



LETTER FROM THE DEANS

Volume 7, Issue 1
Spring 2003

In 1899, Thorstein Veblen's *The Theory of the Leisure Class* advanced the idea that students belong to the "leisure class." Veblen's definition of this class was grounded in the concept of conspicuous consumption (a phrase he coined) by the upper classes, especially the *nouveau riche*. His economic theory is too weighty and complex for this space, but the 21st-century graduate student would probably take issue with Veblen's classification; to put it mildly, today's students-especially graduate students-do not define themselves in Veblen's terms.

Today's scholars are, for the most part, working adults who balance the demands of graduate study with the responsibilities of home, family, work, and, sometimes, their own aging parents. To suggest that they have "leisure" of any sort would surely be an affront. To suggest that they belong to an upper class of citizens who use wealth and leisure to gain political power and social prerogative would be laughable to most.

Today's graduate students would more likely define "leisure" as brief spaces of time snatched away from a full schedule. Their leisure time consists of

- Fifteen quiet minutes for reading, sitting in the van alone, while waiting to pick up the second-grader from school;
- An hour between midnight and 1:00 a.m. for working on a project, while everyone else is asleep;
- Thirty minutes to edit the first draft of a research paper, while waiting for an elderly parent to be seen by a doctor; or
- An entire week to oneself, working on a dissertation chapter, while the rest of the family is having a vacation at the beach.

Why do 21st-century scholars make such sacrifices? For two reasons: We live in a culture where career advancement often depends on earning one or more academic degrees. More importantly, we live in a time when learning for its own sake is necessary for a quality life. The term "life-long learning" is not a shallow label.

Graduate students in 2003 do not belong to Veblen's elite leisure class; instead, they more nearly can be classified among the "learning class"-responsible citizens who understand the real value of an education and who use their time wisely.

To all of you who are committed to a life characterized by study and learning, we wish you all the best. May your leisure time be time well spent.

Sincerely,

Wesley Brown, Ph. D.
Dean

Roberta Herrin, Ph. D.
Associate Dean

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 Graduate and Professional Student Association
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope the Spring 2003 semester is going well for each of you and that you are finding success in your selected fields. We are excited to report that GPSA kicked off this year with a bang. During Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week we held our yearly Travel and Research Forum where we showcased graduate students and the contributions they made. Throughout the semester, GPSA held meetings regarding issues of concern to graduate students, helped plan GPSA week, in addition to drafting the news- letter. We look forward to more graduate student involvement at ETSU this fall.

How does one join GPSA? To join, simply fill out an application at one of our meetings or download an application at www.etsu.edu/gradstud/gpsa.htm. 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. Meeting and up coming event are announced on the ETSU calendar link http://www.etsu.edu/calendars/calendars_cat.asp?txtCategory=1

As always, we're trying to be an organization that works for you, the graduate students. So, if you have an idea, suggestion, comment, etc. please let us hear from you so that we can help make your Graduate School experience the most positive experience that we can.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Thompson
President, Graduate and Professional Student Association

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Hi, I'm the Vice President for the GPSA. I am enrolled in the MBA Program with anticipated graduation date of May 2003. You may also find me every other weekend at the IUC of JCMC as a Registered Nurse. I look forward to meeting all of you and building a strong GPSA.

Jared D. Bement
Vice President GPSA

MEET TREASURY/SECRETARY

Hello, I'm the Treasurer/Secretary for the GPSA. I earned a B.A. in 1992 and an M.A. in 1998 in English from ETSU. I've taught Writing at ETSU, NSTCC, and WSCC. Currently, I am enrolled in the Art and Design program pursuing an M. A. in Art History. I look forward to meeting you and building a strong GPSA membership this fall. Working with GPSA and the Graduate Studies has proven to be a valuable experience!

Alisa Brandenburg
Treasury/Secretary GPSA

GRADUATE STUDIES/GPSA WEB DESIGNER

Hello, I am a graduate of the Design Graphics Program from ETSU with a B.S. in Technology. I am also currently working on my Masters in Digital Media. I originally became involved with the GPSA through a TS position. From experiences there I have learned that the GPSA is an admirable organization in its goal to help improve the Graduate School experience. While there it has been my responsibility to completely redesign the GPSA and the School of Graduate Studies Web Pages. Working for the GPSA/School of Graduate Studies has proven to be a valuable experience.

