2013

Midwest Regional Conference
Xavier University
The Ohio State University
April 19-21, 2013
Cincinnati, OH
Midwest Conference Welcome

Dear graduate-professional student leader,

The 2013 NAGPS Board of Directors would like to welcome you to this year’s regional conference at Xavier University co-sponsored with The Ohio State University. Our regional conferences are truly exciting events inspiring ideas and energy throughout each region. Al Green and his team have done a fantastic job organizing the conference this year, and we hope you’ll enjoy the event!

We’d also like to take a moment to highlight a few of the things your National Board is working on this year for you. Aside from focusing on making this year’s regional conference series as successful as possible, we’ve just completed our largest Advocacy Summit and Legislative Action Days ever! Moreover, we’ve been spending a great deal of time increasing our communications to our members so you have the information you need. We’ve also just completed a major website redesign. Our hope is we’ve chosen a simple design that is easy to navigate and is a pleasure to use. As we get this rolling, we certainly would appreciate your feedback.

Developing as a leader is one of the great benefits to being involved in NAGPS. We will be holding our Second Annual Leadership Summit at Northwestern University August 5-7, 2013, and we hope to see you there.

We also hope you will mark on your calendars the 27th Annual National Conference at Midwest Michigan University November 7-10, 2013. Our goal is for this to be the largest National Conference we’ve ever held, and we will need your help to make this happen! Start thinking early about abstracts you wish to submit, and begin requesting funding from your University.

As always, we always welcome your feedback on how we’re doing. In addition, if you are interested in volunteering for a committee, or in some other regard, please feel free to reach out to any of us for more details! Again, welcome to the Midwest Regional Conference!

In service,
NAGPS Board of Directors
Midwest Conference Welcome

Dear Conference Attendee,

Welcome to the 2013 NAGPS Midwest Regional Conference cohosted by Xavier University and The Ohio State University. NAGPS strives to be the unified voice for graduate and professional students across the nation. An important part in developing that unity is the ability for student leaders to share the past challenges, current goals, and future hopes of their respective universities. This conference provides a platform for the close collaboration and broad networking so crucial to today’s world. We are excited to hear about the initiatives taking place on your various campuses and hope that you can take away unique and valuable insights.

This year’s conference contains presentations which vary from interviewing skills to an NAGPS update. The diversity of these presentations reflects the breadth of interest and the depth of talent of our members. As graduate and professional students, we truly are the leaders of tomorrow and the stewards of the future.

On a more personal note, we hope to get to know each one of you as well as introduce you to the other conference attendees. As a certain networking company likes to point out, a human network progresses far faster than an individual can independently. When you think about the road towards your personal and professional goals, please think of NAGPS as a resource and as an advisor to help you along your path. Our national network of students and professionals means that you don’t have to travel alone.

We would like to thank you for taking the time to be here at Xavier University. Please feel free to approach us as well as the presenters; we welcome your comments and hope to use them to reflect on and reevaluate our own viewpoints. Most of all, enjoy the conference at your time in Cincinnati.

Sincerely,

Alexander Green
Xavier GSA Treasurer
Midwest Regional Conference Coordinator
Cell: (616) 540-2571

Kenneth Burton
Xavier GSA President
Cell: (513) 317-3079
Friday, April 19

Guests Check-in
Marriott Kingsgate
151 Goodman Dr
Cincinnati, OH 45219

5:00 PM Social and Welcome
Next Chapter Bar & Restaurant
940 Pavilion St
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Saturday, April 20

Conference location:
Conaton Learning Commons (CLC)
Xavier University
3800 Victory Pkwy
Cincinnati, OH 45207

Conference Contact:
Al Green
(616) 540-2571
amg800@gmail.com

8:00 AM Conference Registration
Conaton Learning Commons (CLC) 405
Light snacks served

9:00 AM Interviewing Skills
Conaton Learning Commons (CLC) 405
Barry Joffe, Xavier University Career Center

9:30 AM Break

9:45 AM Northwestern University’s Annual Graduate Student Survey
Conaton Learning Commons (CLC) 405
Deniz Alpay & Eduardo Europa, Northwestern University

