September 2009

GSU Concession Stand for Washington game (10/3)
The GSU Concession Stand will be held on Saturday, October 3rd and is in need of volunteer help, especially from noon until 3pm. Volunteers working a two-hour shift will receive a free T-shirt, and volunteers that work a four-hour shift will receive a free T-shirt and a $25 gift card to Target. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Janice Kenney (gsu+social2@nd.edu) or Ellen Childs (gsu+social1@nd.edu).

All graduate students are reminded that food at the concession stand is free for graduate students, their spouses and children, provided appropriate ID (for student and spouse) is provided. Please come by!

Library Renovations
The GSU has an opportunity to give input on the ongoing library renovation project as well as the need for improved library research resources. If you have any feedback, please e-mail it to the following three people by Monday, September 14th as they are facing deadlines to report back to their committees: Carrie Rodak, GSU Co-Vice President and GSU representative to the Faculty Senate (gsu+vp1@nd.edu); Kasey Swanke, GSU Academic Affairs Chair and Library Committee representative (gsu+aac@nd.edu); Lauren Whitnah, GSU Library Renovations Committee representative (lwhitnah@nd.edu)

Graduate Research Symposium
The second Graduate Research Symposium will be held on January 22, 2010 from 2:30-4:30pm in the Grand Hall of the Jordan Hall of Science. The deadline for abstract submissions is October 21, 2009 at 11:59pm. Seven to eight abstracts will be accepted from each of the four divisions of the graduate school (Engineering, Humanities, Sciences, and Social Sciences) for the January poster presentation. First place poster presentations in each division will receive a $500 prize and second place will receive a $100 prize. Details about abstract submission guidelines will be coming on the Listserv very soon.

DVD Rental
Graduate students are able to rent DVDs from the undergraduate Student Government. For complete information about the rental program, refer to the Student Government website (http://www.nd.edu/~dvds/).

Spousal Flu Shots
Spousal flu shots will be offered Monday, September 14th from 5:30-7:30pm on the 3rd floor of St. Liam Hall. Graduate students must pick up a voucher for their spouse from the Graduate School (502 Main Building) in advance. Please remember to bring IDs both for picking up the
vouchers and when getting the shots. Shots for students will offered from September 22-24. The GSU is currently waiting for more information on that from the Graduate school.

**Coupon Booklets**
Undergraduate student government is selling off-campus discount booklets for $5 at the LaFortune box office. The discount booklets include great deals at numerous local businesses, but the coupons expire on December 30, 2009 so should be purchased soon.

**Health Insurance**
The deadline to opt out of health insurance or to add the optional dental policy is September 14th. Students with questions about the new health insurance policy should refer to the University Health Services website (http://uhs.nd.edu/insurance-billing/notre-dame-student-insurance-plan). If there are difficulties with the insurance, the contact person is Connie Morrow (cmorrow@nd.edu).

**GSU Listserv**
Not all first-year graduate students were automatically added to the GSU listserv list this year due to some technical issues. If students are not receiving the e-mails and are interested in doing so, they (or their department representative) may contact Nathaniel Hollingsworth, the GSU Electronic Resources Administrator (gsu+erc@nd.edu).
October 2009

Graduate Research Symposium
Abstract submission for the second annual Graduate Research Symposium is now open. Flyers have been posted as well as letters sent to the Directors of Graduate Studies requesting graduate student submissions. This event provides graduate students with an opportunity to showcase excellent research to the Notre Dame community and to compete for a presentation award which provides not only a line on the CV, but also a generous cash prize. There will be 1st ($500) and 2nd ($100) place prizes awarded in each of the four divisions (Engineering, Humanities, Science, and Social Science). Abstracts are due by October 25, 2009 at 11:59pm. Visit http://www.gsu.nd.edu/?q=symposium for complete submission guidelines. The Symposium is scheduled for Friday, January 22, 2010 from 2:30-4:30pm in the Jordan Hall of Science.

Annual Halloween Party
The annual Halloween party is scheduled for Friday, October 30th from 10pm to 2am. It will be held in a heated tent in the quad between the Hesburgh Library and Notre Dame Stadium and free food will be provided. Prizes will be awarded for costumes in the following categories: best individual, best group, best couple, most original, scariest.

Notre Dame Family Policy Concerns
If you have specific concerns about Notre Dame’s family policies, especially related to maternity leave and the impact of ND family policies on student time to degree and attrition, please e-mail Amber Handy (ahandy@nd.edu), Andrew Bramsen (gsu+pres@nd.edu) and Victoria Froude (gsu+vp2@nd.edu), as all are sitting on committees that will be considering these concerns.

