The officers of Graduate Student Government (GSG) would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning graduate students of The University of Akron. GSG is an umbrella organization of all the graduate student groups and individuals at the University of Akron. The organization seeks the welfare and unity of all graduate students at the university no matter their background or diversity. Our mission for the 2012/2013 Academic Year is to increase visibility, presence, advocacy and engagement of graduate students in purposeful matters and students activities on the University campus through programs, networks and connections, and collaboration towards the University of Akron’s Vision 2020. In achieving these goals, we have put together various programs and policies including the Annual Social Engagement Program with the School’s Administrators, leadership summits, travel funding support policies and campus-wide meetings to give opportunities to students to make their voice known.

As you go through the year, we humbly request that you actively participate in all programs and activities that will give voice to graduate students on campus. In the content of this newsletter, you will find previews of the services provided by GSG and events to look forward to on campus. Thank you very much.

UA Pride All Day, Every Day! Welcome to The University of Akron!!!
Celebrating our Speakers and Sponsors

Dr. Luis M. Proenza
President

Dr. William Mike Sherman
Provost

Dr. George R. Newkome
VP for Research & Dean of the Graduate School

Jim Tressel
VP of Strategic Engagement

Lee A. Gill, J.D
Assoc VP Inclusion & Equity/CDO

Denine M. Rocco
Associate Vice President and Dean of Students

Dr. Mark B. Tausig
Professor & Associate Dean of the Graduate School
A few highlights of significant achievements experienced so far include:

- Negotiated some form of arrangements for installment payments of the Student Health Insurance this semester. Students in extreme difficulties are given opportunities to use their stipends and other sources of income to pay for their health insurance over an agreed period of time. Aside from that, plans are also far advanced to commence “Full Installment Payment System” in fall of 2013.
- Successfully hosted the Annual Graduate Students’ Social Engagement with the School’s Administrators. Overall about 200 students were in attendance including the leadership of the University.
- Initiated the First Leadership Symposium with The University of Akron President – Dr. Luis M Proenza. About 60 people overwhelming participated.
- Sent a delegation of Four students to the 26th Annual National Association of Graduate Professional and Student (NAGPS) National Conference at Duke University, Durham, NC
- Allocated travel grants to more than 100 individuals and students groups; 5 student organization with project funds and 4 students groups with operating funds to augment their graduate activities. We also approved several blended and new graduate students’ organizations.
- Videotaped every programming to upload on our websites. We also update the website regularly with new information.
- Appointed a secretary to help create a lister to connect all graduate organizations and departments with GSG
- Enforced a more friendly collaboration with our undergraduate student’s counterparts.
- Fostered a closer relations with the University’s administrators particularly, the president, provost, the vice presidents, our deans and advisors. We have received tremendous support from our advisors – Dr. Newkome, Dr. Tausig and Dean Rocco.

You will concur with me that a lot has been achieved but we expect to do more. Please be on the alert for the following activities:

- Our 2nd Leadership Symposium is set to take off with Jim Tressel on February, 22, 2013.
- Election of new leaders will be conducted.
- A special handing over ceremony with the undergraduate student government
- Open dialogue seminar with some successful personalities in the society
- Joint community and voluntary services in the Akron areas
- Approve more travel, project and operating Grants to qualified individuals, groups and students organizations.
- Advocate for an increase in budget to sponsor more graduate activities on campus.

As a concluding remark, I encourage you all to take your research and graduate studies seriously. Strive to generate new ideas to create opportunities for the next generations. Let us continue to stay united and tolerate our differences in every walk of life. In fact, by staying and working together, we nurture our values and provide opportunities for our successes and achievements. As you travel the journey of success and prosperity, I want you to guard yourselves with these profound quotes: “Honesty is a very expensive gift; do not expect it from cheap people” (Warren Buffet); and “Leave this world better than it was when you got here” (Stephen R. Covey). Wishing you a prosperous New Year and a wonderful spring semester!!!

Chris Opoku-Agyeman
President, GSG
Welcome UA Graduate Students!

I would like to take a brief moment to welcome all new and returning UA Graduate Students to The University of Akron. As graduate students, you have chosen to further your education in the hopes of better preparing yourself to meet the needs of an ever-changing and demanding world. Please know that your Graduate Student Government (GSG) understands that they are here to advocate on your behalf and provide a voice for the concerns and issues that affect our graduate students.

