To: Brenda Brand, Office of the Secretary  
From: Corbett D. Brown, GAPSA Chair  
Date: 26 March 2010  
Re: GAPSA University Council Status Report for March 26, 2009

Executive Board Special Election

On the 24th of February 2010 the General Assembly held a special election for the position of Vice Chair for International Affairs, and elected Divya Menon. Divya is an international student from India and a first year Masters in Biotechnology student at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Divya has been heavily involved in student government throughout her education (both high school and undergraduate), and has held the leadership positions of: Deputy Head Girl, Head Girl, chief coordinator for inter-collegiate cultural and youth festivals (2 years), and General Secretary. She was recognized for her outstanding achievements in her undergraduate work with the Best Student Award given to her for two consecutive years.

Upcoming GAPSA Executive Board Elections

Elections for the 2010-2011 GAPSA Executive Board will be held on the 7th of April 2010 during the General Assembly portion of our GAPSA meetings, from 7:30 pm until 9:00pm. All interested graduate or professional students are welcome to run for any of the executive positions, and can find information regarding duties and responsibilities of each respective position in the GAPSA constitution which can be found at [www.gapsa.upenn.edu](http://www.gapsa.upenn.edu). Additional information is available through Michelle Jacobson (Arts & Sciences, MES) at gapsa.pluralism@gmail.com.

Professional and Research Councils

In early February President Amy Gutmann invited several GAPSA executive board members into her office so that she could share with us some exciting news. Our jaws dropped when President Gutmann told us that she had decided to give GAPSA a significant portion of the $500,000 grant associated with her having been awarded the prestigious Carnegie Corporation’s Academic Leadership Award. Specifically this increased funding for GAPSA is to be used by the Graduate and Professional Councils to increase the assistance provided for graduate or professional students as they travel to and from professional and research conferences. While a significant portion of GAPSA’s budget is already allocated towards travel grants, this infusion of additional funding will allow the Graduate and Research Councils to do even more to alleviate the financial burden associated with conference travel for students.

GradFest Spring 2010

GradFest 2010 is just around the corner! GAPSA, the Graduate Student Center, and the
GradFest Committee have been working diligently in preparation for this year’s event, which will occur on Saturday May 1, from noon till 4:30 pm. We look forward to another fun event for graduate and professional students and their families to mingle while enjoying delicious food, healthy interschool competitions, and while checking out the fun booths. Additional information can be found at [www.gapsa.upenn.edu/engage/gradfest](http://www.gapsa.upenn.edu/engage/gradfest).

**Graduating Members of the General Assembly and Exec Board**

GAPSA would not function if it were not for dedicated volunteers representing each of the 12 schools at Penn. For some of the members of the General Assembly, or the Executive Board, the upcoming conclusion of the school year brings the long anticipated graduation! While these individuals will be missed within GAPSA, and here at Penn, they will undoubtedly make significant contributions wherever they choose to pursue their career and professional goals. It is an honor to acknowledge those members of GAPSA who are graduating.

David Conklin, PhD Material Science and Engineering

Ashley Goss, 2010, PhD BGS, Cell and Molecular Biology. Dissertation title: The role of Wnt2 signaling in mouse lung development

Lisa Jacobson, 2010, MCP, Master in City Planning, focus in Transportation Systems

Michelle Jacobson, 2010, MES

Kimberly Krasnow, 2010, MS.Ed, International Educational Development

Ada Mi-Sedhi, 2010, MSW

Fernando P. Midence-Mantilla, Class of 2010, LLM (Masters in Law)


Anna Ria Varghese, 2010, MSE in Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering