

National Association of Graduate-Professional Students

# Northeast **Regional** Conference



April 20 - 22, 2012

Syracuse, NY



# Conference at a Glance



Northeast  
Region

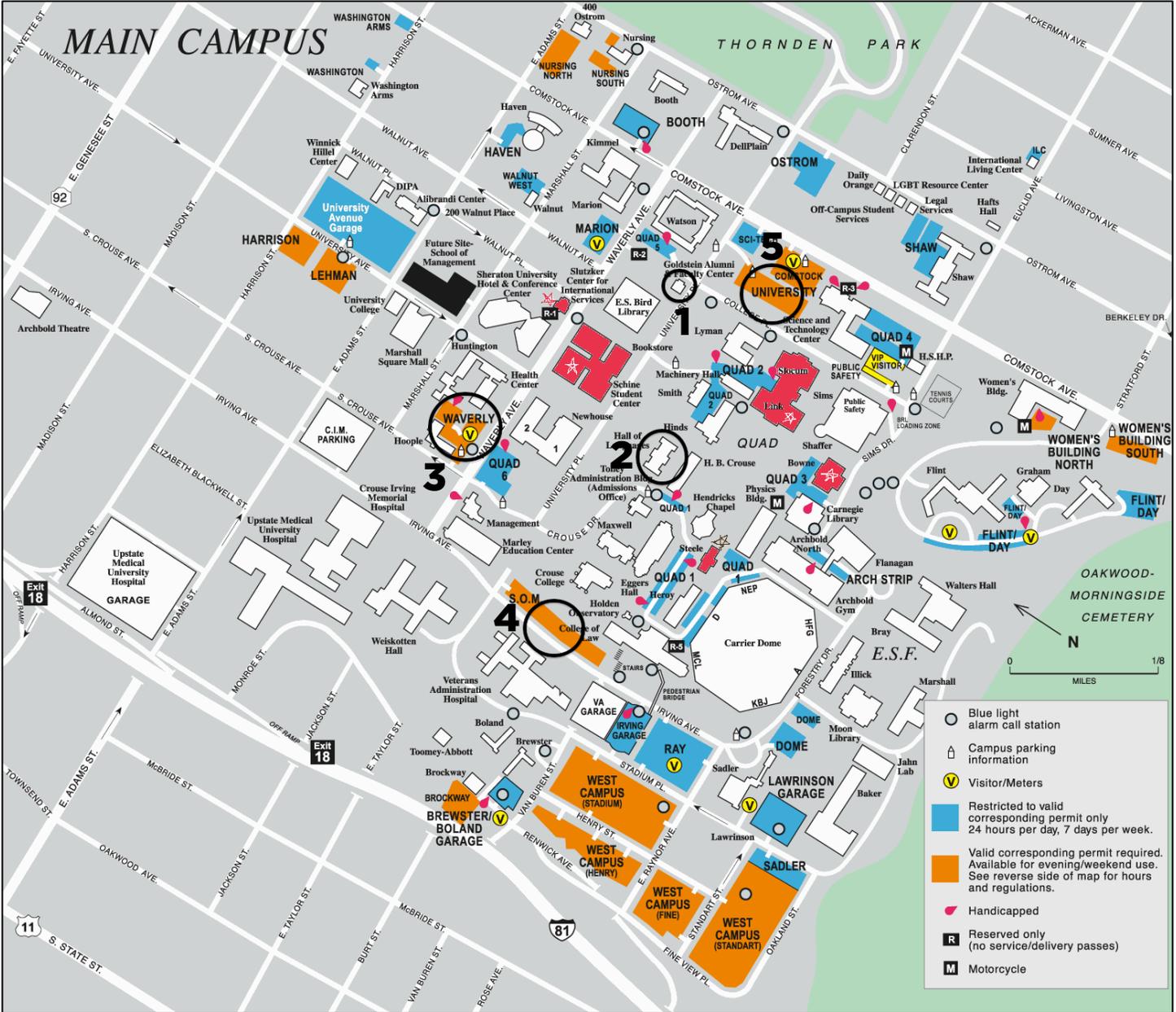
	EVENT	LOCATION
<b>Friday, April 20th</b>		
6:45 pm - 7:15 pm	Conference Registration	Goldstein Faculty Center
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Pre-Conference Session: Time Management for Graduate Students	Hall of Languages 107
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Evening Reception & Wine Tasting	Goldstein Faculty Center
<b>Saturday, April 21st</b>		
8:00 am - 3:30 pm	Conference Registration	Outside Hall of Languages 107
9:00 am - 9:45 am	Welcome Session	Hall of Languages 107
10:00 am - 10:45 am	General Session I	Hall of Languages 107
11:00 am - 11:30 am	Achievements & Challenges Session I	Hall of Languages 107
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Keynote Speaker Presentation	Hall of Languages 107
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch	Hall of Languages 107
1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	Interactive Breakout Sessions	Hall of Languages 114 & 215
2:45 pm - 3:15 pm	Achievements & Challenges Session II	Hall of Languages 107
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Getting Involved in NAGPS	Hall of Languages 107
4:15 pm - 5:00 pm	General Session II	Hall of Languages 107
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Achievements & Challenges Session III	Hall of Languages 107
7:00 pm	Dinner	Various restaurants in Downtown Syracuse
<b>Sunday, April 1st</b>		
8:00 am - 9:30 am	Conference Registration	Outside Hall of Languages 107
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Achievements & Challenges Session IV	Hall of Languages 107
9:45 am - 10:30 am	General Session III	Hall of Languages 107
10:45 am - 12:30 pm	Business Meeting	Hall of Languages 111
12:30 pm - 2 pm	Lunch and Closing	Outside Hall of Languages 107



