



VCU Grad Gazette

A newsletter of the Graduate School

Volume 1, Issue 1, Fall 2004

8th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium & Exhibit

It's almost that time of the year again!

The Graduate Student Research Symposium & Exhibit will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2005, from 11am - 2pm in the University Student Commons.

The Symposium is designed to be the GSA's annual premiere event and has become a fixture in VCU's academic culture. The Symposium showcases graduate student work from all disciplines and allows the VCU community to see what you have been working on.

This year the Symposium chair, Kathleen Hall, will continue last year's hard work of Rohini George to diversify the participants and include art students and other students who do not normally present their work. One excited student from last year, Michael Vetere, a masters student in theatre, says that the Symposium "offers me a platform to present my unique artwork, puppetry! I am pleased to have the opportunity to share my work. Puppetry is both a visual and performing art and the graduate symposium is the perfect venue to educate and inform our community."

The GSA hopes that you'll submit an application to participate!
www.studentorg.vcu.edu/gsa

Funding Information

We are constantly updating our Web site with information on fellowships and scholarships that are available to graduate students. Please check this site regularly to see if there's something there for you!

www.vcu.edu/graduate/bboard/announcements.html

GSA 2004-05 Officers

Suresh Joel, President

Biomedical Engineering

Rohini George, Vice President

Biomedical Engineering

Steven Paugh, Secretary

Biochemistry

Ramin Mortazavi, Treasurer

Mechanical Engineering

Kathleen Hall, Chair,

Research Symposium

Physiology

To contact the GSA please send an e-mail to gsa@vcu.edu or visit their Web site.

www.studentorg.vcu.edu/gsa

Fall Dates to Remember

Aug 26 - classes begin

Sept 1 - last day to add/drop

Sept 6 - University closed

Oct 21-22 - Reading days for the Monroe Park Campus

Nov 1 - Advance spring registration begins

Nov 5 - last day to withdraw

Nov 25-28 - University closed

Dec 17 - last day to receive Dr. Boudinot's signature on thesis/dissertation signature sheets

Dec 11 - Commencement at the Siegel Center

What's New in the Graduate School

New Director of Recruitment and Admissions

The Graduate School recently appointed Mark J. Schaefermeyer as the Director of Recruitment and Admissions. Dr. Schaefermeyer comes to VCU from the Department of Education where he was the Associate Director for Web-based assessment. Dr. Schaefermeyer earned his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in Communication, his M.A. from the University of South Florida in Speech Communication and his B.A. from Virginia Tech in English.

Dr. Schaefermeyer's responsibilities in the Graduate Admissions Office are to coordinate recruitment activities of the Graduate School, manage the graduate admissions office, serve in an advisory capacity to the Graduate Deans Advisory Council, and work closely with academic departments, undergraduate admissions and recruitment staff, and the Office of International Studies, as well as faculty, staff, and student organizations, in all matters relating to the recruitment and admission of graduate students.

New Director of Development

The Graduate School and VCU Life Sciences recently appointed Elizabeth Taraski as the Director of Development. Dr. Taraski comes to VCU from the University of Richmond where she was Executive Director of Community Relations, Donor Relations and Major Gifts. Dr. Taraski earned her Ph.D. from Seton Hall University, her M.S. from the New York University in Management in Public Administration and her Ed.M. from Rutgers University in Education and Supervision Administration.

Dr. Taraski's responsibilities to the Graduate School is to increase private support for graduate programs on both VCU campuses. She will also be directing, coordinating and conducting fundraising activities for the Graduate School and VCU Life Sciences.

New Graduate Degrees

New graduate degree programs including the *M.S. in Bioinformatics, Master of Bioinformatics, M.S. in Environmental Studies, Master of Environmental Studies, Ph.D. in Medical Physics and Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Sciences* were approved by the Board of Visitors and the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia. The accelerated *BS/MS in Sociology and PharmD/MBA* programs were approved by VCU. The *MIS* program also established a new track in *Math/Science Leadership*. Guidelines for preparing new graduate program proposals can be found on the Graduate School Web site.

