

The Luminary

A Newsletter for UNLV Graduate & Professional Students

November 2015



Volume 10 Issue 2

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Don't miss out on GPSA Funding Opportunities GPSA Research and Conference Travel Sponsorships

Need funding for your research project or to present at a conference during the Spring 2016 semester? The Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) offers graduate and professional students funding for research materials/travel and scholarly travel for conferences, externships, competitions, performances, etc. The application and more details are available at <http://www.unlv.edu/gpsa/sponsorship-awards/sponsorships>. For the academic year 2015—2016, 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.

This fall semester, GPSA Vice President and Chair of the Sponsorship Committee Meghan Pierce, presented four workshops offering tips and providing an open forum for questions and answers on the Sponsorship application process. At each workshop, held at: the Law School, Dental School and in Beam Hall, the GPSA provided pizza and drinks and provided information on how to prepare a successful sponsorship application.

The deadline for applying for the Spring 2016 semester activities, falling between 12/13/15 - 5/14/16, is Sunday, November 15th. Also available are emergency travel funding, *for conference presentation (must be presenting) or research travel only*. Emergency applications are due the 20th of each month. Check the GPSA website to see if you qualify.

Applicants *should* understand that this is a competitive application process. Students submitting funding requests should stringently follow the application components to ensure equitable footing. Incomplete or erroneously compiled applications will automatically be disqualified from the request pool.

A stipulation in receiving GPSA funding is participation in the annual spring [Graduate & Professional Student Research Forum](#) scheduled for Saturday, March 12, 2016. See the Forum invitation on page 6.



COFFEE & BAGELS

Graduate Student Commons
Lied Library room 2141



from 7:30am – 10:00am
and 3:00pm – 6:00pm

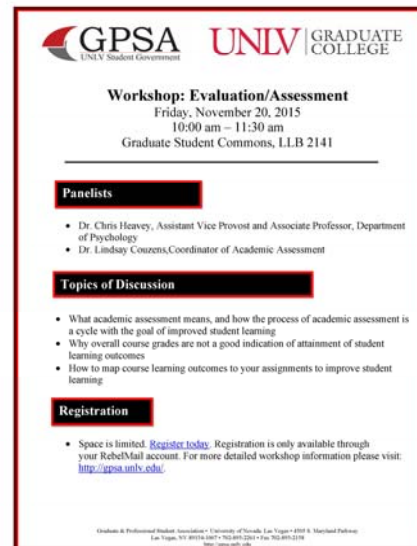
during last week of instruction:
Nov. 30th – Dec. 4th, 2015

(Available until refreshments are exhausted)

Professional Development offered Campus-wide

The GPSA / Graduate College offers a range of workshops to graduate and professional students throughout the semester. The last in the Fall semester line-up is the “Evaluation and Assessment” workshop. See details to the right. For the full semester schedule please go to: <http://www.unlv.edu/gpsa/development>. Workshops are now available on the Grad College YouTube site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecDoa9CABTg>. Be sure to check the GPSA website for the workshop line-up for Spring 2016. Other workshops and professional development opportunities offered on campus:

- **UNLV Libraries Workshops** — A wide variety of Library workshops are offered to UNLV graduate and professional students. All sessions are free. For a complete listing of available workshops and registration please visit the library website: <https://www.library.unlv.edu/services/instruction/workshops>
- **Writing Center** — The Writing Center can help you with any writing assignment at any stage of the writing process. They offer assistance in person, or you can send your paper using the simple form on the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page. Graduate assistants and adjunct instructors: the UNLV Writing Center will send a consultant to your class to talk about the services the Writing Center can offer your students. Call 702-895-3908 to schedule a presentation: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>
- **Instructional Development and Research Events** are open to all UNLV Grad Rebels. If you're interested please check out Instructional Development and Research Calendar of Events: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/idr/events>. Instructional Development and Research Events are open to all UNLV Grad Rebels.



