



Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2007

Upcoming GSL Events

DC United Soccer Game Wed., Sept. 12 @ 7:30pm

Capitol Steps Show Fri., Sept. 21 @ 8pm

Baltimore Aquarium Sat., Oct. 13 @ 11am

Shear Madness Thu., Nov. 8 @ 8pm

Avenue Q Sun., Dec. 2 @ 7:30pm

For more details about these and other events, visit our website at www.gsl.umd.edu

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Graduate News and Notes

Welcome from Graduate Student Life

Welcome to College Park! This newsletter provides a brief overview of resources and upcoming events for University of Maryland graduate students.

The Office of Graduate Student Life provides programming and support for graduate student needs on campus. Our monthly social series provides opportunities for graduate students to interact as well as explore the DC metro area.

salsa dancing, and outdoor activities such as hiking.

We provide information about campus and local resources and services through the online Graduate Student Life Handbook (www.gradhandbook.umd.edu). We also send out news and updates via the weekly Graduate Student Service Announcements e-mail.

Along with the Graduate Student Government, we are housed in the Graduate Student Suite in 1121 Stamp Student Un-

ion. A lounge provides a quiet place away from the bustle of the Union for studying and meetings, as well as a computer to check email. Make sure to stop by on Thursdays, when we offer free coffee all day.

We look forward to meeting you soon. Please do let us know how we can assist you in any way—you'll find our contact information on page 4. In the meantime, we wish you all the best as you begin your graduate studies at the University of Maryland.

Your Voice on Campus: Graduate Student Government

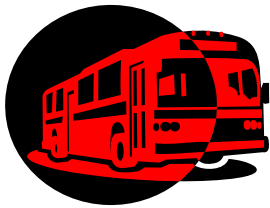
The Graduate Student Government (GSG) is the independent voice of graduate students on campus, representing the needs and interests of the community to the University administration, government, and other campus and outside entities. The GSG is also responsible for allocating the Graduate Student Activities Fee you pay each year to programming that enhances the quality of life for grad students at the University. Recreational outings, billiard nights,

performances, cultural events, holiday banquets, and lectures are a few of the types of activities funded by the GSG.

The President of the GSG is the principal spokesperson for the grad student community and is advised and guided by the GSG Executive Committee and Assembly, the latter of which is comprised of representatives from each graduate program on campus. This past year the GSG tackled issues of housing affordability, sti-

pend levels for grad employees, crime prevention around campus, funding for graduate fellowships through the University's capital campaign, and more!

Want to find out more about the GSG and graduate life on campus? Check out our resources at www.gsg.umd.edu. The website also has all the information you need to get involved in any of the GSG's many activities or to learn more about graduate student organizations



Check out the  
Graduate Student  
Life Handbook  
online:  
[www.gradhandbook  
.umd.edu](http://www.gradhandbook.umd.edu)



## Getting To and Around Campus

The Department of Transportation Services (DOTS) is responsible for managing and maintaining the University's parking and transit system. All students who plan to park a licensed motor vehicle in a campus parking lot must either register for a parking permit at the DOTS office, or park at paid meters or in a cashier-attended lot. Graduate students are given top student priority in parking arrangements. Please visit the department's website at [www.transportation.umd.edu](http://www.transportation.umd.edu) for specific lot assignment information.

Below are a few services offered by DOTS to help you navigate your way to and around campus.

**Shuttle-UM** transit system is a unit within DOTS and provides fare-free service to the University community.

**NITE Ride** is a curb-to-curb evening service. NITE Ride is available when the evening service routes are no longer in service, or the campus pick-up location or destination is not on an evening service route. NITE Ride operates from 5:30pm to 7:30am, seven days a week during the fall and

spring semesters. Call 301-314-NITE (6483) to request a NITE Ride.

**Terp Taxi** offers another option on select days to students who do not wish to utilize the fixed evening routes. This fee-based service operates from 5:30pm to 3:00am, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays within a ¼-mile radius of campus. In order to use the service, students must present their University IDs and authorize charging the fare to their student accounts. Rides are \$5 per person, per ride. Call 301-314-TAXI (8294) to request a ride.

**Smart Park Carpool** is designed for a group of two, three, or four permit-holding commuter students who form their own carpool. It facilitates easier and more convenient parking in a preferred lot. The program offers flexibility as it allows members to maintain possession of individual/lot assignments to use when they are not commuting in the carpool. Visit the DOTS website for detailed information or to register in the SMART PARK database.

**Bundle Pack Permits** are available for purchase by commuter students who regularly commute via public transit or another form of alternative transportation (bicycling, walking, etc.). Eligible students can purchase a bundle pack which contains a group of 10 one-day parking permits. Each permit is valid for a single day's use and is ideal for the occasional need to drive a vehicle to the campus. Visit the DOTS website for more information.

**Flexcar** gives students, faculty, and staff the ability to use a car for their own purposes when needed. Insurance, parking, gas, cleaning, and maintenance are included in the cost of the rental. See the DOTS website for more details about a special faculty/staff program.

**Park and Rides:** Bowie, Burtonsville, and Laurel Park and Ride service is a fare-free service available to members of the university community. See our website for route times and details.