# Campus Map



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## Event Buildings:

1. Goldstein Faculty Center
2. Hall of Languages

## Parking:

3. Waverly Lot
4. Hillside Lot
5. University Ave. Lot



# Northeast Regional Conference Welcome

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Dear Northeast Regional Conference Participant,

Welcome to Syracuse, NY! Thank you for your participation this weekend. We have an exciting event planned for you, and hope that you find your time with us productive and enjoyable.

The power of our regional conferences lies in the contribution of participants: sharing best practices and lessons learned, networking, and forming new connections that will be the foundation of your future success. I encourage you to fully utilize the extraordinary network of talent that surrounds you at this conference by asking meaningful questions and finding ways to become a useful resource to those you meet. Many of us are in similar stages of life and leadership—strategically guiding our organizations and careers toward short- and long-term goals, learning and internalizing lessons of effective leadership, and developing a network of peers with whom we will share our personal and professional future. You might be surprised at the lessons you can learn while engaging in thoughtful discussion with other attendees this weekend. I encourage you to seek out every opportunity to learn from and contribute to one another.

This is an exciting time to be a graduate-professional student in the US. Our research, creative works, and collective impact are the driving force behind our nation's future competitiveness. We are starting companies, conducting groundbreaking scientific inquiry, uncovering new relationships and themes in art and literature, and training to educate the next generation of scholars. We are our nation's future business, political, and intellectual leaders, and we stand united with one voice.

That voice is NAGPS. The Association exists to help you develop as a leader and learn from a talented, diverse group of peers from across the nation. Through our events you will have the opportunity to collaborate with other leaders from across a wide range of disciplines and institutions, share the lessons you have learned in your organization, and shape the future of graduate-professional education through advocacy at multiple levels.

Our hosts this weekend have done a tremendous job organizing the conference. I am grateful for their hard work, and ask that you take a moment to personally thank them when you see each of them next. I am especially grateful for the contributions and tireless service of the Brandon Milonovich, Katie Laurentiev, Melissa Welshans, Patrick Neary, Melissa Kizina, Katelyn Cealka, and Raphael Richard of Syracuse University. Without their contributions and dedication, we wouldn't be here this weekend.

I hope to see you next at our National Conference November 1-4 at Duke University in Durham, NC.

