

# The Luminary

*A Newsletter for Graduate & Professional Students*

Fall 2008

Volume 4, Issue 1

## A Welcome to New and Returning Students from Jessica Lucero, GPSA President

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Welcome one and all! This year should be an exciting year for the GPSA. In June, the GPSA summer council was tasked with coming up with goals for the upcoming year. By August we put together the final changes to present to the full GPSA Council for approval in September.

What I am particularly proud of is the level of dedication and enthusiasm that I have seen demonstrated with everyone getting involved—members from last year, the summer council, as well as the new representatives. The energy and commitment coming from

all of you promises to make this year a memorable and active one.

As you all know, there are changes going on in the University as well as in the State of Nevada. The state is requesting budget cuts that could reach anywhere from 14% to 17% for the next biennium (2009-2011). This would be astronomical. What this would mean for graduate and professional students, specifically, is an even higher increase in tuition and fee costs as well as an influx in additional miscellaneous fees (with no cap in sight) just to keep the University afloat.

This could result in graduate assistants (GAs) having more student papers to grade, larger classes to teach, and thus less time to devote to our research and studies—all of this, of course, with no increase in GA stipend pay.

The UNLV administration, the Board of Regents, and most especially (and dynamically) the Chancellor are doing everything they can to stop this from happening; however without our voice protesting these potential cuts, there is little they can do. Thus, one of the top priorities for the GPSA will be to fight the budget cuts and get

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## GPSA — What we are all about . . .

The Graduate & Professional Student Association is the recognized governing body serving the currently enrolled and admitted UNLV graduate and professional student population. Forty-nine representatives, one appointed from each department and professional school, serve on the

GPSA council. The executive board, also members of the council, are elected positions consisting of a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The council meets each month @ 2:00 p.m. in the Student Union, in an open forum to discuss current issues and activities and to address concerns that impact graduate and professional students. The following are the fall council dates: Wednesday, September 3rd; Monday, October 6th; Monday, November 10th and Monday, December 1st.

The GPSA hosts regular social hours and community service events, and sponsors an annual Research Forum held in the spring, in an effort to enhance the quality of the educational

and social experience for all UNLV graduate and professional students.

One of the most important services which the GPSA offers UNLV graduate & pro-

### GPSA Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 8:45 p.m.  
Friday 7:30 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.  
Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.

fessional students is the allocation of funds for research and conference travel. These grants support projects which directly affect a student's degree program as well as makes a contri-

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GPSA Council 2007-08

## Meet the GPSA Executive Board 2008-09

Heather is a fourth year doctoral student in the English Department and is working on her dissertation on architectural mourning in the British post-WWI novel. This summer, she presented a paper entitled, "Joyce, Bruno, and the Art of Memory" at the XXIst International James Joyce Symposium in Tours, France. She also taught Summer III at UNLV's Singapore campus. Welcome back, Heather!



*Heather Lusty  
GPSA Vice President*

Suzanne Becker is a PhD student in Sociology. She is looking forward to her position as Treasurer on the GPSA Executive Board and to greater involvement on campus committees that affect UNLV's graduate and professional students' academic life. Suzanne participated this past summer as a panel member at the prestigious International Sociological Association 10th Interdisciplinary Congress on Women in Madrid, Spain.



*Suzanne Becker  
GPSA Treasurer*



*Candace Griffith  
GPSA Secretary*

Candace is a PhD student in Sociology working on her comprehensive exams this year. She hopes to have her prospectus defense before the end of this coming school year. Candace's areas of interest are immigration and deviance. She intends to combine both of these topics in her dissertation. Over the summer months she has been at home in Alberta, Canada teaching at the local college.



## Get Acquainted @ the First Fall GPSA Social Event

Mark your calendars to meet, greet and eat with your fellow graduate and professional students, Friday, August 29th at PT Pub's, across the street from UNLV @ 1089 E.