Steven Jarrod Rife
Web Designer GPSA

The 2002-2003 GPSA Officers:

Kimberly Norris Thompson - President
Jared D. Bement - Vice President
Alisa Brandenburg - Treasurer/Secretary
Steven Jarrod Rife - Web Designer
Linda Wyatt - Staff Advisor
EMAIL: wyattlg@mail.etsu.edu

GPSA Events

- **April 7th - 11th** GPSA Appreciation Week. This was a week of recognizing graduate and professional students at ETSU.
- **April 7th** - 12:00-1:00 PM Graduate Student Open House sponsored by the GPSA and School of Graduate Studies to give the Graduate Students an opportunity to meet the Graduate Studies Staff.
- **April 10th** - 12:00-1:00 PM The GPSA had the Travel Award Presentations in the Forum Room, D. P. Culp Center Students, who have received support money from GPSA to present research at regional and national conferences, shared their research with ETSU faculty, students, and staff.
- **Fall Semester 2003**- Every fall the GPSA holds its election for officers. We are currently accepting nominations at this time.
- Events will be posted on ETSU calendar and the GPSA website.

http://www.etsu.edu/calendars/calendars_cat.asp?txtCategory=1

www.etsu.edu/gradstud/gpsa.htm

SPOTLIGHT ON ANITA BLACK



Thesis Reader Anita Black is 'Proud Mom'

When Anita Black is not taking her kids to sports practice, the mall, movies, or just helping out with their homework, you can find her working at the ETSU Graduate Studies. Anita is the 2002-2003 ETD Manager and says she really enjoys her graduate assistantship: "I love working with Linda Wyatt and Dr. Brown because my hours are flexible and I can plan my schedule and work ahead on my studies, but I am busier at the end of the semester, ensuring that all the papers receive the approval they deserve." This is Anita's second semester serving as the Thesis Reader and second year in the Criminal Justice graduate program.

Prior to reviewing master's theses and doctoral dissertations for approval by the Dean, Anita's responsibilities range from electronically filing papers and assisting with students' specific formatting needs to archiving and micro-filing theses and dissertations. "I truly enjoy helping students when they run into unexpected problems." Anita admits that while she's 'only doing her job,' students do seem to appreciate the assistance from the graduate studies, "especially towards the final review when they begin to really stress over finishing."

In addition to pursuing an MA in Criminal Justice, Anita really enjoys being a mom and says that she would not be here working without the support of her family. "I know they are tired of frozen dinners and fixing their own sandwiches, but they do it without much complaining.

Anita's specific interest in Criminal Justice is the Child Welfare League and Children's Rights, Inc, in which she is a strong advocate for the prevention of child abuse. "I am working on my master's full time to prevent child abuse and help abused children by prosecuting and stopping their abusers. I am interested in protecting children from future maltreatment and assisting in directing their lives toward a successful future."

Anita is married to MSG Mark Black, soldier in the Army Reserves, who devotes his time to career counseling service men and women. Their children are Wes, 14, who plays varsity football at Science Hill and Amanda, 12, who loves volleyball. Anita may be reached at the School of Graduate Studies at 439-4898 or email etd@mail.etsu.edu.

NEW GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION



The new graduate student orientation will be held Monday, August 18th 2003. The morning orientation session is a half-day event with registration beginning at 7:45 a.m. in the D.P. Culp Center Auditorium Lobby. Our evening orientation registration begins at 5:30 p.m. in the D.P. Culp Center Forum Room - 3rd Floor. You may RSVP your reservation for orientation by contacting the Graduate Studies office 423-439-4221 or by e-mailing wyattlg@mail.etsu.edu. You do not need to attend both sessions, only the one that is most convenient for you.

For a campus map and driving directions go <http://www.etsu.edu/maps.asp>.

2002-2003 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. If you are receiving any 606 funding 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:

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

Erin Presley (English) presented a paper entitled "Feminist Sensibilities Through Misogyny: Edgar Allan Poe's Brand of Feminism" at the University of South Carolina Graduate Conference on March 14, 2002. Erin also presented at the New Voices Conference at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA on September 20, 2002.

Annette McGrew (English) presented a paper entitled "Bridge Over Troubled Waters: Self Determinism in Denise Giardina's The Unquiet Earth at the Graduate English Society Conference at Texas Technological University in Lubbock, TX on February 22, 2003. Annette also presented a paper entitled "Women's Stories Told Well" at the Appalachian Studies Conference at Eastern Kentucky University on March 28, 2003. Lastly, Annette presented a paper entitled "Striving To Survive: Trauma and Testimony in Lee Smith's 'Black Mountain Breakdown'" at the SALMA Conference in Baltimore MA on November 15, 2002.

Thomas Young (History) will be participating in a Roundtable discussion regarding the "Television Shows of David E. Kelly" at the PCA/ACA National Conference on Popular Culture in New Orleans, LA on April 16, 2003.

