

~ GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION ~
GSA Weekly - March 10, 2009
www.miami.edu/gsa

In This Issue:

- We Loved Having You Over!
- Learn How to Help a Friend In Need
- GAFAC Has Your Back
- GSA Elections
- Directed Independent Language Study Program (DILS)
- Recyclemania
- Graduate Research Supplemental Fund
- Grad Student Appreciation Week

~~~~~  
**We Loved Having You Over!**

The Graduate Student Association E-Board would like to thank all graduate students who came out on Monday to our Pizza Social. Along with the pizza and the entertainment, we hope you enjoyed checking out the GSA office area. Remember, printing, faxing, copying, and scanning can be done in the GSA office. To do so, just check our website for office hours. [www.miami.edu/gsa](http://www.miami.edu/gsa)

It was great to see all of you and we hope to see you again at upcoming events.

Also, a big thanks goes out to Natalie York and Cat 5 Music Publishing for the great musical entertainment.

~~~~~

Learn How to Help a Friend In Need!

The Counseling Center will be presenting a 1 hour suicide prevention training on March 25, 2009 in the UC room 241 from 11:30am - 1:30pm. This is an opportunity for students to learn ways to reach out and respond appropriately to others in distress, by learning the warning signs of suicide and the QPR three step method for intervening. The Counseling Center will have free pizza and refreshments to all who attend and participants will receive a QPR Gatekeeper Certificate. This technique is nationally recognized and campuses around the country are implementing "gatekeeper" trainings to students and staff.

Spaces are limited and will fill up quickly. Call Patricia at the Counseling Center at (305) 284-5511 to reserve a spot by 3/24/09.

~~~~~

**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).

~~~~~

GSA Elections: Still Time to Run for Other E-Board Positions

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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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.

~~~~~

### **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/)).

~~~~~

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".

~~~~~

### **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).

~~~~~

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. GSA Weekly submissions are due by 5pm on Sundays.