Who are we?

Chelsie Romulo, President
Blake Klocke, Vice President
Lisa Schreffler, Treasurer
Elly Roland, Secretary
Rachel Golden Kroner, Student Representative
Casey Pehrson, Social Chair
Our goals

• Foster a sense of community

• Increase communication with faculty, the department, and the College of Science

• Advocate for graduate student interests and concerns

• Plan social and academic extracurricular activities for graduate students, faculty, and staff
Events

• ESP-GSA Happy Hours
  – Wednesday Sept 9 @ Fat Tuesdays
  – Thursday Oct 8th @ Coyote Grill
  – Monday Nov 2 @ The Auld Shebeen
  – Tuesday Dec 1 @ The Green Turtle

• Other events TBD (announcements will follow)

http://esp.gmu.edu/students/graduate-students/esp-gsa-club/

GMU ESP GSA
Travel Grants

• Up to $300 to attend conferences

• Applications are due October 1st, 2015 and April 1st, 2016

• Applicant must be an ESP-GSA member (dues paid) and attend at least one of our events

http://esp.gmu.edu/students/graduate-students/esp-gsa-club/
GSA membership

• Dues: $10 for semester, $20 for full year

• Access to travel grants

• Supporting student events

http://esp.gmu.edu/students/graduate-students/esp-gsa-club/

GMU ESP GSA
Graduate Handbook

- Environmental Science and Policy Department

Graduate Handbook:

Online at the GMU ESP GSA website

http://esp.gmu.edu/students/graduate-students/esp-gsa-club/
Graduate Handbook contents

- Graduate Policies
- Mason ID
- MyMason
- Textbooks
- Libraries
- Health Services
- Important Forms
- Student Organizations
- Financial Aid
- Teaching Assistanships
- Smithsonian Courses
- Transportation
- Housing
- Dining
Graduate Policies:
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area

• Students enrolled in a degree program may take graduate courses at another accredited institution and apply these credits to a master’s or doctoral degree with prior approval

• First semester students are not eligible for registration in this program

• A max. of 6 consortium credits can be taken

• George Mason Consortium students pay the George Mason tuition rate
Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation (SMSC) Courses

- Courses are 1-2 week intensive residential programs held throughout the year
- Offering 1-3 graduate credits
- At SCBI in Front Royal, Virginia

http://smconservation.gmu.edu/upcoming-courses/
Mason ID

- Free **Cue Bus** Rides
- Discounts and/or priority seating at specifies **Patriot Center events**
- **Library card** for GMU & the Washington Research Library Consortium
- Free entry into **Fitness Centers** on campus
- **Photo copying** and computer lab **printing**

& MORE...
Websites MyMason

• List of week’s events & announcements

• Access to:
  – Masonlive (e-mail)
  – Patriot Web (self-service)
  – Blackboard (class resources)

https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp
Websites

Patriot Web

• Independent webpage

• A self-service website for students
  – manage personal information
  – register for classes
  – view transcripts,
  – review charges & make payments
  – apply for and review status of financial aid

https://patriotweb.gmu.edu/
Websites
Blackboard

• A tool that allows faculty and teaching assistants to post class resources
  – readings
  – homework
  – class grades

• Not all professors use it
Environmental Science & Policy Website

– Abstracts
  • MS Theses
  • PhD Dissertations
– Forms and Policies
  • Forms
  • Guidelines
  • Important Dates
– Graduate Courses
– Graduate Programs

http://esp.gmu.edu/

...and more!!
Textbooks

• GMU bookstore
  – Buying or renting textbooks
  – Supplies
  – Clothing

• Library

• Other online providers
Libraries

• Two libraries on campus
  – Fenwick (north of campus center near the quad)
  – Johnson Center (JC), (second floor on the south side of the building)

• Website: http://library.gmu.edu/
Libraries
Liaison Librarian

• Collaborates with students and faculty, instructs classes, and provides one-on-one research assistance

• Kathy Butler, Librarian for Environmental Science & Policy
  – A244 Fenwick Library
Libraries
Thesis & Dissertation Service

• All thesis and dissertations have to be in a specific format

• Workshops are offered

• Sally Evans, University Dissertation & Thesis (UDTS) Services Coordinator
  – Fenwick Library, C203
Libraries

ZOTERO

- A citation management program (GMU’s version of Endnotes)

- It is strongly suggested that you start using and familiarizing yourself with Zotero now as you will be using it for your thesis or dissertation.

- Workshops are offered

  [http://www.zotero.org](http://www.zotero.org)
Important forms

• Environmental Science and Policy website under “Forms and Policies”:
  http://esp.gmu.edu/graduate/forms/index.html

• Registrar’s site:
  http://registrar.gmu.edu/forms/index.html
Sharon Bloomquist  
sbloomqu@gmu.edu

- ESP Graduate Programs Coordinator
- Office: David King 3039
- Invaluable resource!
- Advice:
  - Meet with her once/semester to verify paperwork, credits, progress in your program, etc.
Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA)

- A GMU wide group that attempts to unite graduate and professional students across the university

- The GAPSA website is very helpful for general information about this area, housing, transportation etc.

- Graduate Student Travel Fund ($50 - $1000)
  - New policies and award limits as of July 2015
  - [http://gstf.gmu.edu/](http://gstf.gmu.edu/)
Additional Information

• Funding Opportunities
  – Office of Research Development
  – Office of Graduate Fellowships
    • List of fellowship opportunities
    • Online database of fellowships

• Other Free Classes
  – Coursera
  – Khan Academy
Dining services
Choose to reuse

Food Vending Locations
- Food Court
- IndAroma
- Red Hot & Blue
- Mein Bowl
- Hot Spot
- Rathskeller
- Pilot House

Get your food in a Choose to Reuse container

Checkout
Membership card?
No - Pay for your food and a $7 Enrollment charge
Yes - Pay only for your food

Drop Off: Collection Point
No Broken/Cracked containers accepted
Exchange dirty container here:
- Food Court Express Store
- Rathskeller
- Pilot House

Upon Return, the cashier awards one Green Point to your Mason ID & You Get A New Membership Card

Repeat GREEN POINTS REWARDS
Get 20 or more Green Points and get FREE FOOD!!

Enjoy your food and empty the container
• Professional development opportunities for graduate students
• Free courses (competitive admission):
  – PROV601: navigating through grad school
  – PROV701: navigating the job search
• Offer other workshops and events throughout the year

http://ctfe.gmu.edu/
Writing Center

• **Weekly write-ins**
  – Fridays 9:30am to 1:00pm in the JC Library
  – A quiet space to focus on writing

• All day write-in
  – One Saturday during the Fall semester, TBD

• Writing Assistance/Tutoring services

[writingcenter.gmu.edu]
OSCAR

• OSCAR provides funds for undergraduate researchers to work with graduate researchers on a competitive basis

• See website for more details:

http://oscar.gmu.edu/
Open-Access publishing

- Mason offers an Open Access Publishing Fund to cover the costs of publishing in an open access journal
- Grad students are eligible
- Up to $3,000
- See stipulations on their website
Graduate Student Life

• Many workshops, events, opportunities for free food!

• Upcoming:
  – Workshops
    • Overcoming procrastination
    • Strategies for concentration
  – Gradstravaganza – tomorrow!
    • 3:30-5:00pm: Mini-Workshops in the Johnson Center
    • 5:30-7:30pm: Picnic at Merten Lawn

http://gradlife.gmu.edu/
Questions?