Matt Cooper  
President & CEO, NAGPS



# Northeast Regional Conference Welcome

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Dear Conference Attendees:

Welcome to Syracuse University and to NAGPS's 2012 Northeast Regional Conference! This weekend is all about giving you formal and informal opportunities to network with people who share your passion for seeing graduate student's thrive. We look forward to hearing about your past challenges and future goals, and hope that you are able to take away valuable knowledge and ideas for your own graduate student communities. We also hope that the friendships and professional relationships formed here will strengthen a sense of community across our respective campuses.

The conference we have planned for you this year includes several new activities. In our Achievements & Challenges Sessions, each school will have the chance to give a brief presentation reflecting on their graduate association's biggest achievements and challenges of the past year. Sharing where we've been and what we've learned should lay the foundation for some great conversations about what our organizations value and what sort of creative strategies might be implemented to reach our future goals. Another highlight of the conference this year is a series of Interactive Breakout Sessions. These sessions are designed to give graduate students in similar roles across our campuses the opportunity to share challenges and strategies relevant to their positions, as well as mentor students coming into those roles in the coming year.

As an organization, the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) looks to support and celebrate graduate students as they make the challenging journey toward achieving their professional goals. All the presentations at this conference reflect this commitment to the quality of graduate student life and we would like to thank everyone for bringing their time and energy to what we are sure will be a great event.

We look forward to knowing each of you personally by the end of this weekend. Please don't hesitate to approach us at any time with questions, comments, or special requests. Again, welcome to Syracuse - we hope you enjoy your stay!

Sincerely,



Brandon Milonovich  
Conference Coordinator  
Northeast Regional Chair



Katie Laurentiev  
Conference Coordinator



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## **Brandon Milonovich**

*Chair/Director of Regional Conference, Syracuse University*

Brandon Milonovich is a Masters student at Syracuse University in the Teaching and Curriculum program, dually enrolled in the Teaching and Leadership Department and Mathematics Department. He holds a B.A. from The College of Saint Rose in Mathematics/Adolescent Education and is very passionate about education at all levels. His research interests include integrating technology into the classroom as well as theories of learning. Upon completion of his program he intends to teach in a secondary school setting.



## **Evgenia Sidorova**

*Vice-Chair, Stony Brook University*

Evgenia Sidorova is a second year PhD student in the Department of Economics at SUNY Stony Brook. She is the Treasurer of Graduate Student Organization (GSO) at Stony Brook and has been working on adjusting the financial documentation of SBU GSO to the SUNY policy standards and advocating for students as a board member of Faculty and Student Association. Originally from the Russian Federation, Evgenia came to the U.S. for graduate study and is now interested in demography research, especially in the topics that have public policy implications, such as retirement, population aging and social security. After graduating with a PhD in Economics, she is planning to do research for non-profit international organizations.



## **Katie Laurentiev**

*Director of Regional Conference, Syracuse University*

Katie is a second year Master's student in Syracuse University's English Department who also teaches Introductory Academic Research and Writing through Syracuse's Writing Program. She is passionate about teaching writing and critical thinking skills as a means to social awareness and also about new methods and ideas in academic publishing. She serves as the rep for her department in SU's GSO and is proud to be a part of such a vibrant and engaged graduate student organization.





## **Will Penman**

*Director of Communications, Carnegie Mellon University*



Will Penman is a Master's student in Rhetoric at Carnegie Mellon University. He is particularly interested in how we use language in technological contexts, undertaking projects to understand various aspects of Wikipedia, Facebook, and blogging. He is happy to be the Northeast Region Director of Communication and is always looking for interesting stories for the quarterly newsletter or interesting stories in general. Life is full of interesting stories. Will has served with NAGPS since October 2011.

## **Rebecca Tyers**

*Director of Legislative Concerns, Chatham University*



Rebecca Tyers is the Legislative Concerns Director for the Northeast Region of NAGPS and a graduate student at Chatham University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, studying Health and Counseling Psychology. She serves as the Psychology Department representative to her Graduate Student Assembly, the University representative to the Pittsburgh Student Government Council, is the immediate-Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Pittsburgh and serves on its foundation's Board of Directors and as Scholarship Chair, and is the President of the Chatham University Chapter of Psi Chi Honors Society. She currently is working on research that examines the correlation between mindfulness and overeating behaviors in college women.

