

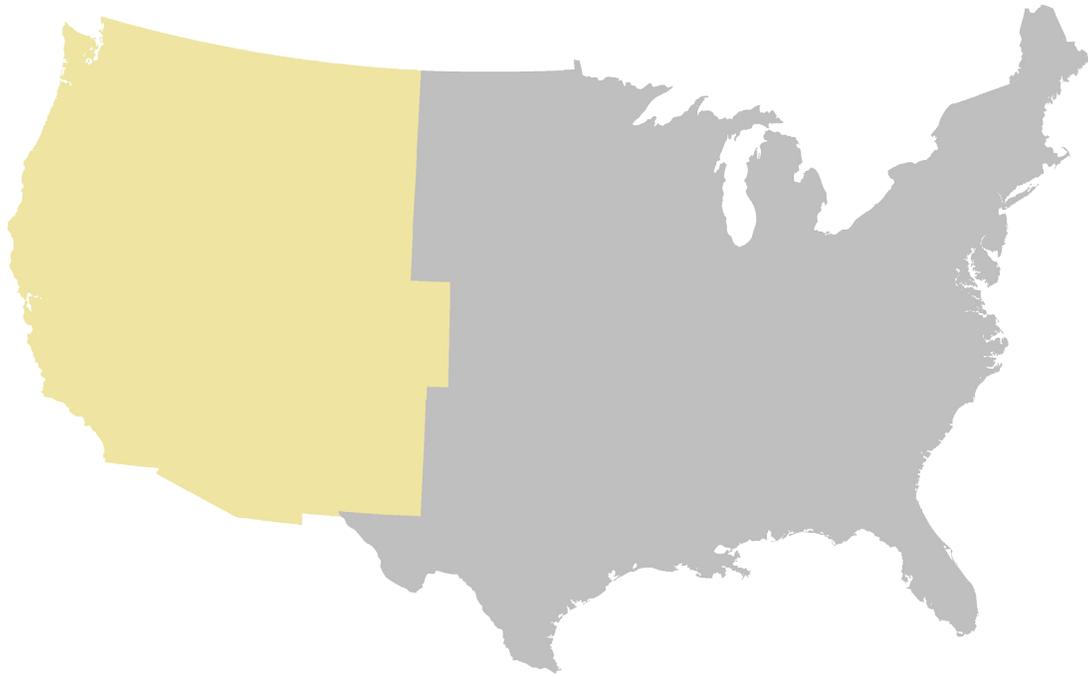
# 2013

**Western Regional Conference**

University of California, Davis

April 13-14, 2013

Davis, CA



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL  
STUDENTS



# Western 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 the University of California, Davis. Our regional conferences are truly exciting events inspiring ideas and energy throughout each region. Myka Estes and her 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.

We also hope you will mark on your calendars the 27th Annual National Conference at Western 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 Western Regional Conference!

In service,

NAGPS Board of Directors

 Steve Bush  
 Matt Cooper

 PPN

 Jason

 Jason Stricker

 N. Leslie

 Alan Liu

 Victoria

 Matt

 Meredith Hiles

 Myka

 Maria R. Marion

 Matt

 Melody

 Kristofferson

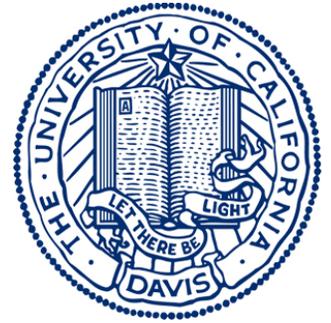
 Matt

 PPN

# Western Conference Welcome

Dear Conference Attendee,

Welcome to the 2013 NAGPS Western Regional Conference at the University of California Davis! Organized by student leaders in 1987, NAGPS is the only national organization that represents the interests of graduate & professional students in public and private universities at local, state, and national levels. Currently, we represent more than 90 universities across the country and have contributed to important federal and state legislation benefiting graduate and professional students. Additionally, NAGPS facilitates networks between student leaders, which continue to flourish long after graduation. These relationships spread advocacy for higher education into numerous influential sectors, and will, hopefully, reverse downward trends in funding, quality and access.



The western region has seen incredible changes in funding at the state and national levels for higher education. This conference gives us an opportunity to grapple with these issues, learn from one another's successes and failures, and design strategic plans to take back to our home universities for the coming year.

Personally, I find the individual conversations that I have with other student leaders just as valuable as all of the structured presentations. Thus, we will have plenty of breaks and interactive sessions so that we can build relationships with one another that will benefit the schools and students we represent.