*Graduate students @ a recent social*

Tropicana Avenue from 5—8 p.m. Appetizers are provided until funds are exhausted. Questions: contact Emy Laija, GPSA Chairperson of the Activities Committee: 895-2261 or laijae@unlv.nevada.edu

### Do you want to get updates on GPSA Activities— Join the activities listserv:

- 1) Send a message to [listproc@nevada.edu](mailto:listproc@nevada.edu)
- 2) Leave the subject of the message blank, but in the message body type the following: subscribe GPSA-SOCIALS <your name>

To unsubscribe from the GPSA Activities listserv:

- 1) Send a message to [listproc@nevada.edu](mailto:listproc@nevada.edu)
- 2) Leave the subject of the message blank, but in the message body type the following: unsubscribe GPSA-SOCIALS



### Winter 2008 Commencement Student Speaker Competition

Are you a graduate or professional student graduating this semester and interested in speaking at commencement? The application can be found at: <http://commencement.unlv.edu/speaker.html>. In addition to the application form, each prospective speaker must also submit a copy of his or her three-minute proposed speech, a resume and a letter of support (from either their graduate coordinator or faculty advisor). The application deadline is Thursday, October 30, 2008. Completed applications should be submitted to the GPSA, LLB 3251. Questions: call 895-2261.

Winter 2008 Commencement is at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 16th at the Thomas & Mack Center. More information can be found at: <http://commencement.unlv.edu/> or call the Graduation Hotline at: (702) 895-3229.

**Don't forget: September 5th is the final day to submit an application for December graduation to the Cashier WITHOUT a late penalty.**

## GPSA Alumni – Where are they today?

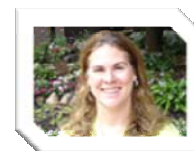
**Claytee White '97** received her master's degree in history and served as GPSA treasurer. She continued her work on an oral history project afterwards which she feels is instrumental is her attainment of the position that she holds today, Director of the Oral History Research Center at UNLV Libraries. In 1998, she matriculated at the College of William and Mary as a doctoral student in American History with a concentration in Black History. Once her coursework ended, Claytee moved to Ahoskie, North Carolina, her home town, to spend time with her mother. Her UNLV master's degree has allowed her to become very active in the community as Assistant Director of Shaw University's local satellite campus and as Executive Director of the Bertie County Partnership of Children.



**Karl Kingsley '01** was GPSA vice president 1998-2000 and graduated from UNLV with his PhD in Biological Sciences. He chose a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University School of Medicine and was supported by a National Institutes of Health (NIH) fellowship. Karl subsequently returned to Las Vegas and is currently a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences at the UNLV School of Dental Medicine. He recently served as the GPSA faculty advisor, 2006-2008 and has participated in many GPSA sponsored workshops and events.

**John Van Housen '03** held the positions as GPSA secretary 2000-01 and Vice President 2001-02. He received his PhD in Geoscience. After graduating from UNLV John accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in Geoscience at the Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont. He taught in Italy this past summer and recently married.

**Cheryl Radeloff '04** received her PhD in Sociology and served as UNLV's GPSA president for two terms, 1998-2000. In 2004, she took a position as an assistant professor in the Women Studies Program at the University of Minnesota Mankato. Cheryl is returning to Las Vegas this fall to begin a new job with the Clark County Health District as an Epidemiology and Intervention Specialist.



**Tammy Diaz '04** graduated from UNLV with a MS in Geoscience. She served as the GPSA secretary from 2001-03. After graduation she worked with Stoller Navarro Joint Venture on the restoration project for the Nevada Test Site. After two years Tammy moved back home to New Mexico and she is currently employed with the New Mexico Environment Department, Hazardous Waste Bureau as an Environmental Specialist. Ms. Diaz's job entails regulating the environmental cleanup efforts and corrective action measures at the Fort Wingate Army Depot. She is married and has a daughter, Lili.



**Katy Gilpatric '06** finished her sociology Ph.D. while serving as GPSA secretary in 2004-05. Since then Katy has gone on to teach a variety of classes in the Sociology Department at UNLV. Her passion is film and recently she founded Movies that Matter, a graduate student organization, which brings new and significant documentaries to campus each month. As a sociologist, her vision is to help raise social awareness through the use of visual media. In addition, to her campus involvement, Katy has also created a new website called Vegasarthouse.com. This website informs people in Las Vegas about documentaries, independent films, and arthouse movies playing at various venues throughout the community.