## **Lenny Kamau**

*Director of International Student Concerns, Syracuse University*



Lenny is a third year doctoral student at Syracuse University, School of Education in the Mathematics Education Program. He was born and grew up in Nyahururu, Kenya. He teaches undergraduate mathematics courses as a teaching assistant. Despite earning his first degree in teaching from Kenya at Kenyatta University, he has gained most of his teaching experiences in the US during his graduate studies at Central Michigan University, and now at Syracuse University. His research interests focuses on secondary mathematics teachers' knowledge for teaching mathematics, with a concentration on how teachers integrate information and communication technology (ICT) in mathematics teaching; precisely in emerging and developing countries. Besides being a teacher and a graduate student, Lenny is also the Department of Mathematics Senator for the Graduate Students Organization (GSO) since 2011.





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## **Pre-Conference Session: Time Management for Graduate Students**

A recent study commissioned by Grad Resources has discovered that over 43% of all grad students are experiencing stress beyond what they can handle. This talk on time management for grads will present new perspective and practical tools help to help you rise above this stress. It will be given by Nick Repak, the founder and president of *Grad Resources*, a faith-based service organization that has been addressing the needs of graduate students for over 20 years. He has presented this talk at Berkeley Grad Student Orientation, UW Seattle, University of North Texas, and last year at Johns Hopkins for the NAGPS Regional Conference. Nick currently serves on the Advisory Board of the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students.

## **Keynote Speaker Address**

*“Can We Talk? Improving the Discourse About Higher Education”*

Dr. Ben Ware

We are excited to have Syracuse University’s own Dean of the Graduate School, Ben Ware, as this year’s keynote speaker. Professor Ware served on the faculty of chemistry at Harvard before coming to Syracuse in 1979 as Department Chair. He was named the Kenan Professor of Science in 1984. He became Vice President for Research in 1989 and served both in that position and as the Chief Information Officer of Syracuse University for twelve years beginning in 1991. He became the Dean of the Graduate School in 2006.





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## **Achievements & Challenges Sessions**

One of the most exciting components of NAGPS Regional Conferences is the opportunity to share leadership lessons with other attendees and learn more about how other Graduate-Professional Student Organizations (GSPOs) operate. Learning more about your peers can inspire and empower you as a graduate leader. Therefore, during these sessions each institution in attendance will deliver a short presentation that highlights their organization's most significant achievements and challenges over the past year.

*Session I: MIT & Carnegie Mellon University*

*Session II: Bentley University & Cornell University*

*Session III: Chatham University & University of New Haven*

*Session IV: SUNY Stony Brook & Tufts University*

## General Session Abstracts

### **Panel I:**

*Show Me the Money!*

Charles Cunningham  
Tufts University

To run events, provide services to your constituencies, or even send your members to this conference, Graduate and Professional Student Organizations need funding. These can come from a variety of sources, including student activity fees and administrative money, and can be allocated to a variety of goods and services for graduate students. This session aims to foster discussion about the various ways graduate student and professional organizations are funded and spend their money, examining economies of scale, administration/GSPO power dynamics, and financial expectations by both students and administrations. The main goal in this session is to share information between various graduate student councils, associations, and the NAGPS community. Only when we compare our experiences with each other can we have a larger context to examine the reasonableness and normality of the funding structures of our GSPOs.





## *How to Succeed at Student Advocacy: Data-Driven Approaches and Monopolies on Information*

Brian Spatocco  
MIT

Over the years, various schools of thought on how to go about advocacy and collaboration with administration have been posited and attempted (mostly unsuccessfully). These range from student protests and sit-ins all the way up to consensus based committees and task forces. This talk proposes that the most effective way to address the power asymmetry implicit in any student-administrator interaction and achieve the end goal of improving life on campus is through the three step process of 1) trust-building through confidentiality, 2) value-adding via unique data monopolies, and 3) leveraging data supremacy. Proposals for data collection, processing, and distribution will be discussed. Further, successful examples of data-driven advocacy efforts will be examined as case-studies.

