

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE!

NDSU Graduate Student Newsletter is looking for exciting, short pieces of writing or items of interest to graduate students to feature in the newsletter. Submit to newsletter@ndsugsa.com.



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POSITIONS OPEN!

NDSU GSA is seeking self-motivated graduate students to serve. Now available are a Publications & Publicity Co-Chair as well as member positions on all committees.

NDSU Graduate Student Association
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NDSU Dept. 2820
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108
info@ndsugsa.com

Wanted: Dead or Alive

The GSA executive council is currently working on the research and development phase of a proposal for university-provided health insurance for graduate assistants. Upon completion of this phase, we will propose several different insurance plans that satisfy the needs of the students we represent. We intend on pushing forward with this process until an agreement can be reached with administration. However, in order to do so, we need support from the NDSU graduate community. We ask that you attend meetings and see how you can contribute to making the NDSU graduate experience more positive and student focused.

What's a Library for Anyway???

A library task force is underway at NDSU. Preliminary findings indicate that, compared to peer institutions, general and severe deficiencies exist in the library services, collections, and space available to students, faculty, and the larger NDSU community. Notably, the main library space is much too small for students' needs. Mechanical issues, poor lighting, and lack of parking are a few of the other issues. Looking forward, what do modern day top research universities library provide? What can NDSU do to attain these standards?

If you are a graduate student you may reflect on your earlier libraries as a

complex amalgamation of the Dewey Decimal System, library cards, and index cards stamped with the book's due date. Thinking of the library as a place to check out books and play Oregon Trail is, today, a gross oversimplification and the need for a library has been under attack in the recent digital age. The library has responded to this by evolving and gaining new purposes. The modern academic library is a collaboration zone: a place for students, faculty, staff, and others to meet, discuss, collaborate, and engage in their education. Newer facilities have shed the title of "Library" in exchange for Knowledge, Resource, or Learning Center. But, whatever the title, the library's deep-rooted academic tradition continues to persist as students from diverse disciplines and backgrounds share in the benefit of books' and technologies' co-existence.

Join the movement as we push forward. Share your library thoughts and needs at newsletter@ndsugsa.com.







THANK YOU! *The GSA thanks the following Newsletter Contributors*

Lindsay Erickson, Stacy Sommer, and Sam Larson for sharing their art and research with the greater graduate student community, all contributing writers & editors, and the Graduate School, for funding and continued support! Many images within this newsletter were retrieved from Google Images. Please email newsletter@ndsugsa.com for complete citations.

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Your Association, Your Voice



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Graduate Prospectus

THE **NDSU GRADUATE STUDENT NEWSLETTER**
A publication of the North Dakota State University Graduate Student Association

RECENT HAPPENINGS

Bowling for Health Insurance

The GSA executive council is working to establish a university-provided health care package for Graduate Assistants. The team is tasked with: 1) researching packages at similar universities; 2) exploring options that are cost effective for the university; and 3) ensuring their results provide adequate coverage to students. David Wittrock, Dean of the Graduate School, was in attendance at a recent meeting provide feedback regarding this proposition. We are confident that the university is working with us as we move towards our goal. We ask graduate community members to add their voice by attending GSA meetings and/or completing our upcoming health insurance survey. Questions? Feel free to contact Jon George at Jonathon.George@ndsugsa.com.

Strategic Planning

NDSU Graduate students were given the opportunity to participate in

President Bresciani's Listening Groups this fall. Phase II of the Strategic Planning has commenced and NDSU community members are invited to add their comments, opinions, or suggestions. Summaries of the groups' discussions can be found at sp.ndsu.edu. A majority of the comments were not included in the main summary. Please check out the Supporting Documents to see the original reports.

National Coming Out Week

GSA hosted a Professional Development session for Coming Out Week at NDSU. A short presentation highlighted methods of ensuring an LGBTQIA-friendly workplace and discussed prospective opportunities for coming out to potential employers. Guest panelists shared experiences on coming out in the workplace and answered questions from a packed Meadow Lark room.

Social!

GSA organized monthly socials this fall, including a Trivia Night in September and NDSU's "Haunted Tour" in October. Join us next month at Divas & Rockstars for Karaoke and camaraderie: Thursday, December 16th at 7:00 pm.



HIGHLIGHTED RESEARCH

Lindsay Erickson, PhD Candidate, Mathematics

My area of study broadly defined is in combinatorics. More specifically, I study games on graphs. When we speak of a graph, we aren't referring to the good old (x; y) coordinate system that most of us remember from pre-algebra. At the risk of sounding too simplicial, a graph is just a collection of dots, called vertices, and lines, called edges. The two-player game that we play on graphs is called Nim. The way to play is to first fix a finite, undirected, simple graph, assign a positive integer weight to each of the edges, and fix a starting vertex which we denote by Δ.

GSA CALENDAR
Professional Development
Academic Growth
Student Life

FALL 2010

November 22, 6:00 pm
Open Forum
MU Century Theater

November 23, 1:00 pm
Executive Council Meeting
MU Mandan Room

December 2, 1:00 pm
GSA Meeting
MU Mandan Room

December 16, 7:00 pm
GSA Social
Divas & Rockstars

SPRING 2011

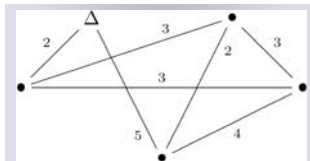
January 10, 8:00 am
Orientation
New Graduate Students
MU Legacy Lounge

January 10, 8:00 pm
GSA Social
Skateland

March 11, 5:00 pm
Abstract Deadline
Research & Arts Forum

April 20, 10:00 - 2:00 pm
Research & Arts Forum
Memorial Union

Please keep an eye open for any Graduate Listserv emails indicating other upcoming events that may be of interest to the graduate student community at NDSU!



