

The Graduate Voice

www.gpsc.usf.edu



A Publication of the Graduate & Professional Student Council

September 2007

From the Dean's Desk

I am delighted to welcome all USF graduate students to the new Fall Semester. This is always such a promising time for everyone, with the start of a new academic year and a calendar just waiting to be filled with exciting events and activities (and yes, course deadlines and thesis / dissertation dates).

Whether you are a new or a returning student; a masters, professional or doctoral student; a full or part-time student; I want to challenge you to become an active participant in establishing a "Graduate Voice" at USF. Becoming active in GPSC is an excellent way to create the environment that meets the needs of all graduate students. Did you know that there are almost 8000 of you? GPSC has planned a super series of events and has worked with the Graduate School Division of Student Success to offer a seminar series and workshops that address issues relevant to your needs.

At Orientation we emphasized that you need to live a "life in balance" and the Graduate School Staff, along with GPSC, are dedicated to helping you succeed. Make great strides in your academic progress throughout the semester, and enjoy USF and all Tampa has to offer.

Regards,

Delcie R. Durham, Dean



Dr. Delcie R. Durham
Associate Provost for
Research & Graduate
Dean

Upcoming GPSC Events

Picnic 9/22
Riverfront Park
11-2

Career Fair 9/27
Sundome
10-3

General Assembly 10/2
Meeting/Financial
Investing Workshop
Library 4th Floor
4-5:30

Hispanic Heritage 10/4
Kick-off Event
Alumni Center
5-8

Presidential Lunch 10/11
and Learn
12-1:30

General Assembly 11/6
Meeting

General Assembly 12/4
Meeting

Welcome to Tampa Bay!



New to town? Or maybe you're just looking for new things to do? With 2.5 million residents, the Tampa Bay area is one of the world's most desirable areas in which to live. There is always something to do here in Tampa! The Tampa Bay area is situated off the Gulf of Mexico, and features outstanding local beaches. Other activities include Busch Gardens/Adventure Island, the Lowry Park Zoo, The Florida Aquarium and the historic Ybor City area.

In addition, we are host to several national professional sports teams, such as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and the Tampa Bay Lightning. And, let's not forget all of the sports activities right here on campus with the Big East USF Bulls!

For the culturally inclined, there is the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Ringling Brothers Museum in Sarasota, the Museum of Science and Industry (right across the street from our Tampa campus), the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center and the Tampa Museum of Art, not to mention USF's own [Contemporary Art Museum](#) and [GraphicStudio](#).

Concerts and performances are regularly staged at [USF's Sun Dome](#), the [College of Visual and Performing Arts](#) and [Special Events Center](#), as well as Tampa's St. Pete Times Forum and Clearwater's Ruth Eckerd Hall.



**Special thanks to
the USF Graduate
School for their
continued support
of the GPSC and
graduate education.**

A Word from the GPSC Secretary

Anastasia Smith is the Secretary of GPSC. Questions or comments should be directed to her at asmith@grad.usf.edu.

As the fall semester gets underway, I would like to welcome both incoming and returning graduate and professional students to the University of South Florida. As we kick off the year, I'd like to remind you all of the many programs and services offered to you by your Graduate and Professional Student Council.

Last year saw a record number of social events being hosted by the GPSC. We plan to continue that tradition this year, to allow graduate and professional students the opportunity to get to know their colleagues from around campus in a fun and casual setting. We have a variety of workshops and social events in the upcoming weeks scheduled, so be sure to keep an eye on the website and to sign up for the listserv for the most up-to-date information.

The GPSC also continues to offer, through the generous support of Student Government, the Conference Presentation Grant Program (CPGP). The conference presentation grant program offers money to USF graduate students presenting or otherwise actively participating at a conference. Grant monies are available whether you are traveling abroad or within the U.S. We at the GPSC hope you will take advantage of this opportunity. Assisting graduate students make such presentations benefits us all by promoting USF to the academic community at large. More information regarding this program – including how to apply – can be found on our website (www.gpsc.usf.edu).

In addition to these programs and services, the GPSC plays a major role in advocating for graduate and professional students to the university administration. We do this by soliciting feedback from graduate students, and then representing your concerns to the university-wide committees and to university administrators. In the past, we have lobbied for such things as graduate students to qualify for need-based scholarships from financial aid and for a graduate student financial aid counselor to better meet the specific needs of graduate students.

