

Graduate Student Association

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Annual Report
2018-2019**

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President's Farewell

Dear Graduate and Professional Students,

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) has been a defining part of my graduate school experience. Over the last three years, I served as Secretary of Alumni Affairs, Vice President and, most recently, President. These roles have challenged me both personally and professionally, and they have ultimately been extremely rewarding. I have had opportunities to meet many of the incredible students, faculty, and staff who make this university the vibrant, intellectually rich place it is, and I am grateful to the people who work tirelessly on behalf of our graduate student body.

This year, we focused on building on the momentum from last year. Some of you may have heard GSA officers referring to the "GSA renaissance" that happened under Clint Saidy's leadership. We wanted to use this year to continue to be engaged with graduate students and increase our advocacy efforts. This report goes into great detail about our accomplishments, but I wanted to take a moment to highlight a few of which I am particularly proud:

1. We continued to host social events throughout the year, including bringing Lego Grad Student to campus for a hilarious and honest talk about the trials and tribulations of graduate school.
2. We heard your concerns and suggestions at two town halls, and we used the feedback we gathered to craft our priorities.
3. We surveyed graduate assistants about their stipends and worked with the administration to identify actionable steps.
4. We built on our collaborations with the Graduate School from last year, including co-organizing Graduate Student Appreciation Week and events during Carolina Leadership Week.
5. We continued to prioritize the health and wellbeing of our graduate students, which involved taking a more holistic view which draws from the "Wellness Wheel."
6. Vice President Anna Cofie and I traveled to DC to meet with South Carolina's congressional delegation, where we highlighted the significant contributions graduate students make and areas where our legislators might take our unique needs into consideration.

I offer my sincere thanks to everyone who helped us move the GSA forward this year, especially my executive board and cabinet. While there is certainly more work to be done, this year exceeded my expectations. I look forward to continuing to serve the GSA next year as Graduate Council Representative under the leadership of our next president, Anna Cofie.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Mandelbaum
President, Graduate Student Association

A Word from University President Dr. Harris Pastides



Graduate students at the University of South Carolina embody the highest standards of excellence and innovation. Our students and programs are nationally recognized for their distinguished contributions to their fields, such as our Graduate International Business program ranked No.1 in the nation. As President, I have witnessed the successful leadership of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) and their tireless dedication to the advancement of our students' work and study at South Carolina. I am proud of the Association and its executive team for their advocacy and support of our students. Their leadership team, including GSA President Jennifer Mandelbaum, has been highly effective in addressing difficult challenges and promoting graduate student interests. I am confident that Anna Cofie and the new executive team will continue the GSA's standard of excellence.

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A Word from Dr. Cheryl Addy, Dean of Graduate School



The Graduate Student Association at the University of South Carolina offers leadership to and advocacy for our 6000+ graduate students. Whether planning social events, promoting leadership and professional development, advocating with our state representatives in Washington, or advocating on campus for better awareness of health and mental health resources, the GSA officers have worked tirelessly this year for our graduate students and graduate education at UofSC.

Across my academic career at UofSC, a highlight has always been working with student groups, seeing the passion our students demonstrate not just for academic studies but also for enrichment activities, community engagement, fellowship and support for fellow students. Working with the Graduate Student Association this year has epitomized this. I have observed GSA proactively build relationships with campus leaders and a stronger partnership with the Student Government Association. As the year nears its end, I look forward to working with next year's leadership team to continue this positive momentum and to promote additional opportunities for graduate students.

A Word from Dr. Anna Edwards, Associate Vice President for Student Life



The Graduate Student Association has had a productive year in identifying needs and priorities of graduate students and developing plans of action. The association was led by strong student leaders who were clear in their purpose and priorities. The students initiated meetings with university administrators that had purpose and a focus related to their goals. They were diligent in follow up and bringing concerns of graduate students to the appropriate university staff person. This year, GSA sent two members of the leadership team to Washington, D.C. to meet with South Carolina congressional leaders to advocate on behalf of graduate students. Strong collaborations and partnerships continue between undergraduate and graduate students to work together to address needs of all Carolina students. The officers this year have been present and persistent – working tirelessly to advocate and improve the experiences for graduate students at Carolina. I look forward to the next group of graduate student leaders who will continue to build upon the strong foundation that has been established.

Report of Professional Development Programming by the Graduate School

**Dr. Heather M. Brandt, Associate Dean, Graduate School
Professor, Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior**



For the last three academic years, the Graduate School at the University of South Carolina (UofSC) has scaled up professional development offerings for graduate students. The scaled-up efforts are not intended to compete with offerings by degree programs, which are best suited to tailor to students' discipline-specific needs, but are instead designed to complement those offerings with high-quality, innovative professional development programming and to prepare graduate students for a variety of meaningful career options after degree. Professional development programming is delivered in multiple formats to encourage participation. To achieve the overall goal, collaborative planning, collective implementation, and comprehensive evaluation activities are employed.

For the 2018-2019 academic year, the Graduate School once again partnered with the Graduate Student Association in addition to other campus partners convened through the Advisory Committee on Professional Development for Graduate Students to plan events. A #GRADprofdev survey is administered in the spring semester of each year to provide additional guidance from graduate students on the types of programs needed. The spring 2018 results were used for the current academic year. Following are the events and activities delivered as part of professional development programming by the Graduate School from August 2018-May 2019. A total of 34 events were offered during this academic year.

Fall 2018:

- Graduate Student Extravaganza (orientation-style event, included professional head shots and resume/CV review)
- CliftonStrengths Give-away
- Shut Up and Write, organized with the Writing Center
- Resume and CV Review
- Start Smart Workshops (2), organized with the Student Success Center
- Writing Your Teaching Philosophy, Parts 1 and 2, organized with the Center for Teaching Excellence
- LinkedIn and You: Effectively Growing Your Network Webinar
- Professional Journeys: Exploring the Career Paths of Graduate Alumni Webinar

Spring 2019:

- Graduate Civic Scholars Program Information Session Webinar and In-person
- Carolina Leadership Week (online)

- Writing Your Teaching Philosophy, Parts 1 and 2, organized with the Center for Teaching Excellence
- Shut Up and Write, organized with the Writing Center
- Abstract Writing Workshop
- Start Smart Workshop, organized with the Student Success Center
- Resume and CV Review (2), organized with the Career Center
- Getting the Mentoring You Need Webinar
- How To Effectively Communicate Scholarship to a Variety of Audiences
- Professional Ethics Seminar
- Teaching at an R1 Institution Panel, organized with the Center for Teaching Excellence

Graduate Student Appreciation Week, April 1-5, 2019, organized with the Graduate Student Association:

- Creating an Impactful Poster Webinar and In-person
- Cake and Punch with Dean Addy
- Chair Massages by Southeastern Institute
- Start Smart Workshop, organized with the Student Success Center
- Professional Head Shots for Graduate Students
- Cooking Class: Southern Staples
- Yoga for Graduate Students
- Mental Health Round Table, organized by the Graduate Student Association with the Black Graduate Student Association
- Mentoring Matters Workshop
- Data Visualization Workshop (2)

In addition to these formal programs, each Friday during the fall and spring academic terms, the Graduate School hosted “Professional Development Friday” online. One professional development topic each Friday is the focus of social media posts across Graduate School accounts, such as on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, to share information and resources about professional development topics. Graduate students also may access the UofSC institutional memberships to the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity and the National Postdoctoral Association. Other free professional development resources, such as ImaginePhD and the Cornell Productive Writers Listserv, were also promoted as professional development resources.