Jamie Howard (Math) attended the DIMACS Conference at Rutgers University July 14-19, 2003.

Lisa Cooper (Communicative Disorders) attended the National Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in Nashville, TN July 12-15, 2002.

Jill Collins (Communicative Disorders) attended the National Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in Nashville, TN July 12-15, 2002.

Julane Morris (Communicative Disorders) attended the National Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in Nashville, TN July 12-15, 2002.

Mary Fanslow (MALS) presented a paper entitled "From Timbering to Tourism: The Wonderland Hotel's Formative Years, 1912-1935" at the Appalachian Studies Conference in Richmond, KY on March 29, 2003.

Lou Ann Sevier (ELPA) presented a paper entitled "A Reflective Strategy For Learning the Methods of Qualitative Research" at the MSERA Annual Meeting in Chattanooga, TN on November 7, 2003.

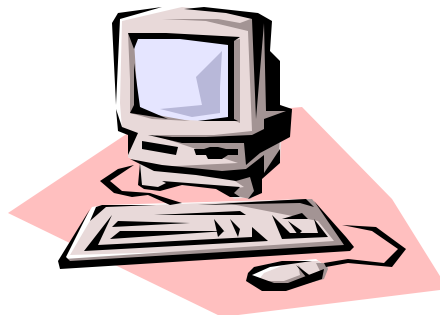
Lou Ann Sevier and Desiree Francis (ELPA) co-presented a paper entitled "Teaching Teachers to Teach a Culturally Diverse Population" at the SRCEA Conference in Kansas City, MO on October 5, 2003.

Robin Leonard (ELPA) presented a paper entitled "Parental Attitudes Towards Cross-Gender Behavior" at the MSERA Annual Meeting in Chattanooga, TN on November 6, 2003.

Sonja Jackson (ELPA) will be attending the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in San Francisco, CA May 26-June 1, 2003.

David Burrows (Biomed) presented a poster entitled "GC/MS Method for the Detection of Citalopram in Biological Matrices" at the Society of Forensic Toxicology National Meeting on October 15, 2003.

Kim Thompson (Biomed) co-presented a paper entitled "Nicotine Alleviates Cognitive and Motor Defects Produced By Ontogenetic Quinpirole Treatments" at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Neuroscience in Orlando, FL on November 1, 2002.



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

HOW MAY WE IMPROVE?

The School of Graduate Studies and the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) would like to receive your feedback on our performance. The successful graduate student experience is our main priority and we consider your feedback very important. And constantly strive to improve . We invite your suggestions for improvement.

Please use the space provided below for your comments. Please tear out and fold as shown on the reverse of this page and mail to the School of Graduate Studies.

Thank you for taking the time to share your comments on how the School of Graduate Studies and the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) can improve the graduate student experience.

Optional: If you would like to include contact information in order that we may acknowledge your comments:

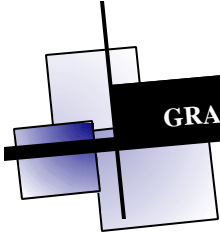
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

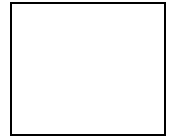
Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____



GRADUATE SCHOOL/GPSA

SATISFACTION SURVEY



PLEASE RETURN FORM TO:

GPSA– School of Graduate Studies
PO Box 70720
Johnson City, TN 37614-0720

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MEET THE STAFF OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES (www.etsu.edu/gradstud)

Wesley C. Brown, Ph. D.

Dean Phone: 439- 6146
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Directs all programs and staff of the School of Graduate Studies. GPSA Faculty Advisor.

Roberta Herrin, Ph. D.

Associate Dean A
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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.

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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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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.

Queen Brown

Secretary/Receptionist
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Handles all areas of the front desk operation. Greets and routes all visitors to the Graduate office to the appropriate staff member.

GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2002-2003

GPSA has established a voting presence many on committees of the ETSU campus. These committee/advisory council positions allow the GPSA to better represent the graduate/professional student population by allowing specific issues and concerns to be directly presented to its membership.

Current graduate students serving on 2002-2003 committees include the following:

Technology Access Fee Committee-

Emily Miller

Race Relations Committee-

Veronica Harris

Graduate Council Committee-

Kimberly Norris-Thompson and Chris Ziegler

University Libraries Advisory Committee-

Anita Black

Teacher Education Council Advisory Committee-

Scott Wild

Disability Issues Standing Committee-

Mike Depew

International Program Advisory Committee-

Viktoria Tordai

University Wellness Committee-

Chris Ziegler

**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@mail.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)**