
To: Brenda Brand, Office of the Secretary
From: Andrew J. Rennekamp, GAPSA Chair
Date: October 16, 2008
Re: GAPSA University Council Status Report for October 22, 2008

GAPSA Participates in Public Safety Video (Fall 2008)

GAPSA participated in the filming of the new Penn “Safety and Security” video produced by the Department of Public Safety. Unveiled this semester, the new video was made with input from members of the GAPSA Executive Board and includes interview clips with GAPSA Vice Chair for Student Life Nikki Thorpe. The video can be found on the Department of Public Safety website: http://www.publicsafety.upenn.edu/Videos_safety.asp

Orientation for GAPSA Appointees to University-wide Committees (September 17, 2008)

GAPSA, for the first time, hosted an orientation event for the graduate and professional student appointees to the more than 35 university-wide committees at Penn. The event was well attended and provided the appointees with an opportunity to learn more about the structure of the University and their role as representatives of the student body and of the Assembly. The event was held in Claudia Cohen Auditorium and included presentations by the GAPSA Executive Board and the Director and Assistant Director of the Graduate Student Center, Anita Mastroieni and DeAnna Cheung. A complete list of all GAPSA appointees to University committees can be found on the GAPSA website: <http://www.gapsa.upenn.edu/introduction/membership>

Annual GAPSA “Moshulu” Event (September 25, 2008)

GAPSA hosted an annual favorite – the “Moshulu” social event aboard the largest four-masted sailing ship in the world still afloat. Despite some wet weather this year, about 300 graduate and professional students meet aboard the Moshulu, docked right here in Philadelphia on the Delaware River, for an enjoyable time of socializing, good food, drink, dancing and music.

GAPSA cheers the “Phillies” to their Division Championship win! (September 27, 2008)

With uncanny predictive powers, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly reserved 300 tickets for students to attend what became the exciting ninth-inning, National League East Division-clinching win for the Philadelphia Phillies against the Washington Nationals at Citizen’s Bank Park on Saturday, September 27th at 3:55pm. Students enjoyed subsidized tickets, which included entrance and seats for the 4-3 win, and \$10 food vouchers.

GAPSA Student Programs (Fall 2008)

In addition to those big events, GAPSA also organized smaller activities for graduate and professional students and their families. In September and October, GAPSA provided subsidized ticketing for two “Schuylkill River Kayak” tours, a trip to the “Eastern State Penitentiary”

Haunted House, and a trip to “Linvilla Orchards” in Media, Pennsylvania for pumpkin and apple picking, a hayride and a bonfire. Each of these events quickly sold out and provided participants with the opportunity to meet other students from across the University while exploring different parts of our city and surrounding region. A list of upcoming events for graduate and professional student can be found on the GAPSA website: <http://www.gapsa.upenn.edu/engage/events>

GAPSA-Provost Award Poster Session and Reception (October 1, 2008)

GAPSA Chair Andrew Rennekamp and Provost Ron Daniels congratulated the 6 individual and team recipients of the GAPSA-Provost Award for Interdisciplinary Innovation at a poster session and reception held at the Graduate Student Center. The award was given to graduate and professional students from 7 different Penn schools and included a \$6,000 summer fellowship. The event provided a venue for the recipients to present their work and receive feedback from the Penn academic community. More information about the 2008 recipients and other GAPSA funding opportunities can be found online: <http://www.gapsa.upenn.edu/engage/funding>

General Assembly Teambuilding at the “Philly School of Circus Arts” (October 4, 2008)

The GAPSA General Assembly, comprised of 47 representatives to GAPSA from each of the 12 graduate and professional schools, went on an outing to the “Philadelphia School of Circus Arts,” located in the Germantown section of the city. At the school, Assembly members were treated to a private performance of professional aerial acrobats and then given the opportunity to participate in challenging rope climbs, trapeze swings, tight-wire balancing and team-juggling while at the same time learning skills of cooperation, trust, leadership and collective motivation. Pictures from the event are online: <http://www.gapsa.upenn.edu/gapsa-photos-page>

GAPSA Special Election (October 8, 2008)

The General Assembly elected two new members to the GAPSA Executive Board at its third regularly scheduled meeting of the year. The positions had been vacant after the resignation of two board members over the summer. The newly elected members are:

Vice Chair for International Affairs, Omar Khan (SEAS, MSE)

Vice Chair for Research Students Jonathan M. Lukens (SP2/Medicine, PhD/MPH)

A complete list of all students involved in GAPSA can be found on the website: <http://www.gapsa.upenn.edu/introduction/membership>

School Government Leaders Reception (October 15, 2008)

The GASPA Executive Board hosted a wine and cheese reception for the heads of student government from each of the 12 graduate and professional schools. The event was held at 7:30pm in the Golkin Room of Houston Hall, and offered student leaders the opportunity to share ideas with one another, set up collaborations and meet the GAPSA Executive Board.

GAPSA Deputy Vice Chairs (2008-2009)

Deputy Vice Chair for Communications: Jill Varriale (Dental, DMD)
Deputy Vice Chair for Equity and Access: Pratibha Bajaj (Wharton, MBA)
Deputy Vice Chair for Finance: Gaby Wong (Medicine, PhD)
Deputy Vice Chair for Operations: Matthew Sones (Dental, DMD)
Deputy Vice Chair for Research Students: Leslie Ward (SAS, PhD)
Deputy Vice Chair for Social Activities: Tim Shokair (SAS, PhD)
Deputy Vice Chair for Student Life: Pierre Gooding (Law, JD)
Deputy Vice Chair for Student Programs: Dukyoung Lee (Design, MArch)
Deputy Vice Chair for Student Programs: Stephanie Wujcik (Education, MSEd)

Heads of School Student Governments (2008-2009)

Annenberg Graduate Student Council: Adrienne Shaw (Council Member)
School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Government (SASgov): Caroline Bishop (President)
School of Dental Medicine Executive Student Council: Thomas (TJ) Filip (President)
Penn Design Student Council: Janine Sutton (President)
Graduate School of Education Student Government (GSESG): Clarisse Haxton (Interim President)
Graduate Student Engineering Group (GSEG): Jessamine Winer (President)
Law School Council of Student Representatives: Rachel Vigneaux (President)
Biomedical Graduate Student Association (BGSA): Ashley Goss (Chair)
Medical Student Government (MSG): Jason Lott (President)
Nursing Doctoral Student Organization (NDSO): Houry Puzantian (Chair)
Nursing Graduate Student Organization (NGSO): Robin Weingarten (Chair)
School of Social Policy and Practice Student Council: Saida Agostini (President)
Penn Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA): Dawn Fiedorczyk (President)
Wharton Graduate Association: Joanne Liu (President)

Links to the School Student Government websites can be found on the GAPSA website:

<http://www.gapsa.upenn.edu/links/school-governments>