I would encourage you to participate in this process by being an active member of GPSC so we can better communicate graduate student needs to the university. By attending our general assembly meetings, you will have a voice in the direction of the GPSC and will be aware of current topics relevant to graduate students at the university. Our meetings are scheduled to take place the first Tuesday of each month, from 4-5:30 p.m. on the 4th floor of the library, in the Grace Allen room.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any GPSC officer. The contact information for all officers is given on the last page of this newsletter as well as on our website. On behalf of the GPSC – welcome to all, and to all a good semester!

-Anastasia Smith, GPSC, Secretary

Mark the Date!!!

September 22, 2007

Picnic at Riverfront Park

Food, Games, Live Music

RSVP to asmith@grad.usf.edu



A graduate student visiting the information booths following graduate student orientation

Tips for Writing Travel Grants

1. **Become familiar with grand judging criteria:** As you develop your application, keep in mind that the judges score the applications based on three major criteria: 1) relevance of the conference to professional goals; 2) development of projected budget; 3) overall presentation.
2. **Know your audience:** Each application is reviewed by judges who might be graduate students, faculty, or administrators from various departments. Because your judges may not be from your field or college, make your application accessible and relevant to a general audience.
3. **Carefully select your faculty recommender:** As you choose a faculty member to write your letter of support, consider someone who not only knows you and your work, but who has the writing skills and flair to produce a persuasive letter of support.
4. **Show how the conference will promote your professional development:** Your application should explain why attending and participating at this particular conference is important to your research and/or professional development in this state of your career.
5. **Make sure your application is complete and on time:** Be sure to include the correct number of copies of each part of your application package. Each grant is individual and specific as to their requirements. Also be sure to get your request in well before your expected travel date!



Ann Poonkassem and Quenton Bonds welcoming new graduate students to orientation

2007—2008 GPSC Officers



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Spotlight on...

Forming your own Graduate Student Organization (GSO) can provide a significant advantage to your graduate program. It enhances communication and cultivates a sense of community within your department. GSOs can officially represent graduate students before their faculty. Some departments, for example, allow GSO participants to represent graduate students' interests in faculty meetings. Having your own GSO raises the profile of your department in the university and the world at large, which in turn may improve your employment opportunities. It will enable your organization to apply for Student Activity funds to defray the costs of travel to conferences, professional journals, and refreshments for "Meet 'n Greet," student colloquia, and "End of the Year" events.

Forming your own Graduate Student Organization (GSO) is easier than you might think! Check the GPSC website for details!

Below, we highlight **ITSA, the Instructional Technology Student Association**.

The Instructional Technology Student Association is comprised of current and alumni students who are in the Instructional Technology program. Through our student organization, we sponsor several technology seminars per term and we send students to local Instructional Technology conferences. This past year, we were able to send 4 students to the national FTCE conference where they were able to present their research projects.

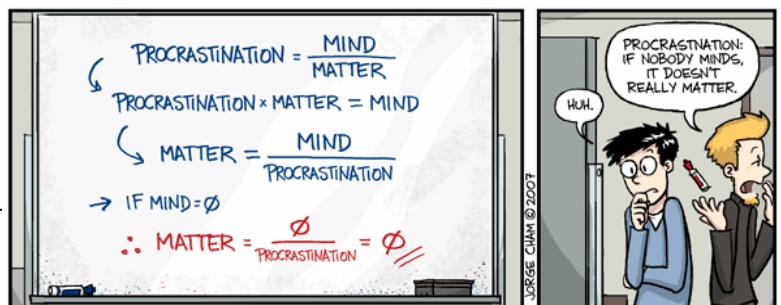
We help promote distance learning and many of our students assist in IT and Educational departments throughout the university. Furthermore, through our listserv, we continue to support our students by posting jobs and discussions of new technology. This has become a very large community of readers that extends outside of our program into other disciplines including those in the SLAIT program, Measurement and Statistical Analysis, and Education.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our listserv community, please visit our website: <http://www.coedu.usf.edu/itsa/>.

ITSA information provided by Gloryvee Cordero, ITSA President.

GPSC Mission

The mission of the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) is to foster interaction between graduate and professional students through community service, social, and academic events. GPSC also provides a voice for graduate and professional students through representation on university committees and advocacy of student interests to the administration.



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