Library Renovations
If you have any suggestions or questions about the library renovation process, please contact Lauren Whitnah (lwhitnah@nd.edu). Currently, the process is proceeding slowly due to funding issues and construction is not expected to begin until at least the summer of 2011.

Married Student Retreat
A married students retreat is being planned by Michael Driessen (Quality of Life chair) in cooperation with the University Village. The tentative plan is to hold the event at the end of November or the beginning of December. Details will be on the GSU listserv as they become available.

Traffic Appeals
Every student gets one “warning” ticket each academic year, which starts at the beginning of the Fall term. After that, fines are assessed for parking illegally. If you have any questions regarding the ticket process or the appeal process, please contact Michael Driessen (gsu+qlc@nd.edu).

Health Events Information
The blood drive was been moved from November 16th to November 11th. The drive will be held in the Lafortune Ballroom. The H1N1 vaccine will be released at the end of October. For a priority list of who will receive the shot, please refer to the Center for Disease Control’s website (www.cdc.gov/).
**Football Ticket Exchange Lottery Dates**
Ticket lotteries are held in Montgomery Auditorium (across from Starbucks in LaFortune). The dates for the remaining lotteries are:
--Navy (Monday, Oct. 26)
--UConn (Monday, Nov. 9)

**GSU Listserv**
If you would like to be added to the GSU listserv, please email Nathaniel Hollingsworth (nholling@nd.edu).
November 2009

Graduate Student Life Survey
The Graduate Student Life Survey should have been e-mailed to all graduate students (information can be found at http://research.zarca.com/k/QsWRQUsXsQQVSTTTRPsP). The more data that is collected, the more accurately and efficiently the Committee can address graduate student life concerns so we strongly encourage you to take this. It does take about 30 minutes, but it can be done in more than one session if needed, so be aware of that option. Thanks for your help!

Married Couples Dinner and Reflection
The GSU, Office of Campus Ministry and University Village are sponsoring an evening for married graduate student couples (e.g. at least one of the two is a graduate student) to mingle and reflect on their family’s future in Academia on Friday, December 11th from 6-9pm at the Hospitality room in the South Dining Hall. The evening will include a social with hors d’oeuvres and a formal dinner. Over coffee and dessert Professor Nicole and Associate Dean Rick Garnett, from the Notre Dame Law School, will offer a short reflection on their experience balancing their faith and family life during their time in academia

There is a registration cost of $20 per couple (through Campus Ministries) that will be refunded the night of the dinner. Interested couples can register either in the Campus Ministry Office, 114 Coleman-Morse or at the Village Office. The registration deadline is November 25th (the Wednesday before Thanksgiving). There is a limit of 45 couples, so register soon! For any questions, feel free to contact either Michael Driessen (GSU) at mdriesse@nd.edu, Rachel Hurst (the Village) at rhurst@nd.edu or Darrell Paulsen (Campus Ministry) at Darrell.R.Paulsen.1@nd.edu

Salvation Army Service Program
Salvation Army’s Adopt-A-Family program. If you would like further information about the program, detailed information can be found on the GSU website at http://www.gsu.nd.edu/?q=node/1539.

Concerns about Computer Resources on Campus?
He added that OIT is interested in learning what complaints and requests graduate students have about campus computer resources. If you have any suggestions for improvements, please contact the GSU Electronic Resources Administrator at gsu+erc@nd.edu.

Cooking Classes on Campus
The Executive Chef on campus has opened up a 7th culinary class for graduate students only. These classes are free to Notre Dame students. The class is scheduled for December 9th from 6:30-9:30 in the test kitchen, and has a 12 person capacity. If you are interested in seeing the menu, visit http://food.nd.edu/nutrition/culinary.html.

Thanksgiving Brunch
Thanksgiving Brunch tickets are now on sale at the LaFortune Box Office. Historically, they sell out quickly, so be sure to purchase your tickets early.
LaFortune Video Arcade Room
The video arcade room in the basement of LaFortune is being closed and renovated. The Student Center is currently taking suggestions for what should replace the arcade.
December 2009

GSU Symposium next month
The GSU Symposium will be held on January 22, 2010 from 2:30-4:30pm in the Jordan Hall of Science. Free food will be provided. Please come out and see some examples of the excellent research being done by our graduate student colleagues at Notre Dame. The research will be presented in an informal poster session, so you are welcome to stay for as short or long a period of time as you want. The presenters will be at their posters to answer questions and provide short descriptions of their research, but if you're in a hurry and want to do a quick walk-through to see the highlights of the research, you are also welcome to do that.

