

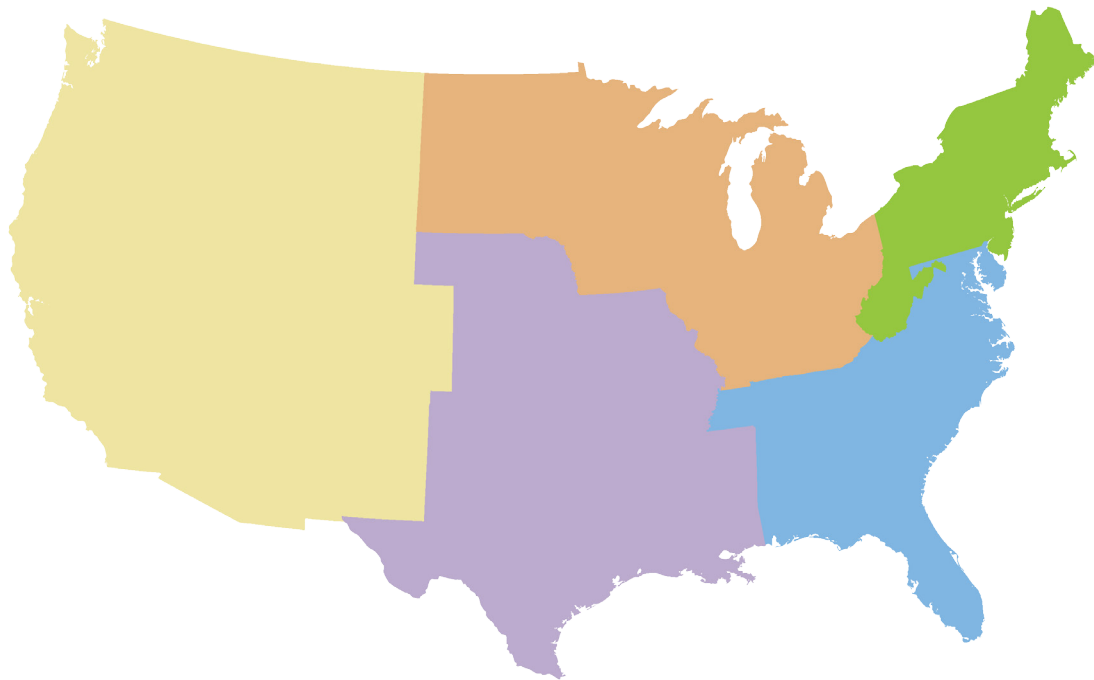
# 2013

## 27th Annual NAGPS National Conference

Western Michigan University

November 7-10, 2013

Kalamazoo, MI



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL  
STUDENTS



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your winter hats, already have a scarf.

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# National Conference Welcome

Dear National Conference Attendees,

Welcome to Michigan for the twenty-seventh annual gathering of graduate and professional student leaders from around the nation.

We appreciate your commitment to travel to and participate in this year's conference. We are excited to share with you throughout the weekend what all of your colleagues and the Association's board have worked on during the past year. For returning national conference attendees, you know that our board elections are always a spirited time for which we promote invigorating discourse. This year, we look forward to orderly and timely business meetings, or at least that is our plan, with your support.

NAGPS is grateful to Western Michigan University for coordinating over the past twelve months the twenty-seventh annual national conference. Even as a committed Legacy Member, WMU has exceeded our expectations in hosting and facilitating on-site needs to ensure an optimal national conference experience for everyone. When you see them, please thank WMU's Rebecca Rose Sametz and Damon Chambers and NAGPS's Vice President and National Conference Coordinator, Brandon Milonovich.

Be safe this weekend, and employ the good judgment by which you were admitted to graduate or professional school.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Voskuhl', written in a cursive style.

Jared Voskuhl  
President & CEO  
National Association of Graduate-Professional  
Students

# National Conference Welcome

Dear Conference Attendee,

Welcome to the NAGPS 27th Annual National Conference hosted by Western Michigan University. The National Conference is the premier event of the year to experience sharing of best practices, networking, professional development, and advocacy that you can take back to your home institution. This year's conference has attracted graduate and professional students from across the United States and a wide variety of disciplines.

The conference has many of the traditional elements, such as our regular concurrent sessions where deep discussions can occur reflecting on best practices, our business meetings, Friday night regional dinners, and formal gala and awards ceremony. We've also included several new features that we hope you will enjoy. These include the IGNITE Research Sessions, Research Poster Gallery, and Graduate Resource Fair.

Thursday night we hope you'll take the time to network with fellow attendees at our opening reception at the hotel. We'll get started bright and early on Friday morning on the Western Michigan University campus. After a long day of programming, Friday night each region will have dinner in the restaurants throughout the hotel, followed by a Kalamazoo Bar Crawl around the nearby area. Saturday will include another full day of programming, and will end with our formal Gala and Awards Ceremony celebrating the end of the conference and the year ahead.

This year marks the first year we are conferencing in the 21st century! Many of you have opted to not have a copy of this program printed. We estimate that will save nearly 3,000 pages of paper! We hope you'll take advantage of the interactive program online at <http://nagps2013.sched.org/>. Here you can interact with speakers and attendees, customize your schedule, and engage social media. Moreover, you can sign up for text message updates by texting @nagpsnc2013 to 23559.

Kalamazoo is a wonderful city for our National Conference to visit, full of culture and exciting things to do. We encourage you to explore the nearby area in your down time, and hope you enjoy Fall in Kalamazoo!

If you have any questions throughout the conference, please don't hesitate to let us know! Our contact information can be found in this program, and we're happy to help!

Sincerely,



Brandon Milonovich  
Vice President  
National Association of Graduate-Professional  
Students



Rebecca Sametz  
WMU Conference Coordinator

# Conference Contact Information

## Primary Conference Contacts:

Brandon Milonovich  
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Matt Cooper  
Immediate Past President  
exofficio@nagps.org

# Conference Locations and General Information

## Getting Around Kalamazoo

Shuttle service is provided free for conference attendees that runs between the conference hotel, conference sites on campus, and evening events. Shuttle service availability is noted here:

| Day      | Time              | Pick Up Location | Drop Off Location |
|----------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Friday   | 7:30 am - 9:00 am | Radisson         | Bernhard Center   |
|          | 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm | Bernhard Center  | Radisson          |
| Saturday | 8:00 am - 9:30 am | Radisson         | Bernhard Center   |
|          | 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm | Bernhard Center  | Radisson          |
|          | 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm | Radisson         | Bernhard Center   |

*Drive Safe Kalamazoo* is a local non-profit organization that has graciously donated their time and resources to provide this shuttle service for attendees. If anyone needs a ride during the NAGPS Kalamazoo Crawl please call *Drive Safe Kalamazoo* for a ride and the phone number is (269) 345-ODSK. Rides will be provided from the Gala back to the hotel on Saturday night and further information will be provided that evening.

## Navigating the Conference

Please refer to the conference agenda for session locations, building information, and other important location information. Signs with the NAGPS logo will help you find your way to sessions, lunches, breaks, and business meetings.

Should you have any questions or require assistance, please use the contact information on the previous page to contact NAGPS Directors or Western Michigan University Volunteers.

## Conference Hotel

Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites in Kalamazoo  
100 W Michigan Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49097  
(269) 343-3333  
<http://www.radisson.com/kalamazoo-hotel-mi-49007/mikalama>

## Paperless Program

In an effort to save on resources and the environment, NAGPS is encouraging the use of our new mobile schedule website: <http://nagps2013.sched.org/>. On our conference website, you can explore the agenda from any mobile device, save sessions to your own personalized agenda, connect with speakers and attendees, and interact through social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

## Social Media

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nagps](http://www.facebook.com/nagps)  
Twitter: @NAGPS  
Instagram: Search for NAGPS

# NAGPS KALAMAZOO CRAWL

JOIN US FRIDAY TO SHOWCASE  
WHY WE LOVE KALAMAZOO

**\*\*Must Wear Wristband\*\***

## **9-10:30pm**

### London Grill

Offer: 10% off food  
Open Till 11pm (Music 7-10pm)

### The Wine Loft

Offer: ½ off flat breads; All Night Happy  
Hour (25% off wine by the glass)  
Open Till At Least Midnight

## **10:30pm-Midnight**

### The Union

Offer: Black and Gold Drink Feature  
Open Till Midnight

### Olde Peninsula Brewpub

Offer: \$3 pints; \$4.25 call drinks; \$1.00 off  
dips, hummus, & beer battered onion  
rings (10pm-close)  
Open Till 1am

### Fandango Tapas Bistro

Offer: 10% off food and drinks  
Open Till Midnight (Kitchen closes at  
11pm)

## **Midnight-1am**

### Central City Tap House

Offer: Drink Special...Come and See!!  
Open Till At Least Midnight

### Old Dog Tavern

Offer: Free Cover (Music by Dragon  
Wagon)  
Open Till 2am

### Kalamazoo Beer Exchange

Offer: None (No Cover)  
Open Till 1 am

## **1am-2am**

### Monaco Bay, Gatsby, Wild Bull and District Square

Offer: Free Cover for Monaco Bay,  
Gatsby, Wild Bull and District Square  
**\*\*Must Enter Through Monaco Bay\*\***  
Open Till 2am

### Harvey's On The Mall

Offer: None  
Open Till 2am

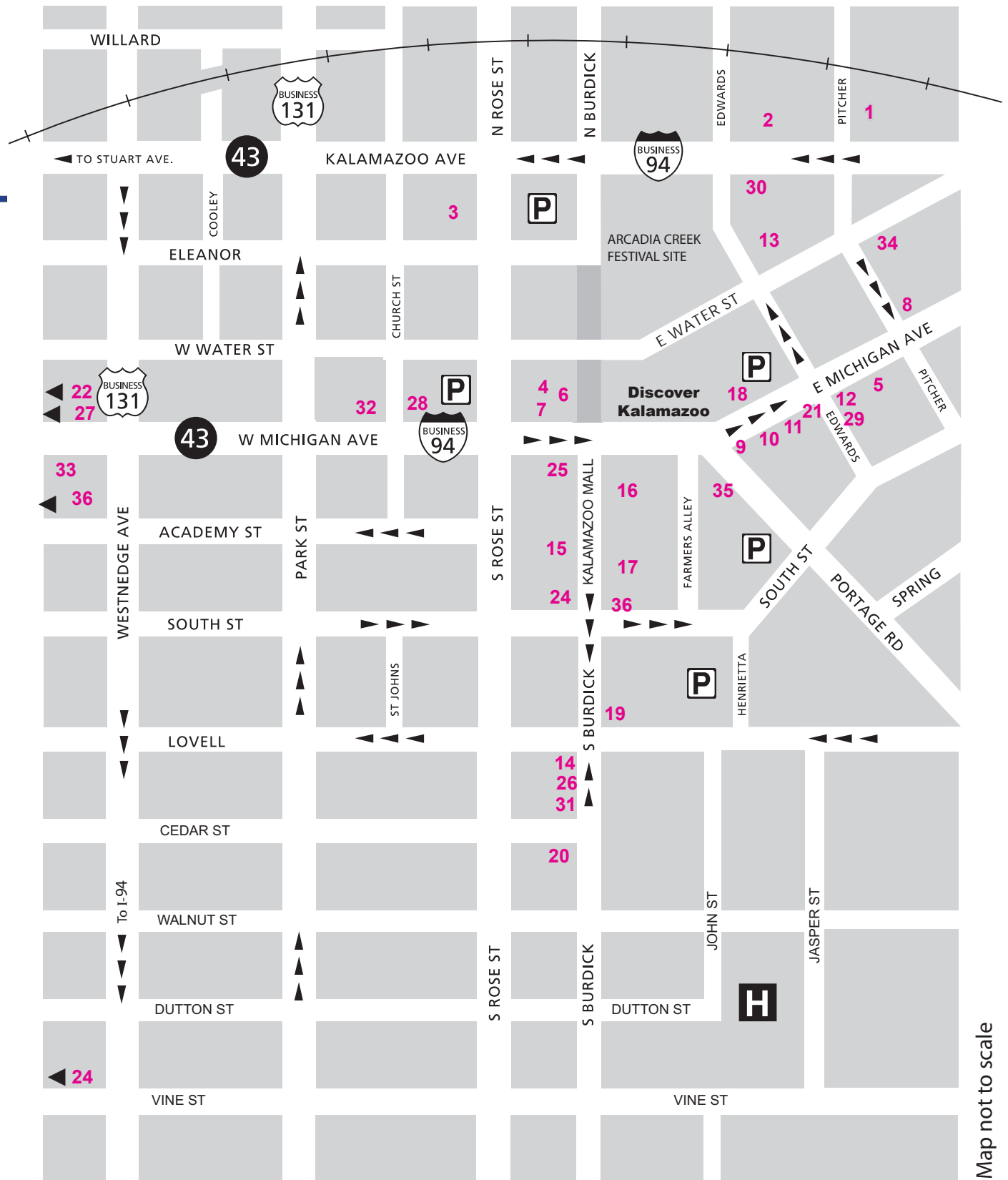
**Need a ride?**

**Call Drive Safe Kalamazoo (11pm-3am) for free transportation at 269-345-0DSK**

**\*\*Tips are highly encouraged!!\*\***



# Downtown Kalamazoo Map



## Downtown Restaurant and Nightlife Entertainment Locations:

- |                              |  |                                      |                           |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Bells Brewery             | 11. Main Street Cafe                   | 21. Taverna Ouzo's                   | 31. Harvey's on the Mall  |
| 2. Shakespeares Pub          | 12. Monaco Bay-Dueling Piano Bar       | 22. Comensoli's Italian Bistro       | 32. Studio Grill          |
| 3. Just Good Food-Deli       | 13. Kalamazoo Beer Exchange            | 23. Cosmo's/O'Duffy's Pub            | 33. Boomerangs/Up & Under |
| 4. Websters-Fine Dining      | 14. State Theatre                      | 24. Taco Bob's                       | 34. Old Dog Tavern        |
| 5. Bimbo's-Pizza/Family      | 15. Big Joe's                          | 25. Caffè Casa                       | 35. Casa Bolero           |
| 6. Zazio's-Italian Bistro    | 16. The Union-Casual Dining            | 26. Dogs with Style                  | 36. Fandango Tapas Bistro |
| 7. Old Burdick's-Bar & Grill | 17. Mangia Mangia-Italian              | 27. Rice Kitchen-Chinese             |                           |
| 8. Food Dance Cafe-Eclectic  | 18. The Wine Loft                      | 28. Theo & Stacy's-Greek/American    |                           |
| 9. Olde Peninsula-Brew Pub   | 19. Epic Bistro/Central City Tap House | 29. Wild Bull Saloon/District Square |                           |
| 10. London Grill-English Pub | 20. Blue Dolphin/Papa Pete's-Greek     | 30. Sushiya                          |                           |

Map not to scale



# Agenda

## Thursday, November 7

Guests Check-in  
Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites in Kalamazoo  
100 W Michigan Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49097  
(269) 343-3333

3:30 PM Registration Opens

Burdick's  
100 W Michigan Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49097

5:30 PM Welcome Reception

Burdick's  
100 W Michigan Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49097

7:00 PM Dinner on your Own

Highly Suggested:  
Kalamazoo Beer Exchange  
211 E Water St  
Kalamazoo, MI 49097

## Friday, November 8

7:00 AM Morning Yoga  
*Radisson Hotel FLATS on lower level*  
Meredith Niles, Director of Legislative Affairs, NAGPS

Shuttle service provided from conference hotel to campus.