## *New Initiatives and Events for CMU GSA*

Jason Imbrogno  
Carnegie Mellon University

Carnegie Mellon University's GSA is very strong. Our funding levels are quite high, and we have put the money to good use this past year. Some recent new events include an Ice Cream Day and subsidized tickets to our own theater shows. This presentation will provide updates on these events while discussing other work our GSA has done on campus, including the formation of a dissertation support group.

## **Panel II:**

### *Public Relations & The GSO*

Evgenia Sidorova  
SUNY Stonybrook

The complexity of communications between a GSO and its constituencies, as well as University administration, graduate student employees' unions (including RA Union and TA/GA Union), undergraduate student governments and outside GSO groups can be analyzed on the example of Graduate Student Organization at SUNY Stony Brook,





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Inc. The GSO is incorporated in the State of New York as a nonprofit organization and is legally and structurally independent of the university administration. We will look at the public relations management of the organization, starting from hired positions on the payroll, such as PR-manager, Web Master and Media Relation specialist to their supervision by the Executive Committee. We will also look at the communication with the unions through union liaisons and the perspective of getting liaisons from outside constituency group, such as Medical and Dental School (in case of SB GSO) and undergraduate student government. Moreover, we will talk about communications between departmental senators and GSO EC. This discussion will be of interest to the members of any GSO Executive Committee as well as their communication specialists and senators.

### *Legislative Action in the Northeast Region*

Rebecca Myers  
Chatham University

NAGPS organizes national advocacy efforts to bring about lasting changes pertaining to legislative and administrative actions that will affect graduate & professional students. In this workshop, participants will learn how to navigate the lobbying process through scheduling techniques, legislative research and monitoring, facilitating lobbying meetings, professionalism, and follow-ups.

### **Panel III:**

### *An Engineer, an Actor, and a Lawyer walk into a bar...: Creating an Interdisciplinary Graduate Community*

Michelle Ashley  
Tufts University

Every Spring at Tufts University, the Graduate Student Council holds the Graduate Research Symposium, which allows graduate students at every stage of degree and every discipline to share their research with their peers. The purpose of the Symposium is multifaceted. Presenters gain conference experience, learn how to disseminate information to those outside one's discipline, and, most importantly, meet graduate students outside their field. The Symposium is key in forging a more united and interdisciplinary graduate community. As the chair of this





year's Symposium, my presentation will outline how other universities could use this template and describe my experience in organizing the Symposium.

## *Appreciation Week How To*

Jon Kowalski  
Carnegie Mellon University

Did you know that an entire week exists to appreciate graduate and professional students? This session will detail the history and motivation of Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week, discuss strategies to pull off a successful week on your campus and provide you with examples of events that your GPSO could host to help appreciate your students.

## **Interactive Breakout Sessions**

*Melissa Welshans, Patrick Neary, Jack Mayernik, Melissa Kizina*

In these concurrent sessions, one tailoring toward GSO Presidents/Vice-Presidents and one toward Secretaries/Treasurers, we will give students in similar executive roles across our grad organizations the opportunity to share challenges and strategies relevant to their positions, as well as mentor students coming into those roles in the coming year. The sessions will be facilitated by Syracuse's own GSO Executive Board members.

## **Getting Involved in NAGPS Session**

*Matt Cooper and Brandon Milonovich*

This session, presented by NAGPS President Matt Cooper and NE Regional Conference Coordinator Brandon Milonovich, will provide useful information in where NAGPS is as an organization and where it plans to go. It will include information on open NAGPS board positions, a new NAGPS survey initiative, and other information on how students might get more thoroughly involved in NAGPS.



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## Media & Contact Information

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If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, or comments at any point during the conference, please don't hesitate to contact us.

**518.866.6443 Brandon Milonovich**  
**845.797.6982 Katie Laurentiev**

We encourage you to keep conference conversations going through social media!

