Dear Northeast Regional Conference Attendee:

On behalf of the entire NAGPS Board of Directors, welcome to Boston! I hope that you are as excited as we are about this year’s Northeast Regional Conference. You will be engaging in an amazing two days of learning, networking and best practice sharing. This conference is the result of months of preparation and planning, which will culminate in the presentations, collaborations and connections that will occur over the coming days.

This year, the NAGPS board has been pursuing a number of initiatives aimed at operationalizing our vision for 2014: “Building Community through Creativity, Collaboration and Connectivity”. This includes a number of specific objectives:

• Pursuing new ideas that create new revenue streams for NAGPS.
• Creating a culture of service for NAGPS
• Expanding the work we do to build our national profile
• Establishing and strengthening internal and external partnerships that assist in achieving the strategic objectives of the organization
• Creating a sense of community among members that allows for greater member engagement, member productivity, effectiveness and impact of our advocacy efforts.

We will continue to keep you informed as we roll out these new initiatives and encourage you to visit our website and social media channels on a regular basis, as we continually add new information on projects and upcoming events.

If you are new to NAGPS, please note that we offer events and services throughout the year, including Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week, which is generally the first week in April each year, and will run from April 6-12 this year. Our activities also include Spring and Fall Legislative Action Days to promote student advocacy, our annual Leadership Summit in the summer and our annual National Conference every fall. This year’s National Conference will be hosted by the University of Missouri and Missouri University of Science & Technology on Mizzou’s campus in Columbia, MO from November 6-9, 2014. We look forward to seeing you there. Additional information about our upcoming events and more can be found at our web site (www.nagps.org).

Finally, I’d like to take a moment to thank Northeast Regional Chair Nicole Baran, Director of Regional Conference Jennifer Nguyen, and our regional hosts at Tufts University. The entire Tufts group has done a tremendous job putting together this conference with Nicole, working to ensure that your stay here in Boston is a rewarding one filled with meaningful learning experiences and engaging discussions with other graduate-professional student leaders.

Feel free to reach out to me or any member of our board of directors if you have questions about NAGPS events or activities, or to notify us of pressing issues on your campus. Welcome again and enjoy Tufts!

Warmest Regards,

Neleen Leslie
President & CEO
Dear friends and colleagues,

On behalf of the Northeast Regional Board and the leadership of NAGPS, I would like to welcome you to the 2014 NAGPS Northeast Regional Conference at Tufts University! Graduate and professional students are our nation’s future intellectual, business and political leaders. And yet we face an increasingly uncertain future, with a still struggling economy, significant loan debt, and decreased funding for science and research. NAGPS, and organizations like it, help us to serve as strong advocates for graduate and professional students and give us the tools to become effective leaders within our student organizations. More importantly, NAGPS serves to amplify the graduate and professional student voice in important policy debates at the state and federal level. This mission is deeply important to me and it is why I chose to become a part of the organization.

As the Northeast Regional Chair of NAGPS, my primary responsibilities are recruitment and retention of members within the region and assisting in the organization of the regional conference. I was very fortunate to be able to work with many individuals who helped to make the job easy. In particular, I would like to extend a special thank you to Jennifer Nguyen, and the Tufts University Conference Committee, who were instrumental in organizing and executing the logistics of the conference. In addition, the wisdom and expertise of both Brandon Milonovich, Vice President of NAGPS, and Patrick Neary, NAGPS Director of Finance, were invaluable throughout the process.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy the conference and that you find it to be informative, enlightening, and, most importantly, motivating!

