

~ GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION ~  
GSA Weekly - March 3rd, 2009  
[www.miami.edu/gsa](http://www.miami.edu/gsa)

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**Graduating in Spring, Summer I or Summer? Don't forget to apply online!**

The deadline for all eligible students to apply to graduate and participate in spring commencement is Friday, March 6, 2009. You can register online with myUM at [www.myum.miami.edu](http://www.myum.miami.edu)

Students who are scheduled to complete their degree requirements this May, Summer I or Summer II must apply by the March 6 deadline to order cap and gown and be included in the commencement program.

Note: For more information regarding graduate eligibility, visit the Office of the Registrar's Web page [www.miami.edu/registrar](http://www.miami.edu/registrar)

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**GAFAC Has Your Back!**

The Graduate Activity Fee Allocation Committee (GAFAC) is helping graduate students get conference funding even more in response to the economic crisis. GAFAC increased the maximum funding allocations from \$300 to \$400. To make funds more accessible to graduate students, GAFAC eliminated its provision of being the funding of last resort, making applying for funds easier. Finally, GAFAC streamlined the funding notification process, notifying students of all funding allocation decisions within two days of presenting to GAFAC. For more information on how you could get GAFAC funding, visit [www.miami.edu/gafac](http://www.miami.edu/gafac).

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**GSA Presidential Results Are In!**

Congratulations to our new GSA President-Elect!  
Congratulations to Mechelle Francis, who was elected to serve as the GSA President for the 2009-2010 academic year.

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**GSA Elections: Still Time to Run**

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is announcing elections for Executive Board positions. The election for the positions of Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Media Relations and Webmaster will be on March 23rd. If interested in running for any of these positions, please e-mail a 250 word statement about why you would be a good candidate for a particular position to Mechelle at [tmfrancis@miami.edu](mailto:tmfrancis@miami.edu) by March 13th for all other positions.

**Vice President:** As GSA's Vice President, Mechelle assumes the President's duties in her absence and assist the President in the performance of her duties. She coordinates the departmental/program elections, and appointments of the GSA Senators. Mechelle serves as the Events & Lectures Committee chairperson. She also maintains the official roster of all Senators and takes attendance at all GSA Senate meetings. If you are interested in running for Vice President, but have questions regarding the position, please talk to Mechelle...or email her at [tmfrancis@miami.edu](mailto:tmfrancis@miami.edu) with any questions.

**Secretary:** As GSA's Secretary, Val records the official minutes

of all meetings of the Graduate Student Association, including Senate and Executive Board meetings. The Secretary also assists with supervising the GSA work-study student(s) and represents the GSA at all official and social activities and events. If you are interested in running for Secretary but have questions regarding the position, please talk to Val...or email him at [valybogdan@yahoo.com](mailto:valybogdan@yahoo.com) with any questions.

**Treasurer:** As GSA's Treasurer, Joe prepares a budget for fall and spring semesters. He reimburses all expenses and deals with paying invoices. A report should be made with all expenses listed. He reports to the Senate and E-board in regard to budgetary issues. You do not have to be an accounting major to do this position! If you are interested in running for Treasurer, but have questions regarding the position, please talk to Joe...or email him at [jcepstein1@hotmail.com](mailto:jcepstein1@hotmail.com) with any questions.

**Parliamentarian:** As GSA's Parliamentarian, John serves as an advisor to the president regarding the constitutionality of all questions arising in the senate and e-board meetings and makes sure that the meetings are conducted according to the Robert's rules of order. He conducts the annual review of the GSA constitution and drafts and distributes all appropriate resolutions approved by the Senate to perform additional duties assigned by the president. If you are interested in running for Parliamentarian, but have questions regarding the position, please talk to John...or email him at [john@bio.miami.edu](mailto:john@bio.miami.edu) with any questions.

