Welcome!
Who are we?

Rachel Golden Kroner, President

Blake Klocke, Treasurer

Betsy Collins, Secretary

Casey Pehrson, Vice President

Elly Roland, Student Representative

Tovah Siegel, Social Chair
Who are you?
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
- Offer resources to graduate students
  - Travel grants
  - Postings: job and funding opportunities
Events

• ESP-GSA Happy/Coffee Hours
  – Today: Brion’s Grille at 5:30 pm
  – September 13 at Greene Turtle (trivia)
  – October 12 at Auld Shebeen
  – November 14 coffee hour at Gathering Grounds
  – December: end-of-semester holiday party

• Other events TBD (announcements will follow)

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

GMU ESP GSA
Travel Grants

- $250 or $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

• Enables access to travel grants

• Supports student events

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

GMU ESP GSA
• 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 Assistantships
- 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
Websites

Environmental Science & Policy

– 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)

• Offer workspace carrels – need to reserve a space online in advance

• Website: http://library.gmu.edu/
Library Workshops

- Zotero
- Writing groups
- Library Skills
- Library tours

http://library.gmu.edu/workshops
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
• 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
Important forms

- **Environmental Science and Policy website** under “Forms and Policies”:
  [http://esp.gmu.edu/graduate/forms/index.html](http://esp.gmu.edu/graduate/forms/index.html)

- **Registrar’s site**:
  [http://registrar.gmu.edu/forms/index.html](http://registrar.gmu.edu/forms/index.html)

- **NEW FORM: Bloom’s taxonomy**
  - Required for doctoral proposal defense, master’s thesis defense, doctoral dissertation defense
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.
Other “who’s who” of ESP

• Dr. Al Torzilli: ESP Graduate Program Director
• Dr. Alonso Aguirre: ESP Department Chair
• Dr. Chris Parsons: ESP-GSA Faculty Advisor

• List of faculty, staff, and affiliate faculty: https://esp.gmu.edu/faculty-staff/
Your bio on the ESP page

• There is a space for your bio on the ESP page:
• [http://esp.gmu.edu/students/graduate-students/current-students/](http://esp.gmu.edu/students/graduate-students/current-students/)
• Many of these bios are out of date
• If you would like to update your bio information, please email the text of your new information to [espgsa@gmu.edu](mailto:espgsa@gmu.edu) by October 1st
• Follow the format of the existing bios on the webpage listed above
• We will send these updates to the ESP webmaster
Funding Opportunities

• Teaching Assistantship

• Research Assistantship (through your advisor or an office on campus)

• Presidential Scholarship/Provost’s Award for incoming students (not offered every year)

• Provost office also provides limited funding for:
  – Dissertation completion grants
  – Summer stipends (for PhD candidates)
  – See website for more: provost.gmu.edu/graduate-education/grad-ed/
Funding Opportunities

- Office of Research Development
- Office of Graduate Fellowships
- List of fellowship opportunities
- Online database of fellowships

Questions about external funding?
- Contact Kay Agoston, kagoston@gmu.edu
ESP Seminars

- Special guest lectures on campus
- Lightning talks
- See ESP emails for scheduling/announcements
ESP Social Media

• Twitter @ESPMasonU
• Facebook – ESP-GSA page and department page
• Instagram @georgemasonesp

• Follow for information about events, seminars, funding opportunities, 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)
  - [http://gstf.gmu.edu/](http://gstf.gmu.edu/)
Center for Teaching and Faculty Excellence

• 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 each semester, date TBD

• **Writing Assistance/Tutoring services**

  [writingcenter.gmu.edu](http://writingcenter.gmu.edu)
OSCAR

- Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research
- 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:
  – Events/Workshops
    • Graduate student welcome week
    • Gradstravaganza
    • Coffee Breaks
    • And more!

http://gradlife.gmu.edu/
Parking and Transportation

• See this website for parking information
  • http://parking.gmu.edu/

• Transportation
  • http://transportation.gmu.edu/

• The DC Metro: http://wmata.com/
• Check the repairs schedule (Safe Track) for delays and shut downs: http://wmata.com/rail/safettrack.cfm?
Fitness at GMU

• Fitness centers, classes, personal training:

  • https://recreation.gmu.edu/fitness/
Journal of Mason Graduate Research

• Publish in or review for a peer-reviewed journal for GMU graduate students!

• [http://journals.gmu.edu/jmgr](http://journals.gmu.edu/jmgr)
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

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

Checkout
Membership card:
- No - Pay for your food and a
$7 Enrollment charge
- or Pay cost of your food + 1 Meal Swipe
- 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

Enjoy your food and empty the
container

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