Conference location:  
Bernhard Center/Sangren Hall/Wood Hall  
1903 W Michigan Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

8:00 AM Conference Registration  
*Sangren Hall*

8:00 AM Breakfast  
*West Ballroom, Bernhard Hall*

9:00 AM Welcome and Day One Overview  
*Wood Hall*

# Agenda

9:30 AM EURODOC: Our European Colleagues  
Slobodan Radicev, President, EURODOC

10:00 AM Break  
Coffee available in Sangren Hall

10:15 AM Concurrent Session Block 1

IGNITE Session 1  
*Sangren 2730*

IGNITE Sessions will include:  
Sustainability and Development in Africa, Seseer Mou  
Expect the Unexpected: Incongruence in Advertising, Neleen Leslie  
The Materials Design Age, Krista Limmer  
Birthdays are Changing the World, Gayathri Ramanathan

Running Meetings and Robert's Rules  
*Sangren 1740*  
Patrick Neary, Syracuse University, NAGPS Director of Administration

Social Justice & Voting: Using Constitutional Institutions and Political Parties  
to Advance Graduate Student Interests  
*Sangren 2110*  
Christopher Bissex, Baylor University

Technology's Role in Student Organizations: Twitter, Facebook, and Beyond  
*Sangren 1730*  
Michael Shah, Tufts University

The MOST Initiative: Free Textbooks. It's Possible  
*Sangren 1750*  
Jesse Fox, University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
Sean Astrakhan, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

10:45 AM Break

11:00 AM Concurrent Session Block 2

NAGPS Leadership Opportunities  
*Sangren 1740*  
NAGPS 2013 Board of Directors

Citation Economy Be Damned: Research in the Internet Age and the Role of  
Graduate Student Governments  
*Sangren 1730*  
Kelli Barr, University of North Texas

How to Orchestrate a National, Grass Roots Campaign #GradsHaveDebt2  
*Sangren 1750*  
Jesse Kremenak, University of Missouri  
Kristofferson Culmer, University of Missouri  
Jake Wright, University of Missouri

# Agenda

Show Me the Money!  
*Sangren 2730*  
Charles Cunningham, Tufts University

Vacating the Ivory Tower: Graduate Students and Communities as Partners in Social Justice Work  
*Sangren 2110*  
Romy Hübler, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

11:30 AM Break

11:45 AM Concurrent Session Block 3

Building Your Social Capital  
*Sangren 1740*  
Neleen Leslie, Florida State University, NAGPS Director of Communications

Getting a Raise: TA Pay Negotiations at Syracuse University  
*Sangren 1730*  
Patrick Neary, Syracuse University, NAGPS Director of Administration

Measuring Graduate Student Perceptions and Attitudes: Results from a Colorado Pilot  
*Sangren 2110*  
Katherine Allison, University of Colorado Boulder  
Joanna Hubbard, University of Colorado Boulder  
Laura Michaelson, University of Colorado Boulder  
John Lurquin, University of Colorado Boulder

Reshaping the Graduate Student L/A/G at Northwestern University  
*Sangren 2730*  
Deniz Alpay, Northwestern University  
Eduardo Europa, Northwestern University

Professional Development: The Art of Networking  
*Sangren 1750*  
Deveta Gardener, Western Michigan University Career Center

12:00 PM Graduate Resource Fair Opens  
*Bernhard Center, President's Dining Room*

12:00 PM Research Poster Gallery Opens  
*Bernhard Center, Rooms 105-107*

12:15 PM Lunch  
*Bernhard Center, West Ballroom*

1:00 PM Open time for Graduate Resource Fair and Research Poster Gallery  
*Bernhard Center, President's Dining Room and Rooms 105-107*

# Agenda

2:00 PM NAGPS Committee Meetings

Communications Committee Meeting

*Sangren 1740*

Neleen Leslie, NAGPS Director of Communications

Employment Concerns Committee Meeting

*Sangren 1750*

Maria Marion, NAGPS Employment Concerns Committee Chair

International Student Concerns Committee Meeting

*Sangren 1730*

Parth Nagarkar, NAGPS International Student Concerns Committee Chair

Legal Concerns Committee Meeting

*Sangren 2110*

Grant Atkinson, NAGPS Legal Concerns Committee Chair

Social Justice Committee Meeting

*Sangren 2730*

Florencio U. Aranda III, NAGPS Social Justice Committee Chair

2:30 PM NAGPS National Membership Business Meeting

*Wood Hall 1001*

3:20 PM Break

Coffee available in Wood Hall

3:35 PM NAGPS National Membership Business Meeting

*Wood Hall 1001*

4:45 PM Break

5:00 PM NAGPS National Membership Business Meeting

*Wood Hall 1001*

7:30 PM Regional Dinners

*Included with your registration is dinner served in various restaurants at the conference hotel. Please proceed to the restaurant for your region listed below.*

Northeast

*Old Burdick's*

Southeast

*Old Burdick's*

Southcentral

*Zazios*

Midwest

*Burdick's for Breakfast*

Western

*Webster's Prime*

9:00 PM Kalamazoo Crawl

*Various bars downtown*

# Agenda

## Saturday, November 9

- 7:00 AM **Morning Run**  
*Meet in Radisson Hotel Lobby for 7AM departure*  
Kristofferson Culmer, NAGPS Southcentral Regional Chair
- Shuttle service provided from conference hotel to campus.
- Conference location:  
Bernhard Center/Sangren Hall/Wood Hall  
1903 W Michigan Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
- 8:30 AM **Conference Registration**  
*Sangren Hall*
- 8:30 AM **Breakfast**  
*West Ballroom, Bernhard Hall*
- 9:30 AM **Concurrent Session Block 4**
- Financial Stewardship: The Congress of Graduate Students at Florida State University Model**  
*Sangren 2110*  
Neleen Leslie, Florida State University, NAGPS Director of Communications
- Graduate Student Culture and the LGBTQ Community**  
*Sangren 1740*  
Jason Striker, Arizona State University, NAGPS Director of Relations  
William Frankenstein, Carnegie Mellon University  
Eduardo Europa, Northwestern University
- The Working Copy of NAGPS's 2013 Three-Year Strategic Plan: Discussion and Public Comment**  
*Sangren 1910*  
NAGPS 2013 Board of Directors
- Quick Guide to Proposing Legislation**  
*Sangren 1750*  
Jesse Kremenak, University of Missouri  
Kristofferson Culmer, University of Missouri  
Jake Wright, University of Missouri
- Safe Walk--Escort Program Success**  
*Sangren 1730*  
Catherine Molleno, Oklahoma State University
- 9:30 AM **Research Poster Gallery Opens**  
*Bernhard Center, Rooms 105-107*
- 10:00 AM **Break**  
Coffee available in Sangren Hall

# Agenda

10:15 AM NAGPS National Membership Business Meeting  
*Sangren Hall 1910*

12:00 PM Lunch  
*Bernhard Center, West Ballroom*

1:00 PM Concurrent Session Block 5

IGNITE Session 2  
*Sangren 1750*

IGNITE Sessions will include:

New Technique to Learn from your Mistakes, Salah Meemar

3D Transistors, Sree Siddhardha Vasireddy

“Talking Through Paintings” Art Therapy Tool Assessment, Martha Trevino

A Failure to Communicate? Implications of NSF’s Broader Impacts Research Strategy for Graduate Student Governance

*Sangren 2110*

Kelli Barr, University of North Texas

Creating Sustainability for Your Graduate Student Organization: Understanding the Four Entities to Success

*Sangren 2730*

Dwayne Johnson, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University

Tiffany Richardson, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University

Brittany Glover, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University

Memorandum of Understandings with Your Administration

*Sangren 1740*

Zachary Brooks, University of Arizona, NAGPS Western Regional Chair

Open Educational Resources: Overview and Impact on Graduate Students

*Sangren 1730*

Nicole Allen, SPARC

Shift Happens: Rebranding and Graduate Student Governments

*Sangren 1910*

Krista Limmer, Missouri University of Science and Technology

Mohammad Alkazimi, Missouri University of Science and Technology

1:30 PM NAGPS National Membership Business Meeting  
*Sangren Hall 1910*

1:00 PM Concurrent Session Block 6

Immigration Reform: Creating DREAMzones in Higher Education Institutions

*Sangren 2110*

Jesus Cisneros, Arizona State University

German Cadenas, Arizona State University

Florencio U. Aranda III, Texas Tech University



# Agenda

In One Peer and Out the Other: Preparing Students for the Future of Knowledge Production

*Sangren 1740*

Kelli Barr, University of North Texas

Managing Committees with a Small Number of Members

*Sangren 2730*

Seonmin Park, Northern Arizona University

Open Access: Getting your GSA Active at the Institutional & National Level

*Sangren 1730*

Nick Shockey, SPARC

Strategic Planning for Graduate Student Organizations: Advocacy and Institutional Memory

*Sangren 1750*

Nicole M. Baran, Cornell University

3:30 PM

Break

Coffee available in Sangren Hall

3:45 PM

NAGPS National Membership Business Meeting

*Sangren Hall 1910*

6:00 PM

NAGPS Regional Business Meetings

Midwest Region Business Meeting

*Sangren 2110*

Northeast Region Business Meeting

*Sangren 1730*

Brandon Milonovich, NAGPS Vice President

Southcentral Region Business Meeting

*Sangren 1750*

Kristofferson Culmer, NAGPS Southcentral Regional Chair

Southeast Region Business Meeting

*Sangren 1740*

Alan Liu, NAGPS Southeast Regional Chair

Western Region Business Meeting

*Sangren 2730*

Zachary Brooks, Western Regional Chair

8:00 PM

NAGPS Gala and Awards Ceremony

*Bernhard Center, North Ballroom*

## Sunday, November 10

9:00 AM

NAGPS Board of Directors Transition Meeting

*Radisson Hotel*

All current and future NAGPS Board of Directors members should plan to attend.

# Membership Benefit: Student Advantage

NAGPS now provides Student Advantage Cards to all individual members and discounts on Cards to students of organizational members!



Student Advantage is the nation's leading student discount program providing exclusive student discounts on everyday expenses online, in-store and at nationwide chains.

- Individual Members will receive a complementary one-year Student Advantage Card with their paid membership – a \$22.50 value!
- Students represented by NAGPS Organizational Members (GSAs, GSO, GPSOs, etc.) can purchase a one-year Student Advantage Card for only \$18 – 20% OFF the retail price of \$22.50.

## SAVE WITH PARTNERS LIKE:



To Enroll Visit: [WWW.NAGPS.ORG/SA](http://WWW.NAGPS.ORG/SA)

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# Session Abstracts

## **EURODOC: Our European Colleagues**

*Slobodan Radicev, President, EURODOC*

This presentation will present basic facts about the organization and vision of EURODOC. Beside the facts about EURODOC, I will try to explain the current and desired state of the European Research Area (ERA) and European Higher Education Area (EHEA). I will also present some interesting findings related to young researchers in Europe. In the last part of presentation I will share best practices that have shown good results in ERA & EHEA and Eurodoc's recommendation for achieving the desired state of research in Europe.

## **Running Meetings and Robert's Rules**

*Patrick Neary, Syracuse University, NAGPS Director of Administration*

Standing in front of a roomful of people is daunting at the best of times. Standing in front of a full auditorium and chairing a large meeting can be even more daunting. With two years of experience running the Syracuse Graduate Student Organization's Senate meetings, serving as the unofficial parliamentarian at the 26th National Conference, and chairing the 27th National Conference business meetings, I can provide advice and instruction to new parliamentarians and anyone interested in how to run an effective meeting. As the vast majority of groups use Robert's Rules of Order, we will focus on that parliamentary authority.

