



# GPSA 2007 Fall Newsletter

**The Graduate**

## Letter from the GPSA President:

Hello Everyone! My name is Geoffrey Williams, current President of the ETSU Graduate and Professional Student Association. This is my second year as a graduate student at East Tennessee State University, and I will be graduating in May 2008 with an MBA. I am originally from Washington, D.C., the nation's capital and graduated from ETSU in 2005 with a Bachelor's of Science in Biological Sciences. I want to welcome all new and former GPSA members and hope everyone is enjoying 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 became the TN State Coordinator for the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students and the President of GPSA.

I invite all ETSU affiliates who are interested in the personal development of yourself, or others, to join us and share your ideas. Last year, we sponsored a variety of events and hope to do the same this year.

**On Monday, September 17th, we will be having our first meeting of Fall 2007** and will be covering a couple issues such as the election of officers and changes to our GPSA constitution and By-Laws. The meeting will take place at 3:00 p.m. in Dining Room 1 in the Culp Center, but keep an eye out for any changes. If there are any, we will email everyone to let you know. I hope to see you all there and please share your ideas about activities that you would like GPSA to be involved with in the upcoming spring semester. Feel free to email me any time at [zgmw1@goldmail.com](mailto:zgmw1@goldmail.com).

Sincerely,  
Geoffrey Williams  
President, GPSA  
[zgmw1@goldmail.etsu..com](mailto:zgmw1@goldmail.etsu..com)

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## GPSA Officers 2007-2008

President: Geoffrey Williams

Treasurer:

Vice President:

Secretary: Jennifer Fisher

Advisors: David Moore &  
Queen Brown



# What is GPSA!

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## 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](http://www.etsu.edu/gradstud/gpsa/gpsa_forms.htm) and turn it back into the Graduate Studies Office.

*NOTE: there are 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@goldmail.etsu.edu](mailto:gpsa@goldmail.etsu.edu)

Phone: 423-439-4221

Address: 309-B Burgin Dossett Hall

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



# Letter from GPSA Advisor

The Graduate

**Welcome from David Moore:**

Another Fall Semester has arrived, and with it the gathering on campus of a record number of both undergraduate and graduate students, including you. This is an exciting time at universities and colleges all around the country, and ETSU is no exception! It's a time to see one's friends and professors after a summer away, and it's an opportunity to meet new people and try new things. My name is David Moore, Recruiter for the School of Graduate Studies, and Staff Advisor for the Graduate and Professional Student Association. Welcome!

Those of you who enjoyed the GPSA-sponsored series of professional development events and those who benefited from GPSA funds to help support scholarly travel during the 2006-2007 school year already know how being a member has its rewards. I expect 2007-2008 to be even better! The GPSA will sponsor and co-sponsor more professional development workshops this year, and will offer its members ways to contribute to the Johnson City community through giving and service. There will also be some just-for-fun social gatherings, where students from the various graduate programs can relax and get to know each other. And, importantly, the GPSA will once again provide funding to help offset the travel costs for individual students who present research, or as they attend scholarly conferences and seminars.

If you are already a member of GPSA, be an active member. If you have not yet joined, you should do so. Active membership will enhance the quality of the education you earn at ETSU. Look for meeting and activity e-mail announcements, and come see for yourself!

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

P.S. — Remember to come to the GPSA meeting this coming Monday (9/17) at 3:00 in Dining Room 1 in the Culp Center. It's a chance to start being an active member right away. Plus, snacks will be provided!



# Letter from GPSA Advisor

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 conferences, 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. We are planning several events aimed especially for graduate and professional students, so please check our website at <http://www.etsu.edu/gradstud/gpsa/>. 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



# GPSA Travel Awards

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## 2007-2008 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 2007 and Spring 2008 Recipients will be announced in the Spring newsletter.*