To My Fellow Graduate Students,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to run for the position of GSA Treasurer. As graduate students, fiscal responsibility and frugality are topics with which we are often all too familiar. We understand that to be successful scholars, we must be financially savvy. We have experienced first hand the necessity of allotting scarce resources to one educational priority over another, of choosing where to allocate often limited or hard earned funds.

The GSA dues we pay every term are the collective property of the graduate student body, and they are held in trust for our community by the Treasurer. You deserve to know that your Treasurer is handling your money in good faith; that when you choose to finance an activity through your elected representatives, you can be sure those funds will be there.

Yet at the same time, a Treasurer must be more than a glorified bean counter. There may be times when budgetary matters need to be clarified, explained, and made more transparent to the average student. To this end, a successful Treasurer must also be a skilled communicator. My goal is to demystify the budget process, in order to make it accessible to every graduate student, rather than an elite and specialized few. In doing so, it is my hope that all graduate students will have more confidence to participate in student governance if they choose.

Friends, I hope that I can count on your vote on April 7 – April 9. If there's any way that I can be a stronger and clearer voice on issues that matter to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at avonschnell@albany.edu. As a student body, you contribute much to what makes the GSA a great organization to be a part of. Let me serve you by helping the GSA to contribute back to you and your future.

Sincerely Yours,

Ahren von Schnell