Over time, as our University has flourished, the role of the GSG has broadened to address the needs of our graduate students more sufficiently. In addition to advocacy, under the leadership of Chris Opoku-Agyeman, the GSG is now branching out to attract more student involvement, provide more opportunity for student engagement in campus life and activities as well as implement changes in policies and procedures for the benefit of fellow graduate students. I am sure that you have noticed that the normal daily routine and life of a graduate student is somewhat different than that of an undergraduate; however, this does not mean that opportunities to engage in student life and network with fellow students are any less abundant.

I encourage all of you to take an active role in working with your graduate student government. They are here to assist you, listen to you, and advocate for you. In return, they need your support to do those things to the best of their ability. I wish you all the very best in this upcoming year.

With best regards, I remain sincerely,

George R. Newkome, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research and Dean, Graduate School
Oelschlager Professor of Science and Technology
Professor of Polymer Science and Chemistry
Graduate Student Organizations & Activities

Graduate Student Organizations

Getting involved is an excellent way to develop professional experience and demonstrate leadership to future employers. Here is a list of graduate student organizations on campus:

- Chemical and Biomolecular Graduate Student Association
- Chi Sigma Iota – Alpha Epsilon
- Counseling Psychology Graduate Student Organization
- Diversity Dialogues
- E-Docs
- Graduate Nursing Student Organization
- Graduate Student Business Association
- Industrial / Organizational Psychology Graduate Club
- International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineers
- Master of Social Work Student Association
- National Sexuality Resource Center – Akron Chapter
- Polymer Engineering Student Organization
- Polymer Science Student Organization
- Public Administration and Urban Studies Student Association
- Society for the Advancement of Marriage and Family Counseling / Therapy
- Society of Akron English Scholars
- Sociologists for Women in Society
- Student Academy of Audiology
- Student Association for Graduates in Education

As a registered member of a graduate organization, you have access to travel and event funding from the Graduate Student Government.

Interested in a group not listed above? Creating a new student organization has never been easier! Please visit our website for more details [http://www.uakron.edu/gsg/index.dot](http://www.uakron.edu/gsg/index.dot)

Activities

Our activities are categorized into Six major areas:

(a) Academics (we sponsor conference presenters and attendees, Research, Innovativeness)
(b) Social Engagements and Networking Programs
(c) Advocacy (e.g. Student Health Insurance)
(d) Community Outreach (Akron Food Bank, University Park Alliance, SpringFest)
(e) Partnerships and Collaboration with the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), National Association of Graduate Professionals Students (NAGPS)
(f) Entrepreneurial initiatives (Hoisting of the flags, awarding distinguished leaders, Conference Presentation Portfolios)

Projects & Programs

Highlights of some of our programs and projects include:

(a) Students Travel Grants Initiative
   - Professional Enrichment Program (PEG) Up to $150 and $300
   - Group Travel Up to $2000
   - Special Project Funds
   - Research Grants
(b) Central Committee Meetings (college senators and department representative)
(c) Campus-Wide Meetings : Everybody has a voice
(d) Representation in the Board of Trustees
(e) Representation in The University Council
(f) Representation in the faculty Senate
(g) Representation in various sub-committees

26th Annual NAGPS National Conference
November 1–4, 2012, Duke University, Durham, NC

Conference attendees: Mohammed Eltayeb; Chris Opoku-Agyeman; Shamima Jahan and Jamie Parker

Candace Campbell Jackson
VP and Chief of Staff

RECOGNIZING ANOTHER GSG SPONSOR
Recap of GSG’s Social Event with the Administrators

The Annual Graduate Students’ Social Engagement with the School's Administrators which was started by the previous administration took a novel twist with the current administration. With the number of graduate attendees increasing from 70 for the previous year to 200, we believe this initiative has come to stay. With this great stride in promoting students’ interest and participation, we are hopeful that the Graduate Student Government is adequately engaging and representing students in all purposeful matters and activities on campus. The annual social engagement event will continue to be a major activity to unite both new and old graduate students in the University community and will include orientation, meet and greet, luncheon, familiarization with the school’s administrators and networking.