Social event at Legends in February
There is a social event planned at Legends on February 24th. This is still in the planning stages so if you have specific suggestions, feel free to contact Janice Kenney (gsu+social2@nd.edu) or Ellen Childs (gsu+social1@nd.edu). The exact time will be announced next semester.

Graduate Career Advisory Council (GCAC)
The GCAC is planning workshops targeted to graduate students at specific stages of their degree programs to highlight what is needed at each stage to be in a strong position when the time comes to hit the job market. If you have specific thoughts about workshops on this, please contact Ralf Bendlin, the GSU representative on the committee (rbendlin@nd.edu).

University Committee on Libraries (UCL)
UCL meetings are open to the public. They are generally held from 8-9:15am on the second Thursday of the month. If you wish to attend, contact Michele Wolff (mwolff@nd.edu) or Kasey Swanke (kswanke@nd.edu) for more information.

8th Annual GSU Charity Gala
Mark your calendars for the the Charity Gala, which will be held on Friday, April 16th at the Palais Royale in downtown South Bend. The local charity being supported is the Center for the Homeless, so please plan to come out and enjoy a wonderful evening of fun in support of a good cause. More details about the event will be forthcoming in the spring.

Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family Program
For information on providing gifts and/or food to needy families this holiday season, visit the GSU website at gsu.nd.edu. The deadline to participate in this program is December 18th.
February 2010

Haiti Relief
The GSU Council approved a donation of $1000 to Catholic Relief Services, in addition to the donation of $500 given immediately after the disaster occurred.

Family Issues
A committee consisting of three faculty and three students has been formed to recommend a new maternity/paternity policy to the university.

GSU Executive Committee Elections
Platforms to run for the GSU Executive Committee are due on Friday, March 26th by noon. Details are available at http://www.gsu.nd.edu/?q=node/1664.

GSU Logo Context
The GSU is holding a contest to develop a new GSU Logo with a $100 prize to the winner, so we encourage everyone to put in a submission! Guidelines and restrictions are available at http://www.gsu.nd.edu/?q=node/1672. The deadline to submit is March 15th at 5pm.

GSU Trivia Night (Wednesday, February 24th from 8-11pm)
Join us for a trivia night in the Legends Club Room with free appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages, a cash bar, and of course, prizes for the trivia winners!

Mid-Semester Coffee Break (Wednesday, March 17th from 2-4pm)
Come out for free coffee and a chance to socialize in the LaFortune Ballroom. Don’t forget to wear green!

Easter Brunch (Sunday, April 4th from 11:30am-3:30pm)
Tickets will go on sale for $5 at the LaFortune Box Office on March 1st. Children 5 years and younger are no charge. Doors to the South Dining Hall will open at 11:30am.

Charity Gala (April 16th)
Tickets for the Charity Gala will go on sale on March 1st at the LaFortune Box Office for $20 each or 2 for $35. Proceeds go to the South Bend Center for the Homeless. Please plan to come support a great cause and join us for a fun evening at the Palais Royale in downtown South Bend! Raffle tickets for a number of great prizes are available for purchase in the GSU office from 10am-2pm Monday-Friday. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Janice Kenney (jkenney2@nd.edu) or Ellen Childs (echchilds@nd.edu) for more information.

GSU Outstanding Teaching Awards
The deadline for nominations for the GSU Awards for Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher and Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant is on March 30th. Instructions are on the GSU website (http://www.gsu.nd.edu/?q=node/1673) and all guidelines must be strictly followed for applications to be eligible.
**Notification about Parking**
Notre Dame does not grant snow allowances for parking. If you park illegally, you have no grounds to appeal tickets regardless of how bad the weather was, so please act accordingly.

**Career Center**
The Career Center will soon be holding a Virtual Career Fair for graduate students.

**Quality of Life Survey**
Thanks to all who participated! Overall graduate student participation was at 50% and results are being put to good use. Contact Amber Handy (ahandy@nd.edu) or Allison Regier (aregier@nd.edu) for more details.

**Avenue Q at the Morris (Friday, April 23rd)**
Subsidized tickets will go on sale at the LaFortune Box Office on April 1st. The tickets are just $10 each for premium seats located on the first balcony, so get yours quickly!

**BikeFest (April 24th)**
If anyone is interested in helping out with this event, please contact Michael Driessen (gsu+qlc@nd.edu).
March 2010

Charity Gala
This will be held on April 16th from 7pm through midnight. Gala tickets are on sale at the LaFortune Box Office for $20 (or $35 for two) and raffle tickets are available for purchase at the GSU Office (Monday-Friday from 9am-2pm).

Outstanding Teaching Awards nominations
The deadline is on March 30th. See the GSU website for details on how to apply. You are certainly allowed to nominate yourself, so check it out!