Twitter Hashtags:

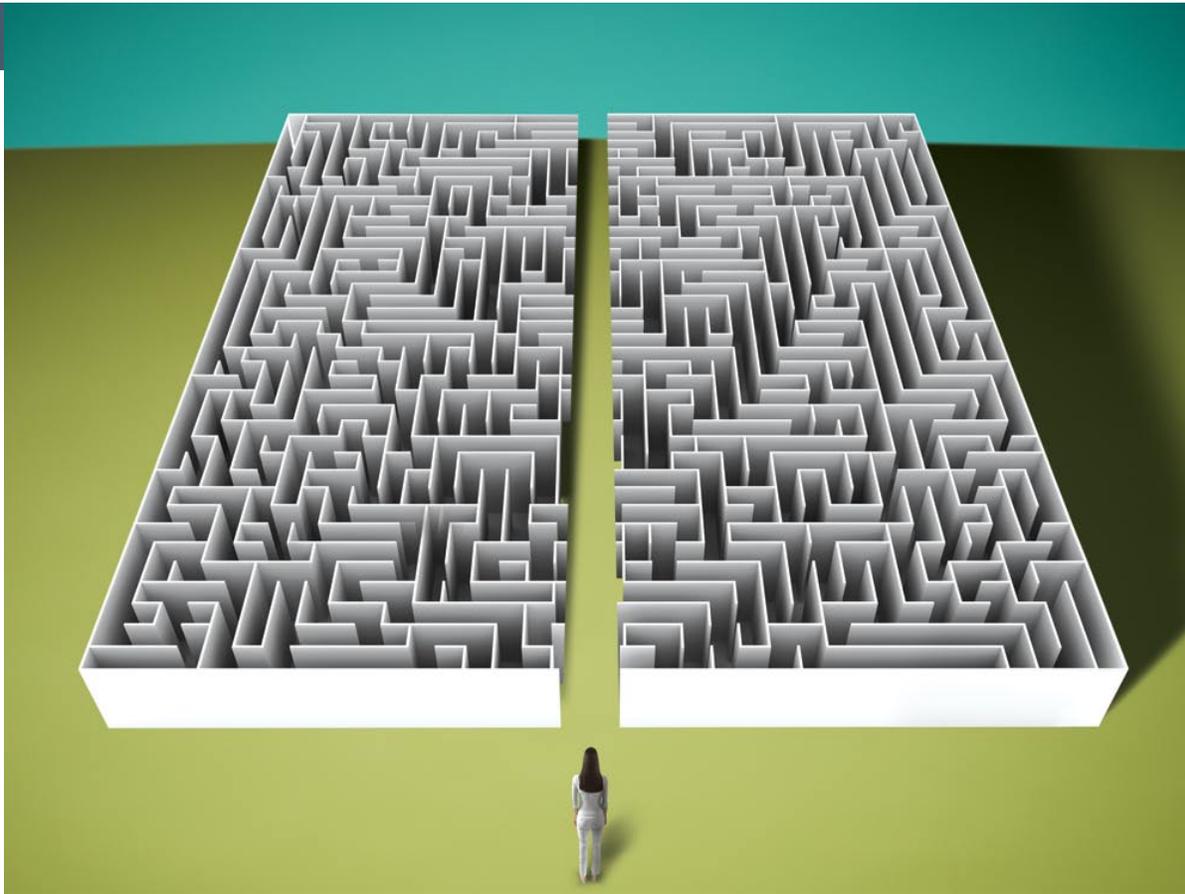
**#napgsne12**

**#nagps**



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Want to learn more about international student health insurance for NAGPS members?

**Go to [www.UHCSR.com/NAGPS](http://www.UHCSR.com/NAGPS)  
or call us toll-free at 800-767-0700.**



This plan is underwritten by UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company and (in New York) UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York and is based on Policy #2010-485-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9. Benefits may vary by state and are not available in New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Vermont and Washington. For a full description of coverage, including costs, benefits, exclusions, any reductions or limitations and terms under which the policy may be continued in force, log on to [www.UHCSR.com/NAGPS](http://www.UHCSR.com/NAGPS).



