

THE GRADUATE

Volume 5, Issue 1
Spring 2001

FROM YOUR GPSA PRESIDENT

Dear Graduate and Profession Association (GPSA) Members and prospective Members:

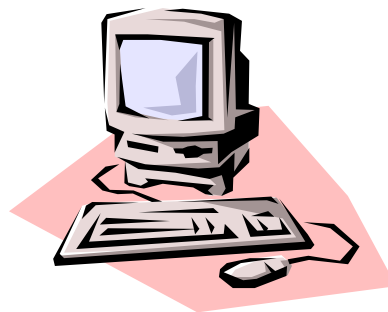
I hope the Spring 2001 semester is going well for each of you. We are very excited to be planning some special events for this Spring, primarily GPSA Appreciation Week. GPSA Appreciation Week is proclaimed by the Governor and is a time for East Tennessee State University (ETSU) to showcase graduate students and the contribution they make to this university. Throughout the semester, we will have meetings for the organization. During these meetings, graduate students can have input on issues of concern, help plan GPSA week, and become more involved in a total educational experience at ETSU.

What exactly is GPSA? GPSA is an organization that is dedicated to the improvement of the entire graduate student population and ETSU itself. Those involved in GPSA are active members of the National Graduate and Professional Student Association.

How does one join GPSA? To join, simply fill

out an application at one of our meetings or download an application from our website. No dues are charged to members, but it allows for benefits, such as travel funding and recognition. In order to become an active member, attend GPSA meetings and activities.

Best Wishes,
Kimberly Norris-Thompson



Check out our website at
www.etsu.edu/gradstud/gpsa.htm

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GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Serving on committees provides students a voice and chance to make a difference. This year, many graduate/ professional students are serving on various committees of ETSU, allowing for a more diverse representation of the graduate student population.

Current graduate students serving on 2000/2001 committees include the following:

Graduate Council Committee– Kimberly Norris-Thompson & Mary Gooley.

Race Relations Committee– Carrie Washington

Teacher Education Council Advisory Committee– Shelly D. Scheele

Technology Access Fee Committee– Everett Brown & Nia Zalamea

University Libraries Advisory Committee– Roland Elac Tester

Web Policy Committee– Michael Garrett

The Graduate

Graduate and Professional
Student Association

&

The School of Graduate
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LETTER FROM THE DEANS

Dear Graduate Students,

During the next twelve months, you may hear discussion across campus of something called the SACS review. What is it and what does it mean for the graduate student? The Southern Association of Colleges and School (SACS), is the regional accrediting agency for East Tennessee State University. All programs have accreditation. All programs, such as Counseling, Nursing, and Education also have specialized accreditation when it is available. SACS is the agency that accredits and validates ETSU as a whole. What does this mean to you. Without this accreditation, your degree would be compromised.

Almost every aspect of a graduate degree program is evaluated by the accrediting agency. Faculty, courses and instruction, the requirement of research and scholarship, the role of an advisory committee, the importance of your culminating experience such as thesis, design project, or internship are all examined. SACS accreditation ensures that when you graduate, your diploma signifies that your educational experience has been of high quality. It says to a prospective employer, "This student's knowledge is current and equips him or her to make a meaningful contribution to a profession or field of study."

The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) is also an integral part of making your graduate degree meaningful. In this organization, you can meet other students from diverse backgrounds and benefit from each other's research and scholarship. SACS, ETSU, and the School of Graduate Studies place a high premium on this type of experience. Learning and independent thinking are not limited to classroom experiences; participation in the GPSA research forum, application for travel grants, attendance at regular meetings, and participation in the annual Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week are activities that will make your ETSU experience, and your degree, more meaningful to you and to the wider community.

The GPSA and the School of Graduate Studies are working to ensure that we meet high standards and that these standards are reflected in all aspects of your ETSU experience.

Wishing you all the best,

Wesley Brown, Ph. D.
Dean

Roberta Herrin, Ph. D.
Associate Dean

WHERE IS HE NOW? GPSA'S 1999 PRESIDENT STEPHEN PIONTKOWSKI

On February 28, 2000 I received my call to active duty with the United States Public Health Service (USPHS), Indian Health Service, in Bemidji, Minnesota. I am ranked as a LTJG (O-2) Environmental Health Officer and work with three Native American Indian tribes with respect to environmental issues, food sanitation, and domestic health and safety. The graduate education I received in the School of Public and Allied Health, Department of Environmental Health, and my

"I work in rural environments and frequently collaborate with health professional/tribal members of various backgrounds."