Sincerely,

Nicole M. Baran
Northeast Regional Chair
Cell: (720) 371-4149
AGENDA
PROGRAMMING AND NETWORKING

Friday, March 14

Conference Contacts:
Nicole M. Baran (720) 371-4149
Jennifer Nguyen (617) 945-6518

5:30 PM Campus Tour
Meet at Brown and Brew Coffee House
Curtis Hall
490 Boston Ave
Medford, MA 02155

6:00 PM Mixer with Dinner
Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room
15 Talbot Ave
Medford, MA 02155

8:00 PM Out on the town in Somerville!
Davis Square
Jennifer Nguyen (617) 945-6518
Burns Healy (512) 913-1171

Saturday, March 15

8:30 AM Registration & Breakfast
Cabot 701, Lobby

9:00 AM Welcome Address
Neleen Leslie, President & CEO of NAGPS
Cabot 702

9:15 AM NAGPS Federal Advocacy
Carolyn Commer, NAGPS Northeast Regional Legislative Concerns
Cabot 702

10:00 AM Break

10:10 AM Concurrent Session I
Roundtable: President’s Roundtable
Led by Neleen Leslie, President & CEO of NAGPS.
Cabot 702

Data-Driven Advocacy-Deploying a Pilot Survey Experience Report
Irina Yakubovskaya, Michael Shah, Tufts University
Cabot 703

Creating LGBTQ Spaces in Graduate School
Will Frankenstein, Carnegie Mellon University
Cabot 205
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>Concurrent Session 2</td>
<td>Roundtable: Re-structuring &amp; Constitution Writing</td>
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<td>Led by Patrick Neary, Director of Finance of NAGPS and Syracuse GSO President</td>
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<td>Prospective Member Presentation</td>
<td>Kristofferson Culmer, NAGPS Director of Outreach</td>
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<td>Getting Results and Managing University Administration Relationships for Positive Impact</td>
<td>Caleb Waugh, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)</td>
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<td>SU GSO Grants Program</td>
<td>Nyasha Boldon, Peta Long, Syracuse University</td>
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<td>11:20 AM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>Concurrent Session 3</td>
<td>Show me the money!</td>
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<td>Charlie Cunningham, Tufts University</td>
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<td>Roundtable: Family Services</td>
<td>Registered by Nicole M. Baran, Cornell University</td>
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<td>Reviewing and Revamping TA Evaluations at CMU</td>
<td>Dan Walter, Carnegie Mellon University</td>
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<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Cabot Hall of Flags/Mezzanine</td>
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<td>Concurrent Session 4</td>
<td>The Role of a Strategic Plan in Graduate Leadership</td>
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<td>Burns Healy, Tufts University</td>
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<td>Workers Compensation, Disability Benefits and the Fight for Labor Protections for Graduate Students</td>
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<td>Academic Funding and Grant Distribution</td>
<td>Steven Lin, Justine Sefcik, University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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2:00 PM  Keynote Address: The Labyrinth of Leadership: Women Confront the Double Bind
Linda Carli, Ph.D., Wellesley College
Cabot Asean Auditorium

3:00 PM  Break with Snacks

3:30 PM  Business Meeting
Nicole M. Baran, Northeast Regional Chair of NAGPS
Cabot Asean Auditorium
Introduction to Robert’s Rules of Order
Amendments to the Northeast Regional Constitution & Bylaws
Regional Executive Board elections & regional conference bidding

5:00 PM  Get ready for the reception!

7:00 PM  Reception
51 Winthrop Street
Medford, MA 02155

9:00 PM  Out in Boston!
Guilt
275 Tremont St.
Boston, MA
Jennifer Nguyen (617) 945-6518
Burns Healy (512) 913-1171

Sunday, March 16

9:30 AM  New Regional Board Meeting
Barnum Hall 114
163 Packard Avenue
Medford, MA 02155

11:00 AM  Meet to go to the Boston St. Patrick’s Day Parade
Meet at Davis T Stop (Tedeschi Stop)

Jennifer Nguyen
(617) 945-6518
NORTHEAST REGIONAL BOARD

FIND US TO SAY HELLO

Nicole M. Baran
Northeast Regional Chair, Cornell University

Nicole is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Psychology studying behavioral and evolutionary neuroscience. Her research is focused on hormones and the evolution of social behavior in birds. She has been involved in the Cornell Graduate & Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) for the past five years. She served as the Executive Vice President from 2011-2013 and is currently serving as the Counsel to the GPSA. In addition, she is a founding member of the Cornell Graduate & Professional Women’s Network (GPWomeN). In her spare time, she loves swing dancing (lindy hop, balboa, blues, charleston, etc.) and participates weekly on a winning bar trivia team.