### UNLV Alumni Association

Whether you have graduated or not once you enroll at UNLV you become part of the UNLV family known as the "Alumni-in-Training". This organization is the Student Alumni Association (SAA) and is supported by the Alumni Association, some 64,000 UNLV graduates strong. Below are a few of the opportunities SAA offers:

- Dinner with a Rebel
- Halloween Party
- Homecoming

To find how to become part of the SAA stop by the Richard Tam Alumni Center and pick up an application or e-mail SAA at [alumni.relations@unlv](mailto:alumni.relations@unlv).

### Keep in touch with UNLV News

**Subscribe to GRADLINK:** This serves as a valuable Graduate College resource to stay updated and informed about policies and procedures, deadlines, activities, events, via e-mail. To subscribe to GradLink, you must be an enrolled UNLV graduate student with an active UNLV email address. Go to: [http://www.unlv.edu/Collegesinfo\\_service.htm](http://www.unlv.edu/Collegesinfo_service.htm) to open your account!

**Rebelmail:** All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they've been admitted to the university. So, don't wait, activate your account now ([http://rebelmail.unlv.edu/activate\\_account.html](http://rebelmail.unlv.edu/activate_account.html)) and receive official university communication: important deadlines, major campus events, and announcements.

## Black Mountain Institute Readings and Lectures, Fall 2008

All events are free and open to the public. Tickets are not required. Spring events will be announced in November. For more information, call 895-5542.

### Joyce Carol Oates

Saturday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m.

UNLV Student Union Ballroom

Co-sponsored by the Department of English with support from the Schaeffer Family Foundation.

Joyce Carol Oates is one of America's most versatile writers, the author of a number of distinguished books in several genres, including *them*, *You Must Remember This*, *Black Water*, *We Were the Mulvaney's*, *Blonde*, *On Boxing*, *The Falls*, and *The Gravedigger's Daughter*. Her writing has earned her the 2006 Orange Prize, the 2005 Prix Femina, the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction, the National Book Award, and nominations for the Nobel Prize, the Pulitzer Prize, and the PEN/Faulkner Award. Born in upstate New York, Oates received her B.A. from Syracuse University and her M.A. from the University of Wisconsin. She is the Roger S. Berlind Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University.

### Charles Simic

Tuesday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m.

UNLV Student Union Theatre

Co-sponsored by the Department of English with support from the Schaeffer Family Foundation

2007 U.S. Poet Laureate Charles Simic, the author of eighteen collections of poetry, is also an essayist, translator, editor, and professor emeritus of creative writing and literature at the University of New Hampshire. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1990 for

his book of prose poems *The World Doesn't End*, and his 1996 collection, *Walking the*

*Black Cat*, was a finalist for the National Book Award for Poetry. His most recent poetry volume is *That Little Something* (2008). Simic held a MacArthur Fellowship from 1984-1989, and has also held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the NEA. In 2007, the same day he was appointed Poet Laureate, Simic received the Wallace Stevens Award from the Academy of American Poets for "outstanding and proven mastery in the art of poetry."

### Michael Chabon

Saturday, November 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Clark County Library Theater, 1401 E. Flamingo Road

A Vegas Valley Book Fest keynote event, co-sponsored by Nevada Humanities, the City of Las Vegas Office of Cultural Affairs, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, and the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

Michael Chabon has become one of the preeminent literary authors of his generation, winning the Pulitzer Prize in 2001 for his novel *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*. His other books include *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, *Wonder Boys*, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, and *Gentlemen of the Road*. His work has appeared in *GQ*, *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Playboy*, *Harper's*, *Vogue*, and in a number of anthologies, among them *Prize Stories 1999: The O. Henry Awards*. *Wonder Boys* was adapted for film and released by Paramount Studios, and film versions of several of Chabon's books are in the planning stages. He lives in Berkeley with his wife, the novelist Ayelet Waldman, and their four children.