Stephen Piontkowski

involvement with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, prepared me for the duties I now perform. I work in rural environments and frequently collaborate with health professional/tribal members of various backgrounds.

Though I am new to the position, I am greatly rewarded by two aspects of the job. One of these aspects is working with the Native American People, and the second is being involved with the various disciplines of Environmental Health.

The Graduate

The Graduate is the official newsletter of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) in conjunction with the School of Graduate Studies. It will be published by the ETSU Graduate Studies Office periodically for all graduate students and alumni.

The 2001 GPSA Officers:

Kimberly Norris Thompson- President

John Patrick Gilroy- Vice President

Mary Beth Gooley- Treasurer/Secretary

Linda Wyatt- Staff Advisor

EMAIL: wyattlg@etsu.edu

February 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 GPSA			

April 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 GPSA	3 GPSA	4 GPSA	5 GPSA	6 GPSA	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Schedule of Events

- February 28th**– GPSA Spring Meeting. 5:30 p.m., Forum Room, D.P. Culp Center, This campus wide meeting is open to all graduate and professional students. Light refreshments will be served.
- April 2nd– 6th**– GPSA Appreciation Week. 12:00-1:00 Forum Room, D. P. Culp Center, Join us in a week of recognizing graduate and professional students at ETSU.
- April 5th**– 12:00-1:00 GPSA Travel Award Presentations. Forum Room, D.P. Culp Center. Students who have received support money from GPSA to present research at regional and national conferences, share their research with ETSU faculty, students, and staff.

Look for future events on our

Website:

www.etsu.edu/gradstud/gpsa.htm

GPSA TRAVEL GRANTS AND 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. If you are receiving any funds from the Student Government Association (SGA), you are ineligible for GPSA travel grants. Because the funds are limited, the following priorities will be followed in the allocations:

- 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.
- 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.

Seven grants have already been awarded to students for 2000/2001 and additional requests are being processed.

Recipients of Fall 2000 Awards:

- David E. Cox- Presenting Thesis Research at the fifth International Conference on Family Violence. San Diego, California.
- Jeffrey W. King- Presenting tutorial lecture at Southeast ACSM Annual Conference. Columbia, South Carolina.
- Kenneth Proffitt- Attending Annual Graph Theory Conference at Clemson University. Clemson, South Carolina.
- John C. Quindry- Attending at the South East Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine 2001 Annual Meeting. Presenting tutorial lecture.

Columbia, South Carolina.

Recipients of Spring 2001 Awards:

- Heather Elsea & Joanna L. Goan- Attending student poster session competition and presentation. Tennessee Dietetic Association. Cookeville, TN.
- Min Jin- Presenting a paper in the annual meeting of Experimental Biology 2001 Meeting. Orlando, FL.
- Xuwan Liu- Presenting an abstract at the Experimental Biology 2001 Meeting. Orlando, FL.
- Kenneth Proffitt- Attending conference at the 32nd Annual S.E. International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory, and computing at Louisiana State University.
- Join us on April 5th at noon during GPSA Appreciation Week when recipients of travel grants share their research with the ETSU campus community. NOTE: There is still some travel award money available for graduate students.

**GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT
ASSOCIATION & THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

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If you have any interesting news or events that you would like to see in our upcoming newsletter, let us know! Email your information to wyattlg@etsu.edu and be sure to keep an eye open for future editions of
-The Graduate-

We're on the Web!
**[www.etsu.edu/
gradstud/gpsa.htm](http://www.etsu.edu/gradstud/gpsa.htm)**

MEET THE STAFF OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES (WWW.ETSU.EDU/GRADSTUD)

Wesley C. Brown, Ph. D.

Dean
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Directs all programs and staff of the School of Graduate Studies. GPSA Faculty Advisor.

Roberta Herrin, Ph. D.

Associate Dean
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Assists the Dean in running the School of Graduate Studies. Supervises the four program liaisons. Oversees all admissions and records functions. Validates all international transcripts and oversees the in-state residency application process. Handles late drop/add requests.

Linda Wyatt

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Assists the Dean in administration of the School of Graduate Studies. Processes graduate assistantship and tuition scholarship contracts. Assists with Graduate Council, graduate coordinators, and graduate faculty. Assists with recruiting and orientation. GPSA Staff Advisor.

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Mary Duncan

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Kathleen Cureton

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Sonja Jackson

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Develops and maintains a recruitment strategy, including the recruitment of minority students. Travels to graduate and professional school fairs and seminars. Responsible for databases and data reports reflecting inquiries, applications, admissions, and enrollment for graduate programs.

Gail Powers

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