GPSA UNLV Graduate College
UNLV Student Government

Workshop: Evaluation/Assessment
Friday, November 20, 2015
10:00 am – 11:30 am
Graduate Student Commons, LLB 2141

Panelists

- Dr. Chris Heavey, Assistant Vice Provost and Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
- Dr. Lindsay Cozzens, Coordinator of Academic Assessment

Topics of Discussion

- What academic assessment means, and how the process of academic assessment is a cycle with the goal of improved student learning
- Why overall course grades are not a good indication of attainment of student learning outcomes
- How to map course learning outcomes to your assignments to improve student learning

Registration

- Space is limited. [Register today!](#) Registration is only available through your RebelMail account. For more detailed workshop information please visit: <http://gpsa.unlv.edu>

Graduate & Professional Student Association • University of Nevada, Las Vegas • 2015 • Member Publications
Las Vegas, NV 89155-5000 • 702.895.3908 • Fax: 702.895.3279
www.unlv.edu

*GPSA / Graduate College Workshop:
Nov. 20th Evaluation and Assessment*

Important Graduation Dates and Information

Winter commencement ceremony is Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 4:00 pm.—Commencement attendance is not required; however, if you do plan to attend, you must wear the appropriate cap, gown, and hood. Degree candidates planning to attend commencement can purchase all commencement-related items and materials, including caps, gowns, hoods, invitations, , etc. through the [UNLV Bookstore](#), 702-736-3955.

Graduation Deadlines for Spring 2016

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

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, April 16, 2016

Last day to take comprehensive exam, or to defend your thesis or dissertation.

Friday, April 22, 2016

Last day to submit the complete and properly formatted copy of your thesis or dissertation 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.

... Further graduation deadline dates are available at: <http://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/>

2015-2016 Graduate College Fellowships and Scholarships Application Deadline—December 11, 2015

By Yacouba Moumouni

GPSA Representative, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

UNLV offers various types of scholarships and fellowships to graduate students on a merit basis. These awards are meant to cover not only their basic needs, but also the expenses associated with the completion of students' research projects.

The Graduate College Scholarship and Fellowship program provides students an opportunity to assist them in finishing their projects in a timely manner without the extra work of teaching classes, helping with paying their bills or having to work a side job that may not be relevant to their research projects. In other words, it gives the students the ability to focus on their studies.

There is prestige and honor associated with getting a fellowship or scholarship that one has to work hard for to be qualified. Any potential candidate has to put lot of effort into his/her project in order to be successful.

A fellowship or scholarship is a way that prevents one from being distracted; it allows one to set his/her thesis or dissertation as a number one priority. Furthermore, it puts one on the right track and motivates students to start your career path with certainty and full of anticipation of the discoveries to be found.

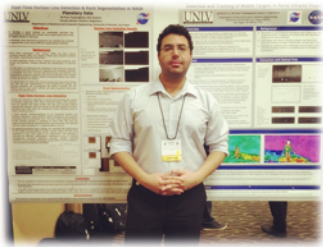
Finally, in order to be a recipient, one has to be committed to a well defined project. Participating in other extracurricular activities and having an active role in your department enables one to stand out. Also volunteering for communities or UNLV's student organizations, and networking with other researchers will enable one to develop the extra skills required to be a great candidate.

Check the Graduate College website to see a full listing of fellowships and scholarships that you may be eligible to receive:

- The UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees Fellowship—package worth approximately \$30,000 per year)
- The President's UNLV Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship—package worth approx. \$25,000
- Barrick Graduate Fellowship—\$15,000 award, plus tuition/fee waiver
- The Hermesen Fellowship—package worth approx. \$20,000
- UNLV Graduate College STEM Fellowship—package worth approx. \$20,000
- The Fred C. Albrecht Alumni Association Scholarship—worth \$1,500
- The Donna Weistrop and David B. Shaffer Scholarship—worth approx. \$750-\$1,000
- The Fred C. Albrecht Alumni Association Scholarship—worth \$1,500
- The Donna Weistrop and David B. Shaffer Scholarship—worth approx. \$750-\$1,000
- The James F. Adams/GPSA Scholarship—worth \$1,000
- The McNair Post-Baccalaureate Scholarship—worth \$4,000
- Patricia Sastaunik Scholarship—worth \$1,000

GPSA Merit Scholarship Recipient: Electrical & Computer Engineering Graduate Student Ali P. Yazdanpanah

The GPSA Merit Award was established to recognize the outstanding academic scholarship of UNLV graduate and professional students. These scholarship endeavors range from research achievements and accomplishments to the contribution of the student's research to the UNLV community. The GPSA Merit Award is granted, on a yearly basis, to three students and comes with a \$300.00 stipend.