10:15 AM Break

10:30 AM Leadership without Borders: Celebrating diversity and inclusion of international student leaders
Conaton Learning Commons (CLC) 405
James Tham, St Cloud State University

11:00 AM Midwest Regional Focus Group: We need your help!
Conaton Learning Commons (CLC) 405
Facilitated by The Ohio State University
## AGENDA
### PROGRAMMING AND NETWORKING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>Appreciating Graduate and Professional Students - The Big Blue Way</td>
<td>Conaton Learning Commons (CLC) 405</td>
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<td>Frank Appiah, University of Kentucky</td>
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<td>12:00PM</td>
<td>Working Lunch</td>
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<td>Marketing, Communications, and Social Media Workshop</td>
<td>Conaton Learning Commons (CLC) 405</td>
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<td>Kelly Blumenschein, The Ohio State University</td>
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<td>Jason Striker, Arizona State University, NAGPS Director of Relations</td>
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<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>NAGPS Regional Board Meeting</td>
<td>Conaton Learning Commons (CLC) 405</td>
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<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 PM</td>
<td>Achievements and Challenges Discussion</td>
<td>Conaton Learning Commons (CLC) 405</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>The Future of Graduate and Professional Education in the United States</td>
<td>Conaton Learning Commons (CLC) 405</td>
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<td>Brandon Milonovich, NAGPS Vice President</td>
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<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>The Graduate Leadership Council: A peer-based model for leadership development</td>
<td>Conaton Learning Commons (CLC) 405</td>
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<td>Eduardo Europa &amp; Deniz Alpay, Northwestern University</td>
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<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Leadership &amp; Finance Roundtable</td>
<td>Conaton Learning Commons (CLC) 405</td>
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<td>Facilitated by Brandon Milonovich, NAGPS Vice President</td>
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<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Social event</td>
<td>1225 Elm St, Cincinnati, OH 45202</td>
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<td>Public parking nearby</td>
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### Sunday, April 21

Travel back to home institutions or self-guided exploration of Cincinnati
Help the Midwest Region advocate for our students. Get involved with NAGPS and your region by running for one of the position below. Elections will be held during the regional business meeting for the following positions:

1. Vice-Chair  
2. Director of Outreach  
3. Director of Legislative Affairs  
4. Director of Communications & Administration  
5. Employment Concerns Chair  
6. Social Justice Chair  
7. International Student Concerns Chair  
8. Legal Concerns Chair

If you are interested in more information about a position, talk to Brandon Milonovich, NAGPS Vice President.

Each year a host school is selected to host the next regional conference. This occurs this weekend, also during our regional business meeting.

NAGPS requests that potential Regional Conference Coordinating Councils (RCCCs) submit a letter of approval from their governing student body to the NAGPS Executive Committee and Regional Chair prior to the bid selection process. This letter shall provide approval of the organization to host the regional conference; this can include approval from your GPSO, Dean, or Administrator, and a named Director of Regional Conference to coordinate planning and volunteers of the regional conference (the Director must be a member of the host organization)

Potential RCCCs shall present their proposal to the membership. Please limit your presentation to no more than 10 minutes and 10 slides. The presentation shall include, but is not limited to Dates of conference (must occur between March 1st and April 31st), location and member organization overview, meeting facilities, accommodations, projected budget, projected expenses for an attending organization, name of the Director of Regional Conference, required assistance from the Association.

Time will be allotted for questions on each proposal. After all regional bid presentations have concluded, there may be a closed discussion followed by a vote of the membership. The majority vote of the regional membership will elect the Regional Conference Coordinating Council.

RCCCs shall secure funding for the conference. It is the responsibility of the host school to lead fundraising efforts. All fundraising and other partners must be submitted to the Board of Directors, which reserves the right to reject any partnership. RCCCs shall adhere to the NAGPS Constitution, Bylaws, and Standard Operating Procedures. All approved written and verbal communications to host the conference are binding.
Michael Appel

Midwest Regional Chair, University of Iowa

Michael Appel, from Coralville, Iowa, has spent the last seven years as a student at the University of Iowa. He received his Bachelors of Science degree in Political Science in 2010, and is currently a third year law student. While at the University of Iowa College of Law, Michael has served in the Executive Council of Graduate and Professional Students (ECGPS), the graduate and professional student government. Last year he served as Vice President and this year as President.