## Technology Services available for Graduate & Professional Students

UNLV Dial-up is a free Internet dial-up account for UNLV graduate, law or dental students. Features include:

- Free Rebelmail e-mail account
- No monthly charges
- No limit of hours

More benefits with your student computing account are:

- Use any public computer lab operated by the Student Computing Resources
- Receive 100 MB of storage space, commonly referred to as a Home Directory, on the network server. You may access any files saved to your Home Directory off campus through the Internet.
- Through agreements with Apple, Dell, and Gateway, UNLV students can purchase computers at discounted prices.

Additional information available at: <http://ccs.unlv.edu/scr/support/>

## UNLV Writing Center



The UNLV Writing Center is located in the CDC 3-301. The director is Dr. Patrice Hollrah. An offspring of the College of Liberal Arts, the Writing Center offers free assistance and guidance with students' writing assignments. It is best to make an appointment and consultations usually are about 45 minutes.

The Center offers an Online Writing Lab (OWL) [http://www.unlv./Writing\\_Center/](http://www.unlv./Writing_Center/), available for writing tips. So, not only is the Writing Center beneficial for the graduate and professional student to get that extra bit of tweaking on a research paper, but, graduate assistants are encouraged to request writing consultants to come to their class for a 10—15 minute introductory session. Various writing workshops are offered through the semester. The Center has 13 computers and is open every day except Saturday during the fall and spring semesters. Check their website for hours and more information: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

President Lucero our voices heard. I know I said this is an exciting time, and, ironically, the threat of more cuts might be one of the reasons. In response to the Governor's requests, the entire Nevada System of Higher Education has set aside rivalries and differences in order to promote stronger and unified collaborations.

And that's not all! The collaboration is extending in-house as well. Higher administration has been actively pursuing student participation on committees from accreditation to the President's Advisory Council (PAC). Being on these committees forges relationships between all campus constituents and makes our cause their cause and vice versa.

The things we do together now, as an executive board, as a council, as members of this graduate and profes-

sional student community, will secure future UNLV GPSA scholars' academic and professional success.

Sincerely,

Jessica Lucero

*Jessica is currently working on her PhD in twentieth-century British literature and plans to take her comprehensive exams in October of this year. This past summer, she presented a paper on James Joyce's use of Agape in the "Naussicaa" chapter of Ulysses for the International James Joyce Symposium in Tours, France. Jessica maintains that travelling abroad and being surrounded for an entire week by scholars in various disciplines was not only enlightening but invigorating.*



## Movies that Matter

Movies that Matter, a GPSA recognized student organization, will join with the Jean Nidetch Women's Center and Rebel Rally for a Cause to present *The Breast Cancer Diaries*, a story of love, liberation, and laughter. Diagnosed with breast cancer at age 38, young mother and television journalist Ann Murray decided to turn the camera on herself. This film documents the struggle of a young woman's battle with breast cancer. The movie will be shown in the Student Union Theater, October 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., and will include a reception and a post-screening discussion. The film will be one of many events scheduled to bring breast cancer awareness to campus during the month of October.



GPSA

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contribution to a scholar's field. Funding is available for research/conference projects during the Spring 2009 semester. The deadline is November 15, 2008. Applications are available on the GPSA website: <http://gpsa.unlv.edu/>

Looking for a place on campus to: analyze data, write a paper, prepare a syllabus, make handouts for a presentation, prepare an application for a GPSA grant, read e-mail, research on the Internet, print documents in color or use a Scantron machine for quick grading? The GPSA office, located in the Lied Library, room 3251 maintains a computer lab and study area equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, Scantron machine, typewriters, office supplies, printers, group study areas, and a small kitchen with a microwave and refrigerator.

## University Forum Series

is a free lecture series funded by the College of Liberal Arts. All events are held in the Barrick Museum Auditorium, are free and no reservation is necessary. To receive updated information on University Forum events and personalities e-mail: [forum@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:forum@unlv.nevada.edu) and say "subscribe me".