In this session, I plan to go over some of the more advanced, powerful tools that Robert's Rules provides to assemblies and their chairs. We'll talk about how to effectively chair a meeting, especially balancing the need to control a meeting while still allowing for open debate. Additionally, we will discuss various ways to handle an assembly with wildly varying experience in parliamentary procedure and how to maintain a fair playing field in these circumstances. Depending on the knowledge level of the group, we may start with a broad overview of Robert's Rules and how they operate, to bring everyone up to speed on this popular parliamentary manual.

## **Social Justice & Voting: Using Constitutional Institutions and Political Parties to Advance Graduate Student Interests**

*Christopher Bissex, Baylor University*

This presentation will discuss the social justice implications of the American political system for graduate students, and explain how graduate students can effectively interact with existing institutions to ensure their voice is heard.

## **Technology's Role in Student Organizations: Twitter, Facebook, and Beyond**

*Michael Shah, Tufts University*

The people who lead your organization are on the front lines of making sure everything runs smoothly. However, your next line of support is utilizing technology to inform how you can improve your organization and possibly uncover information previously unseen. In this talk, I will present an experience report of what technology has worked, what we're working on, and future ideas for how technology can improve your reach, retention, and overall utility of your student government. We will analyze Facebook, Twitter, analytic tools, apps, and other resources available.

# Session Abstracts

## **The MOST Initiative: Free Textbooks. It's Possible**

*Jesse Fox, University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

*Sean Astrakhan, University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

Textbook costs are currently the highest economical burden facing college students today. Prices have increased by a startling 812% since 1978 - more than any other university expense including tuition (Huffington Post, 2013). Due to the cost burden, 7 out of 10 students have not purchased a required textbook during the academic year (US Public Interest Research Group, 2011). To resolve this issue Open Source textbooks have been introduced as a free alternative to standard textbooks. Open Source textbooks function under a Creative Commons License that allow the user to reuse, adopt, modify and implement the textbook for personal or academic pursuits. The Maryland Open Source Textbooks (M.O.S.T.) is a University System of Maryland Student Council initiative to expand the awareness and adoption of these textbooks in Maryland universities. Workshops are currently being offered on university campuses to inform and educate faculty and staff about the use, benefit and availability of these textbooks. In the Spring, a pilot of Open Source textbooks will be carried out to measure textbook effectiveness in the classroom and overall response from faculty and students.

## **NAGPS Leadership Opportunities**

*NAGPS 2013 Board of Directors*

If you are thinking about running for a position, and want to learn more about NAGPS leadership, come to this session. This will be an open Q&A session with current members of the Board of Directors.

## **Citation Economy Be Damned: Research in the Internet Age and the Role of Graduate Student Governments**

*Kelli Barr, University of North Texas*

One of the primary roles of graduate student governments — particularly those at current and emerging research universities — is to prepare the next generation of scholars to compete in tomorrow's marketplace for employment, funding, and research opportunities. Currently, most research is evaluated according to aggregate indicators reflecting citation activity around particular research outputs, such as journal articles, books, and book chapters. Tomorrow's scholars, however, must be prepared to adapt to the changing landscape of research evaluation in order to ensure that the fruits of our labor are appropriately recognized. Altmetrics have been posed as alternatives to, complementary improvements upon, or even replacements for, deficiencies identified in current citation-based metrics. Proponents of altmetrics argue that since scholars are increasingly using more and different venues for communicating online, measures attempting to capture the quality or impact of the content being communicated should be likewise multiple and diverse. Altmetrics offer a promising start to alternative ways of evaluating the reach of academic ideas, which is of particular use to young scholars.

# Session Abstracts

## BEST PRACTICES AND COLLABORATION

### **How to Orchestrate a National, Grass Roots Campaign #GradsHaveDebt2**

*Jesse Kremenak, University of Missouri*

*Kristofferson Culmer, University of Missouri*

*Jake Wright, University of Missouri*

Over the summer, Congress discussed many proposals about student loans, but little attention has been given to the graduate interest rate or its impact. The inequality from imposing higher interest rates on graduate and professional students has been largely overlooked. The GradsHaveDebt2 campaign gives voice to graduate and professional students in the student loan conversation. Through a partnership between the University of Missouri Graduate Professional Council and NAGPS, GradsHaveDebt2 had a successful launch, reaching graduate-professional students across the nation as well as members of Congress. On the third day of the national campaign, Senator Barbara Boxer quoted NAGPS during her speech on the Senate floor. As part of a 3-part campaign strategy, a Facebook page was developed to raise awareness about graduate-professional student debt issues. Over the course of the first week, the Facebook page received 283 “Likes” and reached roughly 16,000 people. The session will detail the 3-part campaign and examine the effectiveness of each part. We will also cover how this strategy can be employed for future grass root campaigns.

### **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. 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 the National Conferences in 2010, 2011, and 2012 as well as the Northeast Regional Conference in 2010 and 2012. It has been very popular and spawned very interesting discussions. 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.

# Session Abstracts

BEST PRACTICES AND COLLABORATION

## **Vacating the Ivory Tower: Graduate Students and Communities as Partners in Social Justice Work**

*Romy Hübler, University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

Academic innovators, responding to movements for educational and social change, have worked to transform institutions of higher education in the United States since their inception. Currently they are struggling with tensions between the public mission and insular practices of public institutions of higher education. Academic innovators have focused largely on undergraduate education and attempted to alter detached experiences through service-learning, engaged or experiential learning, internships, and practicums. I argue that academic stakeholders must direct their attention to graduate education and envision ways in which it can be more civically engaged. Doing so is imperative as engagement with social issues prepares the next generation of citizens, professionals and leaders to co-create democratic communities and provides an opportunity to strengthen the public mission of colleges and universities while training graduate students to utilize research skills and knowledge to work in and outside of academia. In this presentation, I will discuss two initiatives that graduate students at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) are leading to connect with community organizers and residents in order to pose and solve social problems collaboratively. The first initiative is a collaboration of the Graduate Student Association with the community organization Pigtown Food for Thought and the second one is a network of graduate students that are engaged in participatory action research called B'PAR (Baltimore's Participatory Action Research).

## **Building Your Social Capital**

*Neleen Leslie, Florida State University, NAGPS Director of Communications*

In the age of the internet and social media, individuals and organizations are presented with new and exciting ways to build a presence in the online environment. The concept of social capital refers to the image that you portray online and the ease with which information you want people to know about you or your organization is accessible. In short, are you worth a Google? Contrary to popular belief, you have control over what people see and learn about you and your organization in online searches. This session will address ways that you and your organization can manage your online presence and some simple tricks that will help you to build your social capital.

## **Getting a Raise: TA Pay Negotiations at Syracuse University**

*Patrick Neary, Syracuse University, NAGPS Director of Administration*

At most universities, graduate students make up the lowest paid component of the academic staff, through teaching, research, and other assistantships. Many students at Syracuse University struggle to pay the bills with their stipends, a common situation at many institutions. Over the past year, the Syracuse Graduate Student Organization has worked to increase TA pay, aiming to ensure that all TAs earn at least a living wage. To do so, we conducted surveys, engaged with individual administrators, and worked with the university's budget committee to find a solution amenable to all parties.

In this session, we'll look at useful surveying techniques and questions, methods of approaching administrators, and good ways to validate and strengthen your arguments for higher wages. We'll also talk about potential pitfalls and roadblocks administrators may bring up with you, including issues with decentralized budgets at universities, especially the responsibility center management (RCM) model that has become increasingly popular.

# Session Abstracts

## BEST PRACTICES AND COLLABORATION

### **Measuring Graduate Student Perceptions and Attitudes: Results from a Colorado Pilot**

*Katherine Allison, University of Colorado Boulder*

*Joanna Hubbard, University of Colorado Boulder*

*Laura Michaelson, University of Colorado Boulder*

*John Lurquin, University of Colorado Boulder*

The well-being and success of graduate students is easily influenced by several aspects of the university academic environment. For example, whether or not a graduate student receives funding and the type of funding affects comfort of living, quality of graduate student work (e.g., research), and trust in the academic department and institution. However, large-scale queries of graduate student needs and concerns are rare, and comparative data across peer institutions are lacking. Survey data were collected from graduate students at the University of Colorado Boulder that included measures of graduate student climate across departments. This presentation will discuss findings from this survey, as well as how this information was used by the United Government of Graduate Students to develop organizational priorities, create institutional policies, and inform conversations with administrators. Future directions and broader implications will be discussed.

### **Reshaping the Graduate Student L/A/G at Northwestern University**

*Deniz Alpay, Northwestern University*

*Eduardo Europa, Northwestern University*

The Graduate Leadership Council (GLC) is the interconnecting body between graduate student associations, their constituents, and the administration at Northwestern University. Since 2005, we have achieved a lot in terms of leadership and advocacy, and now we are looking for ways to strengthen our structure. The goals of this session are to share our best advocacy practices, and to open up a discussion on effective student government structures at other universities. L/A/G is for Leadership/Advocacy/Government. GLC is comprised of 16 graduate student leaders from 8 different GSOs, and represent a total of over 8,000 graduate and professional students. Coming together under this umbrella organization helps us collaborate and co-sponsor a number of social, academic, and outreach events such as quarterly socials, camping trips, networking events, and food drives. We share best leadership practices amongst ourselves, as well as with other NAGPS members; we were proud hosts of the 2013 NAGPS Leadership Summit. Advocacy is an important part of GLC's objectives, and is something that we'd like to emphasize more in the upcoming year. We've been actively advocating for Northwestern's graduate students for almost a decade through our annual survey: We ask students questions about specific issues and negotiate solutions with the administration. One of our biggest organizations, the Graduate Student Association, has two advocacy chairs dedicated to bringing departmental issues to GLC and to the administration. Some of our recent success stories include negotiating the graduate student dental plan with Northwestern's Insurance Office and administration, and the establishment of a community space for graduate-professional students on our Chicago campus. The GLC also advocated for graduate-professional students at the national level by participating in the 2013 Fall LADs for the first time, and we've been looking for more ways to maintain this level of advocacy both regionally and within our university. GLC intends to reshape itself in hopes of scaling up our advocacy initiatives. We attempted that this year by creating subcommittees to work on separate tasks: Internal Affairs, External Affairs, and Survey. While this system was a good first step, we are curious to see how other GSOs (particularly other private universities) initiate and implement their advocacy initiatives at the university, regional, and national levels. Our session will end with a discussion on the different forms of graduate student representation (e.g., government, council, senate) and their implications on advocacy and relationship with university administrators.



# Session Abstracts

BEST PRACTICES AND COLLABORATION

## **Professional Development: The Art of Networking**

*Deveta Gardener, Western Michigan University Career Center*

The art of networking is an essential tool in your career development process. Whether you are currently employed or a job seeker, the ability to build a network is key. Representatives of the WMU Career and Student Employment Services office will share with you some helpful tips and resources to assist you with effectively communicating with employers to gain the job that just right for you.

## **Financial Stewardship: The Congress of Graduate Students at Florida State University Model**

*Neleen Leslie, Florida State University, NAGPS Director of Communications*

The Congress of Graduate Students (COGS) at Florida State University has been existence for over 21 years. Unlike many graduate organizations across the nation, COGS is an arm of student government and not a student organization. Since its inception, COGS has served as not only the voice of graduate and professional students at Florida State University, but also the funding board for all graduate and professional student organizations at FSU, which numbers in excess of 400 organizations on our main campus and in the medical and law schools. Each year, COGS receives several hundred thousand dollars in funds directly from a portion of the Activities and Service (A&S) fees paid by graduate students to FSU. COGS has full authority in the oversight, regulation, and allocation of these funds to graduate students, graduate student organizations, and other programs at Florida State University. Managing the allocations the Congress receives annually is something that the COGS Executive Board and its representatives take very seriously. As such, over the years the COGS Assembly has developed what we believe is an exemplary financial management process to ensure that graduate students derive the greatest benefits possible and that graduate students from every field of study at FSU are able to access these funds in one way or another. In this session, we will provide a brief overview of the structure of COGS, provide insight into our budgeting processes and practices and share some of the key principles that have ensured the successful management of our annual allocations.

## **Graduate Student Culture and the LGBTQ Community**

*Jason Striker, Arizona State University, NAGPS Director of Relations*

*William Frankenstein, Carnegie Mellon University*

*Eduardo Europa, Northwestern University*

This session will serve as a learning workshop for graduate students leaders who identify LGBTQ or are interested in understanding the needs of a marginalized constituency. It will offer overviews of generalized and specific services that are offered by many private and public universities. While additionally offering best practices on LGBTQ centric programming, communication practices, and offering LGBTQ-centric dialogue on the needs of this under represented graduate student population.

Specific items addressed: LGBTQ Graduate Student Services offered on Public and Private universities - The good, the bad, and it gets better, How to support LGBTQ Grad-Organizations, LGBTQ programming and communication

## **The Working Copy of NAGPS's 2013 Three-Year Strategic Plan: Discussion and Public Comment**

*NAGPS 2013 Board of Directors*

During this session, members interested in the Association's history and trajectory may participate in public comments on the current draft of the plan and discuss its details with members of the 2013 Board of Directors.

# Session Abstracts

## BEST PRACTICES AND COLLABORATION

### **Quick Guide to Proposing Legislation**

*Jesse Kremenak, University of Missouri*

*Kristofferson Culmer, University of Missouri*

*Jake Wright, University of Missouri*

An issue confronting many international graduate-professional students studying in the US is the inability to easily renew their student visas. Currently, all visas, including F visas for students, can only be revalidated in US consulates abroad. Therefore, many students are faced with undue hardships from spending time and money to travel back to their home countries. This often causes burdensome travel delays, additional expenses and extended time away from their academics. Providing F visa holders with the option of domestic revalidation has the potential to drastically reduce these unnecessary burdens. The University of Missouri Graduate Professional Council proposed language to the US House Judiciary Committee that allows F visa holders to renew their visas within the US. This session will review the development of the proposal from idea to submission, as well as offer techniques for earning serious consideration from lawmakers on Capital Hill. We will discuss how this approach can be employed for future legislation proposals.