As ECGPS Vice President Michael's focus was finding a way to stop the funding cuts from the state legislature. He knew state appropriations would not increase if Iowa’s three state universities did not promote their individual benefits. Michael convinced Regent Bruce Rastetter of this idea's value. Regent Rastetter asked Michael to present his idea to the Board. Michael then approached his friend, ECGPS Governmental Relations Liaison, with his idea and together they wrote a proposal and presented it to the Board. The publicity campaign, Universities for a Better Iowa™, began in spring of 2012. Michael’s leadership is seen as the spark prompting each institution to improve statewide publicity efforts. That year ended in the first state appropriations increase to Iowa’s public universities in years.

As ECGPS President Michael has narrowed his focus to publicizing the impact of graduate and professional students on Iowa, the nation, and the world. From the beginning Michael knew he had an uphill battle to bring graduate and professional student concerns to the forefront of the Board of Regents and state. He spoke to the Board last fall during the student leaders annual tuition speech and asked the leaders to reevaluate the attention given to his peers. He encouraged them to spend time with the various colleges to better understand what graduate and professional students need to succeed. The speech spurred a front-page article in a prominent local newspaper focusing on graduate and professional education and tuition. Additionally, this year Michael proposed and implemented his Graduate and Professional Hawkeye Videos. They consist of seven promotional videos highlighting the colleges and the work of graduate and professional students. These videos will be available for use by ECGPS, UI, the colleges themselves, and the Board of Regents. Michael will finish his term as President presenting to the Board of Regents next week on how they can better support graduate and professional education.

After law school Michael will be joining the law firm Crowell and Moring in their Washington D.C. office. He hopes to continue to work with higher education institutions in his practice, and would love to continue advocating for graduate and professional education.

Kelly Blumenschein

Director of Outreach, Ohio State University

Kelly is pursuing her MBA at The Ohio State University’s Fisher College of business; she is currently the Chief of Staff on OSU’s Council of Graduate Students. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Dayton where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and Entrepreneurship and a minor in Spanish; she also played on UD’s varsity women’s soccer team. Upon graduation, she worked with Fondriest Environmental as the company’s Marketing Specialist. Her role included sales as well as managing multiple marketing initiatives, such as the company’s advertising campaign, conference and trade show program, and quarterly news magazine. Between her first and second years of the Fisher MBA program, Kelly will be working with dunnhumby, a marketing strategy and consulting company located in Cincinnati, OH.
Al Green
Regional Conference Coordinator, Xavier University

Alexander “Al” McGinnis Green is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan. He earned his undergraduate degree in Finance from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. While attending Fort Lewis College, Al played defense for The Fort’s MCLA Division II Lacrosse team, was Vice President of The Fort’s Business Club, and attended classes abroad in La Rochelle, France. After graduating from Fort Lewis College, Al returned to Grand Rapids to begin a career in Financial Services as a Financial Advisor. After a friend introduced Al to the healthcare industry, he decided to switch careers. Al chose to attend Xavier University’s Masters’ of Healthcare Services Administration program because of Xavier’s small size and the program’s history and strong alumni network. Al was married to his wife, Samantha, in August 2009. Together they have a dog named Ada, enjoy the outdoors, and love to find new favorite restaurants. Al enjoys brewing beer, hunting, and fishing.

National Board Members Present

Brandon Milonovich
Vice President, Syracuse University

Brandon completed his Master’s degree in Teaching and Curriculum with Emphasis in Mathematics Education at Syracuse University in December 2012. Brandon joined the Syracuse University Graduate Student Organization as a University Senator in the fall of 2011 aiming to hit the ground running by becoming involved with NAGPS. During his term as the Northeast Regional Chair, Brandon focused his efforts in strengthening the Northeast Region through continual outreach, communication, and increased emphasis on involvement from member schools. As the 2013 Vice President, Brandon Milonovich has four primary objectives. The first of which is to focus on developing and strengthening all NAGPS events including National Conference, Regional Conferences, the Graduate Student Leadership Summit, and Advocacy Summit/Legislative Action Days. Secondly, Brandon also plans to further develop transparency and communication for the Association, both internally and externally. Third, Brandon plans to strengthen our efforts on outreach to new and lapsed members. Finally, Brandon is aiming to increase general board productivity.