- **Reginald Shepherd: A Reading and Conversation:** Thursday, September 11th @ 7:30 p.m.
- **Forging Constitutional Conservatism:** Wednesday, September 17th @ 7:30 p.m. Lecturer: Professor Ken I. Kersch, Department of Political Science, Boston College.
- **Teen Pregnancy: Rallying the Community for Prevention:** Wednesday September 24th @ 7:30 p.m. Lecturers: Jennifer Zipoy, Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy and Jean Henry, Department of Health Promotion, UNLV School of Public Health.
- **Evaluating American Presidents: Some Thoughts Prior to the Election:** Thursday, September 25, 2008 @ 7:30 p.m. Lecturer: Professor Steven Parker, Department of Political Science, UNLV.



## Keep Yourself Fit

The new Student Recreational Center and Wellness Center is a state-of-the-art facility providing a wide variety of exercise equipment and classes, dissertation & thesis student groups, workshops and much more. All of these opportunities are conducive to your physical and mental well being and educational success. More information is available at: <http://hrwc.unlv.edu/>

# Noteworthy UNLV Dates

Graduate & Professional  
Student Association  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
4505 S. Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1007

Phone: 702-895-2261  
Fax: 702-895-2158  
E-mail: [gpsa@unlv.edu](mailto:gpsa@unlv.edu)

Visit the GPSA at:  
<http://gpsa.unlv.edu/>

Information and dates of  
UNLV student activities can  
be found at:  
<http://activities.unlv.edu/>

Attend UNLV athletic events  
for free:  
[http://www.unlvtickets.com/  
students/](http://www.unlvtickets.com/students/)

- August 25** Instruction and late registration begin
- August 29** Last day to add courses, switch sections, change courses, change from audit to credit, or pay fees by 5:00 p.m.
- August 29** GPSA Social — PT Pubs @ 5:00—8:00 p.m.
- August 30** UNLV vs Utah State— Sam Boyd Stadium @ 7:00 p.m.
- September 1** Labor day recess—no classes
- September 3** GPSA Council Meeting — Student Union room 208
- September 5** Final day to submit an application for December graduation to the Cashier WITHOUT a late penalty
- September 20** UNLV vs Iowa — State Sam Boyd Stadium @ 6:00 p.m.
- October 6** GPSA Council Meeting— Student Union room 208
- October 18** Mid-semester
- October 31** Nevada Day recess — no classes
- November 10** GPSA Council Meeting— Student Union room 208
- November 15** GPSA Spring 2009 Grant Deadline
- November 21** Last day to take comprehensive exam or defend thesis/ dissertation

## Proposed 2008—09 GPSA Goals

The summer GPSA council developed goals for the 2008-09 academic year. These goals will go before the GPSA fall council for approval. Upon approval these will be detailed further @ <http://gpsa.unlv.edu/council.htm>

Below are the highlights of these goals:

1. Continue efforts in opposing state budget cuts for higher education. To date the GPSA has submitted Resolution no. 4 in the 26<sup>th</sup> session and added a webpage (<http://gpsa.unlv.edu/activism.htm>) to address the ongoing situation.
2. Enhance GPSA awareness, both campus and community wide, to increase student participation in GPSA events, i.e. Research Forum, hosted workshops, social events, etc.
3. Collaborate and increase communication with both the Faculty Senate and Graduate Council, e.g. possibly have chairs of both organizations speak at GPSA council meeting.
4. This year with the general election approaching target potential student voters to get out and vote on local and national pertinent issues, i.e. budget cuts to higher education.
5. Streamline thesis and dissertation process: ease the burden of the graduate student's academic paper trail.
6. Encourage graduate coordinators to ensure graduate assistant workloads are kept to the designated 20 hour work week. Duties should also be verified that they are within the proper job description and enhancing the student's academic career.
7. Continue facilitating an open dialogue with the Midtown Project, to improve transportation services on campus, i.e. expand the shuttle services and increase parking availability and make the campus more bike friendly.
8. Create a GPSA liaison with UNLV Foundation and Alumni to tap into possible resources, i.e. solicit external funding from UNLV graduate and professional student alums, participation of community members in a GPSA hosted lecture series, etc.
9. GPSA committee chairs need to provide monthly e-mail status reports, include activity and those participating members. Reports should be sent to President Lucero.
10. Community outreach through media channels to heighten awareness of the graduate & professional student academic experience, ie. News articles regarding graduate & professional student awards both nationally and internally and stories featuring the wide range of campus research.