### **Safe Walk — Escort Program Success**

*Catherine Molleno, Oklahoma State University*

During the April 10 general assembly meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA), the graduate students of Oklahoma State University used the voice of the GPSGA to approve a resolution recommending a safety escort program to be operated by the OSU campus police department. GPSGA is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for the campus community. The purpose of the Safe Walk and Ride program is to provide a safe escort for members of the university who would otherwise have to walk alone at night or are concerned about their personal safety. The service provides safety escorts between the campus and private residences in close proximity to the campus.

### **A Failure to Communicate? Implications of NSF's Broader Impacts Research Strategy for Graduate Student Governance**

*Kelli Barr, University of North Texas*

How can graduate student governments prepare future researchers to be more competitive for federal research and development grants? In what ways can we train tomorrow's scholars for tomorrow's knowledge needs? Since 1997, the National Science Foundation, which annually funds \$7 billion in federal research and development, has insisted that researchers applying for grant research funding enumerate the broader societal benefits of any proposed project. Where previously the merit review procedure asked proposers to evaluate only the intellectual merit of their research, this process now incorporates an additional criterion: project proposers must demonstrate attentiveness to how audiences beyond their disciplinary peers may utilize the results of funded projects. However, until recently the Broader Impacts Criterion has all but been ignored in the course of NSF's merit review processes. Researchers have been mostly confused and inclined to treat societal impacts as a simple check box for bureaucratic accountability. However, at its root the clash between NSF and researchers over Broader Impacts is an issue of academic self-governance, and is an increasingly important one for young researchers.

This session will focus on how graduate student governments can play a central role in preparing future scholars to compete effectively in such a funding environment. Particular points of discussion include how graduate student governments can be critical for promoting the idea of 'owning' the broader impacts of one's work - in the sense of taking advantage of opportunities for self-governance — and how to promote attention to broader impacts among student constituents with the aim of increasing fruitful connections between universities and broader communities.

# Session Abstracts

BEST PRACTICES AND COLLABORATION

## **Creating Sustainability for Your Graduate Student Organization: Understanding the Four Entities to Success**

*Dwayne Johnson, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University  
Tiffany Richardson, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University  
Brittany Glover, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University*

The purpose of this presentation is to demonstrate the increasing importance of defining vision, mission, goals and objectives for new Graduate Student Governments for sustainability on our college campuses. These four entities may be formulated in separate statements, or they may be integrated in a single one. Regardless of their formulation, they have the purpose to communicate internally and externally the existential goal of the organization and the core values of their integrated activities. This presentation illustrates a comparative analysis of the way vision, mission, goals and objectives are formulated by established and self-sustaining graduate student associations throughout the country. A qualitative and quantitative research has been performed, based on a set of main characteristics these semantic entities have.

## **Memorandum of Understandings with Your Administration**

*Zachary Brooks, University of Arizona, NAGPS Western Regional Chair*

In 2013, the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) at the University of Arizona signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Provost, the Vice-President of Student Affairs, and the Dean of the Graduate College on all fee and tuition proposals. The signing signaled an important moment for graduate students to participate more fully in the tuition and fee setting process but the moment of the signing was built by GPSC's development of a strategic plan. In the talk, I will share the University of Arizona's case study in order to provide insight into how other Graduate Student Organizations (GSO) may sign agreements with their administrators on tuition and fees or other issues important to graduate and professional students.

## **Open Educational Resources: Overview and Impact on Graduate Students**

*Nicole Allen, SPARC*

The rising cost of textbooks and other academic resources has sparked a growing movement for Open Educational Resources (OER) — teaching and learning materials distributed online for free and open use by the public. From free online law textbooks to the University of Michigan's open medical curriculum, campuses across the country are already leveraging OER to reduce costs, expand access, and share knowledge more efficiently. This session will provide an overview of OER, how it is relevant to graduate and professional students, and ways to get involved.

# Session Abstracts

## BEST PRACTICES AND COLLABORATION

### **Shift Happens: Rebranding and Graduate Student Governments**

*Krista Limmer, Missouri University of Science and Technology*

*Mohammad Alkazimi, Missouri University of Science and Technology*

In this session we present the circumstances leading up to our graduate student government rebranding and our strategies for organization, implementation, and evaluation. Like corporations, universities and student governments rely on consumer buy-in to be successful. This buy-in occurs when the organization has a brand image and product which appeal to the consumer. Products become outdated as technology advances and as the target consumer demographics evolve. When a brand image is no longer compatible with the target consumer due to either gradual or sudden changes, rebranding is considered. Corporate rebranding generally occurs when new products emerge, unforeseen markets develop, and consumer demographics evolve. One form of rebranding is to update the logo to make the brand more appealing. Pepsi-Cola successfully updated their logo in 2008, while Gap's new logo in 2010 faced severe criticism and lasted only a week. Rebranding usually extends beyond a surface level logo change. Rebranding is more often changing the brand ideology, experience, or emphasis and reflecting the new inspirational vision to the consumer through marketing. Rebranding a student government or organization closely mirrors the corporate rebranding model. In this session we explore how graduate student governments can use corporate rebranding techniques to improve their visibility, increase participation, and better serve their graduate student communities.

### **Immigration Reform: Creating DREAMzones in Higher Education Institutions**

*Jesus Cisneros, Arizona State University*

*German Cadenas, Arizona State University*

*Florencio U. Aranda III, Texas Tech University*

DREAMzone at Arizona State University provides student leaders, staff, and faculty with the knowledge, skills and resources necessary to effectively respond to the presence and needs of undocumented college students. DREAMzone's primary objective is to create inclusive and supportive campus environments conducive to the educational success of undocumented students. This presentation seeks to utilize ASU's DREAMzone ally certification program as a case study, providing student leaders with a contextualized framework of the undocumented college student experience and increased competencies for assisting, affirming and representing undocumented students across college campuses. Information about how graduate student governments/associations can encourage and support these kinds of initiatives at Higher Education Institutions will be provided; in addition to action steps for how student leaders can complement these type of initiatives through public policy advocacy.

### **In One Peer and Out the Other: Preparing Students for the Future of Knowledge Production**

*Kelli Barr, University of North Texas*

In addition to representing graduate student voices, graduate student governments can also function to expand our constituents' horizons of opportunity. In particular, graduate student governments can play a vital role in raising awareness regarding an important and volatile debate currently gripping the academy. Discussions regarding the value of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research raise important questions for young scholars: What is the future of the disciplinary structures that govern our education as graduate students? For example, is it wise for budding researchers to yield to pressures to specialize early and strongly in a narrow field of inquiry, or to communicate primarily (or, perhaps, only) with a small and select group of professional peers? Do we have any other choice?

This session explores the governance dimensions of disciplinary structures within the academy. Of particular focus will be the most effective role for graduate student governments in this critical debate concerning the gulf between academic knowledge production and its uptake by broader communities.

# Session Abstracts

## BEST PRACTICES AND COLLABORATION

### **Managing Committees with a Small Number of Members**

*Seonmin Park, Northern Arizona University*

*Jason Kordosky, Northern Arizona University*

*Rachel Marie Stevens, Northern Arizona University*

*Susan Lawhead, Northern Arizona University*

The Graduate Student Government (GSG) at Northern Arizona University solidified itself as an official student government in April, 2011 by holding graduate student body elections across campuses. Since 2011, the GSG has organized student involvement, and has administered services, resources and programs that benefit graduate students. In order to successfully serve their constituents, the GSG has created committees based on issues relevant to graduate students. As a result, this year the GSG includes twelve committees such as Policy, Social, Marketing, Appropriations, Grievance, Residency Appeals, Library and Parking. However, a size of the current GSG is not enough to handle all committees. This unbalance between the number of committees and the size of GSG causes a problem. Some committees have just one or two members, or some GSG officers take on several committees. For solving this problem, the GSG will innovate the organization of committees. Three themes will be chosen and the committees will be integrated according to the themes. This innovation will facilitate GSG's work and will enable the GSG to amplify students' voices to campus in a more efficient way than now. Possible themes and plans will be discussed.

### **Open Access: Getting your GSA Active at the Institutional & National Level**

*Nick Shockey, SPARC*

This session will provide a brief introduction to Open Access — free, immediate, online access to all scholarly and scientific research articles with full reuse rights — and how your GSA can get involved, both at the institutional and national level. We will discuss the first-ever graduate student specific institutional open access policy, passed earlier this year at the Stanford Graduate School of Education, and how your GSA can pass a similar policy. This session will also cover the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR), which would require articles resulting from federally funded research be made freely available 6 months after publication, and what your GSA can do locally to help pass FASTR into law.

### **Strategic Planning for Graduate Student Organizations: Advocacy and Institutional Memory**

*Nicole M. Baran, Cornell University*

Most universities today have a guiding document that acts as a long-term strategic plan for the institution as a whole. Universities operate on much longer timescales than do graduate student organizations, so developing a strategic plan for your graduate student organization can help to focus advocacy efforts over multiple years, as well as serve as a repository of institutional memory. In the spring of 2013, the Cornell Graduate & Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) presented the Graduate & Professional Community Initiative (GPCI) to the Board of Trustees. This document, which was developed collaboratively over the course of a year, addresses critical issues of graduate and professional student life at Cornell University, including the graduate and professional student center, career resources, mental health & well-being, diversity & international students, family services, housing, transportation, and sense of community. The GPCI will guide the actions of the GPSA and the university administration for years to come, by serving as a comprehensive vision for the graduate and professional student community. At the NAGPS National Conference in fall 2012 and the Northeast Regional Conference in spring 2013, we presented on the development of the GPCI as an on-going process. Here, we will briefly discuss the process and present the final document itself. We will then focus on how we have continued to engage stakeholders across campus, the administrative response to the document and our path forward.

# IGNITE Abstracts

## HIGHLIGHTING RESEARCH

### **Sustainability and Development in Africa**

*Seseer Mou, Western Michigan University*

My session will present statistics about the gradual developmental and technologically changes happening in Africa. I will encourage alternative development efforts and learning from the environmental mistakes of the developed world by emphasizing the consequences of not promoting sustainability initiatives in the development of Africa.

### **Expect the Unexpected: Incongruence in Advertising**

*Neleen Leslie, Florida State University*

VW's 2013 Super bowl commercial sparked controversy when a white American actor imitated the Jamaican accent in the ad. The advertisement features Dave, a native of Minnesota who has been infused with the Jamaican spirit. He gets into the office on a Monday morning amidst colleagues with "I hate Monday" attitudes and proceeds to infect the entire office with his "get happy" mentality. Not only is he extremely happy and energetic but he also imitates the Jamaican dialect throughout the advertisement, while maintaining his American identity. The ad was released a few days prior to the Super bowl and had over a 3.6 million hits within the first four days (Johanasen, 2013). Reactions from various aspects of the industry have been varied, with some analysts labeling the spot as "racist", and presenting a stereotypical portrayal of Jamaicans; others have accused the company of using culture as a punch line (Johanasen, 2013). The spot has been compared to "blackface with voices" by New York Times columnist Charles Blow and has sparked numerous public comments (Johanasen, 2013). While members of the media and advertising industries do not seem to be amused by the commercial, public sentiment in the United States appears to be the opposite. A USA Today online poll revealed that 93% of respondents liked the advertisement (Horovitz, 2013). This dichotomy of the opinions of the viewing public with "experts" in the field is one that is interesting, as it appears that these two groups by and large, do not share the same opinions on this spot.

It is the opinions of the viewing public that are of interest in this paper. In this study, I examine the perceptions of viewers of this advertisement in order to ascertain whether or not the ad was evaluated positively or negatively. The study also examines viewers of Caribbean descent's views of the advertisement. It was found that the viewing public responded positively to the ad, which also resulted in positive overall associations with VW. Jamaicans and people of Caribbean descent also responded favorably to the commercial.

### **New Technique to Learn from your Mistakes**

*Salah Meemar, Taibah University*

I conducted my data from 9 questions via survey that I distributed among 74 random sample in Twitter. Then I found out that there are 4 common mistakes they made , that prevent them to learn from their mistakes then they repeat it. So, in this session I will go over to the result that I found plus the STARE technique that I created based on these common mistakes.

## **The Materials Design Age**

*Krista Limmer, Missouri University of Science and Technology*

We've heard of the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, and the Iron Age, but what age are we in now? Prehistoric ages were categorized by the novel materials which societies depended on to survive. Since the end of the Iron Age many materials have been created: aluminum, polymers, silicon, and composites. Now these all of these materials and more are intertwined in our society. As our societal demands ever increase for advanced and complex gadgets (Teflon, smart phones, hypersonic aircraft and much more) we find that one traditional materials class is not sufficient to define us. Not long after the Industrial Revolution modern society moved from traditional industrialization into an Information Age and more recently a Digital Information Age. Global economy is no longer based on who has the most advanced swords and armor, rather who has access to and the ability to use information to perform operations more efficiently. Coupling this shift with the plethora of materials available and we find that this materials age is not about one particular material but the design of materials. Welcome to the Materials Design Age.

## **3D Transistors**

*Sree Siddhardha Vasireddy, Missouri University of Science and Technology*

The latest trend in transistor technology is the Tri-gate or 3D Transistor. Its fabrication is used by Intel Corporation for the nonplanar transistor architecture used in Ivy Bridge processors. These transistors employ a single gate stacked on top of two vertical gates allowing for essentially three times the surface area for electrons to travel. Intel reports that their tri-gate or 3D transistors reduce leakage and consume far less power than current transistors. This allows up to 37% higher speed, or a power consumption at under 50% of the previous type of transistors used by Intel. At present this technology is being used for 22nm technology and in the future it will be employed for 14nm and 10nm as well.