Last year, PhD student, Ali P. Yazdanpanah in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was one of the three GPSA Merit recipients. Ali focuses on image processing and multidisciplinary research demanding the application of computer vision techniques. His dissertation topic is about signal reconstruction of topographic images by using limited number of views. He was nominated by a fellow colleague because he has demonstrated outstanding scholastic performance.

To be a potential grantee, one has to be committed to a well-defined project. Ali's nomination was supported with his active role as a volunteer for various organizations and his strong network ties in the academic community which has enabled him to further develop his research.

More information on GPSA Awards is on page 8.

A Place to Study - Graduate Student Commons

The Graduate Student Commons is a perfect study refuge for your end-of-the semester studies. 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, 2 black & white laser printers, 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—make your reservations with the office staff. The Commons also has a large plotter to print large posters for your conference presentations. The printing cost comes directly off of your RebelCard. The GPSA also sells a variety of snacks, tea and coffee for nominal prices.



Keurig coffee maker—
K-cups \$1.00 each

Computer software in the Commons is applicable to graduate and professional student studies: Adobe Suite, ArcGIS, Atlas.ti, AutoCad, Autodesk, Creative Suite, Crystal Reports, Microsoft Office, SAS, SPSS, Stata and Visual Basic.



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

You can read your free copy of *The New York Times* provided by the GPSA on the comfortable couches. The GPSA also belongs to *The New York Times* Readership program. UNLV logins 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.

Graduate Student Commons Hours Lied Library room 2141	
Monday—Thursday	7:30 am—11:00pm
Friday	7:30am — 7:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm
Sunday	11:00am—11:00pm

The facility is only for graduate and professional students. Students must swipe their RebelCards when they enter the Commons.

New GPSA Recognized Student Organizations this Fall

Looking for a good way to get involved on campus and meet fellow students? The GPSA recognizes organized groups of currently enrolled UNLV graduate & professional students that have a commitment to academics, diversity, leadership development, service and/or student involvement.

For a full listing of GPSA recognized student organizations check them out on the GPSA website. Some of the benefits for having GPSA recognition: able to use the Student Union space for meetings and we post their organization’s information on the GPSA website, <http://www.unlv.edu/gpsa/orgs>, and promote their student group in the GPSA newsletter. Some new student orgs this semester:

- Higher Education Student Leadership Association
- UNLV Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children
- BIOS
- Student Affiliates in School Psychology



Graduate Student Researches the Visual Realm

By Audrey Bardwell—GPSA Representative School of Architecture

When one's graduate work is primarily manifested in the visual realm, it can often be difficult to articulate the hours and hours of thought and care that went into the final product. This is not the case for 2016 MFA Candidate Audrey Barcio, who received an Honorable Mention at last year's Graduate & Professional Student Research Forum.



Graduate Art Student Audrey Barcio
Photo Credit: Audrey Dempsey/Infinity Photo

Barcio is an interdisciplinary artist whose work builds from investigations arising from the “play of ideas vs. questions,” specifically those associated with the contemporary human condition. It is with these questions and ideas held as a constant in her mind, that she selects materials and media of which her work is composed. Her work spans a broad spectrum of visual art, including sculpture, painting, installations, video, sound, and light. When asked if the experimentation in manipulating materials or the idea of the final product informs the work more, Barcio says, “In the end, it's the conversation that comes after the visual that I'm most interested in.”

It seems that the resulting conversation is what allows her to discuss her work so effectively and provocatively. Her installation *THERE IS MORE, BUT NO MORE OF THIS*, on display this past spring semester in the Grant Hall Gallery, asked as many questions as it answered. “Artists are researchers when you get down to it,” Barcio says. She finds that articulating the work in an honest and accessible way is not only her task in presenting the work academically but also a responsibility to her audience at large.

Fulbright Scholar Studies Travel Warnings for International Travelers

by Theresa Farmer, GPSA Representative Department of Foreign Languages

In addition to being the Associate Director in the Office of International Programs, Ryan Larsen is a PhD candidate in Public Affairs and recipient of a Fulbright grant for international education administrators. His dissertation is focused on the State Department Travel Warnings, which are used to alert Americans about travel to certain countries but that have not undergone serious scholarly analysis. He would like to determine if these travel warnings are strictly created for the safety of American citizens, or if they are ever created with bias or ulterior motives, such as sanctioning. Professionally, this is important because the Office of International Programs coordinates the study abroad experience for hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students each year and uses these warnings regularly to determine if UNLV is sending students to countries that are politically stable.