The major challenge with professional development programs offered by the Graduate School was attendance. We know graduate students who attend or participate in programs find tremendous value, and we receive positive feedback through evaluations. However, we continue to have challenges with attendance. We realize graduate students are busy and working to meet multiple expectations and requirements (we also know this from survey data). Our program topics are based on planning with the Graduate Student Association,

Advisory Committee, and survey results. We promote professional development offerings via email, social media, and the Graduate School website (events calendar). Based on previous surveys of graduate students, email and the website were the two most common sources of information about professional development offerings. We have modified our reminder system and formats offered to increase attendance. We want to offer programs of interest to graduate students, and this is an issue we hope to discuss further with the Graduate Student Association.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the Graduate Student Association (GSA) has contributed to professional development offerings in the following ways:

- Submitted articles on Professional Journeys of graduate alumni to be featured on Graduate School social media
- Overall planning of professional development content throughout the academic year, especially for Graduate Student Appreciation Week.
- Programming for Carolina Leadership Week, including a leadership panel session, blogs and videos. (Refer to separate section for a report of the results of Carolina Leadership Week).
- Participation on the Advisory Committee for Professional Development for Graduate Students.
- The Graduate School supported the Graduate Student Association's communication efforts on social media by furthering dissemination of information to graduate students and the larger UofSC community.

The Graduate School looks forward to continued collaboration with the Graduate Student Association on professional development programming efforts as well as other efforts to better meet the needs of graduate students.



Who We Are

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is the voice of the graduate student community at the University of South Carolina.

The GSA:

- is dedicated to the advancement and development of graduate and professional students at USC
- serves to advocate on behalf of the interests of more than 7,000 graduate and professional students
- works closely with administrators, faculty and staff to achieve its goals

2018-2019 Executive Board



President
Jennifer Mandelbaum
*PhD Student,
Health Promotion,
Education, and Behavior*



Vice President
Anna Cofie
*PhD Student,
Health Services Policy and
Management*



Treasurer
Billy Quinlan
*MPA Student,
Public Administration*



Graduate Council Rep.
Clint Said
*PhD Student,
Mechanical Engineering*

2018-2019 President's Cabinet

Position	Name	Department
<i>Secretary of Graduate Student Organizations</i>	Haley Davis-Martin (Fall)	Epidemiology
	Moutoshi Saha (Spring)	Civil and Environmental Engineering
<i>Secretary of Graduate Assistantships</i>	Diana Kimono	Environmental Health Sciences
<i>School of Veterans Affairs</i>	Andrew Kirkland (Fall)	Business Administration
	Jeffrey Yelverton (Spring)	Music History
<i>Secretary of Alumni Relations</i>	Michael Lis	Geological Sciences
<i>Secretary of Professional Development</i>	Omonefe Omofuma	Epidemiology
<i>Secretary of Multicultural Student Affairs</i>	Caleb Morris (Fall)	Higher Education and Student Affairs
	Emilio Chase (Spring)	Higher Education and Student Affairs
<i>Secretary of GSA Affairs</i>	Chelsea Richard	Epidemiology
<i>Secretary of Health</i>	Haven Spanyer	Higher Education and Student Affairs
<i>Press Secretary</i>	Sarah Truesdale	Higher Education and Student Affairs
<i>Secretary of Community Outreach</i>	Nick Vera	Library and Information Science
<i>Secretary of International Student Affairs</i>	Kevin Vu (Fall)	Civil Engineering
	Jingtong Dou (Spring)	Education Administration
<i>Secretary of Legislative Affairs</i>	Shaoshuang Wen	Political Science

2018-2019 Finance Committee

Name	Department
<i>Billy Quinlan (Chair)</i>	Public Administration
<i>Walker Ross</i>	Sport and Entertainment Management
<i>Shelby Butz</i>	Environmental Health Sciences
<i>Samantha McNeal</i>	Environmental Health Sciences
<i>Tim Koba</i>	Sport and Entertainment Management
<i>Ashley White</i>	Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior

We also thank Megan O'Brien (Medicine), Philip Carmon (Medicine), and Celia Cui (Pharmacy) for their involvement and valuable input this year.

GSA Representation on University Committees

Committee	Name	Department
<i>University Bookstore Committee</i>	Sarah Truesdale	Higher Education and Student Affairs
<i>Committee on Curricula and Courses</i>	Jennifer Mandelbaum	Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior
<i>Committee on Honorary Degrees</i>	Clint Saily	Mechanical Engineering
<i>Committee on Instructional Development</i>	Kevin Tabury	Biomedical Engineering
<i>Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions</i>	Jessie Guest	Counselor Education
<i>Committee on Academic Responsibility</i>	Nick Vera	Library and Information Science
<i>Awards Committee</i>	Nick Vera	Library and Information Science
<i>Outstanding Faculty/Staff Advisor Award Committee</i>	Anna Cofie	Health Services Policy and Management
<i>Registration Committee</i>	Omonefe Omofuma	Epidemiology
<i>Retention Committee</i>	Shaoshaung Wen	Public Administration
<i>Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee</i>	Billy Quinlan	Public Administration
<i>University 101 Academic Advisory Committee</i>	Omonefe Omofuma	Epidemiology
<i>University Athletics Advisory Committee</i>	Billy Quinlan	Public Administration
<i>Blatt Physical Education Center Advisory Committee</i>	Clint Saily	Mechanical Engineering
<i>Provost Advisory Committee on Women's Issues</i>	Brooks Herring	Physical Therapy
<i>Religious Affairs</i>	Chelsea Larsen	Exercise Science
<i>Clean Carolina Committee</i>	Clint Saily	Mechanical Engineering
<i>Parking and Transit Advisory Committee</i>	Kevin Vu	Civil Engineering
<i>Parking Appellate Court</i>	Cassie Bailey	Environmental Health Sciences
<i>University Safety Committee</i>	Lee Goble	
<i>Disability Affairs Committee</i>	Billy Quinlan	Public Administration
<i>Health Services Advisory Committee</i>	Serena Finley	Health Services Policy and Management
<i>South Carolina Residency Appeals Committee</i>	Anna Cofie	Health Services Policy and Management
<i>Orientation Committee</i>	Nick Vera	Library and Information Science
<i>Board of Student Publications and Communications</i>	Billy Quinlan	Public Administration
<i>Community (off-campus) Safety Committee</i>	Nick Vera	Library and Information Science
<i>University Libraries Student Advisory Council</i>	Nick Vera Jennifer Mandelbaum	Library and Information Science Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior
	Nick Vera	Library and Information Science

Reports of the GSA Executive Board



GSA Vice President: Anna Cofie

Serving as the Vice President this year for the Graduate Student Association (GSA) has been an honor. A year prior, I served as the Secretary of Health for the GSA and supported the health insurance subsidy increase. During my term, I had no intentions of running for Vice President (VP), however, seeing the impact that the GSA had on campus, it propelled me to give the VP position a chance. I will have to say, that has been one of the best decisions of my academic career here at USC.

During my tenure as Vice President, I worked hand-in-hand with our whole executive board to ensure our initial goals and objectives we had for GSA are met. These initiatives included but not limited to working to fund as many graduate student organizations as possible, creating an avenue for students to voice their concerns, finding more creative ways to engage graduate students, and furthering professional development initiatives with the Graduate School. As VP, I helped spearhead the first town hall of the year. Here, graduate students had the opportunity to express their concerns and share their successes. This town hall was a success as it enabled us to refocus our energy on some of the pertinent issues raised in the meeting. In pushing for advocative ways to make sure that graduate students are not left behind in the conversation, Jennifer, the current president of GSA and myself visited the Nation's Capital in Washington, D.C. to advocate on behalf of graduate students. Our focus on the Hill included more funding for graduate students through federal grants and support for the Higher Education Act to name a few. This trip was made possible with the help of the

Graduate School. In enhancing the graduate student experience, I served on many committees across campus including the Mental Health Council Committee, Health Services Advisory Committee, and Awards Committee, for a graduate voice to be at the table. This year has been a very fulfilling one, and I am glad to continue the works of the previous administration as the next President of GSA.

Graduate Council Representative: Clint Saidy

I've been a part of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) for almost three years. Serving the graduate community during these years has been an important milestone in my academic and professional career development.

During my first year as a graduate student at USC, I had the chance to join the president's cabinet as Secretary of International Student Affairs. During this year, I formed and maintained connections with organizations and populations around the University to support a multicultural campus. This position helped me better understand graduate students needs and pushed me to run for president the next year. During my tenure as GSA President in 2017/18, GSA increased its engagement with graduate students and made sure their voices were heard on campus. With the support of the GSA executive board and the Graduate School, we were able to succeed with a proposal to increase the health insurance subsidy given to graduate assistants from 19% to almost 50%.

This past year, I got elected and served as the GSA graduate council representative. The Graduate Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Dean of the Graduate School. Being a voting member of this council, my duties ranged from attending regular meetings and being engaged in discussions that might have an impact on graduate students, to serving on the Grievances, Appeals and Petitions Committee. During my term, I also served on various university committees including the University Athletic Advisory Committee, Religious Affairs Committee, and Committee on Honorary Degrees. I believe that this year, under the leadership of President Mandelbaum and her diverse board and cabinet, the Graduate Student Association has maintained and expanded its collaboration and engagement with different entities on campus to better represent and advocate on behalf the Carolina graduate and professional community. Besides, I have confidence that the 2019/20 board under the leadership of President-Elect Anna Cofie will keep on pushing the GSA forward!

Treasurer: Billy Quinlan

This report provides a description of the activities, events, and initiatives that were sponsored by the Graduate Student Association (GSA) in the 2018-19 year.

The GSA Allocations Budget provided below details the events, conferences, and competitions constructed and led by our campus's registered graduate student organizations. These requests were submitted and reviewed by the GSA Finance Committee to, in accordance with university policy and precedent, evaluate the benefit for the organization, campus community, and graduate student body as a whole.

The total amount requested this year by graduate student organizations to date was \$39,507.75, which represents 150.7% of the amount the GSA Finance Committee had available to allocate this year. To date, the Finance Committee has been able to allocate \$26,693 to fund 26 events, conferences, and competitions, with an estimated reach of 2,623 based on attendance figures from funded requests.

In comparison to 2017-18, the GSA Finance Committee has had to drastically lower the amount of funding that we have been able to in recent years. In order to maintain our reach to a large quantity of the graduate student population, we have had to partially fund events at a substantially higher rate than previous funding years. The amount of interest from graduate student organizations in funding assistance continues to grow with increasing amounts requested by organizations, more organizations eligible for funding through a streamlined application process, and greater goals from our graduate student organizations.

Organization Name	Event Name	Event Date	Allocated
CHEGSO	Chemical Engineering Grad Student Symposium 2018		-\$989.45
Graduate Students in Linguistics	Research Forum	11/10/2018	-\$610.00
Taiwanese Student Association	TSA Halloween Event	10/26/2018	-\$450.00
Students for Justice in Palestine	AlKhalil Documentary Screening	11/18/2018	-\$165.00
Students for Justice in Palestine	Palestinian Cultural Night	11/7/2018	-\$1,664.00
Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society	Kane Smego - Workshop & Performance	11/9/2018	-\$2,000.00
Indian Student Organization	Jashn	11/17/2018	-\$3,603.00
Taiwanese Student Association	Thanksgiving Event	11/18/2018	-\$440.00
Master of Public Administration Student Association	FYE Conference	2/16/2019	-\$724.00
Black Graduate Student Association	RMH Philanthropy Event	1/25/2019	-\$215.00
Taiwanese Student Association	Chinese New Year Event	2/16/2019	-\$400.00
Black Graduate Student Association	Mental Health & Healthy Relationship	2/22/2019	-\$196.00
Bangladesh Student Association	BanglaFest	2/23/2019	-\$3,449.00
LLC GSA	LLC GSA Conference	3/2/2019	-\$863.00
SCAWWA	SC Environmental Conference	3/13/2019	-\$1,300.00

Graduate Student Association

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Graduate English Association	Conference on College Composition and Communication	3/13-16/2019	-\$832.00
Indian Student Organization	Holi	3/23/2019	-\$980.00
Iranian Student Organization	Iranian New Year Celebration	3/24/2019	-\$2,250.00
Graduate English Association	Association of Writing Programs Conference	3/27-30/2019	-\$544.00
Black Graduate Student Association	#GradMindsMatter	4/4/2019	-\$210.00
ISPOR	ISPOR One-Day Symposium	4/12/2019	-\$317.00
Geography Graduate Student Association	Map Battle v. Clemson	4/12/2019	-\$140.00
Anthropology Graduate Organization for Research, Action, and Ethics	SCASC Conference	4/13/2019	-\$280.00
CHEGSO	Chemical Engineering Grad Student Symposium 2019	4/25/2019	-\$700.00
Graduate Association of Biological Sciences	GABS Research Symposium	4/27/2019	-\$231.00
Sport & Entertainment Management Association	NASSM Conference	5/29-6/2/2019	-\$3,090.00
		REMAINING	\$1,061.04

The GSA Operations Budget provided below outlines the spending of the Graduate Student Association in support of our goals to promote all facets of graduate student life. We have seen increased participation from graduate students across campus this year, introducing new events and strategies to engage a greater number of our peers in graduate student life. The introduction of semesterly Town Hall meetings and events like our Healthy Cooking Course at the Center for Health & Well-being have brought in the perspectives from academic departments and disciplines and promoted networking, inclusion, and sharing of ideas between graduate students.

GSA FY19 OPERATIONS BUDGET	Location	Date	Allocated
GSA Executive Officer Stipends			\$12,240.00
GSA Executive Nametags			\$39.00
GSA Executive Business Cards			\$204.00
GSA Promotional Items			\$557.51
NAGPS Annual Membership			\$515.25
GSA Welcome Back Event	Hickory Tavern	8/30/2018	\$889.27
Fall Town Hall	RHUU	11/1/2018	\$224.08
GSA Study Break	TCL	12/5/2018	\$61.00
Travel for Advocacy Meetings	Washington, DC	2/3/2019-2/5/2019	\$574.39
Lego Grad Student	Gambrell Hall	2/6/2019	\$0.00
Spring Town Hall	RHUU	2/25/2019	\$264.42
Graduate Student Cooking Class	Center for Health & Well-Being	3/4/2019	\$200.00
Grad Student Appreciation Week Event	Segra Park	4/7/2019	\$295.00
End-of-Year Appreciation Luncheon	McCutchen House	4/17/2019	\$300.00

Reports of the GSA President's Cabinet

Secretary of Graduate Student Organizations: Moutoshi Saha

I served GSA as the secretary of graduate student organizations in the President's cabinet of GSA. My role was to advocate for the graduate student organizations. I reached out to these organizations and informed them about funding opportunities and other resources available for them at UofSC. I worked to establish effective communications between GSA and graduate student organizations. During biweekly GSA meetings, I communicated with other GSA members to facilitate solutions for the challenges faced by graduate student organizations. Besides these, I also volunteered in several GSA events. It was a great experience for me to work as part of GSA and I am looking forward to serving GSA as the treasurer next year.

