu.edu/costs>

No one wants to borrow more student loan money, but if circumstances arise, there is a procedure in place to determine if you qualify for additional funding. The link at <http://students.asu.edu/forms/student-review> shares information and an application to increase financial need eligibility.

How can I meet people?

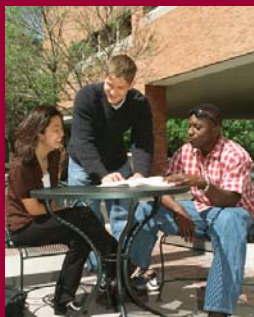
Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)

Your student government often obtains a limited number of tickets to ASU sporting events such as Sun Devil Football Games free of cost. Individuals involved with GPSA as assembly members or executive officers often attend football games and other events together. **Becoming a part of student government** lets you meet people from all over the university. Do something good for the graduate community, and enjoy opportunities to network and have fun outside of class.

Want to do more than just *watch* sports? ASU offers Graduate Students the opportunity to be involved with **intramural sports** year round.

*"I wasn't sure how to meet people when I first moved here," said **Alice Veksler**, a Ph.D. Student in Human Communication, "and I was worried that I wouldn't get to meet people in other departments. I found out about intramural football and play on an all-girls graduate student team. It's a great mix of girls from all over campus and we've been playing sports together for four years now."*

Veksler and her teammates connected through the **GPSA listserv** by sending out an announcement gauging interest in starting a team. Keep an eye out for announcements or start your own team. It's a great way to meet people outside your own academic department and to make new friends.



Want to relax, take a nap, print a paper, or warm up your lunch? The **Graduate Student Center (GSC)** on the Tempe Campus is a great place to eat, work, or just relax. The GSC features a flat screen TV, computer stations with free printing, a conference room that can be reserved for meetings or defenses, a comfy lounge, a partial kitchen, and so much more! Most graduate students are unaware of this hidden gem tucked away on Forest Mall. Check it out <http://www.asu.edu/gpsa/gsc/>

GSCs will soon be open on all four campuses! So keep your eye on the GPSA website, or follow them on Twitter, to be the first to visit the new spaces when they open.

Beat the heat and stay hydrated! GPSA is excited to announce the launching of the **GPSA Sustainable Water Bottle Program**. Stop by the GSC and fill out an information card in exchange for a brand new 26oz logo stainless steel water bottle. Then, refill your new water bottle at one of two water stations (located in the GSC conference room and kitchen), as often as you like.

Student Organization Resource Center (SORC)

Whether you are a team leader or team player check out the ASU SORC at <http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/mu/clubs> for the listings and descriptions of all registered ASU organizations and clubs (academic, social venue, diversity, alternative lifestyle, faith-based, advocacy, etc.). There are so many graduate organizations, social and academic, to choose from. If you don't see an organization that meets your needs, just follow the simple registration process and create your own organization at <http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/mu/clubs/register.htm> .

Interested in Mentoring other students?

GPSA highly recommends **Shades, a Multicultural Mentoring Program** for future scientists. If you are not a student in the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering & mathematics), you are still welcome to participate in the *Shades* mentoring program. ASU students—as well as many ASU student organizations—have joined *Shades*, creating a truly interdisciplinary assembly of scholars that encourages networking within the ASU community. For more information on *Shades* please visit <http://graduate.asu.edu/diversity/shades.html>.

Residential Mentor Program

The Graduate College and Barrett, the Honors College, are collaborating to develop an **on-campus living learning community of scholars**. Providing an atmosphere and network of support and information exchange for both graduate students and undergraduate students in the Honors College. For more information visit <http://graduate.asu.edu/diversity/index.html> or email Jennifer Cason, Director of Graduate Support Initiatives, at jennifer.cason@asu.edu

Where do I go with questions?

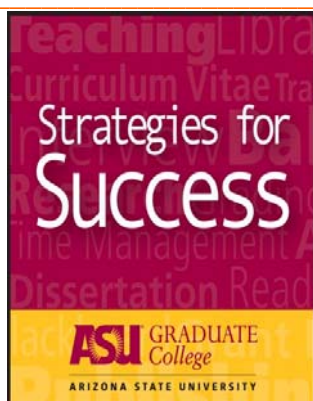
Start with your academic unit website. Each degree program has its own website that contains information about admissions, financial aid, program framework, and course details. Each program has a graduate advisor that is available to answer questions you are unable to find answers to on their website.

The ASU Graduate College extends its open door policy to cyberspace. Any question you may have regarding the graduate experience is welcomed. Ask us at **Grad-Ask@asu.edu**.

