GradFest - September 2011

During the last week of September, GAPSA held its fifth annual GradFest, a week-long kickoff event for the entire graduate community. GradFest featured:

- Sept. 26: Stephen Dubner, co-author of *Freakonomics* at Irvine Auditorium. The Provost introduced Stephen Dubner and helped us launch GradFest! Thank you, Dr. Price.

- Sept. 27: Research Award Reception honoring the recipients of the GAPSA-Provost Award for Interdisciplinary Innovation. The Vice Provost for Education moderated the reception, which was held at the Graduate Student Center. Thank you, Dr. Binns and everyone at the Graduate Student Center. We could not have pulled off this week without your help. Later in the night, GAPSA hosted two screenings of the new PhD Comics movie, attended by 300 Penn students.

- Sept. 28: Student Activities Fair at Houston Hall, featuring over 45 organizations and catered food! Over 650 Penn students attended. Please see below for a layout of the event.

- Sept. 29: Multicultural Festival at Houston Hall featuring a capella groups, samples of international food, and a great opportunity to meet fellow Penn students.

- Sept. 30: Gala at World Café Live concluding GradFest. Attended by over 800 Penn students.

Considering the number of student attendees, and the diversity of events, we are extremely pleased with how GradFest went this year. Nina Zhao, Vice Chair, who led the planning for GradFest, will be soliciting further feedback via a forthcoming survey. Thank you so much to everyone on the GAPSA Executive Board for helping to make the week such a success, as well as a long list of administrators and university officials!

GAPSA General Assembly Meetings

As in past years, the GAPSA General Assembly comprises 53 representatives across the 12 graduate schools, along with a 12-member Executive Board. In addition to serving on either professional or research councils, each GAPSA representative is asked to join an internal committee, such as the GAPSA Communications Committee, Student Life Committee, or Finance Committee. The Executive Board has been discussing ways and implementing different methods for encouraging increasing General Assembly participation, and we are delighted by the extent of enthusiasm on display so far.
We have also invited university leaders to present at our meetings and are thrilled to have a lineup so far that includes officials from VPUL, the Graduate Student Center, Office of Student Affairs, Chaplain’s Office, and Penn Transportation. At our next meeting, we will be distributing memory sticks (with the GAPSA logo) with downloaded content regarding executive board profiles, our constitution, and meeting schedule, etc. Our General Assembly Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 22 from 9:30am-4:30pm. Finally, I would like to note that during our first meeting in October, the General Assembly passed the GAPSA FY 2012 budget.

**Ivy Summit 2012 hosted by MIT**

This year’s Ivy Summit will be hosted by MIT from Nov. 4-6. The Ivy Summit is an annual gathering of student leaders from the Ivy League; the gathering has also come to include the student leadership at MIT. Six GAPSA Executive Board Members will represent Penn (the maximum number permitted). In addition to certain pre-scheduled events and talks, MIT has invited attendees to submit proposals for breakout session discussions. GAPSA submitted two proposals: one on student emotional health and another on empowering student representatives and the broader student population.

Penn is tentatively scheduled to host the Ivy Summit in 2012, which will be the first time Penn has hosted since 2003. When confirmed, we will begin working on scheduling and soliciting ideas to make the event a great opportunity to share ideas and discuss methods for enhancing student welfare and unifying the student body.

Thank you,

Joseph Friedman  
Chair, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly  
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2012  
University of Pennsylvania Law School
Graduate Student Activities and Resource Fair
Wednesday, September 28, 2011

1 The Penn Libraries
2 Center for Teaching and Learning
3 PennCard
4 Bon Appetit at Penn Dining
5 Off-Campus Services
6 Morris Arboretum
7 Computer Connection
8 University Club at Penn
9 PhillyCarShare
10 Penn Ice Rink
11 CrossFit Center City
12 Fontaine Society/EEJ Biomedical Student Association
13 Student Health Advisory Board
14 Student Health Service
15 LGBT Center
16 Graduate Student Center and Family Resource Center
17 GAPSA
18 BGAPSA
19 LAGAPSA
20 Penn Health Law Group
21 Nursing Students for Choice
22 Langfitt Memorial Symposium on Health Care Policy
23 AcademyHealth, Penn Student Chapter
24 RegBlog
25 The Public Policy Challenge
26 Wharton Crew and Rowing Club
27 Women's Touch Rugby
28 Men's Graduate Rugby
29 Puertes Hacia el Futuro
30 Global Development Collaborative, Inc.
31 Refugee Education Partners
32 Penn Chinese Educators
33 Students Confronting Racism and White Privilege
34 Penn Pakistan Society
35 UPSDM Indian Student Dental Association
36 Penn Arab Student Society
37 Jewish Grad Student Network
38 Christian Students at Penn
39 Wharton Energy Club
40 Graduate Student Energy Research Group/Pennenergy
41 Penn Quiz Bowl Team
42 Penn Med Music On Call
43 Theorizing Psychedelics
44 Penn Graduate Women in Science and Engineering
45 Penn Biotech Group
46 E-SEGA
47 PennTango
48 Penn Latin and Ballroom Dance