Secretary of Graduate Assistantships: Diana Kimono

During the year of 2018-2019, my office dealt with a number of issues regarding the welfare of graduate assistants. Graduate assistants include; Teaching assistants, graduate research assistants and graduate assistants. Their role is to assist professors or administrators in doing their research, teaching or administrative duties. This year, the following were the major issues we had to work on.

1. Graduate assistants' stipend rates

The issue of graduate assistant stipend rates was at the forefront of our activities this year. Several graduate student assistants raised it to us that their stipends are not sufficient to cater for their needs, and therefore would need a raise in their stipends. This issue is complex because different schools and departments pay differently- there is no universal amount that is to be paid to graduate assistants across the university. We then thought we would be more successful if we negotiated the stipends right at the top, from the university's policy level. However, to do this, we needed to gather data about graduate assistant's stipends and living conditions through a survey.

The survey was designed and sent to all graduate student assistants. After 3 months, about 600 graduate assistants responded to the survey. This was the biggest activity that happened in my office this year, and at the moment the data is being analyzed. We hope that this data and other information on welfare of graduate assistants will help us build a strong case to negotiate better pay for graduate assistants.

2. Difficult contracts and work relationships with graduate assistants and their bosses.

We also received a number of reports from graduate assistants who were having difficult work relationships with their bosses. In one case a graduate assistant was being threatened by her boss that if she does not do as the boss orders, her stipend will be reduced. She reached out to us for help. In trying to help her we found that there were few or no structures in place to protect the graduate assistant in such cases. It turned out that the boss could actually do as she was threatening! Another graduate student who preferred to remain anonymous reached out to us regarding a boss who is over working them. The boss was requiring them to work after hours and weekends too. This case particularly was difficult because the student felt afraid to report this case to higher authorities because her master's degree depended largely on her advisor (whom he was working for), and her salary too depended on her. This issue was also raised by several students in the graduate assistant survey. Although we have not done much regarding the issue of work relationships and terms of employment, we hope that the next GSA executive and cabinet will continue working on it.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the support and help of the GSA executive and cabinet in handling these issues during my term in office. In a special way, I would like to thank Chelsea Richard, Nick Vera, and Celia Cui for helping in analyzing the data from the graduate student survey as well as preparing the report.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs: Jeffrey Yelverton

The secretary of veterans affairs focused their effect to bring together campus-wide advocates for veteran studies to help the university understand and overcome some of the difficulties veteran students face. Several meetings were conducted to develop plans to deal with military-related issues that interfere with student life to included served related disabilities, corporation in Health Services with the VA and deployment. The Student Veterans Association was able to obtain a future site for a Veterans Student building to have a centrally located space that will be able to serve the population better. Also, Veteran students will now receive special designations during commencement signifying their service to the nation.

Secretary of Alumni Relations: Michael Lis

As secretary of alumni relations, my focus was to affiliate any needs of the graduate students and alumni of the graduate program at UofSC. In 2018-2019, my goals were to increase alumni engagement where there was a need and develop mentorship advice for current graduate students. I worked with other graduate candidates to recommend alumni to submit a blog post for our Professional Development series for the Fall 2018 blog. In addition, did

some scouting to see where alumni records of the graduate school are kept if there was a need for outreach for the graduate program in the future. I believe mentorship and alumni relations can really help the graduate students find the next steps in being a better leader and how to find their next opportunity after graduate school.

In order to form a more recognized relationship between GSA and the Undergraduate Student Government, I help advocate for movement for a formal contract where there is a need for a GSA relations committee to be recognized.

I've truly enjoyed being a part of GSA and meeting all the passionate, dedicate, and leaders of the cabinet and executive board. Working closely with other graduate students with different research backgrounds gave me a more worldly perspective of all the engagement at the university. These individuals will truly shine after graduate school carrying for their gamecock spirit along with them.

Secretary of Professional Development: Omonefe Omofuma

As GSA's secretary of professional development during the 2018/19 session, I worked closely with the graduate school to organize professional development offerings. The GSA was involved in the following programs:

Fall 2018

Solicited and submitted articles on professional journeys of graduate alumni which was featured on the Graduate School social media

Spring 2019

Leadership Week:

1. Graduate student leaders contributed to written blogs, video and interviews on leadership.
2. Organized "Pathways to Leadership" which was a panel session and included the following panelist: Dr. Virginie Daguise, Director of the bureau of chronic disease and injury prevention at the Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC); Ryan Patterson, Assistant director in the leadership & service center; Dr. Michelle Hardee, program manager for the graduate student's teaching assistant (TA) training; Anna Rogers, doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology and recipient of the outstanding graduate student teaching award; Julia Brown, Co-president of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Open School (IHI) chapter; Sara Goldsby, Director of the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS).

Graduate Student Appreciation Week

1. Mental health round table, #GradMindsMatter – Organized with the Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA)

The event had in attendance the following facilitators: April Scott, Associate Director of Mental Health Initiatives; Dr. Toby Lovell, Clinical psychologist; Anthony Thompson, case manager and Dr. Kimberly Hills, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology.

Secretary of Multicultural Student Affairs: Emilio Chase

Throughout this academic year, one area that I focused on with the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs dealt with LGBTQ+ graduate students. This underrepresented group was quite vocal in their desire for more programming that specifically included them as a separate entity from their undergraduate counterparts. Therefore, we worked on creating LGBTQ+ graduate student socials. Once a month, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs held a social over a lunch period with food provided that provided opportunities for LGBTQ+ identifying graduate students to attend, get to know each other, and create meaningful connections with their fellow colleagues. Overall, these events were beneficial, as quite a few graduate students attended multiple socials, building connections with their fellow students as well as the office itself. Ideally, these socials will continue into the next academic year and will be advertised more efficiently to increase LGBTQ+ graduate turnout.

Secretary of Health: Haven Spanyer

As Graduate Student Association Secretary of Health for the 2018 -2019 academic year, my goal was to focus on holistic health and well-being. Growing up, I was taught to eat healthy and exercise regularly, but that was the extent of my health knowledge. After learning more in college about overall well-being, it has become my passion to spread the importance of holistic health to my peers. My goals as Secretary of Health I was able to spearhead the Health Headquarters newsletter column, partner with undergraduate Student Government to host Stigma Free USC, and offer a healthy cooking class.

I introduced the concept of a health newsletter column to increase access to health education for graduate students. Students are not always able to attend programs and events hosted by GSA, so I created this column with the hopes of teaching more graduate students about the importance of health and well-being. The wellness wheel focuses on eight components of wellness: emotional, physical, spiritual, financial, occupational, intellectual, environmental, and social. The first issue of Health Headquarters was distributed in October 2018, and gave an overview of these eight dimensions. Each subsequent newsletter article dove deeper into two of the eight components. In November 2018, the column focused on social and physical wellness, followed by environmental and financial wellness in February.

In March, the column highlighted spiritual and emotional wellness, and the last article in April taught students about intellectual and occupational wellness.

Stigma Free USC is a week-long initiative during the fall semester to raise awareness for mental health and foster conversations regarding the subject. This year, I partnered with the undergraduate Student Government to promote all Stigma Free USC week activities. I also worked with SG's Secretary of Health and Wellness to host a Candlelight Vigil remembering students who have died by suicide and providing support and hope for students who may be struggling. President Pastides spoke at the event, and it was well attended by faculty, staff, and students. The goal of the Vigil and Stigma Free USC week was to de-stigmatize the use of mental health resources.