## Need Advice on Handling Departmental Conflicts?

The Ombuds Office for Graduate Students provides **confidential, impartial, independent, and informal** assistance to students having a problem with or within the university.

Contact Joanne DeSiato, Ombudsperson for Graduate Students, when:

- ◆ You have a problem and don't know how to proceed.
- ◆ You feel your concerns are not being listened to.
- ◆ You find yourself entangled in bureaucratic red tape.
- ◆ You're confused about university policy.
- ◆ You feel that a university policy, procedure, or regulation is unfair or applied unfairly.
- ◆ You want to discuss a sensitive question or issue.
- ◆ You feel as if you have been unfairly treated by someone on campus.
- ◆ You need help to resolve or mediate a dispute.
- ◆ You have suggestions about how to improve the university.

For more information, contact Joanne DeSiato at 301-405-3132 or [jdesiato@umd.edu](mailto:jdesiato@umd.edu).



## Get Free Legal Advice from Graduate Legal Aid

The Graduate Student Legal Aid Office (GLAO) provides general legal advice, information, referrals, and assistance **free of charge** to currently registered graduate students. The office is staffed by a licensed attorney, an experienced paralegal, and student interns.

We offer a wide range of services addressing off-campus legal issues, including landlord-tenant law, family law, and more. We also assist students with campus-related disputes and problems, including residency classification.

**Our attorney cannot represent students in court proceedings or outside administrative hearings. However, when appropriate we**

**can help students pursue or defend court matters on their own (e.g., small claims actions, rent escrow actions, uncontested divorces). We cannot provide information or advice in cases that involve disputes or potential conflicts between two or more graduate students.**

Practice areas include:

- ◆ Landlord-tenant law
- ◆ Consumer rights
- ◆ Family law
- ◆ Immigration (evaluation and referrals only)
- ◆ Auto accidents
- ◆ Traffic tickets
- ◆ Health insurance and health care
- ◆ Criminal law
- ◆ Miscellaneous/other (simple wills, power of

attorney, releases, review of simple legal documents).

The Graduate Student Legal Aid Office is funded solely by a portion of your graduate student activities fees. We are located at 1235A Stamp Student Union.

Walk-ins are welcome—no appointment is necessary. The GLAO is a part-time program; walk-in hours may vary. Visit [www.union.umd.edu/gradlegalaid/index.htm](http://www.union.umd.edu/gradlegalaid/index.htm) or call 301-405-5807 for more information or to find out hours.

*Both the Graduate Student Ombuds Office and the Graduate Student Legal Aid Office offer grad students free, confidential support in solving problems.*



## Office of Graduate Student Life

**Adele H. Stamp Student Union –  
Center for Campus Life  
University of Maryland**

**Visit us:**

1121A Stamp Student Union  
College Park, MD 20742

**Contact us:**

Julie Choe Kim  
Coordinator, Graduate Student Life  
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Graduate Student Community & Social Programs  
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kotharik@umd.edu

**[www.gsl.umd.edu](http://www.gsl.umd.edu)**

The Office of Graduate Student Life is a unit within the Adele H. Stamp Student Union – Center for Campus Life. The purpose of the Office of Graduate Student Life is to:

- Provide programs that help create a tangible graduate student campus community.
- Foster graduate student conversation and collaboration across disciplines.
- Encourage, recognize, and celebrate the uniqueness of graduate students.
- Promote existing campus services and encourage service areas to be more inclusive of graduate student needs.
- Grow and maintain a graduate student presence in institutional decisions that affect the quality of life for graduate students.
- Help departments share ideas about programs and support structures for graduate students.
- Conduct regular assessments of graduate student quality of life on campus.
- Advocate for graduate student needs across campus.

## Upcoming Graduate Student Organization Events

*To discover other  
graduate student  
organizations, visit  
[www.stars.umd.edu](http://www.stars.umd.edu)  
and select  
“Graduate” under  
Classification, or  
visit  
[www.gsl.umd.edu](http://www.gsl.umd.edu).*

The Office of Graduate Student Life provides support to graduate student organizations. These organizations focus on academic/professional interests, cultural background, faith, or other activities. Below is a sample of the events offered by graduate student organizations this fall:

**Student Council of India** invites all incoming graduate students from India to their Welcome New Arrivals Party. It will be held in the Nyumburu Cultural Center on Friday, September 7, 4:00-7:00pm. For

more information, email [cultural@scimd.org](mailto:cultural@scimd.org).

**Intervarsity Graduate Student Christian Fellowship (IVGCF)** welcomes graduate students to the following events:

- ◆ Annual hike at Great Falls, Maryland, Saturday, September 8, at 9:30am
- ◆ First Grad Dessert, a free dessert and discussion of integrating faith and studies, Friday, September 21, at 7:30pm in DC
- ◆ Annual retreat, September 28-30

For more information about any of these activities, please contact Peter Copp at [pcopp@umd.edu](mailto:pcopp@umd.edu)

**Chinese Student and Scholar Association** is hosting a Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration on Saturday, September 15, 8:00-11:00pm in the Colony Ballroom in Stamp Student Union. Admission is free for members, and \$5 for non-members. For more information, contact Ashley Liao at 301-356-4977 or [liao.ashley@gmail.com](mailto:liao.ashley@gmail.com).