## **“Talking Through Paintings” Art Therapy Tool Assessment**

*Martha Trevino, University of the Incarnate Word*

Art based assessment instruments have been used by many art therapists for the past decades. Psychologists, psychiatrists, anthropologists, and educators have used artwork in evaluation, therapy, and research for over 100 years (MacGregor, 1989). The Researcher created and designed a new art therapy tool assessment called: Talking Through Paintings the tool was used to diagnose her family after suffering a kidnap in one of her family members and presenting as result, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. With her background as an artist, she believes that art-paintings have a powerful capacity to aboard feelings, experiences, and thoughts through art appreciation. When writing or telling about what we see and we experience in the presence of an artwork, we build meaning, we do not merely report it. (Barret, 2002). When perceiving paintings, individuals find their own experiences and realities in some or all the elements of the art piece

## **Birthdays are Changing the World**

*Gayathri Ramanathan, University of Central Florida*

People throw birthday parties all the time. Friends and family show up, everyone has a great time, and the day moves on. But what if your birthday doesn't end there? What if you could make such a difference on your birthday, that it will remain in people's hearts forever? For this ignite session, I would like to talk about how you can make your birthday special for everyone. Projects such as Charity:Water allow us to make a difference on our birthday by simply following a few steps to take a pledge. Make your birthday count by helping those in need by creating a campaign and asking your friends and family to donate in your name. Instead of crowding yourself with gifts, use your next birthday to make the world a better place.

# Poster Session Abstracts

## HIGHLIGHTING RESEARCH

### **Requirement for In-vitro Mycelia Growth of *Tuber borchii***

*Osejje Oriaifo, North Carolina A&T State University*

*Tuber borchii*, commonly known as 'bianchetto', is a truffle belonging to the *Puberulum* clade. It is rapidly gaining international attention for its organoleptic attribute, nutritional value, gourmet appreciation and wide growth specificity. A current international price is about \$200 with online/ virtual market rate between \$19 - 20 an ounce. *T.borchii* is wild harvested and orchard grown. Current inoculation methods include spore inoculation and root induced inoculation. Both are expensive, yet marred with low success rate. Diseases and pests, pollution, indiscriminate harvest, deforestation, and global warming have resulted in decline of natural truffle production. The increase in demand and the decline in natural truffle production has resulted in the call for its domestication. In order to achieve domestication, the optimum growth condition is critical. This study was designed to investigate the optimum in-vitro conditions of *T. borchii* with six strains (MBFBL 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, and 1325). The parameters tested were pH (4.0 to 9.0 with 0.5 increment), temperature (15, 20, 25 and 30OC), carbon source (glucose, sucrose, fructose, soluble starch, mannose, xylose, sorbitol, mannitol and glycerol) and Nitrogen (yeast extract, peptone, ammonium chloride, ammonium nitrite and corn steep liquor) on solid Modified Melin-Norkrans media (MMN). Growth was measured weekly for five weeks. Optimum pH for all strains tested seem to be basic (7.0 to 9.0) with only two strains, MBFBL 1320 and 1323 being able to do as well in pH 4.5. Temperature studies showed that 20OC was most suitable for all strains though MBFBL 1320 and 1321 were able to perform equally at 15OC. 30OC did not support comparable growth for all strains and no strain had grown at 35OC. Sugar studies showed various sugar preference but starch had the highest mean in all tested strains. Sorbitol was also comparable to starch in all strains except MBFBL 1323. In nitrogen source experiment, Yeast extract and yielded the highest growth in three strains (MBFBL 1320, 1321 and 1322) while Corn steep liquor also had the highest growth mean in three strains, MBFBL 1323, 1324 and 1325. Corn steep liquor was exclusively preferred nitrogen by MBFBL 1325 but for MBFBL 1320, 1321 and 1324, both nitrogen sources, yeast extract and corn steep liquor were comparable. MBFBL 1323 showed no Nitrogen source preference though Nitrogen had an effect at an alpha level of 0.05.

### **Behavioral Interventions Among Unionized Workers to Increase Attendance**

*Marlies Hagge, Western Michigan University*

Employees' attendance is fundamentally relevant for running a successful business. However, in many companies absences far exceed the national average of about 3% and pose a significant problem to the overall company's success. A task analysis determined that important consequences regarding work attendance were missing, such as feedback or recognition of attendance or any type of follow-up with absences. Thus, three different low-cost behavioral interventions were developed to increase attendance: praise for perfect attendance, graphic feedback on absenteeism per group and an interview which was held when the employee returned to work. Participants included 45 unionized custodians of 4 groups at a large Midwestern university with an average absenteeism rate of 7.2%. The study introduced the different interventions via a counterbalanced multiple baseline design across groups. The data were collected by the payroll system over the span of about 30 weeks including baseline. The results showed that 89% of the participants increased their average absenteeism rate in at least one of the presented conditions compared to baseline and 47% of the participants improved across all presented phases. The praise intervention reduced absenteeism on average by 40% and combined with graphic feedback it still reduced absenteeism by 30% on average. The long term data revealed maintenance effects for the treatment groups.



# Poster Session Abstracts

HIGHLIGHTING RESEARCH

## **Ethnicity's Effect on Brand Loyalty Among American Consumers**

*Neleen Leslie, Florida State University*

The United States has one of the largest multicultural populations in the world. It is home to millions of people from varying countries, ethnicities and cultures. International migration over the years has established a foundation for what is now a cultural mosaic, comprised mainly of several generations of Americans born to people of varied ethnicities and cultures. This diversity presents a challenge for US marketers. The heterogeneity of this nation requires marketers to do more research and to cultivate an understanding of the various cultures at play in order to connect with their target consumers.

In this research, we attempted to examine the theorized connection between the ethnicity and by extension culture and a specific consumer behavior construct: brand loyalty. The study attempted to address two major questions: (1) Do ethnic groups differ significantly on brand loyalty? and (2) Can ethnicity be considered a significant predictor of brand loyalty? We examined the differences in brand loyalty across five major ethnic groups: Caucasians, African Americans, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Hispanic English and Hispanic Spanish. The survey methodology was utilized for this study. Data was collected in 2011 as part of a larger multicultural study conducted by the Center for Hispanic Marketing Communication at The Florida State University.

The results of the study supported the theory that ethnic groups differ significantly from each other in brand loyalty. Ethnicity was observed to be a significant predictor of brand loyalty, even after accounting for education and income. Income was also found to be a significant predictor of brand loyalty, which supported DeMooij's (2000) argument that as income increases, consumer behavior will reflect their cultural foundations. Education was also found to be a significant predictor of brand loyalty. The results indicated that people who have achieved higher levels of education are more likely to be influenced by their cultural values and are more likely to be brand loyal. African American respondents were found to be the most brand loyal group, despite having achieved lower levels of education than other ethnic groups. The research did not reveal any possible explanations as to why this group was more brand loyal than the others. There were no other significant differences among groups, after controlling for education and income.

## **Ecology of Early Eocene San Juan Basin, NM *Phenacolemur jepsoni* with *Phenacolemur citatus* and *Phenacolemur praecox* from Bighorn Basin, WY – A Study Of Microwear and Dental Variation as a Proxy for Eocene Climate Change**

*Clayton Pilbro, Western Michigan University*

*Phenacolemur* was a widespread genus of Plesiadapiforms (primate-like animals) that lived from the late Paleocene to early Eocene of North America. Members of this genus were small, varying in size from that of a mouse (121 grams for *Phenacolemur jepsoni*) to that of a large squirrel (414 grams for *Phenacolemur praecox*). *Phenacolemur* developed enlarged incisors and a reduced dentition. *Phenacolemur* species superficially appear to have a strong similarity in their dental characteristics, but with closer observation it becomes clear there is significant variation in tooth number, morphology, and dental wear between *Phenacolemur* species. These variations can be interpreted to be adaptations for different diets and evidence of evolutionary adaptation to paleo-environments. Teeth are involved in food acquisition and their morphology reflects food acquisition strategy. Using SEM dental microwear analysis, micro CT scans, dental morphology, and statistical analysis I show distinctions between three of the closely related species (*P. jepsoni*, *P. citatus*, and *P. praecox*). These differences in dentition between *Phenacolemur* species reflect differences in diet, and indicate paleo-environmental/evolutionary adoptions in this early primate that permitted closely related (basal and derived) *Phenacolemur* species to live in the same areas of the San Juan Basin, NM and Bighorn Basin, WY concurrently

# Poster Session Abstracts

## HIGHLIGHTING RESEARCH

### **A Survey Over E-Learning Based On Semantic Web**

*Mehdi Mohammadi, Western Michigan University*  
*Sepideh Mohammadi, Western Michigan University*  
*Islamic Azad, Western Michigan University*

In this research, we review some applications of e-learning based on semantic web and their different features. A comparison over different implementation methods and underlying mechanisms will also be presented. Then, the effectiveness of current systems of semantic web-based e-learning will be illustrated.

### **6'S Synergy Model Moving Towards Schools for Tomorrow**

*Martha Trevino, University of the Incarnate Word*

6'S Synergy Model has six dimensions: School, Student, Software, Spirituality, Software, Syllabus. Each dimension in this model, symbolizes the type of concerns that demand to be addressed in order to powerful learning environment (K-12). This model has been adapted to the School Transformation Developing Map made by Frank Locker. Using the renovated map, schools have been moving from traditional schools to institutions that promote 21 Century Skills.

### **Forbidden Reflections in X-ray Reflectivity from Diamond Crystal Structures**

*Jesse W. Kremenak, University of Missouri*  
*Yiyao Chen, University of Missouri*  
*Shawn T. Hayden, University of Missouri*  
*Michael W. Gramlich, University of Missouri*  
*Paul F. Miceli, University of Missouri*

In diffraction, due to crystal symmetry, certain x-ray reflections from diamond crystal structures are considered forbidden. However, over 90 years ago W.H. Bragg initially observed these "forbidden reflections" experimentally using x-rays. The crystal symmetry is broken as a result of asymmetric charge distributions and anharmonic vibrational effects, which result in weak, but non-zero intensities for these reflections. In the present work, we investigate the forbidden reflections in x-ray reflectivity and crystal truncation rods. We have discovered that the interference between bulk and surface waves can distinguish between the charge and vibrational origins of the reflections. Synchrotron x-ray scattering results, as well as a model, are presented. Understanding the properties of the forbidden reflections in diamond crystal structures not only provides greater insight into the crystal bonding and vibrations, but can also lead to better models for nano-scale surface structures. Support from the National Science Foundation under grants DMR-0706278 and DGE-1069091 is gratefully acknowledged. The Advanced Photon Source Sector 6 beam-line at Argonne National Laboratory is supported by the US-DOE under Contract No. W-31-109-Eng-38.

### **Implosions as a Risk Mitigation Tool**

*Mohammad Alkazimi, Missouri University of Science and Technology*

Implosion is a process in which a system or an object fails, or is purposefully destroyed, by collapsing on itself. The implosion concentrates matter and energy as if forces are exerted on the outside of the system. Explosives have been used in the petroleum industry to fight fires. Dynamite or similar explosive materials have been placed near the burning wellhead, to suffocate the fire by removing oxygen and disrupting the combustion process. We propose that similar explosives can be applied to create a controlled implosion that can result in sealing a leaking pipe and preventing an environmental disaster. This research explores how implosion can be used as a risk mitigation tool, particularly in the oil industry. The recent BP's Deepwater Horizon rig explosion and resulting environmental catastrophe has shown that additional safety measurement are needed in the oil industry. This study examines the feasibility of introducing a system such that a purposeful implosion could be applied as a response to an industrial accident or environmental disaster.

# Poster Session Abstracts

HIGHLIGHTING RESEARCH

## **Accessibility Center**

*Megan Brooks, University of Arizona*

This project uses sustainable elements to enhance the concept of universal design by maximizing ease of access and minimizing the footprint of the overall structure. The presence of the building on 1st Ave is made up of a CAC facade which introduces sustainability at the street level. The CAC facade is made up of “pillows” of fog that cool the exterior of the building and creates an illusion of a cloud. The cloud-like facade also creates a sensory environment within the theater portion of the program by separating the public from private with a veil of fog. This project also emphasizes the ease of accessibility for the disabled community. The sensorium itself is designed to let the users seat themselves wherever they would like in the auditorium.

## **Not Everyone Believes in Climate Change: How and Why Climate Change Attitudes Differ Between New Zealand and California Farmers**

*Meredith Niles, University of California, Davis*

Climate change science and the development of climate change policies around the world inherently demonstrates that climate change is a serious environmental threat. Yet, despite the accepted scientific basis for human-induced climate change, many individual people do not believe that climate change is occurring or that it is man-made. Farmers are a unique group of stakeholders in climate change discussions because they rely significantly on weather and climate for their livelihoods and are often keenly aware of climate through personal records. Despite this, data suggest that farmers actually have lower overall climate change belief perceptions than the general public. This paper will discuss farmer climate change belief and risk perceptions across New Zealand and California and the factors that influence climate perceptions. Data was obtained from a survey implemented in both New Zealand and California in 2011 and 2012. In California, 11 farmer interviews and a mail survey of 162 farmers was conducted in November 2010–March 2011 (overall response rate= 33%). The same survey and similar interviews were implemented in Hawke’s Bay and Marlborough, New Zealand in July-October 2012. More than 20 interviews were conducted with regional farmers, policymakers and agricultural industry professionals, followed by a telephone survey of 490 farmers (313 in Hawke’s Bay and 177 in Marlborough, overall response rate= 40.4%). Data suggest that only about half of all farmers believe in climate change and far fewer believe in its human contribution. Nevertheless, greater numbers of farmers believe it presents both risks and opportunities for agriculture globally. The implications of these results will be discussed including how climate belief and risk perceptions also affects a farmer’s attitude to policy and acceptance of different climate change strategies.