This spring I hosted GSA's first Healthy Cooking Class in the Center for Health and Well-Being Demonstration Kitchen. The classroom capacity is 20 students, so registration was capped at 20. 13 of the 20 students that registered attended the event. Students learned how to cook chickpea coconut curry, lemon turmeric quinoa, kale salad, and samoa chews. According to the post-event survey responses, of which five participants responded to, 100% selected "strongly agree" to the statement, "I enjoyed the healthy cooking class." Additionally, 100% of the respondents stated that they would recommend the healthy cooking class to other students, and 100% of respondents said they would attend another GSA cooking class. All five respondents selected "yes" to the statement "I met another graduate student I did not previously know at the cooking class" and all five respondents also selected that they learned a new tip, technique, and/ or recipe at the class.

Overall, the 2018-2019 academic year health programming and events were very successful, and I look forward to seeing how they continue to grow in the future.

Press Secretary: Sarah Truesdale

This past academic year, I have had the opportunity to serve as Press Secretary, thereby serving graduate students by sharing many of the events and initiatives that make the University of South Carolina's graduate school a great one. Whether planned by GSA or another organization, there have been several great opportunities that have provided graduate students with a platform to voice their opinions, become more informed and engaged citizens, or simply to learn more about the world around them. Additionally, information has been shared with graduate students by newsletters and various social media posts that communicate when GSA is advocating on behalf of the graduate school and the students therein. By continuing to provide opportunities to and serve as a reliable advocate of graduate students, I feel confident that GSA is doing important work for not only the students but the community. Although I have just been the deliverer of news,

seeing all of the incredible opportunities created by many organizations across campus has continually nurtured a sense of pride in being a Gamecock. Forever to Thee.

Secretary of Community Outreach: Nick Vera

My role this past year with GSA as Secretary of Community Outreach has seen great growth within the organization and the larger graduate community. This term I was able to connect more closely with other graduate students on campus by meeting them where they are in life. This included hosting various events throughout the year such as a Voting Registration Happy Hour, co-sponsored with the Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) that allowed graduate register to vote in last year's elections while also getting the chance to meet and greet with other graduate students on campus who they wouldn't normally encounter. Additionally, my role also provided graduate students with a study break in the graduate student lounge in Thomas Cooper Library where students were able to unwind from finals with coloring, cookies, and coffee while also interacting with other graduate students. Lastly, as outreach secretary, I was able to invite the twitter famous Lego Grad Student to USC to give a talk to graduate students about their experiences of getting a PhD, as well as provide valuable strategies to stress management, network building, defending a dissertation, and effectively navigate the twists and turns of graduate school. This was also made possible with the generous guidance and donations from the office of Carolina After Dark and the Graduate school. This event was well attended and well received by graduate students in attendance.

Secretary of International Student Affairs: Jingtong Dou

I held the position as the secretary of International Student Affairs for the Graduate Student Association (GSA) this semester. I worked closely with the GSA president Jennifer and other GSA members. My goal was to advocate international students' community engagement at USC and to incorporate educational learning experience to international student services. I communicated with International Student Services (ISS) Office for the suggestions that GSA members brought up during the meetings, wrote blogs for Graduate Student Appreciation week, and partnered with Global Leadership Network Forum (GLNF) Organization. As globalization and students' demographic shifting, USC is becoming more and more diverse. Thus, GSA is serving an important role of enhancing international students study abroad experience and helping the diverse students to academic achievement. During my term, I communicated to ISS staff with the current international students concerns, such as cultural differences, counseling services, financial burdens, and assistantship opportunities for IEP (Intensive English Program) students. These issues were helpful to bring up, which helped the ISS to crystalize the policy and regulations, and to better serve the USC international students. I also wrote a blog during the Graduation Appreciation Week. The blog was GSA's efforts to embrace the diverse USC population through cultural, academic, and social events. For example, the yoga training, cooking classes that GSA organized was not only help enrich

the graduate students' life, but also escalated international students finding a sense of belonging by participating these social, academic activities. Being the secretary of International Student Affairs, I also partnered with the campus organization Global Leadership Network Forum (GLNF). We sent out the flyers to USC diverse students to encourage them to attend leadership forums. By learning more and more Leadership theories from different cultural context, students are embracing a more open-minded attitude. They are willing to contribute to the community with the knowledge they learned, and to help people who are in need by utilizing the leadership skills. The diverse USC campus is embracing this global world. I feel so grateful of having this opportunity serving as the secretary of International Student Affairs. Thank you so much for all GSA members supportive work and collaboration.

Secretary of Legislative Affairs: Shaoshuang Wen

The secretary of legislative affairs focuses on opening communication channels with legislative sectors in both local and national levels. The primary goal is to keep updated with policy changes and take proactive steps to ensure that our graduate students' needs are being met in any proposed city, state, or federal legislation. Though this is a new position in the GSA, we make efforts to explore things that can be done to benefit for our graduate students from a legislative perspective. Serving as the secretary of legislative affairs, I look closely into the semimonthly letters issued by the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students. I initiate the report of relevant legislative issues (e.g., changes to student loans, taxes, immigration policies, etc.) that have either direct or potential influence on our graduate students for the trip to DC to meet with our representatives and the Council of Graduate Schools. In the coming academic year, I hope we can better keep our graduate students informative about policy changes and draw their attention to the importance of some legislative issues. I believe that there are more things can be done to voice on behalf of our graduate students in both the advocacy platform and the legislative platform.

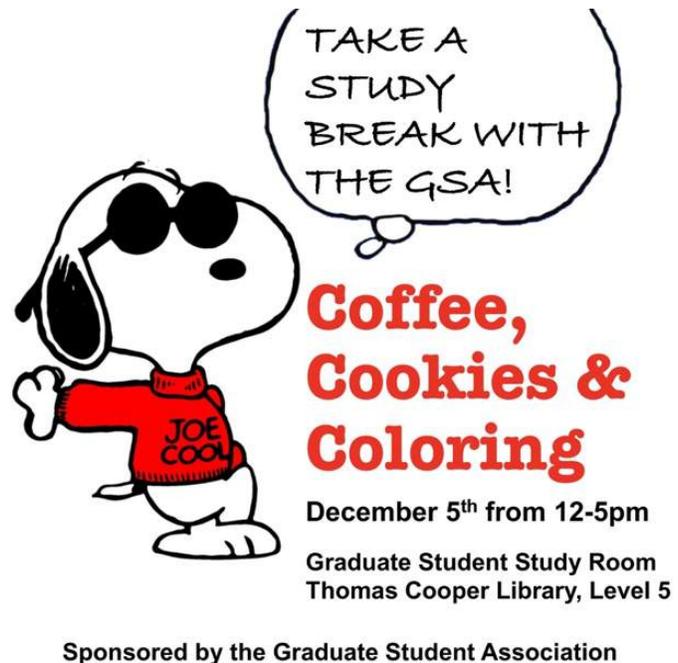
2018-2019 Highlights

Professional Development

- Gathered Professional Journey articles from graduate alumni for Graduate School blog
- Began developing leadership training for graduate students through Leadership and Service Center
- Co-sponsored events during Carolina Leadership Week with the Graduate School
- Co-organized Graduate Student Appreciation Week with the Graduate School

Social Events

- Fall “Welcome Back” social at Hickory Tavern
- Voter registration happy hour, cosponsored with Black Graduate Student Association
- Coffee break in the library during last week of classes in the fall



- Lego Grad Student design contest in anticipation of Lego Grad Student's campus talk

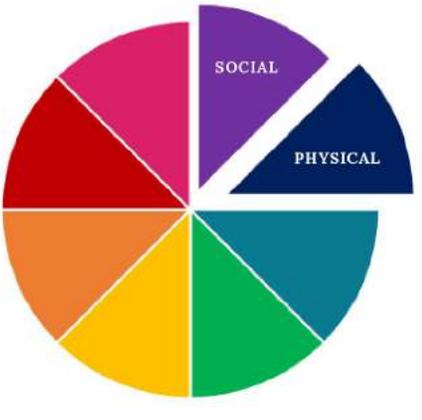


- Brought Lego Grad Student to campus for a talk on graduate school challenges and strategies for success (in collaboration with Carolina After Dark and the Graduate School)



Health & Wellness

- Co-sponsored Candlelight Vigil during Stigma Free USC Week
- Premiered “Health Headquarters” in monthly newsletter, focused on different aspects of the “Wellness Wheel”



HEALTH HEADQUARTERS

November's Wellness Wheel focus is on social wellness and physical wellness.