Christina Caymaud
Northeast Regional Vice Chair, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Carolyn Commer
Legislative Concerns Chair, Carnegie Mellon University

Carolyn Commer is a Ph.D. Candidate in Rhetoric at Carnegie Mellon University, where she serves at the Vice-President for External Affairs for the Graduate Student Assembly. Her research focuses on the rhetoric of higher education policy and seeks to help educators play a more strategic role in the policy-making process. When she's not writing her dissertation or engaging in policy work, Carolyn enjoys kick-boxing and practicing calligraphy.

Neena Chakrabarti
Communications Chair, Columbia University

Alex Falevich
International Concerns Chair, Syracuse University

Jennifer Nguyen
Director of Regional Conference, Tufts University

Jennifer Nguyen is a fourth year PhD candidate in the Molecular Biology program at Tufts. She graduated cum laude with honors from Florida State University in 2010 and received a Bachelors of Science in Biology. Jennifer is currently doing research to try to elucidate the mechanisms that lead to the triplet repeat expansions that cause neurodegenerative diseases, such as Hunstinton’s disease, specifically focusing on the role of DNA replication and repair in these expansions. She is currently the President of the Tufts Graduate Student Council and Chair of the Boston Graduate Leadership Organization.
**Burns Healy** was born and raised in Austin, Texas. He’s in the 2nd year of his Ph.D. program in math, and he’s the Vice President of the Tufts Graduate Student Council. He’s happy to help you find your way around the area, feel free to ask. Burns is excited to help host this NAGPS conference and enjoys the company of other graduate students!

**Mike Shah** is a 3rd year studying Computer Science & Engineering. His research is in the software engineering domain with a focus on finding and fixing software bugs. Mike serves as the Secretary for the Tufts Graduate Student Council. While not in the lab, he enjoys going for runs, listening to good music, and making time to meet and hang out with other grad students at GSC events!

**Charlie Cunningham** is a 6th year Ph.D. candidate in the department of Mathematics. He currently serves as the Treasurer of the Tufts Graduate Student Council, and has previously served with the GSC as department representative for Mathematics, as Student Life Chair, and as Vice President of the GSC. He’s also been involved in NAGPS for many years - going to 7 NAGPS Conferences - 4 National and 3 Regional since 2010!

Many Other Friendly Tufts Volunteers are here all weekend to answer your questions and help you get where you need to be to make this conference a huge success. Feel free to say hello and let them know if you need anything at all!

**Dan Afergan** (Computer Science)
**Molly Bennett** (Occupational Therapy)
**Peter Carley** (Occupational Therapy)
**Brendan Foley** (Math)
**Corinne Glennie** (Education)
**Maria Limlingan** (Child Development)
**Clint Perry** (Psychology)
**Helen Pu** (Psychology)
**Jeremy Wachter** (Physics)
**Irina Yakubovskaya** (Drama)
SESSION ABSTRACTS

NAGPS Federal Advocacy
Carolyn Commer, Northeast Regional Legislative Concerns Chair, Carnegie Mellon University
This presentation will cover four policy issues that currently impact graduate students at a national level: student loan debt, federal funding for research, comprehensive immigration reform, and open access to research. I will provide an overview of the current climate for higher education policy and discuss the NAGPS policy platform on each of these issues. The presentation will conclude with some suggestions for how to help students on your campus influence these national policies.

Concurrent Session I
Roundtable: President’s Roundtable
Led by Neleen Leslie, President & CEO of NAGPS
Participants are asked to speak candidly about their experiences and insights into leadership. Topics of discussion include managing an effective board, leadership struggles, and leadership development.