Western  
Region

Thank you all for attending! Your very presence signifies your commitment to the students you represent. This is also a time to celebrate YOU and all you do for your communities. I hope you enjoy meeting so many talented and motivated peers, and please take some time to enjoy the beautiful people and scenery of Davis!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Myka Estes".

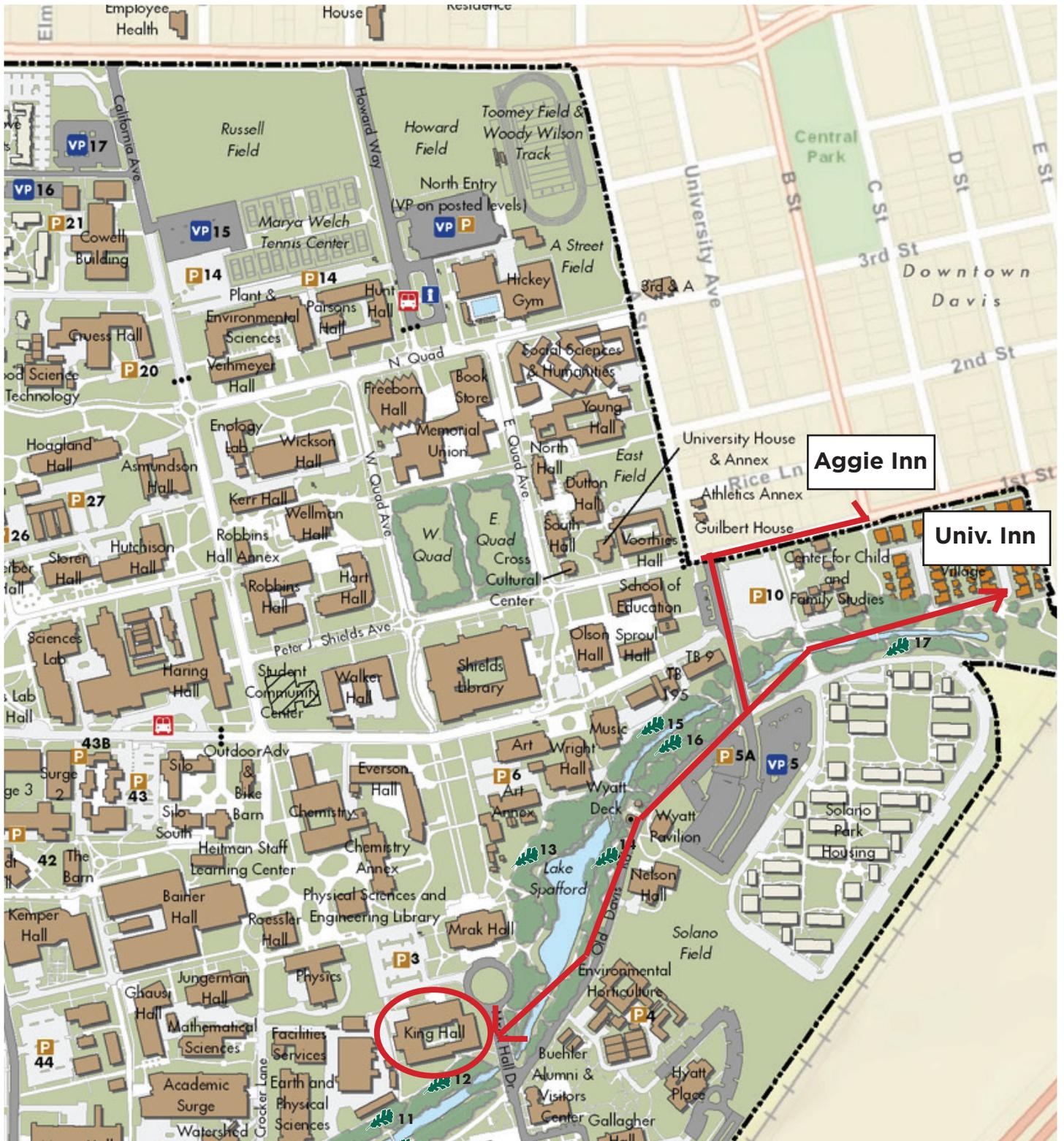
Myka Estes

Western Regional Chair

Cell: (530) 219-8410

# FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND

## NAVIGATING THE CAMPUS



# AGENDA

## PROGRAMMING AND NETWORKING

### Friday, April 12

Guests Check-in  
University Park Inn & Suites  
1111 Richards Blvd  
Davis, CA 95616