Jason Striker
Director of Relations, Arizona State University

As Director of Relations for NAGPS, Jason fosters, cultivates, and maintains relationships with corporate, higher education, and community supporters and partners for NAGPS. Jason has worked with several technology and corporate partners in his professional career, and will leverage his past, current and future partnerships to support and move forward the ideas, principals, and ethics of NAGPS. Jason Striker is an advocate and educator who facilitates intercultural, interpersonal and meaningful discourse. His specialization in digital communication, social media and online community building fosters the know-how and know-why, to support accessibility and accountability — for all — within online mediums. He strives to teach how to communicate effectively and judiciously, digitally and face to face. Jason is in the M.A program in Communication Studies and Advocacy with a Graduate Certificate in Gender Studies. Jason serves the Arizona State University (ASU) community as the communications manager for the University Technology Office, as an iCourse assistant for COM 453, 430, 451, 312, as the ASU Information Technology Director for ASU’s Graduate Professional Student Association, and serves on the Committee for Campus Inclusion (CCI). In what limited spare time he has, Jason enjoys traveling, adventuring and training his three (3) Terriers: Herbie, Henry & Helga.
The NAGPS National Conference is the premier opportunity to meet other graduate-professional student leaders, learn best practices for managing your graduate-professional organization, and develop as a leader.

Prepare now by saving the date on your calendar, requesting funding for travel to Kalamazoo, and beginning to assemble content for a presentation at the conference. If you have leadership lessons that you’ve learned as a leader at your institution, an idea for a productive discussion session, or any other topic relevant for other graduate and professional leaders, we invite you to share it at the national conference.

November 7-10, 2013
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI

prepare now
• mark your calendar for November 7-10, 2013
• make sure other leaders from your organization are planning to attend
• request funding for leaders from your organization to attend
• begin assembling content for presentations, discussions, and collaboration sessions at the conference

questions
If you have any questions, contact office@nagps.org for more information

nagps.org/nationalconference
Northwestern University’s Annual Graduate Student Survey
Deniz Alpay & Eduardo Europa, Northwestern University

To better understand the needs of the graduate student body, the Graduate Leadership Council (GLC) at Northwestern University conducts an annual Graduate Student Survey, which aims to gauge student satisfaction and highlights concerns with various aspects of graduate student life. Graduate student leaders and university administration work on the survey in a strongly collaborative fashion from the identification of topic areas to the distribution of the survey to the dissemination of the survey report. Topics cover important areas, such as student life and community, academic life, career services, transportation, health insurance, and conflict resolution. The survey allows GLC to not only identify student concerns for future initiatives, but also to assess student opinion on the success of previous initiatives. Using the survey, the GLC reports the findings and concerns of graduate students to university administrators and the Northwestern’s Board of Trustees. Previous surveys have successfully led to university services and policies that have significantly benefited the graduate student body. One successful initiative was The Graduate School’s (TGS) enrollment in the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) U-PASS program, which offers unlimited rides on any CTA bus or train during an academic quarter for full-time Northwestern graduate students. In addition, the construction of a Graduate Student Commons came about after hearing the demands for a shared community space for the graduate student body. The GLC developed a Student-Advisor Best Practices document and worked together with TGS on Northwestern’s Conflict Resolution webpage after survey data analysis showed the need for more visible resources for student-advisor conflicts. The data found from the GLC’s annual survey continuously facilitates the discussion between the graduate student community and the University administration, inspiring new initiatives to improve the quality of graduate student life.

Leadership without Boarders: Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion of International Student Leaders
Jason Tham, St Cloud State University

Contributing more than $21 billion to the US economy annually, international students offer academic and cultural benefits to their respective campus communities. Yet, they continue to experience hardship in adapting to their new community and struggle to climb up the leadership ladder due to cultural disadvantages. This paper explores the challenges facing international student leaders in a comprehensive, Midwestern university, particularly adjustment issues, cultural barriers, and limited opportunities. Narratives of international and domestic students were collected to account to the issues raised. Coping strategies of international students will be briefly addressed. A discussion will follow to examine leadership training and development opportunities for international students at university level.

