



GPSA 2006 Fall Newsletter

The Graduate

Hello, GPSA members,

My name is Queen Brown. I am the co-advisor for the Graduate and Professional Student Association. Also, I am the Office Manager for the School of Graduate Studies. My dual role includes processing and monitoring the travel allocations for students who are presenting or co-presenting at major conference, conventions, or workshops. Any graduate professional student at East Tennessee State University who has a completed membership form on file and is actively involved in Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) can apply for use of GPSA travel funds. The GPSA travel allocations are limited to individual travel. You must request 606 funding from the Student Government Association (SGA), if you are seeking to apply as a group.

The GPSA does not approve group travel. If granted 606 funding, you are ineligible for GPSA travel grants. The maximum amount of money you can get is currently \$500.00 for traveling over 500 miles. If traveling less than five hundred miles, the maximum you can obtain is \$250.00. The travel request form with instructions how to complete can be picked up at the School of Graduate Studies, Burgin Dossett Hall, room 309B. If awarded GPSA travel funding, you must give a 5-10 minute presentation during GPSA Appreciation Week in April. Funding is on a first come first serve basis.

I am proud to serve as co-advisor of GPSA and look forward to assisting our members. Already, we have completed some events, such as the networking and resume workshop. We are planning future events aimed especially for the graduate students, so please check our website at <http://www.etsu.edu/gradstud/gpsa.asp>. We encourage your participation, suggestions, and hope you will give us as much time as you can afford in your busy schedule. I wish you well in your educational experience with East Tennessee State University. Please feel free to call or stop by with questions regarding the GPSA or the travel allocations.

Queen Brown
GPSA Co-Advisor
brownq@etsu.edu

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What is GPSA!

The Graduate

What is GPSA?

The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) of East Tennessee State University is a student managed organization whose membership is open to all currently enrolled post-baccalaureate degree-seeking students. Our primary function is to improve the quality of both graduate and professional education and the graduate and professional student experience at ETSU. Graduate and Professional students represent approximately 20% of the total student population at ETSU, and the teaching, clinical, and research activities of these students present genuine needs that are considerably different from those of the remaining student population.

Our Purpose:

The primary goal of the GPSA is to provide support and informational services that will encourage all graduate/professional students to: 1) become involved in institutional governance and development; 2) participate in student-sponsored activities; and 3) maximize their potential as students, educators, and researchers. The function and purpose of the GPSA will benefit not only all graduate/professional students, but also those undergraduate students interested in applying to post-baccalaureate degree programs at ETSU.

How do I become a member of GPSA?

It is simple to become a member of GPSA. All you have to do is fill out an application form; which can be picked up from the Graduate Studies office or filled out online at: http://www.etsu.edu/gradstud/gpsa/gpsa_forms.htm and turn it back into the Graduate Studies Office.

NOTE: they're two online applications one is the html version that can be submitted online and the other is the Acrobat PDF file which cannot be submitted electronically. You will need to fill it out online, print it out, and turn in the hard copy. If you want to send it through campus mail, our box number is 70720.

Contact us:

Email: gpsa@imail.etsu.edu

Phone: 423-439-4221

Address: 309-B Burgin Dossett Hall

<http://www.etsu.edu/gradstud/gpsa>



Letters from the GPSA Officers

The Graduate

GPSA Officers 2005-2006

President: Justin Freeman Treasurer: Angela Moore
Vice President: Laura Nelson Secretary: Chrysanthus Gwellum
Faculty Advisors: David Moore & Queen Brown

Letter from the GPSA President:

Hello Everyone! My name is Justin Freeman, current President of the ETSU Graduate and Professional Student Association. This is my third semester as a graduate student at East Tennessee State University, and I will be graduating in May 2007 with a Master's of Science in Computer and Information Sciences. I am originally from Newport, a friendly small town in East Tennessee and an alumnus of Tusculum College in Greeneville, TN with a B.A. in Business Administration and Computer Science. I want to welcome all new and former GPSA members and hope everyone has enjoyed a great semester here at ETSU.

I desire to see ETSU graduates enhance their professionalism and represent our Alma Mater in a professional manner. I feel that the Graduate and Professional Student Association is a great resource for students to use in achieving their respective endeavors. Initially, I became part of the GPSA by working as a graduate assistant in the School of Graduate Studies. I then took the responsibility of updating the former GPSA website and assisted in planning events. This semester I was given the honor to represent your organization as the President.

I invite all ETSU affiliates who are interested in the personal development of yourself, or others, to join us and share your ideas. In November, we cooperated with the Career Placement Office to provide an interview workshop for ETSU students and want to see more related activities in the near future. The GPSA also enjoys community involvement. I must thank Angela for her assistance this semester, she has really been active for GPSA this semester. Please share your ideas about activities that you would like GPSA to be involved with in upcoming spring semester. Please feel free to email me anytime at gradapp@etsu.edu.