# President's Report

Dear NAGPS members,

Over the past year, NAGPS has continued in the directions chartered by the 2009 board at the 23rd annual conference. That year, at the University of Nebraska, the Association's membership voted to reorganize our governing documents, close our DC office and consolidate leadership into an unpaid Board of Directors that would meet via teleconference to coordinate and perform the Association's business. The 2010 President & CEO, Alex Evans, had led the drafting of this initiative while serving on the 2009 board as "Ombudsman." The changes were compelled by NAGPS's budgetary shortfalls created from waning health insurance royalties, decreasing membership, and costly overhead expenditures.

In the policy arena since that time, there has been an arguable siege on higher education funding, especially for graduate and professional students. The debt ceiling negotiations during the summer of 2011 resulted in the Budget Control Act which removed the interest subsidy for graduate and professional student loans. Sequestration was also a byproduct of those negotiations, which went into effect this past winter, eighteen months later, and as foretold, it is delivering a devastating impact on funding at universities nationwide. Most recently this past summer, federal graduate and professional student loans were converted to a variable interest rate capped at 3% higher than our current fixed rate; the Congressional Budget Office estimates we will reach the cap by the end of 2016.

Last year at Duke University for our 26th annual national conference, the newly elected 2013 Board of Directors met on Sunday morning, and discussed the Association's need for the return of paid personnel to assist and serve the Association's interests. This had been proposed by Alex Evans in 2010 to the NAGPS Advisory Board, who supported it. Many of the Advisory Board members have served as the President of NAGPS and understood the scope of the Association's operations, which typically would demand more time than what student board members have to volunteer, given their other obligations. While each board has been filled with committed and dedicated members, there is frequently more that could be done, should be done or will be left undone without additional support.

Going into the next year, it is my recommendation for the 2014 President to commission an Ad Hoc committee, according to our governing procedures, for NAGPS's strategic growth and direction. This committee ideally would delineate both the core competencies for paid NAGPS personnel and develop funding streams for expanding NAGPS's operations to encompass employees, as we have in the past.

Simultaneously while improving and enhancing internal management, in the policy arena, the largest piece of legislation impacting student funding — the Higher Education Act (HEA) — is expiring next month. During our Fall LAD this past September, we heard from several offices which anticipated the new HEA bill moving in September 2014 for which preliminary negotiations are underway to reauthorize it. Especially while we lack a full-time presence, the Association must maintain constant dialogue with our affiliates and partners in DC and communicate to campuses around the nation to advocate for our interests in HEA. To that end, our members' participation is vital this spring for LAD so that Congress may hear again about the return on their investment in graduate and professional education.

It has been a positive challenge and honor to lead and serve with this Board of Directors. I appreciate all of their time and diligence working for the Association. Here are select highlights:

## **January In-Person Board Meeting hosted by University of Southern California (USC)**

We have arrived in Kalamazoo with many of our objectives fulfilled from the in-person board meeting last January. Over three days, board members each presented their primary goals for their office and NAGPS. Thank you Melody Shekari, 2013 Director of Outreach, for facilitating NAGPS on campus at USC.

## **Spring LAD and Congressional Reception**

This past spring, a record seventy students registered for Legislative Action Days (LAD). Meredith T. Niles, 2013 Director of Legislative Affairs, and the Legislative Concerns Committee executed a full five days of professional programming that resulted in one-hundred office visits and on the final evening, a reception celebrating graduate education in the House Education Committee Meeting Room.

# President's Report

## **Website Redesign**

This past first-week in April, as part of our commemoration of Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week, NAGPS redesigned and launched a new homepage. Patrick Neary, 2013 Director of Administration, oversaw this project, while 2013 Vice President Brandon Milonovich and 2013 Director of Relations, Jason Striker, assisted the conversion and transfer of information. Their hard work and design has improved our connectivity with you and our sponsors.

## **VP and CFO attend EURODOC's Annual Conference in Lisbon, Portugal**

Brandon Milonovich and Anya Pechenina, 2013 Director of Finance, attended EURODOC's annual meeting. We are excited to host their President at our 27th Annual National Conference, and we look forward to collaborating transnationally on issues which are common for students across the Atlantic.

## **CFO delivers High Table Dinner address at APAGSA Inaugural Conference in Hong Kong**

At Duke last year, Hong Kong University presented to NAGPS's members. Over the six months after attending, they formed APAGSA for Asian-Pacific graduate students. APAGSA invited NAGPS to Hong Kong to deliver a keynote address in June at their inaugural meeting for which Anna Pechenina presented.

## **Tom Rath Speaks to Attendees at Leadership Summit hosted by Northwestern University**

Gallup Senior Scientist Tom Rath spoke in August during our Leadership Summit hosted by Northwestern University. His newest book, *Eat. Move. Sleep.* was released last month, but before the Summit, he shared advance copies with attendees. On the final day of the summit, Mr. Rath fielded our questions about leadership strengths in his book *Strengths-Based Leadership* and lifestyle decisions.

## **New Member Benefits with Hertz, American Airlines, and T-Mobile**

This fall, NAGPS developed new benefits for members with Hertz, American Airlines, and T-Mobile. Thank you respectively to Brandon Milonovich, Jason Striker, and Neleen Leslie for securing these!

## **NAGPS's First Graduate Career Fair this year at Western Michigan University**

Maria Marion, 2013 Employment Concerns Chair, and the Employment Concerns Committee have planned in coordination with WMU, NAGPS's first graduate resource and career fair including professional development workshops and resume reviews by professionals on-site. Thank you, Maria, for all of your excellent work this year planning and developing this feature for our national conferences.

## **Open Access General Assembly in Budapest, Hungary**

Meredith T. Niles and Matt Cooper, 2013 Immediate Past President, convened in August with leaders from other organizations around the world to chart international Open Access initiatives next year and share NAGPS's experience on these issues in the US. The group met as part of the Right to Research Coalition, the international voice of over 6 million students pushing for public access to publicly funded research.

As our Association enters its 28th year, we are prepared to meet the challenges facing our community and shall continue to serve as the unifying voice of graduate and professional students in the US.

Sincerely,



Jared Voskuhl  
President & CEO  
National Association of Graduate-Professional Students

# Call for Leadership Candidates

As a volunteer, student-run organization, NAGPS draws highly motivated, passionate student leaders to its leadership team each year. If you are interested in serving in a leadership position for the 2014 term, please review the information below.

## Positions

The following positions will be elected at the National Conference:

- President
- Vice President
- Director of Finance
- Director of Communications
- Director of Outreach
- Director of Relations
- Director of Legislative Affairs
- Employment Concerns Chair
- International Student Concerns Chair
- Legal Concerns Chair
- Social Justice Concerns Chair
- Midwest Region Chair
- Northeast Region Chair
- Southcentral Region Chair
- Southeast Region Chair
- Western Region Chair

## Eligibility Requirements

Any currently enrolled student in a program of advanced degree study (graduate or professional school) who is a NAGPS Individual Student Member or enrolled at an institution whose campus graduate or professional student organization (GPSO) is a NAGPS Organizational Member is eligible as a candidate and eligible to nominate for any of the positions.

## Nominations

Nominations may be made contingent on eligibility. Self-nominations are encouraged. Nominations should be submitted online at the national conference website or at the National Conference prior to the elections.

## Procedure of Elections

During the elections, each candidate shall be allotted three minutes to speak on his/her behalf. Three minutes shall be allotted for questions. If a candidate is not elected for a particular position, he/she shall be eligible to run for another position that has not yet been filled. The full process is outlined in the NAGPS By-Laws.

Election of the Officers and Committee Chairs shall be by ballot of the members present at the National Membership Meeting during the National Conference. While candidates need not be present to be elected, they are strongly encouraged to attend the conference. Prospective candidates for the NAGPS Director positions should plan to attend the transitional board meeting 9:00AM-12:00PM Sunday November 10th.

# Robert's Rules Cheat Sheet

EFFICIENCY FOR A MEETING

| To:  | Motion:                    | Say:  | Debatable? | Vote Needed: |
|--|----------------------------|---|------------|--------------|
| Bring a matter to consideration                | Main Motion                | I move that...  | Yes        | Majority*    |
| Get rid of a motion                            | Postpone Indefinitely      | I move that we postpone indefinitely.                         | Yes        | Majority     |
| Alter a motion                                 | Amend                      | I move that we amend...                                       | Yes*       | Majority     |
| Stop Discussing the current motion until later | Post Definitely            | I move that we postpone consideration of this motion until... | Yes        | Majority     |
| Limit, or extend the limits, on debate         | Limit/Remove Limits Debate | I move that we extend/limit debate by...                      | No         | 2/3          |
| Stop the debate and vote immediately           | Previous Question          | I move the previous question. OR I move that we close debate. | No         | 2/3          |

\* Except motions adopting constitutional amendments, which require 2/3 of the full membership

## Making a Motion

- To take any action or come to any decision, a motion must be made and voted on
- The chair may rule motions out of order if they are dilatory or otherwise invalid
- If your motion is complex, you are encouraged to submit a written resolution

## Debate

- There must be a motion on the floor to debate
- The motion under consideration defines the topic of debate, you must remain on topic
- To speak, you must be called on by the chair
- You may only speak a second or subsequent time if everyone else has had a chance
- Much of our debate operates under strict time constraints – please be concise
- Once there is no further debate, the chair will call for a vote

## Motion Details

- Once we are considering a motion, you may only make motions further down the list
- Motions are “nested” – we are always debating and voting on the most recently made motion, after which we move to the previously made motion, etc
- Robert's Rules does not allow “friendly amendments”, all amendments must be voted on
- To end debate and force us to take an immediate vote, move the previous question
- Majority means more than half of the votes cast must be yes
- 2/3 means at least 2/3 of the votes must be yes – exactly 2/3 passes
- Some motions are not debatable - once moved, we vote immediately on that motion

# 2013 Board of Directors

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**Jared Voskuhl**  
President & CEO

As President & CEO of NAGPS, Jared Voskuhl leads the seventeen directors who were elected to the Board of Directors at the 26th annual National Conference hosted by Duke University. Previously, Jared served as Director of Relations on the 2012 NAGPS Board. In that office Voskuhl negotiated new dental and vision benefits for members with HumanaOne. He also secured legislative consulting services in Washington, DC for NAGPS with FaegreBD. Jared earned a Master's degree in Sociology in 2007 and graduated in May from the University of California, Davis, School of Law.



**Brandon Milonovich**  
Vice President

Brandon is a high school mathematics teacher in Cold Spring, NY. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Higher Education Leadership and Administration from The College of Saint Rose. Brandon completed his first Master's degree in Teaching and Curriculum with Emphasis in Mathematics Education at Syracuse University in December 2012 and holds a B.A. from The College of Saint Rose in Mathematics/ Adolescent Education. He is very passionate about education at all levels. His interests include integrating technology into the classroom as well as theories of learning. In July 2013, Brandon published a book for novice programmers on the introductory programming language Scratch.

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 has had 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 aimed to further develop transparency and communication for the Association, both internally and externally. Third, Brandon has aimed to strengthen our efforts on outreach to new and lapsed members. Finally, Brandon is aiming to increase general board productivity.



**Anna Pechenina**  
Director of Finance

Anna Pechenina is a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of North Texas, Denton with concentration in Comparative Politics and Methodology. She holds a B.A. from Truman State University in Music and Political Science. Her research focuses on Fiscal Politics of Federal States; specifically – strategic implications of intergovernmental transfers.

At UNT, Anna serves as President for the Graduate Student Council, and has previously served as Vice President of Administration and Finance.



# 2013 Board of Directors

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## **Neleen Leslie** Director of Communications

Neleen Leslie is a second year doctoral student studying Mass Communication at The Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. Her research focuses on Multicultural Marketing Communication, Branding, Advertising and Intercultural Communication.

She is a native of the island of Jamaica where she lived, studied and worked prior to coming to the United States. She attended the University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech) where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing with a minor in International Business. Neleen also did a stint in the Jamaican marketing industry as Brand Manager at one of the country's largest distributors.

After being awarded a Fulbright scholarship in July of 2010, Neleen moved to Tallahassee to pursue a MSc. in Integrated Marketing Communication. She graduated from the Master's program in December of 2011 and enrolled in the PhD program in the spring of 2012.

In addition to her work with NAGPS, Neleen is very involved on her home campus. She has served as president of FSU's Black Graduate Student Association for two consecutive terms and is also Deputy Speaker for Communication in the 21st Congress of Graduate Students, a position she has held since the 20th Congress. She also participates in FSU's Center for Global Engagement's Global Ambassadors Program and will be inducted as a Seminole Torchbearer this fall.



## **Patrick Neary** Director of Administration

As Director of Administration, Patrick Neary maintains NAGPS's information systems, coordinates Board member activities, keeps minutes at all meetings, and ensures all governing documents and procedures are followed in the Association's activities.

Patrick Neary is a PhD candidate in mathematics at Syracuse University. He earned a BA in mathematics and physics from Rice University in 2008. His research work is focused on low order partial differential operators, specifically related to the (non) existence of constant coefficient coercive quadratic forms for a particular class of operator.

Patrick has been actively involved in student leadership at Syracuse University, especially through the Mathematics Graduate Organization (MGO) and the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) at Syracuse University. As President of the MGO, he organized two mathematics conferences at the university, attended by faculty and students from around the nation.

