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Newsletter
April 2014

Message from the Executive Committee

As the spring semester comes to an end and finals begin, grad students across all our campuses are hunkering down to study, read, write, calculate, practice, and prepare. They are also finding less sleep and more stress. Thankfully, there are only a few weeks left. Student Involvement is hosting DeStress Fest from April 28th to May 3rd, which will provide events and activities to help us loosen up and relax in our final weeks.

For those graduating this year, the university is hosting a series of events for Grad Fest, which will celebrate the accomplishments of Mason grads. Many undergraduate students will leave the halls of higher education, but for those who stick around, GAPSA welcomes you into the growing community of graduate students here at Mason.

The 2013-14 GAPSA Executive Committee is also wrapping up its time in service to our community, and we welcome the new members of the board for the 2014-15 year. As most of us move on to become alumni of Mason's grad programs, we anticipate great things from the new committee.

Upcoming Events

April 19

Kings Dominion Trip - Grad Fest Event

Tickets on sale now!

Join us as Mason takes over Kings Dominion. Tickets are available NOW in the Office of Student Involvement. This event is open to the Mason Community, Friends, and Family.

The first 1000 student tickets are \$25 each.

Student tickets after the first 1000: \$28

Faculty/Staff/Alumni/Friends/Family: \$28

Tickets can be purchased online or in the Office of Student Involvement.

For more information check out: <http://weekends.gmu.edu>



April 19 to May 19

Grad Fest

Grad Fest is a series of fun events designed to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of Mason graduates. Events are open to seniors and graduate students to encourage them to look ahead to becoming Mason alums and build a lifelong relationship with their alma mater. For more information, visit <http://gradfest.gmu.edu/>

Wednesday, April 23

Coffee & Conversation
4:00pm to 5:00pm
222 Founders Hall
Arlington Campus

"Coffee and Conversation" is designed to connect graduate students with Mason Alumni, Faculty, and Administrators who will speak about their career choices and life experiences. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions on next career steps, work-life balance, how to remain competitive in the workplace, networking tips, managing expectations, and how to turn your passion into your career and so much more. Guest speaker will be Colin R. Hart, School of Public Policy Alumni Vice President and Vice President of Freedom Capital.

April 25

Mason Day - Grad Fest Event
2pm-8pm, Lot L, Fairfax Campus

Mason Day is George Mason University's longest standing tradition and a great way for the Mason community to celebrate the academic year. There will be food, carnival rides, and games, along with a concert in the evening: this year, Ludacris will be performing. For more information about Mason Day and the Ludacris Concert please visit masonday.gmu.edu

April 26

Mason at the Washington Nationals - Grad Fest Event
1:00pm

The Nats take on the San Diego Padres at Nationals Park in D.C. Come out with other Mason students for some crackerjacks, hot dogs, and even some baseball.

April 26

Graduate Student Study Hall
9:00am to 4:00pm
Office of Student Involvement, The Hub, Suite 2300
Fairfax Campus

Looking for some study buddies towards the end of the semester? Join GAPSA in the Office of Student Involvement. We will have refreshments, including coffee, tea, sodas, and snacks. We will also have a few volunteers available to peer review, edit, or proofread any work you want to bring.

For more info, contact Josh St. Louis, jstlou1@gmu.edu or visit <http://gapsa.gmu.edu/study-hall/>



April 28 – May 3

DeStress Fest

During this week, Student Involvement will host a series of events to help you DeStress before finals begin. Check out info about a couple of the events and more details at <http://si.gmu.edu/destress-fest/>. The spring calendar is being finalized but will be posted shortly so check back soon.

May 5

DeStress Fest: Ice Cream Social

6:00pm to 7:30pm

Beacon Hall

Prince William Campus

Take a break from studying and enjoy some ice cream!

May 14

Graduate Celebration: Toasting the Graduates of 2014 - Grad Fest Event

5:30pm to 7:00pm

North Plaza, Fairfax Campus

Enjoy refreshments, photos ops, graduation cap decorating, special guest speakers and a champagne/sparkling juice toast at the George Mason Statue. All graduating seniors at the event will receive a commemorative Mason Alumni champagne glass.

Seniors are encouraged to invite faculty and staff that have made an impact on them while at Mason.

