

~ GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION ~
GSA Weekly - March 30, 2009
www.miami.edu/gsa

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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.

Join RSMAS in Cleaning Our Local Beaches

Want to help clean up our local beaches? The Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) will be organizing a beach cleanup as part of Miami-Dade County's Baynanza event, a

countywide beach cleanup. Graduate students are welcomed to join the RSMAS team in keeping our beaches beautiful. For location information and to sign up for the event, please contact Ian Zink at izink@rsmas.miami.edu.

When? Saturday, April 18, all day

Where? RSMAS campus and Virginia Key

This event is part of UM Earth Week's series of events.

Nominate a worthy student today!

The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs is soliciting nominations for students graduating this May and participating in Commencement to be recognized at the May 2009 commencement ceremonies. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs is looking for graduates who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following areas:

Scholarship, Citizenship, Leadership and Character, Athletics, Unique Story, or Accomplishment.

For more information and to download the Student Profile nomination packet, visit www.miami.edu/commencement or call (305) 284-1821. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, April 1 at 5:00 p.m. in room 21-T or electronically to commencement@miami.edu.

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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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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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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.