GSA Annual Spring Bar-B-Que!

Free food!
When? Wednesday, April 8 from 12:00 to 1:30 pm
Where? Whitten University Center (UC) Patio

GSA will celebrate Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week (April 6-10) with the Annual Spring Bar-B-Que. All graduate students from all UM campuses, excluding law and medical students, are invited for free food and beverages provided by Dixie Catering. A Miami-Dade County proclamation celebrating the contributions of graduate and professional students will also be presented at the bar-b-que.

For more information about the bar-b-que and Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week, e-mail gsa@miami.edu.
Participate in Earth Hour 2009

At 8:30 p.m. on March 28, 2009, millions of people will demonstrate concern for the impact of climate change on our planet by turning out their lights for one hour. Earth Hour reminds us that we all have a role to play in fighting anthropogenic climate change.

As a flagship campus, the University of Miami will join the cities of Miami, Coral Gables, cities around the world, and hundreds of other college campuses by participating in Earth Hour, a worldwide effort to raise awareness of global warming. This voluntary initiative asks businesses, communities, and individuals to take simple steps to reduce energy consumption on an ongoing basis by shutting off lights for one hour, starting at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 28. UM buildings like the Clinical Research Building on the Medical Campus, is one of many that will be able to participate.

Visit www.EarthHourUS.org to learn more about Earth Hour 2009

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Interested in Academia?

Learn what it takes to be successful during your on-campus interview. Meet with University of Miami faculty as they share their experiences on the job talk process.

Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2009
Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30pm
Location: Toppel Career Center Library

Please reserve your seat! RSVP by Monday March 23rd to Edward Cruz at ecruz2@miami.edu.

**Business Casual Dress**

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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.

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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.

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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/).

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