The 2012 Annual Graduate Students’ Social Engagement was held at the University of Akron Infocision Stadium (5th floor) - FirstMerit Foundation Club Level on Friday, September 14, 2012, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Special dignitaries of the University's administration honored our invitation including Dr. Proenza (President), Dr. Sherman (Provost), Dr. Newkome (VP for Research & Dean of the Graduate School), Jim Tressel (VP of Strategic Engagement), Lee Gill, J.D (Assoc VP Inclusion & Equity/CDO), Dr. Tausig (Professor & Associate Dean of the Graduate School), and Denine Rocco (Associate VP and Dean of Students). We also hosted the warmest presence of some students from John Carroll University. Several topics were emphasized to encourage, inform and challenge our youthful minds to think about our personal development and opportunities available in advancing the world for our generation.

The Executives of the Graduate Student Government wants to express their profound gratitude to all students whose participation, contributions and tremendous supports made this event a memorable one. Have in mind that The University of Akron’s future belongs to YOU and we must dare to vent to make a difference wherever we find ourselves.

“If you want to know what is down the road, ask someone who is coming back; stop complaining about your problems and find ways to fix them” (Confucius); and "Making a difference in people's lives - and seeing it with your own eyes - is perhaps the most satisfying thing you'll ever do. If you want to fully enjoy life - give. "And if ...you want to do something for your children and show how much you love them, the single best thing - by far - is to support organizations that will create a better world for them and their children." (Michael Bloomberg)
At the beginning of our legacy of change in bridging the gap between academics and professional career for students at large, the current administration put together a monthly or bi-monthly “Leadership Symposium” to invited selected distinguished personalities from the University campus and the community to share their background experiences to help students shape their youthful minds in career choices, networking building, leadership, knowledge of skills and abilities needed to connect with employers and potential partners, family orientations and other extra curriculum activities. By this initiative, we believe students will be inspired and empowered to harness and unleash their God given potentials to enable them experience the pleasure of accomplishment and build up a mindset of winning in life.

This novel leadership program is the first of its kind, which is aimed at unearthing the capabilities within the student to transform their way of thinking to a more productive way of making decisions. Not just that, but also, to change the fabric of society by causing a paradigm shift in the right choice making through guidance and development to student as they are faced with challenging issues. The first leadership symposium hosted The University of Akron President -Dr. Luis M Proenza and was held at the Faculty Lounge (Student Union, 227) on November, 30th 2012. About 60 students participated in the event with free foods and drinks in abundance to every attendee. The feedbacks gotten so far indicate that perceptions were changed, ideas were birth, attitudes were reshaped and lives were greatly impacted. The Executives of the Graduate Student Government warmly want to express their gratitude to Dr. Proenza for making us feel appreciated, intelligent, hopeful, creative, talented, loved, uplifted, excited and happy as though we can be a success at anything we attempt. We also want to appreciate all participants for showing up in your numbers to grace the occasion.

Our Second Leadership symposium is set to take off on February, 22, 2013, with Mr. Jim Tressel, Vice President for Strategic Engagement. We entreat all and sundaries to participate in this event.

“Change your focus, from making money to serving more people. Serving more people makes the money comes in.”–Robert Kiyosaki.
Upcoming Events

GSG Spring 2013
***Leadership Symposium***
with
Mr. Jim Tressel

Date: February, 22th 2013
Venue: Goodyear Auditorium - Room 229
Department of Polymer Science
Time: 1:45pm –3:15pm

Black History Month
(February, 2013)

GSG Elections
(February, 2013)

GSG/USG Handing-Over Ceremony
(April, 2013)

Women’s History Month
(March, 2013)

Rethinking Race: Black, White and Beyond
Friday, Feb. 1 to Friday, Feb. 15

LIFE Awards
The LIFE (Legacy, Integrity, Fellowship and Excellence) Awards
(March, 2013)

SpringFest
(May 3, 2013)
GSG’s Awards and Recognition Portfolios

Honoring: Dr. Luis M. Proenza
President

Honoring: Dr. William Mike Sherman
Provost

Honoring: Jim Tressel
VP of Strategic Engagement

Honoring: Dr. George R. Newkome
VP for Research & Dean of the Graduate School

Honoring: Dr. Charley Fey
(Former, VP for Student Engagement). Now the VP of Student Engagement, New Jersey Institute of Technology

Honoring: Denine M. Rocco
Associate VP and Dean of Students

Honoring: Lee A. Gill, J.D
Assoc VP Inclusion & Equity/CDO

Honoring: Dr. Mark B. Tausig
Professor & Associate Dean of the Graduate School
Meet Your Senators

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Please contact us to schedule a meeting!
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