Easter Brunch
Tickets are on sale now at the LaFortune Box Office for $5.

Presidential & Vice-Presidential Candidates
Petitions are due on Friday, March 26th. Completed petitions include 20 signatures by ND graduate students, candidates for all three positions and a platform. For more details, see the GSU website.

Notre Dame Relay for Life
Torrie Sleeper, ESTEEM Program representative, informed the Council that the Notre Dame Relay For Life will be held April 16th-17th in the Notre Dame Stadium. She encouraged every department representative to organize a departmental team to participate in the event. For more information about the Notre Dame Relay For Life, visit this website: 
http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=21331

Proposed Amendment to GSU Constitution
A vote to amend the GSU Constitution passed. Per the Constitution, a follow-up vote will be held at the April 8th GSU Council meeting. If the amendment passes a second time, it will be added to the GSU Constitution. The proposed amendment reads as follows: “The GSU does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, religion, gender, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, age, disability, military and veteran status, socioeconomic status, nor by any other means of distinction.” Please contact your department representatives if you have further questions about this amendment.

BikeFest
This event be held on Saturday, April 24th. More details will be forthcoming on the listserv as the event approaches. Anyone who is interested in volunteering to help out should contact with Michael Driessen (gsu+qlc@nd.edu).

Avenue Q
Tickets will go on sale in the LaFortune Box Office starting April 1st.

Cyberinfrastructure Days Conference
Scheduled for April 29-30th. Complete information can be found here at http://ci.nd.edu/.
**Lactation Rooms**
These brand new rooms are located at: Grace Hall B004, Hesburgh Library 500, and DeBartolo Hall 127. If you need access to these rooms, please go to: http://hr.nd.edu/work-life-balance/lactation-rooms/

**Chesterton Rhetoric Competition**
This event will be held on Wednesday, March 31st at 7pm in Andrews Auditorium, which is the basement of Geddes Hall. All are welcome to attend. The topic is “What is the Role of Beauty in the Academy?”

**GSU Blood Drive**
This is being held on Monday, April 12th from 11am-4pm in the LaFortune Ballroom.

**GSU Health & Wellness Fair**
This event is on Saturday, April 17th from 11am-2pm at the University Village. Free Jimmy Johns and prizes are available, so come out and join us!
April 2010

GSU Charity Gala
Tickets are on sale now in the LaFortune Box Office. Prices increase by $5 on Monday, April 12th. Raffle tickets are on sale in the GSU Office from Tuesday-Friday from noon-2pm and will be available for purchase at the Gala also. You do NOT have to be present at the Gala to win a raffle prize. All proceeds from raffle tickets and half of all ticket sales will benefit the South Bend Center for the Homeless. If you are interested in signing up for a 30-minute shift at the Gala, please contact Janice (jkenney2@nd.edu) and Ellen (echilds@nd.edu).

GSU Constitutional Amendment
The GSU passed the following amendment to its constitution at the April meeting: “The GSU does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, religion, gender, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, age, disability, military and veteran status, nor socioeconomic status.” This amendment will be added under “Article I: Membership” in the Constitution, pending passage at the next GSU Council meeting. While a version of this amendment was passed at the March meeting, it was amended at this meeting so has to pass once more to be formally added to the Constitution.

GSU Blood Drive
This will be held on Monday, April 12th in the LaFortune Ballroom from 11am-2pm. If you have question or want to volunteer, contact Amy Fagan (abacasto@nd.edu). Walk-ins are welcomed.

GSU Health & Wellness Fair
This event is at the University Village from 11am-2pm on Saturday, April 17th. The raffle grand prize is a Wii and Wii Fit, with a number of other raffle prizes available and free Jimmy Johns for all.

BikeFest
This event will be on Friday, April 23rd on the South Quad. More details will follow in the GSU listserv as the event approaches.

Notre Dame Family Friendly Petition
This petition is coming out of the theology department and focuses on improving family issues on campus, including parental leave policies, university childcare, and university health plans. If you wish to view and/or sign the petition, it is linked on the GSU website (http://www.gsu.nd.edu/?q=node/1720).

Sociology Department Resolution
The Sociology department put forward a resolution requesting that the Board of Trustees add “sexual orientation” to the University’s non-discrimination clause. The Council concurred with previous concerns on the issue and the resolution was defeated by a vote of 21 to 9. The GSU executive committee reminds all GSU members that if they do wish to sign a petition asking the university to add sexual orientation to the non-discrimination clause, there is a link for this on the GSU website (http://www.gsu.nd.edu/?q=node/1683).