Message from the GSA President

Thank you for taking a peak at the first edition of our brand new project “The Purple Paper” or our GSA newsletter. As part of our goal to assist graduate students in any way possible, we have developed this newsletter to collect information from the various offices and organizations which already support graduate students and disseminate it to keep you up to date and informed. We welcome any feedback on our format and content. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Janiszewski

GSA Announcement:
Please join us for our President’s Forum with President Robert Jones on November 4th from 4:10-5:30pm, location TBA. Please sign up for our listserv or stop by our office, Campus Center 165B, for more details.

ITLAL Resources

Workshops - We offer a number of panels and workshops that focus on professional development and instruction issues.

One-on-one consultations - Make an appointment with one of ITLAL’s consultants, and get personalized attention. Send an email to teachingandlearning@albany.edu to get started.

Preparing Future Faculty Program- ITLAL’s Preparing Future Faculty Program, including the Certificate in College Teaching, was designed especially for graduate students dedicated to pursuing faculty careers. For more information on the courses and an application for the Certificate program, see “For Graduate Students” http://www.albany.edu/teachingandlearning

ITLAL is Downtown
ITLAL’s Downtown Office Hours

Do you get lost trying to find the ITLAL office? Maybe you live and/or take classes downtown? ITLAL’s Future Faculty Fellow, Katie Truby, will hold office hours on the downtown campus this semester just for you! Katie will be available to answer any questions you might have about teaching, the job market, managing your time in graduate school, or succeeding in your future career as a faculty member. Look for Katie in Milne 118, the nice, new, cozy graduate student lounge on the following Mondays from 2:30-4:30: 10/28, 11/4, 11/18 and 12/2. Or shoot Katie an email at futurefacultyfellow@albany.edu and set up an appointment downtown!
GSEU – Local CWA 1104
The Fight for a New Contract Local

This semester, the Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU/CWA 1104) is starting the fight for a fair contract for all Graduate and Teaching Assistants. We have been working under an expired contract since 2009. Graduate students around the state are mobilizing for the contract fight. This year, we're partnering with the GSA to better serve our members and support the entire graduate student body. We are doing weekly office hours in the GSA Office on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1-2 PM. We have a mailbox in the GSA Office, as well. You can leave notes, questions or signed membership cards there! If you haven't signed a pink GSEU Membership card, contact us at albany1104@gmail.com or visit us during our GSA Office Hours.

University at Albany Libraries
Writing Resources

Graduate Students Library Guide –

Tools for Masters and Ph.D. Students! A one-stop shop focused on your research and study needs, brought to you by the University Libraries!

Some of the featured information includes:

- Theses/Dissertations
- Technology
- Grant/Funding
- Resources for Teaching Assistants
- Manage/Cite your research
- Study/Group Spaces

Top 10 Library Services for Graduate Students and More!!

This resource is featured on the left bottom corner of the library web page, or directly at http://library.albany.edu/gradstudents/

Check it out!

UAlbany Career Services
Presidential Management Fellowship Program

UAlbany Career Services wants to make you aware of a wonderful opportunity. Since 1977 the PMF Program has matched outstanding graduate students with exciting Federal opportunities.

This rigorous, two-year paid fellowship includes challenging assignments, developmental assignments, and networking opportunities. Finalists appointed as PMFs are hired by Federal Agencies and engage in solving domestic and/or international issues in areas such as public administration, engineering, technology, science, criminal justice, health, and financial management, to name a few.

The PMF Program seeks eligible graduate students every year who want to make a difference through public service. For the PMF Class of 2014, students who complete an advanced degree (master's or professional) during the 2013-2014 academic year (September 1, 2013 - August 31, 2014) from a qualifying college or university are eligible for consideration. You are also eligible if you have completed an advanced degree (masters or professional) from a
qualifying college or university during the previous 2 years from the opening date of the PMF Program’s application announcement, (i.e. Oct. 1, 2013). Hence, those who completed as far back as Dec. 2011 will be eligible to apply.

The selection process for the Presidential Management Fellows Program consists of four parts:
1. Application
2. On-line Assessment
3. In-person Assessment and Finalist Selection
4. Agency Placement as a Fellow

APPLICATION IS OPEN FROM OCT. 1-15, 2013, if you are interested in applying. More information about application and selection is available on the PMF website, at www.pmf.gov. You can also contact Joe Aini in Career Services at 437-4922 or by email at jaini@albany.edu.

**Sustainability**

*The Terras*

By Alyssa Ladzinski

The Office of Sustainability has established a new award to recognize the persistent efforts of campus community members. Each semester, one faculty member, one staff member and one student will be awarded with a Terra for demonstrating a commitment to advancing sustainable culture at SUNY Albany.

The award is named for Terra, the Roman goddess of the Earth.

The distinction will be decided upon a nominee’s work within the framework of CORE. The acronym identifies the four main areas in which a person can effect change in the area of sustainability: Curriculum, Operations, Research and Engagement.

The accomplishments of the Terra recipient will be linked which category they contributed to the most. The winner can be self-nominated or nominated by another party and can choose from one of two awards: either the leaf shaped statue made from 100% recycled glass or a carbon offset purchase of home usage or commuting.

The Office of Environmental Sustainability is offering the carbon offset option to assist an awardee in being one step closer to living a carbon-neutral life. Although in our society we all rely on carbon-based resources daily, an individual may compensate for their greenhouse emissions by purchasing carbon offsets alternative energy credits.

When the award winner is named, an expectation is to serve on the selection committee the following year. Also, he or she will not be eligible to win the award for the next three years. The awardee will share his or her practices of sustainability with those interested in learning and will aid with replication of the practice.

Applications can be found at www.albany.edu/gogreen. The deadline is November 1st, 2013.
Tracking Transit

By Sarah Helgeson

This fall a more convenient means of transportation will be implemented on the UAlbany buses. Each bus will be outfitted with a GPS tracking device, giving students and staff an exact arrival time. The real-time route information is not only found online; Smartphones will also have access to the up-to-the-minute data. By scanning the QR code located at all UAlbany bus stops, students and staff will have an accurate idea of when to expect their four wheeled chariot.

For those who don’t carry a smart phone, the university will have placed five display screens at high traffic locations before the semester is over.

UAlbany Financial Services
Loan Updates for 2013-2014

Change in Federal Direct Loan Interest Rates

The Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act passed by Congress this summer, provides new formulas for determination of interest rates for Direct Loans. Interest rates will be determined each June for new loans on which the first disbursement is to be made on or after July 1st through the following June 30th.

For Direct Loans first disbursed on or after July 01, 2013 through June 30, 2014, the interest rates are as follows:

Direct Unsubsidized Loans for Graduates – 5.41% fixed interest rate with a loan fee charged by the Department of Education of 1.051%. The loan fee is a percentage of the amount of each loan the borrower receives, and is deducted from each loan disbursement.

Direct Graduate PLUS – 6.41% fixed interest rate with a loan fee charged by the Department of Education of 4.204%.

As previously mentioned, interest rates on subsequent loans for 2014 – 2015 and thereafter are subject to change. Under the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act, interest rates are based on the 10-year Treasury bill plus a percentage as follows:

Direct Unsubsidized Loans for Graduates – 10-year Treasury rate plus 3.60% not to exceed 9.50%.

Direct Graduate PLUS – 10-year Treasury rate plus 4.60% not to exceed 10.5%.

We will continue to keep you updated with new and important information that becomes available and pertains to your Direct Loans. Please frequently visit the “Alerts” section of the Student Financial Services website by visiting www.albany.edu/studentservices.

Graduate Student Association
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