7:30 PM Dinner at Vere's Irish Pub  
217 E Street  
Davis, CA 95616  
(530) 204-5533

9:00 PM Out on the Town



Western  
Region

### Saturday, April 13

Conference location:  
King Hall  
400 Mrak Hall Drive  
Davis, CA 95616

Conference Contact:  
Myka Estes  
(530) 219-8410  
mestes@ucdavis.edu

8:30 AM Conference Registration  
*King Hall, Outside of room 2303*

9:00 AM Welcome to Davis  
*King Hall, Room 2303*  
Meredith Niles, University of California, Davis, GSA External Chair  
NAGPS Director of Legislative Affairs

9:30 AM Lessons from UC Davis LSA  
*King Hall, Room 2303*  
Nima Rahimi, President, Law Students Association, UC Davis

10:00 AM Break

10:15 AM Achievements and Challenges I  
*King Hall, Room 2303*  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
Eastern Washington University  
Santa Clara Law School  
Colorado School of Mines

11:00 AM Roundtable Discussion on International Student Issues  
*King Hall, Room 2303*  
Parth Nagarkar, ASU, NAGPS International Student Concerns Chair

11:30 AM Break

# AGENDA

## PROGRAMMING AND NETWORKING

- 11:45 AM Developing the Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Symposium  
*King Hall, Room 2303*  
John A Peterson, UC Davis, GSA Treasurer
- 12:15 PM Lunch
- 1:15 PM Achievements and Challenges II  
*King Hall, Room 2303*  
University of Southern California  
University of Oregon  
University of California, Irvine
- 2:00 PM Using the Five “W”s of Informational Interviewing to Enhance Your Networks  
*King Hall, Room 2303*  
Teresa Dillinger, Career Center, UC Davis
- 2:35 PM Break
- 2:50 PM Achievements and Challenges III  
*King Hall, Room 2303*  
Arizona State University  
University of Arizona  
San Jose State University
- 3:35 PM University of California Student Association (UCSA)  
*King Hall, Room 2303*  
Matt Haney, Executive Director  
Louise Hendrickson, University Affairs Director
- 4:15 PM Interacting with Regent Boards and Administration  
*King Hall, Room 2303*  
Michael Appel, NAGPS Midwest Regional Chair, University of Iowa School of Law  
Jonathan Stein, UC Student Regent, UC Berkeley School of Law
- 5:15 PM Break
- 5:30 PM The Future of Graduate and Professional Education in the United States  
*King Hall, Room 2303*  
Jared Voskuhl, NAGPS President, UC Davis
- 6:15 PM Reception
- 7:00 PM Kenote Speaker  
Dr. Robert Fuller

## Sunday, April 14

- 9:00 AM Elections for Western Regional Board and 2014 Conference Location  
(Light Breakfast Provided)  
*King Hall, Room 2303*
- 10:00 AM Future of the Western Region

# Elections & Bidding

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Interested in being more involved in NAGPS? Why not start with a regional board position? 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 Myka Estes, Western Regional Chair.

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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.

# Western Regional Board

FIND US TO SAY HELLO

## **Myka Estes**

*Western Regional Chair, University of California, Davis*

Myka is a fourth year PhD candidate in Neuroscience and MS candidate in Immunology. She is a Weatherstone pre-doctoral fellow through Autism Speaks at the University of California, Davis. She holds a B.S. in molecular biology from the University of Colorado, Boulder where she was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute junior scholar. Her research focuses on neuroimmune interactions in synapse formation. Specifically, she studies the molecular mechanisms underlying the increased incidence of autism and schizophrenia following maternal infection during pregnancy. She is currently part of an interdisciplinary group of researchers and clinicians developing novel PET ligands to dysregulated immune proteins involved in these neurodevelopmental diseases. Myka is interested in science and education policy and serves as the Deputy External Chair for State Government and Legislative Issues for the UC Davis Graduate Student Association.

## **Zachary Brooks**

*Vice-Chair, University of Arizona*

Zachary Brooks is a PhD Student in Second Language Acquisition and Cognitive Science at the University of Arizona. Zachary is also the President of the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) for 2012-2013, Arizona Students Association Board Member, and NAGPS Vice-Chair for the Western Region. His accomplishments as GPSC President include forming a research grant program, increasing the travel grants program funding by \$59,700, and signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Provost and the Vice-President of Student Affairs on tuition and fee proposals, negotiated a \$150 fee rebate, awarded \$52,000 for childcare subsidy, established independent elections director, started airport pickup for international students, started writing workshop for international students, modified parking plan so it can be taken out as payroll deduction (less money upfront & tax benefit), and started an athletics discount for graduate and professional students. He was re-elected as GPSC President for 2013-2014.

