

hgsa Newsletter

History Graduate Student Association

Volume II No. 1 August 1995

The First Year

Welcome all graduate students to another academic year. The History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) successfully completed its first year. The HGSA is open to all history graduate students and American Studies students with a history emphasis. The goal of the organization is to provide a forum for disseminating information and for students to discuss various issues pertaining to their academic careers. This newsletter provides a summary of important news and information within the department and in the larger campus community. Phone numbers and contact persons are listed whenever possible. Good luck and enjoy the new academic year!

CRC

During the fall of 1994, the HGSA began discussing the need for a system to resolve internal departmental conflicts. Although such conflicts have successfully been resolved in the past through existing channels, the HGSA recognized the need for a more structured system for those rare cases that could not be resolved through traditional methods. A committee was formed to look further into the issue. During the spring semester of 1995, the committee presented guidelines for the Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC). The committee's proposal was presented to the graduate students for a vote, and was successfully passed. The next step involved presenting the CRC proposal to the faculty. Following a meeting with Dr. Roger Schlesinger, History Chair, the CRC became part

of official departmental procedure.

The CRC is a non-standing committee that can be called when a conflict occurs between a graduate student and a faculty member that can not be resolved through other internal channels. The CRC provides equal representation for both the student and the faculty member. The goal of the CRC is to provide recommendations for the benefit of both parties involved. Copies of the CRC's rules and procedures can be obtained from any of the Agenda Committee members.

Teaching Assistantships

Similar to the summer of 1993, official T.A. notices did not go out until late July. This was due to a delay in the confirmation of funding. At press time, the final number of T.A.s had not been confirmed.

For fall 1995, approximately, 11 new M.A. students, and 4 new Ph.D. students will enter the program. The total number of students remains between 70 to 75, with approximately 33 T.A.s.

Copy Cards

The Graduate and Professional Student's Association (GPSA) will continue to sell subsidized copy cards from their office, located on the third floor of the CUB. The cards are available on Mondays and Thursdays during office hours for only \$2.50 for 80 copies. The cards are limited to one per person per week. Current student i.d. cards are required.

Interlibrary Loans

Free interlibrary loans for all graduate students will continue at the library. This program, however, was so successful that, last year, the interlibrary loan office was backed up with requests by several weeks. This situation probably will not ease with the upcoming academic year, thus, a word to the wise: if materials are needed for papers or research, fill out the request forms as soon as possible.

Computers

Good news for all computer users. The Graduate Student Study Center is set to open in Holland Library on August 28. Located on the ground floor, across from Current Periodicals, the Center will offer 12 computers, both P.C.s and Macintoshes for free! All computers are installed with the latest software and provide access to the mainframe. In addition, students will have access to regular and color printers, a scanner, and a copy machine for a small nominal fee. The Study Center will provide lockers, study carrels, and both a monitor, and a graduate assistant to provide information and help with the computers. The Center will be open during library hours. A current student i.d. card is required. For more info on the copy cards and the Graduate Center contact the GPSA at 335-9545.

The Humanities Research Center (HRC) also provides similar access to computers for graduate students for a nominal one-time fee. Located on the third floor of Avery Hall, the HRC also has a computer monitor and offers both P.C.s and Macs. Access to a scanner and a laser printer

is also available for a nominal charge. During busy periods, reservations for computer usage can be made.

Appointments for help with accessing the Internet or e-mail are available. The HRC is a bit more flexible in that it is open 24 hours a day. The only glitch is to get into the building before it closes. For more information contact Rhonda Blair at 335-8948, Avery Hall, room 329.

Computers are also available in the History department. The Phi Alpha Theta room has several P.C.s. A code is required for 24 hour access. Contact Pat Hawkins for the code. A Macintosh is available in the archives room in the main office. Access to the Mac is limited to departmental office hours.

The library will be offering free Internet classes this fall. Watch for notices or inquire at the reference desk.

Health Insurance

Teaching and research assistants are provided with health insurance coverage. This year, the benefits have expanded to include dental, both cleaning and restorative care, as well as optical. T.A.s and R.A.s can include their spouses and child(ren) in the health plan for \$557 and \$409, respectively, for one year. The University's student health plan is available for non-funded graduate students. This plan, however, does not cover optical or dental. The annual costs for this health plan are \$305 for the student, \$1371 for the spouse, and \$495 for the child(ren). Thus, for non-funded graduate students and their families, health coverage remains quite costly. Health plans can be purchased on a semester by semester basis. Forward any questions or comments concerning health insurance to the GPSA or to the Benefit Services and Risk Management at French Ad., room 232, 335-4589.

The Future

The HGSA is considering several important issues for the upcoming year. All students are encouraged to attend HGSA meetings as your participation is crucial.

1.) The ambiguous status of T.A.s in the University.

T.A.s are not considered faculty or staff, yet their active involvement with undergraduates is crucial to teaching. Thus, T.A. status remains professionally in limbo. Discussion of T.A. unionization has been introduced in the GPSA and in the HGSA. Those interested should contact fellow graduate student Greg Hall or the GPSA.

2.) Funding. Although the number of T.A.s in the department has remained consistent, generally around 30, in the last few years the numbers, depending on a variety of situations, can fluctuate. Job security is one of the issues we will discuss in the HGSA.

3.) Course and credit requirements.

Last year, several students brought up the subject of how to best fulfill the departmental recommendations that T.A.s maintain 14 credit hours without filling their transcripts with large numbers of 700 and 800 credit hours. What are your thoughts on this issue?

4.) Mentorship program for incoming graduate students.

The goal of this program is to provide new students an opportunity to meet fellow students who share their academic interests. HGSA will provide a list at the first meeting of graduate students established in different fields. This will provide an excellent opportunity for new graduate students to meet others in their fields of interest.

For further information, all graduate students are strongly encouraged to attend HGSA

meetings or to contact your HGSA Agenda Committee members.

Upcoming Events

Look to the two bulletin boards, next to the copy machine and in the hallway, for departmental and HGSA news, announcements of activities, and meeting schedules.

Potluck

Here's your chance to schmooze with faculty and graduate students alike. The HGSA will join Phi Alpha Theta for a beginning of the semester potluck. Bring a dish to share, beverages, and your sunny disposition to Klemgard Park on Sunday, September 3, at noon. Directions, ride info, and sign-up sheets for food will be posted in the hallway and in the office. Bring your spouses, significant others, pets, children, friends, and assorted toys. You will be called!

Election

Election for the new HGSA Agenda Committee is coming up. Nominations will be posted in the hallway and ballots placed in mailboxes. **Remember to Vote!**

Current Agenda Committee Members:

Declan Keogh M.A. Rep.
Kevin Marsh Graduate Studies Rep.
Scott McKinley Non-Funded Student Rep.
Ted Nitz Faculty Rep.
Jerry Garcia Ph.D. Rep.

GPSA Reps:

Greg Hall
Sue Vetter

-M. A. Kim, L. Rognas (yes she graduated, but she's still here!) **Self Appointed Social Directors At Large**