Data-Driven Advocacy - Deploying a Pilot Survey Experience Report
Irina Yakubovskaya, Michael Shah, Tufts University
We as a graduate student council advocate for the needs of graduate students across many disciplines and departments within our respective university. The variety of issues students face vary in severity based on which department they are a part of as well as their background prior to graduate school. The Tufts Graduate Student Council has launched a pilot survey collecting information of graduate students regarding issues of: housing, funding, health care coverage, academic performance, and social life. In this presentation we will be discussing the results of this pilot survey, and some of the insights we have discovered through the preliminary data collected. It is our goal to increase data-driven advocacy that informs us where and how we can best serve graduate students within our university. We believe having both qualitative and quantitative data strengthens our discussions when meeting with chairs of departments, deans, and other administration. The end of this talk will be an open discussion for future plans and other universities to share any data-driven advocacy.

Creating LGBTQ Spaces in Graduate School
Will Frankenstein, Carnegie Mellon University
This presentation/discussion will discuss the steps taken to create a more LGBTQ friendly environment at Carnegie Mellon for graduate students. It will define the roles of different institutional offices and ways to identify steps to create a more inclusive environment for graduate students.

Concurrent Session II
Roundtable: Re-structuring & Constitution Writing
Led by Patrick Neary, Director of Finance of NAGPS and Syracuse GSO President
Many organizations face significant structural challenges and need to spend time considering their own structure. This roundtable discussion provides a forum where participants can talk with their fellow student leaders from organizations that have gone through significant re-structuring or changes to their governing documents. Participants who have first-hand experience in the process are strongly encouraged to participate in this discussion.
SU GSO Grants Program
Nyasha Boldon, Peta Long, Syracuse University
As graduate students, understanding the grant process is important to our academic and professional development. Grants provide us with assistance, primarily financially to further our goals, in research, learning, networking and other form of professional/academic growth. At Syracuse University our Graduate Student Organization (GSO) has developed a Grants Program that is aimed at awarding our fellow students with this support. A program based on merit, which fulfills a primary need in our institution. Many of us view this as an essential product of the GSO, and aim to standardize this support system. This presentation is a reflection, of the GSO Grants Program at Syracuse University. It seeks to discuss the issues of policy, and diversity of scholarship that complicates the grant making process. It will examine how our Grants committee has moved to systematize this process, thus enabling a legacy of fairness based on an adopted rubric which incorporates the core ideas of grant awards, in a bid to establish our Grants Program as viable and reputable source of financial support and academic integrity within our institution.

Prospective Member Presentation
Kristofferson Culmer, NAGPS National Director of Outreach
This is a special presentation for schools who are not yet members of NAGPS to discuss the benefits of becoming a part of our organization. NAGPS is a national, non-profit organization that is run entirely by graduate students dedicated to improving the quality of graduate and professional student life. Through NAGPS events and resources 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. At its core, NAGPS exists to empower leaders, advocate for students, and provide resources for change at both local and national levels.

Getting results and managing university administration relationships for positive impact
Caleb Waugh, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
As student governments we often work closely with university administrations on numerous issues from student life and housing to academics and managing advisor-advisee relationships. Not being in a particular position of power or leverage it can often be difficult to get the administration to respond correctly or provide the results we seek. This is particularly challenging when working with administrators that do not value student input into their decision making processes and fail to create active dialogue to stay up to speed on student positions and interests. This presentation will discuss the common challenges when working with university administrations and ways to circumvent and overcome these challenges to enable student governments to get the results they seek. Emphasis will be placed on communication, power leveraging, relationship building, compelling presentation of facts, and general persuasion.
SESSION ABSTRACTS

Concurrent Session III
Show me the money!
Charlie 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. This would be an excellent session to send a representative who understands the large-scale financial picture of your graduate student and professional organization. The main goal in this session is to share information between various graduate student councils, associations, and the NAGPS community. Curious about how much money the MIT grad students get to spend? Do you ever wonder about how much money each Tufts student has to pay in activities fees? And where EXACTLY does that money go? Who gets it? What do they spend it on? Does it all go to the Graduate Student Council? How much do other school’s administrations subsidize the graduate student experience? Come see and create some answers to these questions during this session. This session should build on previous similar sessions from previous National and Northeast Regional Conferences, 2010 - 2013. It has been very popular and spawned very interesting discussion. 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 GPSOs.

