

Graduate Student Association  
Northwestern University  
General Meeting  
8 October 2009

## Attendance

### *Officers*

Patrick Ryan, President  
Louise Edwards, Secretary  
Eric Berns, Treasurer  
Kate Newbold, Social Chair  
Paula Tallman, Service Chair  
Alex Spokoyny, Operations Chair

### *General Attendance*

Becky Jensen, Chemistry, [r-jensen@northwestern.edu](mailto:r-jensen@northwestern.edu)  
Alex Thimons, RTVF  
Harsh Tanga, MTS, [harsht@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:harsht@u.northwestern.edu)  
Erin Schrader, IBIS, [ekennedy@northwestern.edu](mailto:ekennedy@northwestern.edu)  
Kendra Graham, CSD-SLP, [kendraelise@gmail.com](mailto:kendraelise@gmail.com)  
Jennifer Dantanavatanawong, CSD-SLP, [jdantana@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:jdantana@u.northwestern.edu)  
Chris Schmader, Psychology  
Harold Hsiung, MatSci, [hsiung@northwestern.edu](mailto:hsiung@northwestern.edu)  
Stephanie Chan, MatSci, [s-chan@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:s-chan@u.northwestern.edu)  
Tina Li, Chemistry, [tina-li@northwestern.edu](mailto:tina-li@northwestern.edu)  
Goher Mahmud, ChBiE, [g-mahmud@northwestern.edu](mailto:g-mahmud@northwestern.edu)  
Louise Giam, MSE, [louise@northwestern.edu](mailto:louise@northwestern.edu)  
Alpana Ranade, MSE, [a-ranade@northwestern.edu](mailto:a-ranade@northwestern.edu)

## Agenda

### Advocacy

- Pharmacy at NU Health Services
  - The pharmacy remains open until further notice. GSA wrote a letter last year in support of its services for graduate students.
  - Open for use for students on health insurance plan.
  - Offers prescription and non-prescription medication tax-free and at lower cost than other pharmacies.
- Transportation
  - Upcoming graduate student survey – take it! It will include questions about the U-Pass and Intercampus Shuttle. You can indicate specific shuttle stops and times that you would like to have added to the route.
  - The U-Pass is now good for 365 days per year.
  - Students like having intercampus shuttle service on Saturdays, especially those graduate students who work on the weekends. However, it doesn't run as often and doesn't make as many stops. One attendee asked if it would be possible to get WiFi service on

the shuttle for passengers to use during long commutes. Others indicated that service on Sundays would be useful.

- Family
  - The GSA is trying to find ways to support graduate students who are parents by partnering with GWAN Moms, submitting a community building grant to support family friendly events throughout the year, and advocating for more reasonably priced dependent health care.
- Wildcards
  - The GSA is inquiring about the possibility of obtaining Wildcards for partners of graduate students, since partners of Faculty and Staff can have Wildcards. It is unclear what benefits this would cover. SPAC? Shuttles? Many of the more general benefits can be found online: <http://www.univsvcs.northwestern.edu/WildCARDAdv/>.
- Seabury Seminary – Space for Graduate Students
  - NU recently acquired Seabury Seminary, located across Sheridan Road from Tech.
  - The GSA and Dean Wachtel of TGS sent letters to the president requesting that space in Seabury be designated for graduate students. The building is being used to house graduate students, so having common space for graduate students in the building would make good sense. Space for graduate students has been a recurring issue, especially in annual GLC surveys.
- Business Cards
  - Some departments offer graduate students access to their own business cards. The GSA is attempting to have the option for all students with preapproved template with official logos depending on school.

## Service

### *Collaborating across the University*

- Blood Drive: Partner with undergraduate students for the quarterly Blood Drive. Promote Blood Services and Marrow Project in the next GSA newsletter. Attend their meeting on 11 October 2009. Promote and provide volunteers for their Winter event on 20 January 2010.
- KSA: Partner with Kellogg graduate student service organizations and support their events: Business with a Heart; Hoot for the Homeless; Kellogg Cares.
- Sigma Xi: Partner on their Junior Science Café and Science Café series for elementary and high school students.

### *Collaborating with the Community*

- Mather Pavilion (Evanston): Organize two graduate student presentations per month for their residents. Provide presenters with “Helpful Hint Sheet.” Opportunity to partner with students in Kellogg Cares. The retirement community invites graduate students to present their research to residents ranging in age from 80-100 years old. Paula met recently with the director, and he encouraged presentations that focus on an introduction to and motivation behind the research being undertaken by graduate students.
- Fairy Tale Trails (Evanston): Volunteer for the children’s event on Friday, October 23, at the Women’s Club of Evanston. Contact Roxy for info.
- Cradle Adoption Agency (Chicago): Advertise their upcoming events in GSA newsletters; provide volunteers for their events in November and December.

## Social Events

- We are trying to organize more events across schools, including ...
  - Football Tailgate with KSA on 24 October 2009: Northwestern vs. Indiana (Homecoming), 9AM tailgate, 11AM kickoff, Ryan Field. Drinks provided by KSA, food provided by GSA. RSVP to Kate Newbold by October 10 at 5PM. Specify if you will attend the game and/or tailgate.
  - Happy Hour with KSA in late October or November. Email Kate if you have bar or drink special suggestions.
  - Happy Hour, 12 November 2009, Bears vs. San Francisco 49ers
- Intramural Sports: Sign-up now for winter sports: basketball and hockey (men's, women's, or co-ed teams)! Spring sports: baseball, soccer, and/or ultimate frisbee. Email Kate if you are interested. Specify the sport and type of league in which you would like to participate. This is not an official sign-up, but a way to gauge interest.
- Spring 5K/10K: Kate would like to find a co-chair for this event. Email her for more information.

## Finance

- The fall financial seminar, "The Importance of Credit," will be held 1 November 2009.
- Seminars will be held in the winter and spring quarters. Topics may include: filing your taxes and the basics of investing.

## Communications

- Advertise Your Grad Event through the GSA! Send an email with the following information to [s-armstrong@northwestern.edu](mailto:s-armstrong@northwestern.edu) or [northwestern.gsa@gmail.com](mailto:northwestern.gsa@gmail.com):
  - Date, Time, and Location of Event
  - Event's Sponsor
  - Short Blurb with a Description of the Event
  - Your Contact Information

### Contact Information

Get involved with the GSA!

[www.NUGSA.com](http://www.NUGSA.com)  
[northwestern.gsa@gmail.com](mailto:northwestern.gsa@gmail.com)

Questions about advocacy issues?  
[r-atienza@northwestern.edu](mailto:r-atienza@northwestern.edu)

Questions about service opportunities?  
[PaulaTallman2014@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:PaulaTallman2014@u.northwestern.edu)

Questions about social events?  
[katherine.newbold@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.newbold@gmail.com)

Questions about financial seminars?  
[eric-berns@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:eric-berns@u.northwestern.edu)