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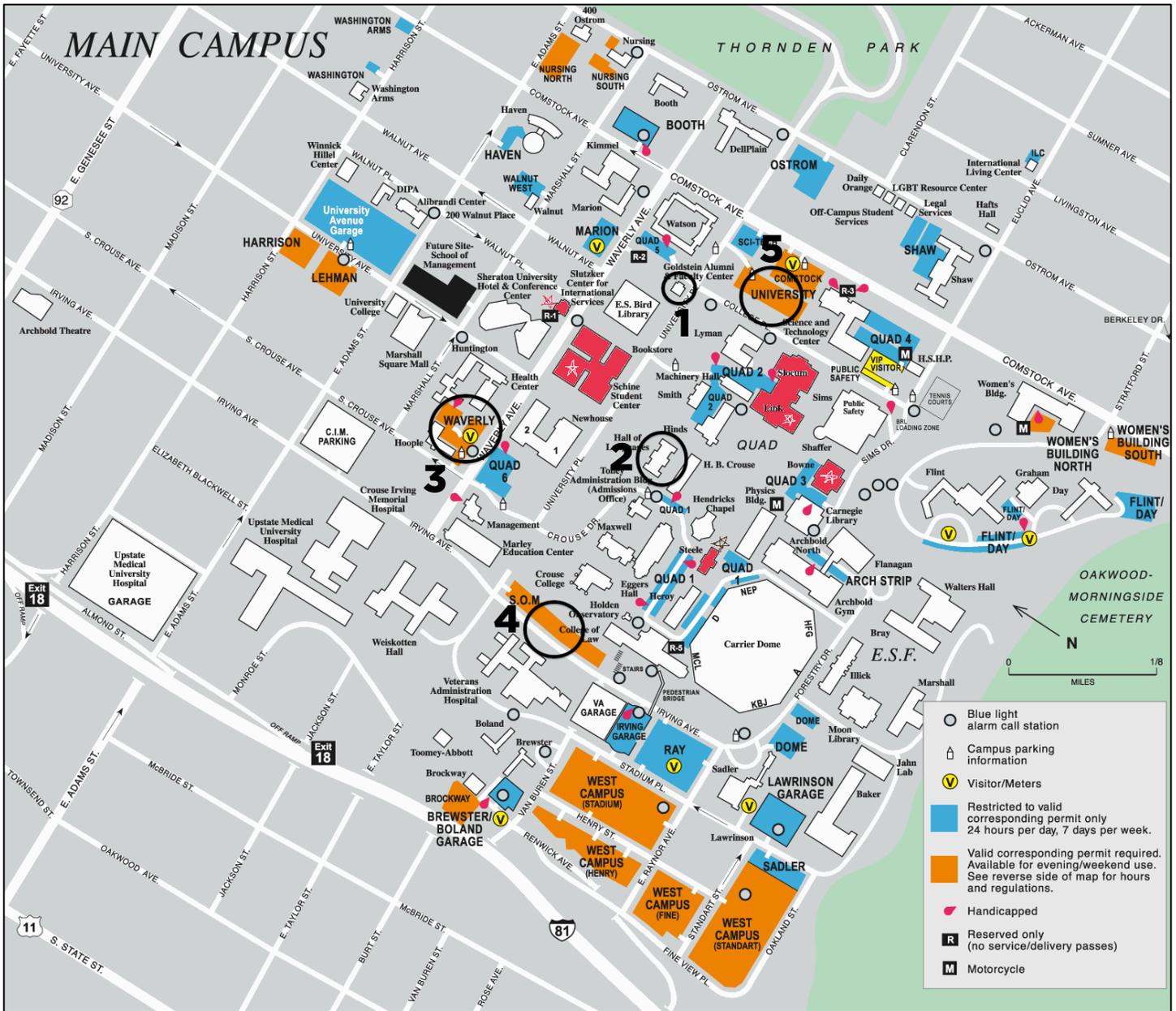
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**Event Buildings:**

1. Goldstein Faculty Center
2. Hall of Languages

**Parking:**

3. Waverly Lot
4. Hillside Lot
5. University Ave. Lot