Roundtable: Family Services
Led by Nicole M. Baran, Northeast Regional Chair of NAGPS and Cornell GPSA Counsel
Students with family responsibilities face unique challenges in achieving their coursework, teaching, and research goals. This roundtable is an informal conversation about the issue of family services for graduate and professional students. Please come prepared to ask questions, share your expertise, and learn from your fellow student leaders.

Reviewing and Revamping TA Evaluations at CMU
Dan Walter, Carnegie Mellon University
In this presentation, I plan to layout out the two year process we’ve undertaken to advance and transform TA evaluations at Carnegie Mellon University. This project grew out of a graduate student need to have materials evidencing their teaching experience for the job market. This project has expanded to take in faculty and undergraduate perspectives as well. The overall results are split into two major areas. First, we developed mid-semester evaluations that are diversified for the varied roles graduate students play across campus. Beyond the traditional TA teaching a recitation, graduate students interact with students in other advisory roles, such as managing labs or stage crews, teaching their own courses, guiding groups within project-based courses, and grading. Our new mid-semester evaluations reflect these different roles so that they receive feedback that is appropriate and usable for them. Second, we have been working with the registrar’s office to create an online TA evaluation tool that mirrors our current Faculty Course Evaluation system. By implementing this program, we hope to provide TAs with more information, both quantitative and qualitative, about their teaching. TAs can then use this information to better their own teaching as well as have verified records from the registrar’s office to provide to future employers. Through this work, the role of the TA at CMU has taken center stage for certain administrative bodies as well. For example, in addition to graduate student TAs, the central administration is taking a serious look at undergraduates who work as TAs as well, and have formed a TA training and support subcommittee that seeks to make working as a TA a more positive and fulfilling experience. Overall, there is still a large body of work that needs to be done to make sure that TAs are receiving the tutelage they need to be successful teachers in their varied roles across campus, but I believe we are headed in the right direction.
Concurrent Session IV
The Role of a Strategic Plan in Graduate Leadership
Burns Healy, Tufts University

Becoming more common in organizations, in academia both at the student level and University level, is the idea of having a strategic plan, a guiding document aimed at embodying both the mission of the community as well as tangible steps for progress. One of the roles such a document can serve is to provide a bridge between long term goals and immediate actionable items. It is often broken down into various pieces, each one addressing a specific obstacle facing the organization, identifying resources and strengths possessed to help overcome it, and brainstormed ideas for using these resources to solve a problem. It is also a key component to institutional memory, which is the ability to pass on knowledge about best practices. The strategic plan is especially key for graduate student organizations, because of one inescapable fact: we have high turnover. Because graduate degrees are not indefinite pursuits (no matter how much they may feel like it at times), officers and active members of these groups necessarily cycle in and out over not that many years. This puts them at a disadvantage as compared to longer standing analogous committees in administration and outside academia. Because of this, emphasizing institutional memory, reinforcing mission statements, and carrying forward multi-step projects is absolutely critical to the success of graduate student advocacy groups. In this interactive talk, we are going to review the Tufts University Graduate Student Council’s newly minted Strategic Plan. Attending the NAGPS national conference in the fall emphasized to the GSC the importance of such a document, and so it was adopted as a best practice in February 2014. We will aim to critique it, both from the perspective of groups with a similar document and those who may wish to create one for their organization.