Last chance to RSVP is Friday, May 9 for this event. For more information, visit <http://gradfest.gmu.edu/events/a-graduation-celebration/>

GAPSA Election Results

The votes have been tallied, and the 2014-15 GAPSA Executive Committee has been chosen.

Full results can be found at <http://gapsa.gmu.edu/about-gapsa/elections/>

President: Mhehvish Khan

Bio: Ph.D. student in Education with a focus on Educational Psychology and International Education. She is also the Graduate Assistant for Off-Campus Student Retention in the Office of Off-Campus Student Programs and Services.

Mhehvish's primary responsibilities include advising and mentoring off-campus students. Mhehvish is also a Shinnyo fellow for 2013-2014. For her Shinnyo Fellowship, Mhehvish has started an international film programming series at George Mason University, which she hopes will contribute to a culture of peace through international cinema, dialogue and discussion regarding activism and social change. Mhehvish is also a Campus Impact Fellow for 2013-2014. Mhehvish was selected to be a Critical Language Scholar for 2014.



Mhehvish's goals for GAPSA are to provide more academic and social opportunities for graduate and professional student. She hopes that by providing these networking opportunities, students will be able meet their peers across campuses and find professional growth opportunities and future jobs. She is looking forward to advocating on behalf of all graduate and professional students at several forums across campus.

Vice President for Fairfax: Michael Silliman

Bio: With experiences in student involvement and as Senior Class President in my undergraduate degree, I believe I have the background and skills that will service the Graduate and Professional Student Association. At George Mason I am earning a Master of Public Administration (MPA), serve as the Vice President for the Mason MPA Student Organization, and am a Graduate Professional Assistant for Student Centers. I have a deep desire to be involved in our graduate school experience and to serve my fellow graduate students.

Vice President for Arlington: Aster Mengesha-Gubay

Bio: Master's degree in Public Policy with a concentration in Immigration Policy Development. I received a BA in International Relations with an emphasis in African Studies in May of 2012. I lived in Raleigh, North Carolina, this past year, and moved to the Washington, DC metropolitan area to further delve into the political scene. Throughout my educational career I have consistently served as a member of the executive board and I would like to continue this tradition at the graduate level. In college I was the president of my school's International Society and in this position I worked directly with our international students. As president, I created events and held forums to help further integrate students, successfully, into the campus community. While working with smaller groups on campus, I also worked with larger organizations such as our school's senate. As a senator, I was constantly engaged in the creation of student policies and I became familiar with the schools handbook which helped me understand how everything runs efficiently.

I believe, being an active member of student government, gives me an opportunity to connect with the student body and to serve as the public's voice. Although, my skills are constantly evolving I do possess the many qualities that make a desirable leader. Strong organizational skills, dedication to my fellow peers, and exceptional interpersonal communication abilities are traits that have proven most effective in my previous positions. I will carry these traits over if elected as the Vice President of the Graduate and Professional Student Association. GAPSA allows students to connect with peers in different departments and it also coordinates activities that are beneficial to the GMU community, I hope to further develop programs and increase student participation during my term as VP. Thank you for the opportunity and I look forward to working with you all.

Director of Communications: Spencer Roberts

Bio: Ph.D. in History, with focus on gender and digital histories. In 2012, I earned my Masters of Art in History, and in 2011, completed a Bachelor of Arts in History and English Literature with a minor in Writing and Rhetoric.

During my time as Director of Communications for the 2013-14 GAPSA Executive Committee, I initiated the relaunch of our newsletter, which is prepared and sent to graduate students on a monthly basis. In keeping with upgrades across Mason, I worked to rebuild our website, raising our online presence to meet the needs of current graduate students.



Throughout my career, I have written for school newspapers, trained in video and audio engineering, worked in radio as a manager and host, and served as an editor for numerous organizations. I would like to continue using my experience and skills within GAPSA to facilitate high-quality, effective communications. I also hope to encourage GAPSA to explore new opportunities for increased awareness and participation amongst graduate students at GMU.

Congratulations to the new executive committee members.

Your 2013-14 GAPSA Executive Committee



Katy Seipel
McQuiston,
President



Josh St. Louis, VP
Fairfax



Jackie Inskip,
VP Prince William



Rachel Schott, VP
Arlington



Ahmad Cheema,
VP Loudoun



Spencer Roberts,
Director of
Communication