Ryann Larsen shares his Fulbright experience

The Fulbright International Education Administrators grant is much shorter than the typical academic year experience with Fulbright since it is designed for administrators who work in study abroad or with international students and scholars but are unable to leave for a long periods of time. This grant allowed Ryan to spend almost three weeks learning first-hand about the Japanese higher education system this summer. This experience informed his knowledge relating policies studied in the Public Affairs program and those associated with his office because UNLV students study in Japan every semester. Ryan's role on campus as the Office of International Programs Associate Director, dissertation research, and Fulbright experience are uniquely related and each is able to inform and supplement the other.



**Inspiration, Innovation, Impact:
A Celebration of Graduate Student Research**

Please join us for a celebration of graduate student research and scholarship to kick off our 18th Annual Graduate Research Forum weekend. This festive reception will showcase the best in graduate scholarship at UNLV. Complementary hot & cold hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and drinks will be served, and there will be a no host bar. Come and celebrate inspiration, innovation, and impactful graduate research at UNLV!

Friday, March 11, 2016

Student Union Ballroom | 4pm-6pm

18th Annual Graduate Research Forum

Saturday, March 12, 2016

Student Union 2nd Floor | 8am-12pm

Awards Ceremony and Luncheon

Saturday, March 12, 2016

Student Union Ballroom | 12pm-2pm

Please Save the Date!

Join us as we Celebrate Excellence in Student Research

GPSA Council 2015 –2016 Goals

Each year the GPSA establishes goals for the academic year. The aim is to further support and promote the mission of the University and the GPSA. A full listing of the goals are available on the GPSA website. Below are just a few of the goals that the Council plans to accomplish this year:

- GPSA Government Relations: Proactive in preparing for next 79th Legislative Session (2017), i.e. having info sessions in Fall 2016 on proposed legislation that will impact higher education and hold “Meet your Legislator” events on campus; encourage voter registration, i.e. September 22nd “National Voter’s Registration Day”, Popcorn info sessions
- Increase GPSA community service involvement: e.g. [UNLV Community Garden](#) (donating produce to UNLV Cares Food Pantry), State-wide Service Day
- Enhance GPSA website: Campus/Community resource page for grad/professional students—Contact Link to Student Health Insurance website and other pertinent UNLV links, i.e. Student Health Insurance website, transportation, parking, etc. Also include housing opportunities, Community Activities, Places to see, i.e. Red Rock, Hoover Dam, drop-in childcare services (preschool or otherwise), etc.
- Extended Campus Dining hours
- Implement Research Forum Survey



GPSA 2015—2016 Council

Dental Student, Michelle Farnoush Researches Melatonin

By Ariel Rosen, GPSA Secretary and Chair of Publications Committee

Michelle Farnoush a dental student in the School of Dental Medicine, received GPSA sponsorship funding and recognition for her outstanding presentation, about the benefits of melatonin in killing oral cancer cells, at the 2015 Graduate & Professional Student Research Forum. We discussed her ongoing research at UNLV's Dental School Shadow Lane campus. Asked about how she began her research in this topic she mentioned the ease of finding melatonin supplements, "melatonin is something everyone can take, you can walk into GNC and pick it up. The most common use is regulating sleep, which is huge for shift workers in Nevada, making this research even more interesting for me." She has worked with melatonin receptors in regards to oral cancer for around 3 years now, and is excited to take her research even further. At the 2015 Research Forum she focused on age to segment those who are more susceptible to oral cancer, for example, "If you're over 50, a shift worker, which is a lot of people here that are working. They have those high risks, they are smoking or in casinos, with second hand smoke...how would it affect someone who has all these risk factors."