Social wellness is all about establishing healthy relationships and ensuring time is reserved to spend with family and friends. Having a support system to lean on during graduate school is crucial.

Physical wellness encompasses healthy eating, physical activity, and a consistent sleep schedule. Do you enjoy working smarter not harder? Try increasing social wellness and physical wellness simultaneously by inviting friends to the gym.

Learn more about social and physical wellness [HERE!](#)

PHYSICAL & SOCIAL WELLNESS RESOURCES

- Group X Fitness Classes
- Intramural Sports
- Outdoor Recreation
- Sports Clubs
- Strom Thurmond Wellness Center
- Blatt Physical Education Center
- Healthy Eating group appointments
- Be Well Balanced Eating health coaching
- Counseling for Disordered Eating
- Group and Couple's Counseling
- Leadership and Service Center
- Garnet Gate

- Hosted a healthy cooking class for graduate students at the Center for Health and Well-Being



Funding

- Allocated over \$26,000 to graduate student organizations
- 2018-2019 was the first year of the increased health insurance subsidy for graduate assistants enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan. Any student with a qualified graduate assistantship (GA) already in the system received a \$420 credit toward the fall health insurance premium and \$580 subsidy toward the spring/summer premium. This increase was due to the advocacy of last year's GSA officers and the support of President Pastides and Dean Cheryl Addy.
- Surveyed graduate assistants about their stipends



**Funding Available
for Graduate Student
Organizations**

Funding is available for student organizations' events, conferences and competitions in Spring 2019



Graduate assistants,
the Graduate Student Association (GSA) wants to hear about your stipend!

Please fill out this short survey:
<https://sawebdev.wufoo.com/forms/graduate-assistant-survey-20182019/>

University of South Carolina Graduate Student Stipend Survey Results April 2019

According to the most recent, publicly available enrollment numbers available by degree type (fall 2016), graduate students represented 20% of students enrolled at the University of South Carolina (USC) Columbia. **As a center of “very high research activity,” according to the Carnegie Foundation, USC depends on the work of graduate students to generate and fulfill the deliverables of research dollars, teach future professionals, develop innovations, and move the world forward.** To be noticed by the American Association of Universities, improving the quality and depth of USC’s graduate education and research are imperative. Supporting our students financially is an important key to their academic performance, mental health, and success in research while at USC and beyond. Currently, there is no general stipend or tuition waiver information available to prospective or current students, and the cost of living in Columbia is grossly underestimated on the Graduate School website. **USC has the largest graduate student population in the state and is approaching the enrollment of our aspirant peer institutions.**

This survey was administered by the Graduate Student Association from December 20, 2018 to March 8, 2019. A total of 609 graduate students responded to the stipend survey. A copy of the survey can be found [here](#). The respondents to our survey represent approximately 9.0% of the graduate student population at USC Columbia. Most of our survey respondents were doctoral students (60%) and domestic students (75%).

Main Findings of 2018-2019 Stipend Survey

- 45% of graduate students can cover less than half of their monthly expenses with their graduate assistant salary.
- 41% of graduate students report working more than they are required to.
- Of those who reported working more than their required number of hours per week, 41% of graduate students also reported that their graduate assistant salary covered less than half of their monthly expenses.
- 58% of graduate students receive a full tuition waiver with their graduate assistantship.
- **79% of survey respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed with the statement, “My student assistant salary is sufficient to support my financial needs as a graduate student at the University of South Carolina.”**

“After speaking to PhD students at several other institutions, we are **woefully behind on supporting doctoral students.** It’s embarrassing.”

“My salary is in no way sufficient to cover my financial needs, and its inadequacy is a constant concern that **detrimentally affects my ability to learn.**”
-Graduate Students at USC

Recommendations and Resources

For graduate students

- Keep a time log of the hours you work

- Establish boundaries and expectations at the beginning of your assistantship with your supervisor
- Know who your program/department's graduate director is and go to them with any issues or concerns
- Contact the Graduate School's ombudsman, Dale Moore (803-777-8237; dm@mailbox.sc.edu) if you are not receiving the support you need from your program/department
- Participate in annual stipend surveys sent out by the Graduate Student Association
- Opt-in to the anonymous database <http://www.phdstipends.com/> to help graduate students around the world make informed decisions
- Become involved in the Graduate Student Association (more information [here](#)) by running for an office or attending meetings and events

For the Graduate School

- Provide more transparency about graduate student stipends or tuition and health insurance packages on the Graduate School website for current and prospective students
- Provide more information about tuition and fee increases to enrolled students
- Host a university-wide graduate student orientation

Representation & Outreach

- 12-member cabinet included students from across disciplines
- Created new cabinet position, Secretary of Legislative Affairs, to serve as the voice of graduate students in government offices
- Held 14 biweekly cabinet meetings open to all
- Represented graduate study body on university committees, including Athletics, Awards, Safety, Mental Health, and Library Committees
- Celebrated graduate student leaders at the Leadership and Service Center's annual T.O.A.S.T. (The Outstanding Achievement and Student Triumph) Breakfast



- Hosted town halls in the fall and spring to hear feedback, concerns, and suggestions

Graduate Student Association
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Town Hall

Thursday, Nov. 1
5:30p.m.-6:30p.m.
Russell House 302

Questions, Concerns, Recommendations?
The Graduate Student Association
wants to hear about your experience!

Free Snacks and Drinks Provided

SPRING TOWN HALL

Come voice your opinion about graduate student life at USC!

Hosted by
Graduate Student Association
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Monday, February 25
4-5PM
Russell House 303

- Emailed monthly newsletter with upcoming events, opportunities, and deadlines
- Worked with Parking and Transportation Services to share information about events that may affect student parking availability

Graduate Parking – Announcement

Graduate Student Association
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

During events at Colonial Life Arena, if the GS lot is full or in use after 3PM, graduate students with GS permits can park in the following AD lots:

Name	Address
AD <i>Plumbe's Park East</i>	530 Williams St.
AD1 <i>Wiliness Center</i>	900 Blossom St.
AD3 <i>Colonial Center East B</i>	801 Blossom St.
AD6 <i>Neer Bldg</i>	1417 Whaley St.
AD7 <i>Barnwell East</i>	1708 Washington St.
AD9	1531 Whaley St.
AD11 <i>Rowles 522-Near Recot</i>	117 S Marion St.