Midwest Regional Focus Group: We need your help!
Facilitated by The Ohio State University

The Midwest Region of the National Graduate and Professional Students represents thousands of graduate students across 16 universities; unfortunately, we are not hearing from or reaching out to the majority of graduate and professional programs in our region. We would like to take this time to hear from you and utilize the power of many minds to discuss how we can better direct our outreach efforts. What drove your organization to join NAGPS, and what can we improve upon to develop interest from non-member institutions?

This will be an informal discussion in hopes that the Midwest Regional Board can leave with your opinions in mind, along with a list of action items to see your ideas through. It is imperative that we approach outreach from our region through a united front. Please join us for this short meeting to share your thoughts.
Appreciating Graduate and Professional Students-The Big Blue Way

Frank Appiah, University of Kentucky

In the week of April 1-6, the Graduate Student Congress, University of Kentucky, honored its graduate and professional students with weeklong events that brought many students together. In this session, we shall discuss the events that stood out and the planning details that went along with them. We shall also touch on the shortfalls and discuss potential remedies we intend to implement next year. Our discussion will be particularly helpful to folks who have been planning appreciation week events in the past but would like to include new flavors. This is also for those who are yet to plan their first appreciation week event. This talk will be more of a discussion where everyone will be welcomed to make suggestions or ask questions during the process.

The Graduate Leadership Council: A peer-based model for leadership development

Eduardo Europa & Deniz Alpay, Northwestern University

Leadership skills are an inevitable by-product of most graduate and professional programs, often cultivated through mentorship, coursework, and first-hand experience. Northwestern University offers another opportunity to encourage the development of leadership skills in the form of a unique student advisory board. The Graduate Leadership Council (GLC) is a space for graduate student leaders to share their resources and leadership expertise. Composed of leaders from a number of graduate student organizations, the GLC has representation from the different facets of the graduate student body and facilitates communication and interaction between Northwestern’s graduate student community and the University administration. The GLC strives to promote a successful academic experience and to act as a platform for voicing common graduate student concerns, while fostering good leadership skills within each of our members. Further, the GLC assists The Graduate School (TGS) at Northwestern and the University administration in the planning and implementation of policies, events, and other initiatives relevant to graduate students. Such initiatives are based on an annual survey, which aims to gauge student satisfaction and highlights concerns with various aspects of Northwestern graduate student life. Example survey topics include student life and community, academic life, career services, transportation, health insurance, and conflict resolution. Previous surveys have successfully led to university services that have significantly benefited the graduate student body, including, but not limited to, a considerably reduced cost of an unlimited local transit pass for all full-time graduate students and construction of a graduate student commons. As the liaison between the graduate student body and TGS administrators, the GLC endeavors to build a more unified graduate student community.
Professional students are the driving force of our nation’s future economic and intellectual competitiveness. Join us at the Graduate Leadership Summit and prepare for your future today by honing your leadership and strategic thinking skills for your organization and your career.

Sessions include the following topics:
- Building Dynamic Teams
- Organizational Objective-setting
- Managing and Motivating Volunteers
- Implementing Evidence-driven Leadership

Mark your calendar today!
WE ARE
THE FUTURE.

WHO WE ARE
We are over 600,000 graduate and professional students standing together to ensure that our nation continues to produce top quality research, creative and artistic works, and invests in American education. We are the backbone of research and teaching at universities across the US, and play a key role in building our nation’s technological innovation and artistic and cultural heritage through scholarship and community engagement. We are America’s future business, political, and intellectual leaders. We are the future.

WHAT WE DO
NAGPS provides three core services to graduate-professional students in the US:

ADVOCACY
Coordinated federal and state advocacy on issues that impact students

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
Events, workshops, and publications designed to empower the next generation of leaders in the US

RESOURCES
Access to benefits and services that help save students money and improve their quality of life

90+
universities across the US

600,000+
graduate-professional students

STAND WITH US
NAGPS.ORG