Graduate School Bylaws

The Board of Visitors approved proposed amendments to the Graduate School Bylaws which included renaming the "School of Graduate Studies" to the "Graduate School" to better reflect the School's overarching role in graduate education at VCU and expanding voting membership on the University Graduate Council from 11 to 24 including a graduate student representative. The University Graduate Council was reorganized with the creation of a *Policies and Procedures Committee*. The Council will be charged with reviewing all Graduate School policies and procedures and recommending amendments where needed. To view the new Bylaws please visit: www.vcu.edu/graduate/gf/bylaws

Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is committed to facilitating programs that enhance the academic skills, professional development and social environment of all graduate students at VCU. The purpose of the GSA is to serve as an advocate for the issues and needs of graduate students. Toward this goal the GSA facilitates the placement of graduate students on important campus wide committees including the GSA Executive Council and the University Graduate Council, where they represent the voice and express the concerns of graduate students at VCU. The GSA also organizes a number of professional and social events throughout the academic year. Every spring the GSA sponsors the Annual Graduate Research Symposium and Exhibit. This is an excellent opportunity to appreciate and present graduate research work to the VCU and local Richmond community. Last year over 70 exhibits were on display in the Commonwealth Ballroom at the Student Commons. Twice each year the GSA hosts Graduate Faculty & Student Meet & Greet social functions. The next Meet & Greet social will be held on November 5, between 5:00 and 10:00 pm at *Borders Books & Music Store*. In addition, the GSA makes available 10 travel grants of up to \$150 for graduate students each semester.

GSA Executive Council members for 2004-2005 are:

GSA Executive Council

School of Allied Health - Angela Tucker
School of Arts - LaTricia January
School of Arts - Joshua Krohn
School of Business - Auten Jameson
School of Business - Latisha Campbell
School of Business - Robert Russ
School of Business - Santa Susarapu
School of Education - Antoinette M Rogers
School of Engineering - Anne Reamey
School of Government & Public Affairs - A'tasha Christian
School of Government & Public Affairs - Tracey Jackson
College of Humanities & Sciences - Colin Pottie
College of Humanities & Sciences - Melissa Blank
School of Medicine - Charles Anderson
School of Nursing - Shanna Kreitingner
School of Pharmacy - Elizabeth Herman
School of Pharmacy - Sunil Iyer
School of Social Work - Shannon Bartle
School of Social Work - Lisa Colegrove
School of Social Work - HyeHyun Jo

There is no fee to join the GSA, every graduate student is a member and eligible to participate in and contribute to the GSA and GSA activities. If you would like to represent your school/college on the GSA Council, please complete the GSA Executive Council application (www.studentorg.vcu.edu/gsa/excomm) and e-mail it to gsa@mail1.vcu.edu or mail it to: The Graduate Student Association, PO Box 843051. To contact the GSA please send an e-mail to gsa@vcu.edu or visit the GSA web site <http://www.studentorg.vcu.edu/gsa>.

Graduate Student Workshops

Each month the Graduate School, in association with the GSA, conducts career development workshops on a variety of timely topics designed to enhance graduate student life at VCU and beyond. Typically the workshops are held twice (once on each campus). A schedule of planned workshops can be found at the Graduate School web page.

If you have a suggestion for a graduate student workshop topic please contact Lori A. Floyd-Miller at lafloyd@vcu.edu or by phone at 828-2233.

Electronic Theses and Dissertations

The Electronic Theses and Dissertation (ETD) project was approved and fully implemented permitting all graduate students the option of submitting their theses or dissertation electronically. A computer laboratory dedicated to submitting an ETD has been opened in the Graduate School.

Preparing Future Faculty

The Preparing Future Faculty program has moved to the Graduate School under the direction of Dr. Sherry Sandkam, Associate Dean. Information on the program can be found on the Graduate School Web site.

Graduate School Staff

F. Douglas Boudinot,
Dean

Lori A. Floyd-Miller,
Dean's Assistant

Sherry Sandkam,
Associate Dean

Carole Harwell,
Associate Dean's Assistant

Melissa Tyler,
Fiscal Administrator

Elizabeth Taraski,
Director of Development

Mark Schaefermeyer,
Director of Admissions

Admissions Counselors

Linda Clark
Harold Greenwald
Vishon Luck
Crystal Wade
Sabrina Walters

Graduate Assistants

Maria Kovacs
Cara Rawlings
Michael Vetere

We want to hear from you!

What information would you like to see in the newsletter? Do you have a story to tell? Would you like to be a reporter for the Grad Gazette? Do you know a student or faculty member who really shines and think they deserve to be profiled in the Gazette?

Please email any ideas or stories to lafloyd@vcu.edu.