## **Jessica Gonzalez**

*Legislative Concerns Chair, Arizona State University*

Jessica Gonzalez is Program Manager with Dress for Success Phoenix. Starting off as a volunteer, Jessica learned many of the fundamental aspects that continue to drive many nonprofit organizations, like Dress for Success Phoenix. Currently, she manages all aspects of the Dress for Success suiting programs, including volunteer recruitment and training, maintaining program files, and ensuring client and partner program satisfaction. Jessica holds a Bachelor's degree in American Studies & Sociology from Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey, and an Associate's Degree from Johnson & Wales University in Marketing. In addition, she is currently pursuing a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Leadership at Arizona State University. She serves as the Western Region Legislative Concerns Chair, Director of Legislative Affairs at the ASU GPSA, & is a recent fellow of the StartingBloc LA '13 Institute. Prior to joining Dress for Success Phoenix, Jessica worked as an Assistant Store Manager at Kohl's Department Stores. She has led various community based programs at Kohl's, through the Kohl's Cares for Kids Program, where are recruited to participate in volunteer initiatives with various organizations. This combination of managerial, marketing, and philanthropic skills has provided a solid foundation for her current position as Program Manager for Dress for Success Phoenix. She is proud to be part of an organization that is working to empower job-seeking women in Phoenix.

# Western Regional Board

FIND US TO SAY HELLO

## **Crystal Gustavson**

*Director of Outreach, Arizona State University*

Crystal began her career in politics, where she worked on several successful congressional, gubernatorial and initiative campaigns; including a campaign to re-elect Senator John McCain. From there her career led her into the world of marketing with stints at agencies RIESTER and Terralever, where she worked with The Arizona Meth Project, Thunderbird School of Global Management, University of Phoenix, Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau and PING. In 2010, she came back to her maroon and gold roots – joining Arizona State University as Online Editor of ASU Magazine and the Alumni Association as their first Digital Media Manager to develop and implement a communications strategy. Here, she has the distinct pleasure of bringing ASU alumni around the world together. Crystal graduated from Arizona State University with a B.S. in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Policy Advocacy and minor in Business Communications and Advocacy with a Specialization in Participatory Governance from ASU's New College of Interdisciplinary Studies.

## **Lisa Marie Lacy**

*Director of Relations, Arizona State University*

Lisa Marie Lacy is a 3rd year doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction, Special Education at Arizona State University. Lisa's research interests lie in the area identity. She is looking at the impact of body image of girls who use assistive technology.

# Session Abstracts

## **Interacting with Regent Boards and Administration**

*Michael Appel, NAGPS Midwest Regional Chair, University of Iowa Law School*

*Jonathan Stein, UC Student Regent*

Michael Appel, from Coralville, Iowa, has spent the last seven years as a student at the University of Iowa. 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. As ECGPS President Michael has narrowed his focus to publicizing the impact of graduate and professional students on Iowa, the nation, and the world. 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. 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.

Jonathan Stein is the UC Student Regent, representing the 230,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students of the 10 UC campuses before the UC administration, lawmakers in Sacramento, and the California public. He is a joint degree professional student at UC Berkeley, earning a masters in public policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy and a J.D. from Berkeley Law. Before becoming Student Regent, Jonathan served on the board of directors of the University of California Students Association and as the Legislative Director for State Affairs for UC Berkeley's student government. Jonathan founded and led the UC Berkeley chapter of Common Cause, through which he co-organized and led a statewide student campaign in support of Proposition 25 on the November 2010 ballot. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of California Common Cause. Jonathan spent four years at Mother Jones magazine as a researcher, assistant editor, blogger, and campaign correspondent during the 2008 presidential elections. He has spent three semesters working with the East Bay Community Law Center, providing free legal services to low-income communities in Berkeley and Oakland. He is a member of Berkeley Law's Men of Color Alliance.

# nagps national conference



## November 7-10, 2013

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.



### 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](mailto:office@nagps.org) for more information

[nagps.org/nationalconference](http://nagps.org/nationalconference)

# Session Abstracts

BEST PRACTICES AND COLLABORATION

## **Lessons from UC Davis LSA**

*Nima Rahimi, UC Davis*

A 3rd year law student at UC Davis and president of the Law Students Association, Nima presided over LSA's successful petition for lowering professional student fees. At a time when professional students are bearing the heaviest financial burden of increasing tuition trends, negotiating with administrators on behalf of students is necessary for maintaining access to educational opportunities.