Workers Compensation, Disability Benefits and the Fight for Labor Protections for Graduate Students
Nicole M. Baran, Cornell University

Graduate students are exposed to dangerous instruments, hazardous chemicals, and other workplace risks every day. In the event that a graduate student is temporarily or permanently disabled due to a work-related injury or illness, what benefits are available to them? Despite a NY state law that requires non-profit organizations, such as private universities, to provide worker’s compensation coverage to individuals receiving compensation, Cornell University does not carry insurance that would provide these cash benefits or medical care to injured graduate students. On February 10th, the Cornell GPSA passed a resolution calling on the Cornell administration to provide this coverage, as well as to clarify its policies on other forms of disability insurance and medical leave benefits. This fast-evolving story has opened up an important discussion about exactly where is the graduate student on the spectrum between student and employee? To what rights and protections are we entitled? In this presentation, I will discuss the status of the conversations between the GPSA, the Cornell administration and the Worker’s Compensation Board of NY State. In addition to discussing the challenges that we have faced in these on-going conversations, I hope to start a conversation about the importance for graduate students to know and understand their rights and to speculate on the future of the fight for labor protections for graduate students.
For more information, see: http://cornellsun.com/blog/2014/02/11/graduate-students-vote-for-workers-compensation/
https://chronicle.com/article/Graduate-Students-at-Cornell/145221

Academic Funding and Grant Distribution
Steven Lin, Justine Sefcik, University of Pennsylvania

The aim of this presentation is to discuss how the University of Pennsylvania Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) distributes grants to the student body. These grants include both travel grants and research grants to both research (PhD) and professional (non-PhD students) students. In addition there will be a specific review of the GAPSA-Provost Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Innovation. This jointly funded, highly competitive summer fellowship has been created to promote original, student-derived initiatives that integrate knowledge across diverse academic disciplines. After the exemplar presentation, a discussion will be facilitated with the audience to learn what graduate student funding is available at other universities.
The glass ceiling has broken. In western countries, women’s labor force participation now nearly matches men’s. Women are surpassing men in education, earning more college degrees than men do. Women’s incomes have risen, too. Women have come a long way, but equality in the workplace has not yet been achieved. Women advance more slowly and still earn less than men. Women clearly remain disadvantaged as leaders. But why?

Women face a labyrinth of obstacles as leaders. Whereas men have a fairly straight and direct route, women face obstacles and diversions on their path to leadership. There is a way for women to reach the center of leadership, but it requires more effort and careful negotiation to overcome the obstacles. In my presentation, I will focus on some of these obstacles, the resulting resistance to women’s influence and leadership, and methods of overcoming these challenges.

Linda L. Carli, a social psychologist, has been a faculty member at Wellesley College since 1991. An authority on gender discrimination and the challenges faced by professional women, she is the author (with Alice Eagly) of Through the Labyrinth: The Truth About How Women Become Leaders (Harvard Business School Press, 2007), published in conjunction with the Center for Public Leadership at the Kennedy School of Government. The book received the 2008 Distinguished Publication Award from the Association of Women in Psychology; an article based on the book received a McKinsey Award as the second most significant article published in the Harvard Business Review in 2007. In 2001, she co-edited a volume of the Journal of Social Issues that focused on women leaders. Her research on the effects of gender on women’s leadership, group interaction, communication, influence, and reactions to adversity, has resulted in more than 100 scholarly articles, book chapters, and presentations.

Dr. Carli holds a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She was a faculty member at the College of the Holy Cross and Mount Holyoke College before joining Wellesley, where she teaches courses in organizational and applied psychology. She is active in professional organizations in psychology and management and serves on the Executive Board of the Society for the Women of Psychology. She has developed and conducted diversity training workshops and negotiation and conflict resolution workshops for women leaders and has lectured widely on gender and diversity for business, academic, and other organizations.
WE ARE THE FUTURE.

WHO WE ARE
We are over 500,000 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