Sincerely,
Justin Freeman
President, GPSA
gradapp@etsu.edu



Letter from GPSA Advisor

The Graduate

Welcome from David Moore:

I would like to extend a welcome to all the first-time graduate and professional students at ETSU. For those who have already been enrolled at the university as graduate or professional students prior to this Fall semester, I wish for you to extend a welcome to me! My name is David R. Moore, ("David" is fine), and I am the Graduate Recruiter for the School of Graduate Studies, a position I have occupied since September 15th. Among my various responsibilities is serving the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) as Staff Advisor. It is a duty I look forward to, and the importance of which I take very seriously.

As undergraduate students, we were presented with a dizzying array of organizations to consider joining, and generally had the time to devote to a few of them. As graduate or professional students, however, the opportunities are somewhat diminished, whether because there are fewer student groups that cater to post-baccalaureate students, or because graduate study simply allows less time to be spent outside of one's program of study. That's where the GPSA fits in. It is a graduate student-managed organization for any and all currently enrolled post-baccalaureate degree-seeking students. Active membership and participation can be rewarding, in that the purpose of the GPSA is to provide support to graduate and professional students, and fun – hey, we all could use a social outlet that gets us out of the department every now and then!

The GPSA offers graduate and professional students the opportunity to engage in professional activities such as conferences, workshops and service events. The organization also provides funding to assist individual students with professional travel. If you are already a member of GPSA, please make sure that we have your current e-mail address so that we can keep you informed of goings-on. If you are not yet a member, consider checking us out on the web at www.etsu.edu/gradstud, by e-mail at gpsa@imail.etsu.edu, or by arranging to talk with me or one of the GPSA officers in person. We're all pretty nice and accommodating!

The GPSA exists because of, and for, graduate and professional students. Your support and participation are vital. Help the GPSA continue to be a positive part of the graduate experience here at ETSU. I look forward to meeting and getting to know you!

David R. Moore
Graduate Recruiter/GPSA Co-Advisor
(423) 439-6149
mooredr@etsu.edu



Welcome from a Member

The Graduate

An International Perspective:

Hello friends! This is Bhavesh Gajjar. I am pursuing a Master's of Public Health. This is my third semester at ETSU. I graduated in the summer of 2005 with a Bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery from Ahmedabad, India.

ETSU is one of the most wonderful places that I have seen in my life. Being an international student I must say that this place is a perfect platform for students who give high values to education, social life, and overall development of personality. I was a bit anxious to be part of a completely different culture. The staff, faculty, and people of Johnson City have made my transition very comfortable; I don't have words to describe the feeling. Overall Johnson City is a quite, friendly place with beautiful mountains and many scenic places to visit.

I have completed all required and core courses without much difficulty. Thanks to my professors and advisor for being available when ever I needed them. I have thoroughly enjoyed my classes. I also have made lifelong friends from different parts of the world. I have high respect for their cultures, and so do they of mine.

I work as a graduate assistant in the School of Graduate Studies. I reply emails to prospective graduate students, arrange tours, keep track of recruiting events, and help with administrative duties. This place is like a small family for me. I love my work.

I hope you all enjoy your studying and living here as much as I do!

Bhavesh Gajjar.



GPSA Travel Awards

The Graduate

2005-2006 Travel Award Recipients

Any graduate or professional student at East Tennessee State University who has a completed membership form on file and is actively involved in Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) can apply for use of GPSA travel funds. A travel form can be obtained from the Graduate Office or online at:

<http://www.etsu.edu/comptrol/frm.htm#Travel>. GPSA only awards money for individual travel. Group travel requests will not be considered and you must request 606 funding from the Student Government Association (SGA). A graduate student may not receive funding from both agencies. If granted 606 funding, you are ineligible for GPSA travel grants. Be sure to have the Chair of the department sign your travel request form before it comes to the Graduate School for processing. Because the funds are limited, the following priorities will be followed in the allocations:

1. First priority will be given to applicants who are requesting funds for presenting research/scholarly presentation in which the applicant is sole or co-author.
2. Second priority will be given to applicants who are requesting funds to attend a conference or professional development workshop that can be shown to be linked to their program of graduate study at ETSU.

Other proposals will be considered if applicants can demonstrate that the proposed activity will enhance their graduate education, program of study and/or scholarship.

Recipients:

Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 Recipients will be announced in the Spring newsletter.



Meet the Graduate Studies Faculty

The Graduate



Dr. Cecilia McIntosh.
Dean
Graduate Studies



Dr. Jeff Powers-Beck
Associate Dean
Graduate Studies



Queen Brown
Office Manager
GPSA Co-Advisor



Shella Bennett
Graduate Program
Specialist



Mary Duncan
Graduate Program
Specialist



Cindy Hill
Executive Aide



Fiona Goodyear
Data Clerk



Judy Lawson
Graduate Program
Specialist



David Moore
Graduate Recruiter
GPSA Co-Advisor



Gail Powers
Graduate Program
Specialist



Emily Redd
Thesis Reader/
ETD Inquiries

Not Pictured

Robin O'Dell
Graduate Program
Specialist

Graduate Assistants, Tuition Scholars, and Student Workers:

Jordan Arrington, Rachel Craven, Sarah Davis,
Bhavesh Gajjar, Justin Freeman, Andrew Kowalski,
Latoya McLeod, Brianna Moody, Angela Moore,
Kelly Silverman, Melissa Whaley, Geoff William,
and Erin Wilson