On behalf of the Graduate Student Government... hello and welcome back!

As we begin a new semester I would like to reflect on some of the outstanding work graduate students did in the fall AND fill you in on several exciting spring semester events!

The Graduate Student Government (GSG) kicked off the fall semester with the third annual GSG Social. There was a great turnout - with faces in the crowd including Provost Sherman, Executive Vice President Tressel, Dean Rocco – and most importantly, graduate students! We had a great time mingling with other grads and learning about the NEW Office of Graduate Student Development, located in Polsky 451 and directed by Dr. Heather Burton. Please visit their website to learn more about their services, workshops, and programs!

Throughout last semester GSG provided $10,572 in student organization and individual graduate student support. Many graduate students took advantage of GSG’s Professional Enrichment Grants (PEG). With GSG’s financial support, graduate students in diverse fields were able to travel to places like Denver, San Diego, Orlando, and even Amsterdam to attend professional conferences and present their research. If you would like more information on how YOU can apply for a PEG please visit the GSG website.

The GSG Executive Board has also been collaborating with many campus groups and individuals. A huge thank you goes out to the Graduate School, USG, Provost’s Office, Institute of Teaching and Learning, Dean of Student’s Office, Student Life, University Libraries, Office of Graduate Student Development, Office of International Programs, Office of Multicultural Development, CBA, and Career Center. GSG set out to connect campus this year for the benefit of graduate students and without the help of these UA departments our efforts would not have been so fruitful.

Additionally, the Executive Board created four new GSG positions – the Directors of Outreach. The Directors (representing alumni, Akron community, student organizations, and undergraduates) have been working diligently to connect campus. Sitting on campus committees, planning networking opportunities in the community, helping student organizations connect with each other, and creating a graduate student alumni database are all in the works – we’re excited to see what the spring semester brings!

Finally, with the end of fall semester came the time to look at the GSG Bylaws and Elections Rules. The Executive Board, with the help of the GSG Senators and Directors, worked on improving the clarity of these governing documents. Look out for another email from GSG next week – we will be sending you these documents once the GSG body approves them.

**SPRING SEMESTER IMPORTANT DATES/EVENTS**

- **GSG elections information and timeline** will be sent out shortly. If you are interested in running for GSG President/Vice President, Treasurer or Senate and have any questions at this time, please email me at gsgpresident@uakron.edu
- **Research Skills for Graduate Success:** Thursday, February 6 at 12pm AND 6pm, Student Union room 308 (GSG, UA Libraries, and Graduate Student Development)
- **International Flag Quilt Unveiling:** Thursday, February 13 at 3:30pm, Student Union 2nd floor by Starbucks (GSG and Student Life)
- **GSG Central Committee Meeting:** Friday, February 14 at 12pm, Student Union room 318 (open to the public)
- **GSG Leadership Symposium with Vice President LaGuardia:** Wednesday, March 12 at 12pm, Student Union Theater

Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to email, call, or stop by to visit if you have any ideas, concerns or questions!

**Have a great semester and GO ZIPS!**

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