Dental Student Michelle Farnoush

Michelle is planning to present new research, including the modulation of melatonin, at the March 12th Research Forum next year. Asked about her favorite moment at last year's research forum, she mentioned the presence of other student researchers, "You have a bunch of people in the room that think it's the coolest thing ever, and the energy there was really motivating...The best thing about being in a position either as a student researcher or as a committee researcher is that you get to motivate. Like with Dr. Kingsley motivating us, we get to translate that motivation to someone else, and encourage other people." Asked for advice for others interested in entering the Forum next year she emphasizes just getting started, "Just talk to people... You're never completely ready, it's never completely convenient, it takes time out of other stuff, but it's worth it at the end; because of the opportunities and the networking and the communication of ideas that you get. Maybe it won't spark something until five years down the road, but it'll spark something. Unless you expose yourself, you will never know." Clarifying why students begin research in the first place, Michelle cites the inspiration that comes along with a simple question, "It doesn't get done because someone wants something on their CV. It gets done because people are inspired to do something, and that's when we find out that hey, this hasn't been looked at before. Ask a question. If you're curious about something ask a question, you'll change it forty times by the time you actually start anyway but start somewhere. Have a brainstorm, find your mentor; find any person. It can be any faculty, it doesn't have to be a faculty that does research because they will know someone who does."

The Office of International Programs Sponsoring Two Events In Celebration of the State Department's International Education Week:

Guest Lecture by Consul Akira Ichioka from the Consulate of Japan, San Francisco. He will speak about US - Japanese relations on Wednesday, November 18 at 4:00 pm in RLL 101

Passport Fair

Do you have a passport? Here's your chance to apply for one at UNLV! The US Postal Service will be on campus to process passport applications on Thursday, November 19 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in SU 224.

Fill out the application online at travel.state.gov/passport and bring it with you, plus: •Proof of US citizenship (such as your original or certified birth certificate or a previous passport) • Proof of identification (such as a driver's license) • 2 passport size photos (or have them taken at event) • Money (see <http://travel.state.gov/passport> for fees)

Noteworthy UNLV Dates

Graduate & Professional
Student Association
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1007

Phone: 702-895-2261
Fax: 702-895-2158
gpsa@unlv.edu

Visit the GPSA at:
<http://gpsa.unlv.edu/>

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/](http://www.unlvtickets.com/students/)

November 11 Veteran's Day Recess

November 16 MBA Fortune 500 Executive Insight Speaker Series: Aileen Zerrudo, Director of Communications, The Clorax Co. 7:00pm - UNLV Greenspun Hall Auditorium.

November 14 Lady Rebels vs Southern Utah Thunderbirds 3:00—5:00pm @ the Thomas & Mack Center

November 26-27 Thanksgiving Recess

December 3 University Forum Lecture Series: University Forum Lecture: World Literature's Bad Boy: Boccaccio and His Decameron; 7:30—8:30pm in the Marjorie Barrick Museum Auditorium

November 29 UNLV Football vs San Diego State 7:30pm, at the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl

December 15 UNLV Winter 2014 Commencement @ the Thomas & Mack Center @ 4:00pm

December 7 GPSA Council Meeting @ the Student Union room 208 A, B, C from 2:00—3:00pm

December 16 UNLV Runnin' Rebels vs Arizona State 7:00pm, at the Thomas & Mack Center

GPSA newsletter archives are available: <http://gpsa.unlv.edu/newsletter/>



GPSA Publication Committee:
Ariel Rosen, Chair & GPSA Secretary, Yacouba
Moumouni, Audrey Bardwell and
Theresa Farmer

GPSA Student and Faculty Awards—Nominations due by December 6th

Do you know an outstanding member of the graduate and professional student community?? Consider nominating them for an award!!



Student Awards - The GPSA Service Award acknowledges up to three graduate and/or professional students per academic year. These students have displayed outstanding performance through their dedication and service to both the UNLV and the Las Vegas Community. Monetary Award: **\$300.00**. **The GPSA Merit Award** recognizes up to three graduate and/or professional students per academic year. These students have proven themselves to be outstanding scholars in their field. Monetary Award: **\$300.00**.

Faculty and Staff Awards - The GPSA Distinguished Contribution Award recognizes one individual for their service to graduate and professional students for the academic year from the following categories: UNLV Administration, Faculty, and Staff. This award bestows formal recognition upon devoted supporters of graduate and professional students. *Monetary Award: None*. **The GPSA Outstanding Mentor Award** recognizes up to three UNLV faculty or mentors from the community per academic year. These mentors are people who have demonstrated continued success in preparing graduate and professional students for academia. *Monetary Award: None*.

For the application and further details go to: <http://www.unlv.edu/gpsa/sponsorship-awards>.