## **Roundtable Discussion on International Student Issues**

*Parth Nagarkar, Arizona State University*

Parth is a PhD candidate in Computer Science at Arizona State University. He holds a BS in Computer Science from Louisiana Tech University. His research focuses on data management and partitioning. As International Student Concerns Chair, Parth deals with issues concerning international graduate and professional students studying in the US and helps advocate on their behalf. He also works with the regional International Student Concerns chairs to help resolve any problems at local campuses.

## **Developing the Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Symposium**

*John A. Peterson, UC Davis*

The Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Symposium has become an annual, multi-day event that showcases graduate student artistic, scholarly, and research activities at the University of California, Davis. Approximately thirty-five thousand dollars are spent on the event and over twenty thousand dollars go to prizes are given to graduate and professional students each year. The event is sponsored by the Graduate Student Association, the Chancellor, the Provost, several Vice Chancellors, and the various Deans. Coordinating the event can be challenging, but raising funds is relatively simple. I will talk about the development of the event from its half-day, \$2000 predecessor; methods that have been successful for raising funds; and lessons learned in the planning and execution process. The event has become a great way for people from different UC Davis campuses to interact, and has allowed students to learn how to communicate their research to people in different colleges and departments.

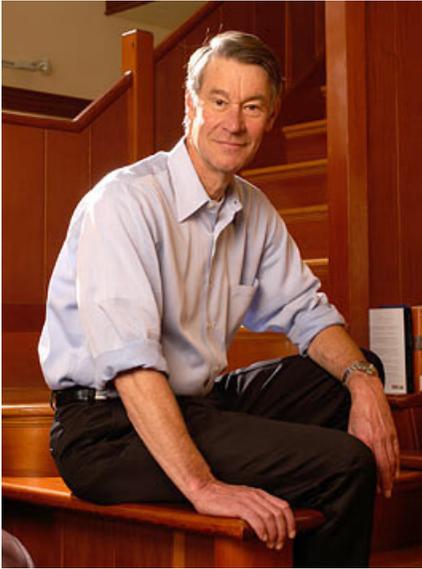
## **Lessons from University of California Student Association (UCSA)**

*Matt Haney, Executive Director of UCSA and Louise Hendrickson, University Affairs Director*

The University of California Student Association (UCSA) is a coalition of students and student governments that aims to provide a collective voice for all students through advocacy and direct action. UCSA participates in the shared governance of the University of California system, and seeks to advance higher education by empowering current and future students to advocate on their own behalf for the accessibility, affordability, and quality of the University of California system.

# Keynote Speaker

**Robert W. Fuller** is author of *Somebodies and Nobodies*, *All Rise: Somebodies, Nobodies, and the Politics of Dignity*, and (with co-author Pamela Gerloff) *Dignity for All: How to Create a World Without Rankism*. He coined the term *rankism* and is active worldwide in the Dignity Movement. His latest book is *Religion and Science: A Beautiful Friendship?*



He earned his Ph.D. in physics at Princeton University and taught at Columbia, where he co-authored the text *Mathematics of Classical and Quantum Physics*. He then served as president of Oberlin College, his alma mater.

On a trip to India, where he was a consultant to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Fuller witnessed firsthand the horrors of genocidal famine. Subsequently, he met with President Carter to propose the creation of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger.

During the 1980s, Fuller traveled frequently to the USSR, working to improve the Cold War relationship with the U.S. For many years, he served as chairman of the nonprofit global corporation Internews, which promotes democracy via free and independent media.

Fuller is now an international authority on dignity and rankism (abusive, discriminatory, or exploitative behavior towards those with less power as signified by lower rank). In January 2011, he was the keynote speaker at “The National Conference on Dignity for All” hosted by the president of Bangladesh. Fuller has also served as visiting professor at the Indian Institute of Science and the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore. He has made hundreds of public appearances and his work has been featured in scores of books and publications including the *New York Times*, *O Magazine*, and *The Contemporary Goffman*.

# 2013 Leadership Summit

Strengths Based Leadership & Team Building  
Northwestern University

August 5-7, 2013

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.

**90+**

universities  
across the US

**600,000+**

graduate-professional students

**STAND WITH US**  
**NAGPS.ORG**

## 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



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL  
STUDENTS**