This year, Patrick is serving as President of the GSO. He has negotiated an increase in minimum TA pay at Syracuse, as well as pushed for improvements in child care, TA contract renewal policies, and better relationships with other campus student government groups. Previously, he has served as Vice President and then Internal Vice President. In these roles, he spearheaded the expansion of the GSO's travel grant program, connected the GSO to fellow student government groups nationally, and generally improved organizational efficiency and effectiveness. Patrick has been a tireless advocate of graduate students on campus, working with university administrators on a number of issues related to the quality of graduate student life at Syracuse.

A native of Tampa, Patrick enjoys playing board games in his free time. He has recently finished playtesting the game A Distant Plain, which explores the current conflict in Afghanistan.

# 2013 Board of Directors

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**Melody Shekari**  
Director of Outreach

As Director of Outreach, Melody works with current NAGPS members to ensure that the organization is meeting graduate student needs and recruits new members to provide services and benefits to more graduate students.

Melody is a Juris Doctor Candidate at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law. Her interests include environmental, administrative, and international law. She holds a BS in economics and international business from Bentley University and a Master in Public Administration from the University of Washington Evans School of Public Affairs, focusing on leadership and environmental policy. At the University of Southern California, Melody is the President of Graduate Student Government (GSG), which represents over 20,000 graduate students. This year, she has advocated for childcare options for graduate student parents, a campus-wide Sustainability Plan, and a reexamination of transportation and health concerns on campus. She works on a variety of other issues with university administration and also serves on the Alumni Association's Board of Governors. She has been involved with GSG for the past three years as Director of Elections and Recruitment and as a Senator, as well as being a representative in the Student Bar Association (SBA).

When she is not at the GSG office, she enjoys international travel and outdoor activities (camping, hiking, scuba diving, biking, etc.).



**Jason Striker**  
Director of Relations

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.

# 2013 Board of Directors

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## **Meredith Niles**

### Director of Legislative Affairs

Meredith is a fourth year PhD candidate in Ecology and National Science Foundation fellow at the University of California, Davis. She holds a B.A. in political science with honors in environmental studies from the Catholic University of America where she graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Her research focuses on agriculture and climate change in New Zealand and California where she is studying the effects of climate change on agricultural systems and the types of practices that farmers may adopt to mitigate and adapt to climate change. She has served in several advisory roles including as a member of the Climate Action Reserve's agricultural nutrient management workgroup, on the board of the UC Davis Agricultural Sustainability Institute and on the executive committee of the Russell Ranch Agricultural Research Center at UC Davis. Meredith also brings her policy experience to UC Davis where she currently serves as the External Chair for Federal Government and Legislative Issues for the UC Davis Graduate Student Association.

Meredith's professional experience includes work in Congressional and Public Affairs related to HIV/AIDS and public health at the US Department of State where she contributed to the Annual Report to Congress. She also previously served as the inaugural director of a national public education and policy campaign related to agriculture and climate change at a D.C. based non-profit organization where she contributed to federal climate change legislation. Meredith is a published author contributing to academic journals including PLOS One, Sustainable Development Law and Policy, and the Policy Studies Journal. She has also published three book chapters related to agriculture and social and environmental sustainability. She has contributed to Capitol Public Radio, Maryland Public Radio and The Harvard Crimson and been quoted in Time Magazine, Atlanta Journal Constitution, Wired Magazine, and Public Affairs Magazine among others.



## **Maria Marion**

### Employment Concerns Committee Chair

As Employment Concerns Chair of NAGPS, Maria hopes to improve post-graduate employment by providing professional development and enabling effective responses to employment concerns and issues for the graduate and professional communities.

Maria is a recent graduate of the University of Mississippi community. While at the university, Maria participated in a variety of graduate student government organizations such as the Student Personnel Association and the Graduate Student Council. She worked for the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services and the Dean of Students Office/Multicultural Affairs. She was the Coordinator of the Family Literacy Work Study Program in the Financial Aid Office, which places university students in local Oxford, MS schools to tutor students grades K-12. Maria recently moved to Los Angeles, CA and is now the Assistant Program Director for the Graduate School of Education and Psychology Master of Arts in Education Program and Pepperdine University.

A native of Memphis, TN, Maria holds a Bachelors degree in Political Science and Economics from Spelman College and is a Masters from the University of Mississippi specializing in Higher Education/Student Personnel Services. She is also an active member of Gamma Beta Phi Honors Society and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

# 2013 Board of Directors

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## **Parth Nagarkar**

### International Student Concerns Committee Chair

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.

At Arizona State University, Parth has been a representative for the School of Engineering since Fall 2009, and has chaired the International Students Committee in ASU GPSA for the last two years.



## **Grant Atkinson**

### Legal Concerns Committee Chair

Grant recently graduated from Santa Clara University and was President of the Student Bar Association at Santa Clara University in California. As a law student, Grant has worked for a variety of public agencies including the United States Attorney's Office, the Oakland City Attorney's Office, and the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office. In addition to his work for NAGPS, Grant also currently serves at the Katherine and George Alexander Community Law Clinic providing legal support for low-income individuals in the Consumer Protection Division.

Grant is originally from Chicago, Illinois and received a B.A. from the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico. As the NAGPS Legal Concerns Chair, Grant works with law schools and advocacy groups across the country to provide legal support and information for graduate and professional students.



## **Florencio U. Aranda III**

### Social Justice Committee Chair

Florencio U. Aranda III is a frontera native from Presidio, Texas/Ojinaga, Chihuahua, México. Florencio is a First Generation College student and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish, with a minor in Political Science from Texas Tech University in May 2007, in 3 years. His undergraduate education allowed him to explore the policies of the American government, as well as his Spanish cultural and racial past.

Florencio earned a Master of Arts degree in Romance Languages in Spanish and Portuguese, in May 2010, to expand linguistically and reach out to more ethnic groups and diverse populations. During his Master's studies, Florencio was chosen to study and teach abroad in Seville, Spain, as a Graduate Part-time Instructor of Spanish.

Florencio Aranda's current pursuit includes a Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education, with an emphasis in Policy, and a minor in Spanish, from Texas Tech University. Florencio has designed an educational agenda which is Latino-centered. His dissertation research is guided by the Latino Critical Race (LatCrit) theoretical framework analyzing Latino Male Policymakers in Higher Education. His goal is to identify behaviors which establish achievement methods/characteristics of current successful Latino Male Policymakers, allowing

# 2013 Board of Directors

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Florencio to develop and/or expand effective policies that support higher education academic success for Latinos.

Furthermore, Florencio is highly involved on campus serving on numerous academic, professional, and extra-curricular organizations and committees. Previously, Aranda served as President of the Texas Tech University Graduate Student Advisory Council, President of the TTU Nu Sigma Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, and Vice-President of the TTU Alpha Phi Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society. Currently, Florencio is on a legislative internship with the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, DC.

Florencio's professional goal is to become a leader in the educational field, whether it is at the university setting or an educational governmental agency where he can use his diverse background, knowledge, and leadership experience in education policy, social justice topics, political, and multi-linguistic education to further shape policy.

As the 2013 Social Justice Chair of NAGPS, Florencio's primary focus shall be that of cultivating awareness of civil liberties and/or social injustices that our diverse graduate and professional students face, while encouraging the National Board of Directors and NAGPS members to continue advocating for these students at the local, regional, state, and national level.



**Ngan Diep**  
Northeast Regional Chair

Ngan graduated with a dual Masters in Economics and International Relations at Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University. Her focus is in international finance and economic development in emerging markets. She is involved in the multiple levels of student government at Syracuse University. She served as the Treasurer of the International Relations Student Association and is currently a Senator in Syracuse's Graduate Student Organization. Ngan received her B.S. in Cognitive Science and minor in Economics at the University of California, San Diego.

As Northeast Regional Chair, she seeks to increase communication amongst the National & Regional Boards, and member schools. Her goal is to develop a mechanism for all Northeast schools to communicate, share best practices, data, and seek input/advice from each other.



**Alan Liu**  
Southeast Regional Chair

Alan Liu is a doctoral candidate at the Johns Hopkins University. Under the auspices of the physics department and the Institute for NanoBioTechnology, he studies arterial biomechanics using engineered microtissues. He received a B.S. in physics with a minor in biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2009.

At Hopkins, Alan serves as the president of the physics graduate student society and is the Legislative Co-Chair within the Graduate Representative Organization. In the GRO, he has a leadership role in many special projects, primary among which involves providing non-traditional career opportunities to graduate students.

# 2013 Board of Directors

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## **Kristofferson Culmer** Southcentral Regional Chair

As the Chair for the South Central Region, I want to engage the students at member institutions more than we have previously. The South Central Region will focus on developing a strong member base by providing the resources and support needed to our members through regular information sharing sessions and ongoing support and development of best-practices for our respective student governments.

Kristofferson is currently a doctoral student in Computer Science at the University of Missouri. Go TIGERS! Along with his academic responsibilities, Kristofferson is also a graduate teaching assistant (GTA) in the department of Computer Science, served for three (3) years as the President of the Graduate Professional Council (GPC), and currently Chairs the University of Missouri System Inter-campus Student Council (ISC). He is also the Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) Chairman for the Missouri Beta Prime chapter of Phi Delta Theta at Central Methodist University, his undergraduate Alma-mater.

Kristofferson is a native of Freeport Grand Bahama, Bahamas, and received his undergraduate education from Central Methodist University in Fayette, Missouri, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a double major in Computer Science and Business. Kristofferson was also a two-time Scholar Athlete in Track & Field in the NAIA.



## **Michael Appel** Midwest Regional Chair

As the Midwest Regional Chair, Michael works to help advance the interests of the graduate and professional students within his region. He is always interested in helping schools and students, so please reach out and contact him if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Michael is a third year law student at the University of Iowa College of Law and will be joining the law firm of Crowell & Moring in Washington D.C after graduation. In his first year at Iowa Law, Michael served as the law school representative to the Executive Council of Graduate and Professional Students (ECGPS), or the graduate and professional student government. As a second year Michael served as Vice President of ECGPS and focused on higher education advocacy within the state of Iowa. He proposed and helped implement the Universities for a Better Iowa initiative to publicize the benefits of Iowa's three public higher education institutions. In his third year Michael is now serving as President of ECGPS. His focus is on publicizing the impact that graduate and professional students have on the state of Iowa. One way he is accomplishing this is through the creation of seven videos, focusing on the different colleges at Iowa. The videos will highlight how students are using their public education to give back to the state, country, and world.

Throughout Michael's involvement with graduate and professional student government he has focused on highlighting the impacts that graduate and professional students have on the state of Iowa. Michael is looking forward to doing the same for the graduate and professional students in the Midwest Region.

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**Zachary Brooks**  
Western Regional Chair

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 Chair of 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.



**Matt Cooper**  
Immediate Past President

As Immediate Past President and member of the NAGPS Advisory Board, Matt provides strategic guidance to the current Board of Directors and facilitates the transition of knowledge and organizational history from the prior leadership team while serving as a non-voting member of the 2013 Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

During his term as President and CEO, membership grew by 25%, two new training and leadership development events were introduced (Graduate Leadership Summit and the expanded Advocacy Summit), the organization was featured in major news outlets and international organizations (including the Washington Post and the World Bank), and the NAGPS brand and identity were updated as the organization passed its 25th year of operation to reflect the next chapter in our history.

Prior to serving as President and CEO, Matt served as Director of Relations for the Association, developing strategic alliances with corporate, philanthropic, and legislative partners and overhauling the Association's corporate sponsorship program to better reach new sponsors.

Matt also works as a higher education analyst focusing on university fiscal management, student retention, and advancement. He currently serves as an Analysis and Special Projects Fellow in the Office of the President at the University of North Texas, where he provides quantitative analysis for enterprise-level data-based initiatives.

In addition to public and not-for-profit service, Matt specializes in predictive analytics, econometric forecasting, behavioral modeling, statistical fraud detection, and managerial cost accounting, and has led data-based initiatives for banks, financial services firms, and management consultancies in the Dallas, TX area.

A native of Canyon, TX, Matt holds a bachelors degree in Psychology and Economics from Sam Houston State University, and an MBA and MS from the University of North Texas specializing in Decision Sciences and Managerial Accounting.

# Advisory Board

## **Dr. Adam Fagen (Chair)**

Adam P. Fagen, Ph.D., is executive director of the Genetics Society of America (GSA), serving as chief executive officer for an independent non-profit membership organization with more than 5,000 members throughout the United States and around the world. In this role, Dr. Fagen provides strategic leadership for all society activities and works with an elected Board of Directors to set organizational priorities and budgets. GSA has a deep commitment to the next generation of researchers and educators, and more than half of the Society's members are students and postdocs.

He was previously director of public affairs director for the American Society of Plant Biologists, where he led the society's activities in Congressional and government relations, education, communications, and outreach. Prior to assuming that role, he was senior program officer with the Board on Life Sciences at the National Academies where he directed National Research Council studies and meetings on a wide range of topics. Among the reports he directed were Bridges to Independence: Fostering the Independence of New Investigators in Biomedical Research (2005), Treating Infectious Diseases in a Microbial World (2006), Understanding Interventions that Encourage Minorities to Pursue Research Careers (2007), Inspired by Biology: From Molecules to Materials to Machines (2008), Transforming Agricultural Education for a Changing World (2009), Responsible Research with Biological Select Agents and Toxins (2009), Research at the Intersection of the Physical and Life Sciences (2010), and the 2007, 2008, and 2010 Amendments to the National Academies' Guidelines for Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research (2007, 2008, 2010). He also was the responsible staff officer for the National Academies Summer Institute on Undergraduate Education in Biology.