**Media Relations:** As GSA's Media Relations, Ben puts together the GSA Weekly and maintains the Grad Student Facebook page to get the word out about different events throughout the graduate school. He coordinates with our work study student to make banners and flyers to publicize our different events. He takes pictures at the different events which gives him a good excuse to meet and greet everyone! :) If you are interested in running for Media Relations, but have questions regarding the position, please talk to Ben...or email him at [benburgis@gmail.com](mailto:benburgis@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Webmaster:** As GSA's Webmaster, Janet maintains the GSA website, adding/updating content as well as enhancing the web layout constantly to provide the web visitors with a rich viewing experience. She also acts as a technology officer bringing new technologies to the E-Board table and applying them (which includes but is not limited to drafting, designing, developing

and deploying software packages) in creative ways that facilitate GSA's activities. She is the "Go-to person" for any computer technology related question. If you are interested in running for Webmaster, but have questions regarding the position, please talk to Janet...or email her at [jgenz@rsmas.miami.edu](mailto:jgenz@rsmas.miami.edu) with any questions.

**Other Activities with the Exec Board:** The Exec Board meets bi-weekly during the weeks that there is no senate meeting, in addition to attending the senate meetings. E-Board members also represent the GSA by serving on various committees within the University and within the GSA, including GAFAC, Insurance, Master Planning and Construction, Academic Affairs, and Student Affairs. Finally, the GSA Exec Board also works together to help organize happy hour events, pizza nights, sporting events, community service projects, and other networking opportunities for graduate students.

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**Directed Independent Language Study Program (DILS)**

Directed Independent Language Study Program (DILS) is beginning to accept applications for fall 09 language study!

The purpose of DILS is to allow students at UM to study languages not offered in the curriculum. The Program is demand driven; students have the opportunity to request languages they need for their academic work, for research, for study or internships abroad. DILS is not a credit bearing program, but a notation will be made on their transcripts as evidence of language study in DILS. I would like to point out that although DILS is primarily an oral communicative program, graduate students whose primary interest is to acquire reading and writing skills, should also apply.

Students have to apply the semester that proceeds the semester when they intend to study a language. For the current semester, we received applications for the following languages: Colloquial Arabic (Levantine and Moroccan), Haitian Creole, Hindi, Russian and Swedish. Students can request additional languages as long as they have some bearing on their studies and research.

Application deadline for fall 2009 study is May 1. Application forms are available on the DILS website.

For detailed information about DILS students should consult the DILS website about Program objectives, policies and structure ([www.as.miami.edu/dils/](http://www.as.miami.edu/dils/)).

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**Recyclemania**

**Jan. 18 - Mar. 28**

University of Miami is taking part in Recyclemania a friendly competition among college and university recycling programs in the United States that provides campus communities with a fun, proactive activity in waste reduction. During the ten-week competition UM will compete against 200 other colleges and universities around the country to see which institution can collect the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, and accrue the highest recycling rate. The goals of this program will greatly contribute to our waste reduction efforts in the new Recycle Program. So help the university do its part and increase recycling as we roll out our new exciting recycle plan! Together we can reduce landfill waste and make the University of Miami a "greener place".

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**Graduate Research Supplemental Fund**

Applications for the Graduate Research Supplemental Fund are no longer accepted at this time

We are no longer accepting applications for the Graduate Research Supplemental Fund at this time. If you have questions or concerns, please contact John, parliamentarian, at [john@bio.miami.edu](mailto:john@bio.miami.edu).

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**Pizza Social**

**Mar. 9; 5:00-6:30 pm**

GSA pizza social next to the GSA office! The office is located at 1541 Brescia Ave and is in front of University Village. Have some free pizza, enjoy live entertainment, and see the GSA

office and the services we offer there. Afterwards, head over with grad students to Titanic to enjoy their happy hour for the night.

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**Grad Student Appreciation Week**

**Apr. 6-10**

Grad Student Appreciation Week

If you have any announcements for the Weekly, please send them to [gsa@miami.edu](mailto:gsa@miami.edu). GSA Weekly submissions are due by 5pm on Sundays.