Upcoming events at Colonial Life Arena that may affect Grad Student (GS) parking permit-holders:

- March 1-2 – SCHSL basketball championships
- March 7 – PINK concert
- March 8 – Funny as Ish Comedy Tour
- March 13 – Elton John Farewell Concert
- March 15 – Winter Jam Concert
- March 21-24 – NCAA Men's Basketball
- March 29 – Legends of HipHop

- Met with members of South Carolina’s congressional delegation in Washington, DC to discuss the unique needs of graduate students at the University of South Carolina, in South Carolina, and across the nation. The issues we discussed included:

GRADUATE EDUCATION

Work Conditions, Professional Development, and Financial Support

Support and co-sponsor legislation that improves **working conditions** of graduate student researchers, including providing mental, physical, and financial support; expands access to **diverse professional development** opportunities; and provides **increased financial support** for university-based research.

Loan Repayment

Support H.R.4479 and S.2169 to establish a comprehensive Federal higher education data system, including loan repayment rates, university retention, and other information crucial to making a college selection.

FAFSA

Support H.R.4416 Simple FAFSA Act to decrease the length and complexity of the FAFSA.

HEA REAUTHORIZATION

Support or co-sponsor legislation that supports:

- Higher Education Mental Health Commission Act (S.3106)
- College Transparency Acts (S. 1121)
- Civil Rights Transparency Act (H.R.6537)
- Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act (H.R.1635)
- Aim Higher Act (H.R.6543)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Visa Renewal

Support provisions that allow for domestic renewal of F or J -type visas at the offices of U.S. Consulate.

Immigration

Oppose H.R.392, an amendment of Immigration and Nationality Act.

Temporary employment

Oppose efforts to remove Optional Practical Training (OPT) for International students.

OPEN RECORDS

Support or co-sponsor:

- H.R. 3427 – Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act
- S. 1701 – Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act

Community Engagement

- Assisted in completion of Moore School's Military Students webpage for outreach to veteran students
- Negotiated expanded free shuttle service to Walmart with International Student Services
- Participated in the Leadership and Service Center's voter registration drive



Two American flags on poles are crossed at the top. Below them, the text reads:

National Voter Registration Day

Sign up for TurboVote to receive election reminders, get registered to vote, & apply for your absentee ballot!



3 THINGS YOU NEED TO DO BEFORE YOU VOTE: October 6th is the deadline to register to vote for the mid-term elections. By voting you are making your voice heard and doing your part in maintaining our democracy. Here are three important things to do before you vote.

- 1 GET INFORMED**
Candidates for Governor:
(R) HENRY MCMASTER (D) JAMES SMITH JR
LT. GOVERNOR: PAMELA EVETTE LT. GOVERNOR: MANDY POWERS NORRELL
- 2 CHECK YOUR FACTS**
ALLSITES.COM
PROCON.ORG
THE SKIMM
FACTCHECK.ORG
POLITIFACT.COM
- 3 REGISTER BY**
OCTOBER 6

UOFSC.TURBOVOTE.ORG/?R=GRADS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: USG & GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION & GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Engagement with University of South Carolina Administration

- Treasurer Billy Quinlan spoke on behalf of the graduate student body to the Board of Trustees on August 17, 2018. He expressed graduate concerns and updated the board on GSA achievements.
- The GSA continued to collaborate and communicate with many entities on campus, including President Pastides, the Graduate School, Student Life, and Student Government:
 - We met once per semester with President Pastides to update him on the GSA's work and issues.
 - The GSA president met monthly with Provost Joan Gabel and Dr. Cheryl Addy, Dean of the Graduate School to discuss graduate concerns and updates.
 - We continued to build upon and refine its relationship with Student Government, which was assisted by the executive officers hosting regular office hours in the Russell House office.
 - Secretary of GSA Affairs Chelsea Richard provided an updated on our activities, initiatives, and priorities to the Student Senate.
 - The GSA and Student Government each formed ad hoc committees to propose a joint resolution to define our associations' relationship to one another.
 - The GSA president met monthly with Dr. Anna Edwards, the Associate Vice President for Student Life, and Taylor Wright, the Student Body President, in order to enhance communication and collaboration between GSA and Student Government.

Carolina Leadership Week 2019

Activities of the Graduate School, organized with the Graduate Student Association

Summary

During Carolina Leadership Week 2019 (January 28-February 2), the Graduate School with the Graduate Student Association, featured written and video blogs by UofSC graduate student leaders as well as other content on leadership on social media. The following report is a brief summary of evaluation data followed by a more in-depth explanation for each social media channel.

- **Facebook:** 39 posts were made on Facebook during Carolina Leadership Week, the Graduate School's Facebook page had 1,546 engaged users¹, 15,156 total users², and 15,035 organic reach³ – and 138,080 weekly total impressions⁴.
- **Twitter:** 56 tweets were posted on Twitter. During Carolina Leadership Week, tweets by the Graduate School had 22,200 impressions with user engagement of 591 and 129 retweets and 101 likes.
- **LinkedIn:** 16 posts related to Leadership Week were posted on LinkedIn. The posts have received 429 views as of February 6, 2019.
- **YouTube:** 13 video blogs were filmed featuring graduate student leaders and featured on the Graduate School YouTube site. During Carolina Leadership Week, the videos had 251 views.
- **WordPress Blog** – 7 blogs written by graduate student leaders were featured on the Graduate School WordPress site. During Carolina Leadership Week, the blogs had 45 views by 109 visitors.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/GradSchoolAtUSC/>

39 posts were made on Facebook regarding Carolina Leadership Week and to promote written (WordPress) and video (YouTube) blogs as well as content on graduate students and leadership.

Weekly Engaged Users¹ = 1,546

Weekly Total Users² = 15,156

Weekly Organic Reach³ =

15,035 Weekly Total

Impressions⁴ = 138,080

¹Weekly engaged users: The number of people who engaged with your Page. Engagement includes any click or story created. (Unique Users)

²Weekly total users: The number of people who have seen any content associated with your Page. (Unique Users) ³Weekly organic reach: The number of people who saw any unpaid content from your Page or about your Page in News Feed or on visits to your Page. (Unique Users)

⁴Weekly total impressions: The number of impressions seen of any content associated with your Page. (Total Count)

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/gradschoolatusc?lang=en>

56 tweets were posted on Twitter regarding Carolina Leadership Week and to promote written (WordPress) and video (YouTube) blogs as well as content on graduate students and leadership.

Tweets by the Graduate School had 22,200 impressions¹ with user engagement of 591² and 129 retweets³ and 101 likes⁴.

¹Impression: Times a user is served a **Tweet** in timeline or search results.

²Engagements: Total number of times a user interacted with a Tweet. Clicks anywhere on the Tweet, including Retweets, replies, follows, likes, links, cards, hashtags, embedded media, username, profile photo, or Tweet expansion.

³Retweets: Times a user retweeted the Tweet.

⁴Likes: Times a user liked the Tweet.

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMDPnmeIGFNkPINZxdAHPCw/videos?shelf_id=0&sort=dd&view=0

13 video blogs were filmed featuring graduate student leaders and featured on the Graduate School YouTube site. During Leadership week the videos received 251 views.

The direct link to the Carolina Leadership Week 2019 playlist with all videos is:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdGdzVZISWBDADBgBo-7qBBpFUklp7tM3>.