Before coming to the National Academies, Dr. Fagen was preceptor on molecular and cellular biology at Harvard University. He earned his Ph.D. in molecular biology and education from Harvard, working on issues related to undergraduate science courses; his research focused on mechanisms for assessing and enhancing introductory science courses in biology and physics to encourage student learning and conceptual understanding, including studies of active learning, classroom demonstrations, and student understanding of genetics vocabulary. He also received an A.M. in molecular and cellular biology from Harvard, based on laboratory research in molecular evolutionary genetics, and a B.A. from Swarthmore College with a double-major in biology and mathematics. Dr. Fagen was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow and Graduate Teaching Fellow in K-12 Teaching.

Dr. Fagen served as co-director of the 2000 National Doctoral Program Survey, an on-line assessment of doctoral programs organized by the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS), supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and completed by over 32,000 students. He was honored with two NAGPS President's Awards and the NAGPS Lifetime Achievement Award.

## **Dr. John Capece (Immediate Past Chair)**

Dr. John Capece serves as executive director of Alpha Epsilon Lambda (AEL), the national honor society of graduate students. He is an agricultural engineering Ph.D. graduate of University of Florida. John was a founding member of NAGPS in 1986 and its first elected Executive Director/President in 1989. He currently works as a water resources consultant under the name Southern DataStream focusing on agro-ecology, water quality and sustainable development in South Florida. John also serves as president of Intelligentsia International, a non-profit educational organization hosting university students for environmental and engineering internships. Intelligentsia was created as a spin-off of NAGPS international exchange projects with the former Soviet Union. During the past 10 years Intelligentsia has hosted 300 students and young professionals from 60 different nations.



# Advisory Board

## **Mr. Matt Cooper**

As Immediate Past President and member of the NAGPS Advisory Board, Matt provides strategic guidance to the current Board of Directors and facilitates the transition of knowledge and organizational history from the prior leadership team while serving as a non-voting member of the 2013 Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

During his term as President and CEO of NAGPS, Matt provided leadership and management of the Association and communicated the NAGPS vision and mission to members, partners, legislators and the public. Prior to serving as President and CEO, Matt served as Director of Relations for the Association, developing strategic alliances with corporate, philanthropic, and legislative partners and overhauling the Association's corporate sponsorship program to better reach new sponsors.

Matt also works as a higher education analyst focusing on university fiscal management, student retention, and advancement. He currently serves as an Analysis and Special Projects Fellow in the Office of the President at the University of North Texas, where he provides quantitative analysis for enterprise-level data-based initiatives.

In addition to public and not-for-profit service, Matt specializes in predictive analytics, econometric forecasting, behavioral modeling, statistical fraud detection, and managerial cost accounting, and has led data-based initiatives for banks, financial services firms, and management consultancies in the Dallas, TX area.

A native of Canyon, TX, Matt holds a bachelors degree in Psychology and Economics from Sam Houston State University, and an MBA and MS from the University of North Texas specializing in Decision Sciences and Managerial Accounting.

## **Mr. Jonathan Fansmith**

Jonathan S. Fansmith represents ACE and its members on matters related to the federal budget and appropriations process, focusing on student aid funding.

He serves on the Executive Committee of the Committee for Education Funding, a 100-member coalition of national education associations, and coordinates the efforts of the Student Aid Alliance, a coalition of over 80 higher education organizations. Fansmith also serves on the board of directors of the Foundation for Education Investment.

Fansmith earned a BA in history from Georgetown University and an MA in government from The Johns Hopkins University. He held positions in the academic and nonprofit sectors before joining ACE.

# Advisory Board

## **Dr. Jon Kowalski**

Dr. Jon Kowalski is a recent graduate of the Strategy, Entrepreneurship and Technological Change (SETChange) program within the department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. He also holds a B.A. from Kettering University in Electrical Engineering with a minor in Computer Engineering and an M.S. in Engineering and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University. His research interests include Firm and Industry Development of High-Tech Industries, Technological Business Strategy, Serial Entrepreneurs, Agglomerations through Spinoffs, and the Locus of Innovation in Developing Technologies.

During his term as President, Jon focused his efforts in three areas:

- Increasing the value of NAGPS membership to both organizations and individuals
- Decreasing the barriers of entry into NAGPS membership through developing member dues and profit sharing programs
- Strengthening the regional organizations and events

During his tenure, Jon led NAGPS as the organization increased membership, launched new communication initiatives such as the Podcast and Blog, strengthened its advocacy efforts both in DC and on campuses across the country, and further promoted Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week. Successful regional and national conferences as well as a full Board complement that was committed to serving graduate and professional students left the 2012 Board a strong organization to lead in the coming year. It is his hope that this year's Board of Directors will continue to build a stronger NAGPS for the future which can continue to work to increase the quality of life for graduate and professional students throughout the United States.

Prior to serving as NAGPS President & CEO, Jon served as the Director of Finance & CFO of NAGPS in 2010, working to implement new financial procedures in order to promote the long term fiscal stability of the organization. In 2009, he served as the Vice President of the NAGPS Northeast region and served the Carnegie Mellon University Graduate Student Assembly as the Vice President of External Affairs in 2010.

## **Dr. Suzie Laurich-McIntyre**

Dr. Suzie Laurich-McIntyre has been the Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education at Carnegie Mellon University since July 2005. In this role she supports graduate students, faculty and staff on graduate academic related issues and works with advancing policy and processes in support of graduate education. Her office also provides professional development programs, supports community building among student groups and is active in the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students into graduate school. Her prior position at Carnegie Mellon University was Director of Alumni and Student Relations in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering from 2003-2005.

Between 2002 and 2004 she worked with two national organizations known for their work in addressing under-representation in Science and Engineering – BEST (Building Engineering and Science Talent) Consortium and WEPAN (Women in Engineering Programs & Advocates Network). Between 1999 and 2001 she was Director of the Center for Women in Science and Engineering of the University of Washington in Seattle and from 1994 to 1999 Associate Director for Women in Engineering at the University of Washington. Laurich-McIntyre has experience in industrial research and engineering, as Director of Research, Pyromedia Inc., from 1991 to 1994, and Senior Project Engineer and Project Engineer at North American Refractories and Interpace Corporation from 1980 to 1984. Her B.S. in Ceramic Engineering and Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering are from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

# Advisory Board

Laurich-McIntyre served on the Board and as Director for Membership and Treasurer for WEPAN, Women in Engineering ProActive Network. She served on the Board and Finance and Audit Committee for Oak Ridge Associated Universities from 2007-2010. Past service includes being on the executive committee for the Global Engineering Education Program with IIE from 1999 to 2001 and on the executive committee for the Society of Women Engineers, SWE, Pittsburgh Section from 2003-2006. She continues to be active in SWE as the Counselor for the Carnegie Mellon SWE Chapter.

## **Dr. James Masterson**

James Robert Masterson is an Assistant Professor of Government at Morehead State University and Director of International Education. Dr. Masterson has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Cincinnati. His research focuses on international relations theory and research methodology with specialization on international political economy. His research interests include the international relations of East Asia in general and analyzing the nexus between Chinese foreign and economic relations with the world in particular. His publication in *China Information* examines the effects economic factors have on Chinese political relations with its neighbors from 1987-2001. His forthcoming book chapter in *Revolutionizing the Interaction between State and Citizens through Digital Communications* examines how the use of social media in China impacts government policy. Lastly, Dr. Masterson's co-published an article titled "Thirty Years of Growth in Kentucky's Prison Population and Spending: A Multi-causal Analysis" in the *Contemporary Journal of Anthropology and Sociology*. This research seeks to advance our understanding of the factors that contribute to the state's prison population growth and capital expenditures for state corrections. Professor Masterson teaches courses on International Relations Theory, Current World Problems, US Foreign Policy, Asian Politics and Comparative Politics.

## **Dr. Kevin McComber**

Kevin McComber received his Ph.D. in materials science and engineering at MIT, where he also did his undergraduate studies; his research concerned germanium crystal growth for applications in photonics. At MIT, Kevin was the Graduate Student Council (GSC) vice president, as well as an Activities Committee chair. He was also the chair of the Boston Graduate Leadership Organization (BGLO), a consortium of graduate student leaders from Boston-area schools.

Kevin now works as an engineer at Intel Corporation near Phoenix, Arizona.

## **Ms. Rosalind Moore**

Rosalind Moore is currently the Director of Graduate Student Services at The University of Alabama where she combines collaborative efforts, student involvement, and needs assessment to create programs and services that reach the diverse graduate student population. She also advises the Graduate Student Association, two graduate academic honoraries, and works collaboratively with Academic Affairs to provide a comprehensive and inclusive campus experience for graduate and professional students. Rosalind has an undergraduate degree from Jacksonville State University (Jacksonville, AL) in English and Political Science and also a master's degree in Counselor Education with an emphasis in College Student Personnel. She is currently working toward her Ph.D. in Instructional Leadership and Social and Cultural Foundations of Education at The University of Alabama. She also serves NASPA as the current Region III Representative for the Administrators in Graduate and Professional Student Services Knowledge Community.

# Advisory Board

## **Dr. Julia Mortyakova**

Julia Mortyakova, pianist, is the Chair of the Department of Music at the Mississippi University for Women. She previously served as Assistant Professor of Music at Alcorn State University. She holds a Doctorate from the University of Miami, a Master's from New York University (NYU), and a Bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University. Her dissertation topic is "Existential Piano Teacher: Applying the Philosophy of Jean-Paul Sartre to Piano Instruction in a Higher Educational Setting." She has performed recitals across the United States and abroad, and presented her various research interests at numerous conferences.

During her doctoral studies, Julia served two terms as the President of the University of Miami Graduate Student Association. She was also President of the Graduate Student Organization of the Steinhardt School of New York University during her Master's, and the President of the Blair School of Music Student Council of Vanderbilt University while pursuing her Bachelor's degree.

During her time as the 2009 NAGPS President & CEO, Julia has helped form new partnerships with organizations such as InDegree, ProQuest, Teach for America and Interfolio. Julia's goal has been to have more communication within the organization, as well as recruitment of new members and sponsorships. She is passionate about advocating for graduate students rights, and believes NAGPS is a community through which graduate students can bring attention to their research and contribution in their respective fields.

As Ex-Officio, Julia took on various projects: creating The Postgraduate Voice Spring 2010 issue, faxing letters to Congress on behalf of NAGPS, working with the NAGPS President to form the NAGPS Alliance and write a grant inquiry, facilitating the Fall 2010 Legislative Action Days and lobby training, and helping out in other areas of the organization as needed. She previously served as the Public Relations Chair of NAGPS.

## **Dr. Liz Olson**

Dr. Olson is an active teacher, researcher and social advocate. She earned her doctorate degree in Anthropology from Case Western Reserve University in 2009, and is currently Assistant Professor of Global Health and Development in the Department of Environmental Science at Allegheny College (Meadville, Pennsylvania). She has conducted fieldwork in the USA, Western Europe, Mexico and Bolivia. Her doctorate research tackled questions about the constitution and distribution of indigenous ethnobotanical knowledge in west-central Mexico. She has used a blend of qualitative and quantitative approaches to study traditional ecological knowledge of medicinal plants and relate it to the processes of community development and community-based conservation. Her new book, "Indigenous Knowledge and Development: Livelihoods, health experiences and medicinal plant knowledge in a Mexican Biosphere Reserve," (Lexington Books, 04/2014) is based on the findings of her doctoral research. Currently, her research agenda is focused on the role of botanical knowledge in ethnomedical systems in Western Europe, the USA and Mexico. Liz is also very engaged in food and health sovereignty movements which she integrates in many of her classroom-based projects at Allegheny College.

Liz currently serves on the Editorial Board of Ethnobiology Letters and is the Awards Coordinator for the Society of Ethnobiology. In the past, she has served as the President of the Graduate Student Senate at Case Western Reserve University, and the President of the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students. In her spare time, Olson enjoys competing in marathons and birding – both in Mexico and across Mexico and the USA – with her son Gabriel.

# Advisory Board

## **Mr. Eli Paster**

Eli is a PhD candidate in Mechanical Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He holds an M.S. from MIT in the same field, and a B.S. from the University of Colorado at Boulder. His research focuses on the development of novel chemical analysis instrumentation that utilizes stochastic system identification techniques to extract rapid, high-accuracy results from noisy environments. He holds several US patents and is the co-author of several scientific journal and conference publications.

Eli has been involved in a variety student government and policy organizations while attending MIT, serving previously as a Graduate Student Council Representative, Advising Analyst, and Chair of the Advising Initiative Subcommittee.

As the 2012 NAGPS Legislative Concerns Chair, Eli led the AVOIDtheFiscalCliff video campaign which resulted in nearly 1,000 graduate and professional students' signatures on a petition to Congress. His voice and vision for strategic, effective communications provides the Advisory Board with insight for how to guide the Association.

## **Mr. Nick Repak**

Nick Repak started Grad Resources in 1990 after commissioning a National Study on the Lifestyle of Graduate Students through Barna Research Group. He currently assists grad community groups on 65 campuses.

## **Dave Zook, Esq.**

Dave Zook is an advisor to the private and public sectors on federal budgetary, legislative and regulatory matters. His legal practice focuses on public policy and funding initiatives in the health, higher education and research arenas. In addition to serving as the managing partner of Faegre Baker Daniels' Washington, D.C. office, Dave is chair of the law firm's consulting division, FaegreBD Consulting, where he leads the development of interdisciplinary, sector-focused services.

Dave has a two-decade record of client accomplishments with Congress and the Executive Branch. He has directed complex federal relations initiatives for private sector companies, trade and voluntary associations, hospitals, universities and local governments. Several of those projects have involved building and operating nationwide coalitions.

Dave's background includes serving as associate counsel to the U.S. House Appropriations Committee where he focused on energy research and nuclear defense matters across the National Labs. Dave also worked in legislative and communications positions for two members of Congress. Later, he served as a senior executive of a national health organization where he established a public policy group.



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# 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



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