The two players move alternately from vertex to vertex, and as they move across the edge they must remove an integer amount of weight from the edge they moved across. Once all weight has been removed from an edge, neither player may move across it. The player who gets stuck at a vertex in which all incident edges have no weight loses the game.

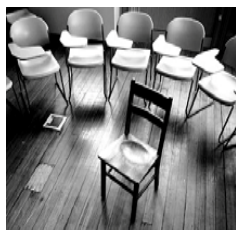
Previously, solutions were found for odd and even paths, odd cycles, and bipartite graphs with perfect matchings. We have found solutions for even cycles with arbitrary weight and the complete graphs, Petersen graph, and the hypercubes when the weight of each edge equals one. Currently, we are working to find the solutions to the complete graphs with arbitrary weight and the Petersen graph with arbitrary weight. In the future we will look to find solutions to Nim on trees, complete bipartite graphs, and locally finite infinite graphs.

Stacy Sommer, PhD Candidate, Coatings and Polymeric Materials

Coatings are an exciting area of research because they are all around us, on materials we use every day. They can be used to serve a number of functions including surface protection (furniture coatings, corrosion resistant coatings, etc.), surface modification (improving the biocompatibility of a material) and aesthetic enhancement (latex household paint). At NDSU we have a unique program where we develop novel coatings systems, improve existing systems and predict their lifetime for real-world applications.



As a PhD student in Coatings and Polymeric Materials, my research focuses on the development of fouling-release coatings for naval vessels. The goal is to prevent the permanent settlement of organisms on a ship's hull. These coatings allow for easy removal of organisms such as barnacles (see photo), tube worms and slimes from the surface. This research has great implications, as attachment of these organisms drastically increases vessel fuel consumption, reduces maneuverability and poses ecological threats. As part of this research, we have developed a non-toxic coating system which has performed well in ocean testing. More so, it shows improved durability compared to traditional fouling-release coatings, which tend to be soft and easily damaged in the marine environment.



Sam Larson, Masters Candidate, Sociology

By pursuing my Masters in Sociology at NDSU, I have remained close to my hometown of Carrington, ND to study the very phenomenon that I invalidate: North Dakota's outmigration rate of young, single and college-educated residents (one of the nation's highest since 1995) and the rural brain drain. I aspire to place this work in line

with the mission and values of our land grant university: "to derive strength and vitality from each other and from the diverse communities we serve." As a 2009 recipient of the \$5000 Laurie Loveland Scholarship, which supports feminist students at NDSU, I utilize women's standpoint theory to conduct qualitative research from the local sites of people's lives and explore areas that have yet to be identified. Thus, one of my key research goals is to uncover the barriers to young rural women's economic opportunities in our global society, which has yet to be done in North Dakota, where women have among the lowest median earnings for full-time, full-year work. I plan to present my findings at the 2011 Midwest Sociological Society Conference: "The Dynamics of Inequality" in St. Louis, MO.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

Be a part of the next GSA Newsletter: provide us with biographies, upcoming recitals, shows, or exhibits, or any other pieces you would like featured!

FUTURE ENDEAVORS

GSA Prospects for the Coming Year
At the Graduate Student Association, we charge ourselves with securing graduate student rights, being a representative voice, developing and sustaining influential cross-campus partnerships, and advancing the quality of educational and social experiences for graduate students at NDSU. We aspire to foster an interdepartmental graduate community through social, learning, and leadership events. For the 2010-11 academic year, our agenda includes continued work on stipend levels, health coverage, and the state of the NDSU Library, which require the establishment of a strong working relationships with the Graduate School, Student Government, and the President. If you have additional projects you wish the GSA to explore or other means of improving graduate life and campus experience, feel free to contact us at info@ndsugsa.com.



R&A Forum: Call for Abstracts

All NDSU graduate students are invited to present their research, teaching, outreach, or creative endeavors at the 3rd Annual NDSU Graduate Research & Arts Forum on April 20th, 2011. The NDSU GSA event is being held to showcase graduate student contributions to the university and beyond. A poster session will run from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm with light snacks and refreshments provided throughout. Deadline for abstract submission is March 11th, 2011. Please see the GSA website or email info@ndsugsa.com for detailed submission instructions.

Dean's Open Forum

Improve your Graduate Student experience and let your voice be heard! David Wittrock, Dean of the Graduate School, will be in attendance for this event, to be held Monday, November 22nd at 6:00 pm in Century Theater. NDSU Graduate Students are encouraged to attend and ask questions or offer suggestions to Graduate School administration. An informal social will follow the forum and include pizza and refreshments, courtesy of the GSA. Please visit our website or email info@ndsugsa.com for more information.

ART & RESEARCH!

NDSU Graduate Student Newsletter wants to put YOU in our Spotlight on the Arts or Research Highlights segment. Don't miss this unique opportunity to share your work with graduate students at NDSU! Please submit a 200 word piece to newsletter@ndsugsa.com.



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS!

NDSU's annual Research and Arts Forum will be held this spring. The submission deadline is March 11th, 2011. Please see the article within this newsletter for more details.

GET INVOLVED!

GSA Social

Take a break and attend the monthly social. Free food or other perks included!

GSA Sponsored Event

These events aim to foster professional development, student life, and academic growth.

Regular Meeting

Stop by one of our bi-monthly meetings to learn more about the GSA and voice your ideas.

Executive Council Meeting

Bi-monthly meetings will be held to focus on obtaining health insurance for graduate students at NDSU. Show your support for this effort!

Research and Arts Forum

Exhibit your studies, broaden your knowledge, and network with other NDSU graduate students this spring!