Student Academic Services (SAS)-

SAS can help with everything related to your graduate academic needs while you are a graduate student at ASU. If you need assistance with graduate policies and procedures, please ask them. Located on the Tempe Campus -Interdisciplinary Building, B-wing, Suite 170. For more information about the services SAS provides, please visit <http://graduate.asu.edu/sas.html>.





A one-stop online shop for all of your professional development needs, the Graduate College's **Strategies for Success** website pulls workshops and resources from across campus into an easy-to-navigate webpage to save you valuable time and energy. Available resources for graduate students range from getting started in graduate school, to finding a job after graduation, and everything in between. We are constantly adding new content, much of which is available to you 24/7 in the form of podcasts, videos, articles, and other online resources. Be sure to check out our podcast series on writing, getting published and becoming a successful scholar. For more information visit: <http://graduate.asu.edu/sfs>

Teaching Assistant/Associate Development (TAD) Program

The **TAD Program** is designed to provide new Teaching Assistants/Associates (TAs) with an orientation to ASU and the TA position the first semester of the initial TA appointment. The Arizona Board of Regents requires all new TAs to participate in TA training.

Preparing Future Faculty (PFF)

PFF is a national program that began in 1994 with ASU as a founding member. PFF is designed for doctoral and other terminal degree students who are interested in becoming faculty members after graduation. The program educates students about the professoriate and academia.

Thesis and Dissertation Format Review

Prior to the defense, students must prepare their thesis or dissertation for submission to the university. Copies of the Format Manual are available in the Graduate College, Interdisciplinary Building, B-wing, Suite 170 and on-line at graduate.asu.edu/formatmanual.

Know your rights

TA/RA Handbook

As a current or prospective teaching/research assistant, take the time to review the **TA/RA Handbook** at http://graduate.asu.edu/files/TA_RA_Handbook_2008-2009.pdf. The TA/RA Handbook defines policies regarding your appointment, assistantship benefits, rules of the assistantship, and privileges.

Tax information!

The ASU tax compliance liaison (480/965-8479) is available to provide assistance in resolving questions regarding whether services are being required for a particular scholarship, fellowship, grant, stipend, or waiver. Find out more about income tax considerations at <http://graduate.asu.edu/noncompsupport.html>.

Academic Integrity

The university and college academic integrity policies are available in the Office of the Provost, the deans' offices of the individual colleges, and online at <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>.



Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature that reasonably interferes with the working/learning environment and creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive environment or takes the form of seeking sexual favors in exchange for a promise of a benefit or a threat of a penalty. Sexual harassment is a violation of ASU policy as well as state and federal law. More information about this policy is available in the Academic Affair Manual found at <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd402.html>.

ASU Equal Opportunity Policy Statement

"Discrimination is prohibited on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, citizenship, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, special disabled veteran, or Vietnam-era veteran status. Equal opportunity includes, but is not limited to, recruitment, hiring, promotion, termination, compensation, benefits, transfers, university-sponsored training, education, tuition assistance, and social and recreational programs". More information about this policy is available at the Office of Diversity or at <http://asu.edu/hr/diversity>.

Employment Policies and Procedures

Find out from your hiring unit in advance, what the department's winter, spring and summer break policy is and if it interrupts your pay periods. This information may have been included in your offer letter. If not, be sure to ask your ASU employer about office policy and time-away; especially during semester breaks.

Student Legal Assistance

The **ASU Student Legal Assistance Office** provides legal advice and counsel to currently enrolled students at ASU. The program is funded through ASASU and there is no charge for the service. Information and advice are provided by a licensed attorney. Although the office does not represent students in court, the office can assist in problem resolution; including writing demand letters where appropriate. The office also prepares some types of legal documents for students, where appropriate. Appointments with the attorney are in-person and confidential. The Student Legal Assistance Office offers **free notary service** to students, faculty and staff. Find out more at <http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/mu/legal/>.

Filing a grievance... There is a protocol!

Visit Student Affairs at: <http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/>

AZ Residency Classification

Considered a non-resident? Don't assume because you have been in the Valley of the Sun for one year you are a resident of the state of Arizona. Learn more about the process at <http://students.asu.edu/residency>.

ASU Graduate Catalog: Everything you need to know about your ASU graduate study plan may be found at <http://catalog.asu.edu/graduate>.

gpsa.asu.edu

*If you would like to see other topics offered in these newsletters,
send ideas to gradnewsletter@asu.edu.