- Carolina Leadership Week 2019: [Leadership is... more of a practice than a position \(Jennifer Mandelbaum\)](#).
- Carolina Leadership Week 2019: [Characteristics of Leaders \(Jennifer Mandelbaum\)](#).
- Carolina Leadership Week 2019: [Bloopers \(Jennifer Mandelbaum\)](#).
- Carolina Leadership Week 2019: [Leaders whom I admire \(Jennifer Mandelbaum\)](#).
- Carolina Leadership Week 2019: [Get Involved with the Graduate Student Association! \(Jennifer Mandelbaum\)](#).
- Carolina Leadership Week 2019: [Characteristics of Leader are Easy as ABC \(Chamberline Ozigbu\)](#).
- Carolina Leadership Week 2019: [Dr. King's Dream \(Chamberline Ozigbu\)](#).
- Carolina Leadership Week 2019: [Characteristics of Leaders \(Chelsea Richard\)](#).
- Carolina Leadership Week 2019: [Dr. Atul Gawande \(Chelsea Richard\)](#).
- Carolina Leadership Week 2019: [Dr. Linda Hazlett \(Chelsea Richard\)](#).
- Carolina Leadership Week 2018: [It's Easy to be a Part of the Graduate Student Association! \(Chelsea Richard\)](#).
- Carolina Leadership Week 2019: [Characteristics of Effective Leaders \(Michael Lis\)](#).
- Carolina Leadership Week 2019: [Leadership roles as a Graduate Student \(Michael Lis\)](#).

WordPress

<https://gradschoolatusc.wordpress.com/>

5 blogs written by graduate student leaders were featured on the Graduate School WordPress site. During Carolina Leadership Week, the blogs had 45 views by 109 visitors.

- [Developing Your Leadership Skills as a TA](#), Jennifer Mandelbaum (January 30, 2019) – 4 views
- [Lessons Learned in Leadership](#), Omonefe Omofuma (January 28, 2019) – 9 views
- [Developing Skills by Following Your Passion](#), Billy Quinlan (January 28, 2019) – 20 views
- [Women in Leadership](#), Megan O'Brien (February 1, 2019) – 6 views
- [What Leadership Breakfast are You?](#), Michael Ponessa (February 1, 2019) – 6 views

Carolina Leadership Week 2019 Blog statistics by date:

January 28	3 views	15 visitors		
January 29	21 views	44 visitors		
January 30	1 view	8 visitors		
January 31	0 views	9 visitors		
February 1	18 views	25 visitors		
February 2	2 views	8 visitors	TOTAL	45 views 109 visitors*

* Total visitors indicates number of visitors who looked at any blogs on the WordPress site, not limited to the leadership blogs.

Pathways to Leadership

February 1, 2019

Attendees: 5

On February 1, 2019, the Graduate Student Association hosted “Pathways to Leadership.” The leadership panel included graduate alumni, graduate student leaders, and other representatives. The panelists were: Dr. Ginie Daguise, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; Ryan Patterson, Assistant Director in the UofSC Leadership and Service Center; Dr. Michelle Hardee, Program Manager in the UofSC Center for Teaching Excellence; Anna Rogers, doctoral candidate in sociology and recipient of the UofSC Department of Sociology graduate teaching award; Julia Brown, PharmD student and co-president of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Open School chapter at UofSC; and Sara Goldsby, Director of the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS).

PANELISTS		
<p>Anna Rogers</p> <p>Anna is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology and recipient of the Sociology Department's Graduate Teaching Award in 2017 as well as the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award from the USC Graduate School in 2018.</p>	<p>Virginie Daguise</p> <p>Dr. Daguise is a graduate alumnus of the doctoral program in Epidemiology. She is a director of the Bureau of chronic disease and injury prevention at Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).</p>	<p>Michelle Hardee</p> <p>Dr. Hardee is a professor in the school of the Earth, Ocean and Environment and serves as the program manager for the graduate student's Teaching Assistant (TA) training at the University.</p>
<p>Julia Brown</p> <p>Julia is a PharmD student at the College of Pharmacy and co-president of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) chapter at USC.</p>	<p>Sara Goldsby</p> <p>Graduate alumnus of USC. She is a director at the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS).</p>	<p>Ryan Patterson</p> <p>Assistant director in the leadership & service center. He is a leadership coach and involved in leadership programs, student organization processes and resources at USC.</p>

Lego Grad Student Events

February 6, 2019

Learn more about Lego Grad Student on social media and at <https://brickademics.com/>.

Lego Grad Student visited UofSC on February 6 for events organized by the Graduate Student Association with the support of Carolina After Dark and the Graduate School.

Lego Grad Student Design Contest

February 6, 2019, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Attendance: 8

Before Lego Grad Student’s talk, the GSA hosted a “Lego Grad Student Design Contest” where students built their own Lego Grad Student creations. The contest was held in the Russell House. Entries were posted on Twitter with the hashtag #LGS_UofSCGSA19, and the three most-liked entries were announced at the end of Lego Grad Student’s talk (which occurred in the evening). Winners received a Lego Grad Student calendar and a swag bag from Carolina After Dark.

Why Am I Here? A Questionable Talk by Lego Grad Student

February 6, 2019, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Attendance: 55



Lego Grad Student was brought to campus to speak about the challenges experienced by many people in graduate school and his strategies for making it through in one piece. Lego Grad Student, as he is widely known on social media, has a following of over 65,000 followers on Twitter ([@legogradstudent](https://twitter.com/legogradstudent)) and nearly 20,000 followers on Instagram ([@legogradstudent](https://www.instagram.com/legogradstudent)). His humorous use of LEGO bricks, photography, and social media to portray the process navigating graduate school while balancing his personal life was a refreshing reminder to graduate students that they are not alone in their feelings. The talk provided students with a social event that touched upon many relevant personal and professional development topics, including time management, mental health, and work-life balance.

Graduate Student Appreciation Week – April 1-5, 2019

We worked with the Graduate School to plan and offer a variety of events during the Graduate Student Appreciation Week, including:

April 1

- Creating an impactful poster
- Cake and Punch with Dean Addy and the Graduate School

April 2

- Relax! Massages by Southeastern Institute Columbia
- Start Smart Salary Negotiation and Financial Literacy Workshop

April 3

- Freeze Frame: Professional Headshots for Graduate Students
- Cooking Class: Southern Staples

April 4

- Namaste: Yoga for Graduate Students
- Mental Health Round Table #GradMindsMatter (co-sponsored with the Black Graduate Student Association)

April 5

- Data Visualization Workshop with Ann K. Emery
- Mentoring Matters: Getting the Mentoring You Need

April 7

- Free Fireflies baseball game for graduate students



Graduate Student Appreciation Week Blog Posts



“The GSA appreciates the Graduate School’s effort in valuing and recognizing the contributions of graduate students to the University and encourages us all to participate in the activities of the week that have been carefully developed to meet our interests and needs.”

Celebrating Us – Graduate Students, by Omonefe Omofuma, Secretary of Professional Development ([link](#))

“For many international students, studying abroad face can many challenges, both academically and mentally. For example, some international students may face language barriers, some may have financial issues, and others may experience homesickness and feel isolated. I believe the support from GSA is significant for helping international students get through the difficulties by organizing the activities, such as yoga classes, cooking classes, and students counseling services.”



Embracing the Increasingly International UofSC Graduate Student Body, by Jingtong Dou, Secretary of International Student Affairs ([link](#))



“Graduate students have historically not been a priority when policies which impact educational or financial policies are being considered, and it will be important that we continue to advocate on behalf of graduate students at a national level so that our unique needs as graduate students are being met.”

Leading Advocacy for Graduate Students, by Jennifer Mandelbaum, President ([link](#))

2019-2020 Executive Board



President
Anna Cofie
*PhD Student,
Health Services Policy and
Management*



Vice President
Nick Vera
*PhD Student,
Library and Information
Science*



Treasurer
Moutoshi Saha
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Graduate Council Rep.
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