

Graduate & Professional  
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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/)

## Noteworthy UNLV Dates

- April 7** GPSA Council Meeting
- April 11** GPSA Social Hour Freakin' Frog 4—7 p.m.
- April 15** GPSA Fall grant deadline:
- April 18** Last day to take comprehensive exam or defend thesis or dissertation
- April 25** Last day to submit thesis/dissertation and final exam results
- May 5** GPSA Council Meeting, Student Union room 208 @ 2:00 p.m.
- May 5** Study week begins. Classes are scheduled but major written exams not given
- May 9** Classes end
- May 12** Final examinations begin
- May 17** Final examinations end
- May 17** Spring semester ends
- May 17** Spring Commencement

I am also pleased that you are reading this column for the year. Jessica Lucero and Becky Boulton have done an excellent job of producing this informative publication. It is critical that we publicize our organization and make others aware of the fine work that graduate/professional students do. Here are a few examples. The Community Service committee chaired by Treasurer Suzanne Becker and Councilmember Tyra Jenkins organized two service activities this year: collection boxes for Shade Tree and Safe Nest. Vice President Heather Lusty organized a series of professional development workshops, chaired a growing grants program, and oversaw our annual Research Forum. As well, Secretary Jessica Lucero sustained our well-attended monthly socials. Councilmember Emerald Laija coached the GPSA intramural volleyball team, and faculty member Joseph Valenzano and I are coaching the GPSA intramural softball teams. This year's GPSA also developed an Awards committee to recognize the faculty and students who have contributed to the growth and development of our organization.

In closing, I am grateful to have served graduate/professional student body. Becky Boulton, Kate

Hausbeck, Karl Kingsley, and former GPSA President Fred Krauss all served as dedicated advisors to the organization. Without our Executive Board and Council's time, dedication, and support of this vision none of this would have been possible! I offer my sincere thanks. The GPSA is in great hands with the 2008-2009 Executive Board. Under their leadership this organization will continue on a positive trajectory.



Carin  
'08

# The Luminary

A Newsletter for UNLV Graduate & Professional Students

April 2008

Volume 3, Issue 4

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## Graduate & Professional Student Research Forum

By Heather Lusty, GPSA Vice President and Research Forum Chair

First and foremost the GPSA would like to extend its sincere appreciation to the Graduate College for their support in this endeavor held March 29, 2008. We feel this forum is a celebration of the research



Research forum poster session

This event provides opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. The abstract booklet, which was distributed at the forum, is a resource for such possibilities. If you didn't have the chance to see the presentations, this booklet is available in the GPSA office (Lied Library room 3251) and on the GPSA website in a PDF format.

The GPSA, in conjunction w/the generous contribution of the President & Provost Offices, has



Platform session

\$100,000 this 2007-08 academic year for supporting graduate and professional student research & conference travel. To date the GPSA has awarded \$82,000.

from the best and the brightest students representing colleges throughout the campus, and also provides researchers the opportunity to share their work with the UNLV community. The majority of the 120 researchers participating were recipients of GPSA grants. These awards assist in the advancement of their scholarly pursuits.

## GPSA Recap by Jeremy Houska

This past summer the GPSA Executive Board, Summer Council and I developed a set of goals for the 2007-2008 academic year. With great pleasure I can state that we accomplished the vast majority of these organizational goals. Let me recap some of the GPSA highlights.

First, we re-energized our advocacy efforts. The UNLV GPSA and undergraduate government (CSUN) drafted parallel resolutions denouncing the gov-

ernor's budget cuts. We partnered with other Nevada System of Higher Education institutions to organize protests and a letter-writing campaign. Despite the harsh financial realities facing our state, I would like to believe that the strong voice of NSHE students led to the more equitable cuts to state agencies. However, this fight is not over!

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Vote for Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) 2008-09

Executive Board:  
President,    
Vice President,    
Secretary, Treasurer

The week of: April 7 (beginning @ 3:00 p.m.)

— April 11 (ending @ 5:00 p.m. in the

GPSA Office, Lied Library room 3251

(Please present UNLV ID when voting)



MTM

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2008  
Time: 5:30PM

*Transforming the desert into a cultural oasis*

## Movies that Matter

**Movies that Matter** is a new student association that brings important and timely documentaries and independent films to UNLV. Our film series offers a reception and post-screening discussion panel. Please join us at our premier event and be part of a grass-roots movement toward cultural and intellectual enlightenment in Las Vegas:

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2008

Time: 5:30 p.m. Reception, 6:00 p.m. Screening

Place: CBC-A112

Panel Discussion After

Listen to Leonardo DiCaprio's YouTube Message:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OhdMULRkAs&feature=user>

Produced and narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, the *11th Hour* is a movie that will call you to action. The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour is the last moment when change is possible. The film explores how we've arrived at this moment -- how we live, how we impact the earth's ecosystems, and what we can do to change our course. Featuring ongoing dialogues of experts from all over the world including over 50 leading scientists, thinkers and leaders who discuss the most important issues that face our planet and people.

Look for movie information soon available at our website:

<http://clubs.unlv.edu/moviesthatmatter>

## Free Student Tax Preparation and Electronic Filing



Available for anyone who makes \$40,000 or less! Let our IRS Certified Volunteers fill out your taxes and electronically file them for FREE!!!! Remember: in order to receive the economic stimulus rebate you must file your 2007 taxes.

Free quality tax preparation

Free electronic filing

Free Checking/Savings with U S Bank  
located in the Student Union

The UNLV VITA Program: Belinda Foreman  
University of Nevada Las Vegas VITA Site  
Evening and Weekend Appointments Call: 895-5323  
or e-mail: [belinda.foreman@unlv.edu](mailto:belinda.foreman@unlv.edu)

*Earn it! Keep it! Save it!*

*A United Way of Southern Nevada Collaborative*

**What: GPSA Social Hour**

**When: Friday,  
April 11th from 4—7 p.m**

**Where: Freakin' Frog: 4700 S.  
Maryland Parkway**



\*Free appetizers abound until funds  
are exhausted



## Join the UNLV Spring Intramural Softball Team Today!!!

Interested in signing up for the UNLV spring intramural softball team? Faculty, graduate & professional students, and Graduate College and academic program staff are encouraged to register online @ <http://gpsa.unlv.edu/Intramurals.htm>

for the GPSA Coed Team(s). We will participate in the UNLV Intramural Softball League. Play begins the week of April 21. Sign-ups will be accepted until Monday, April 14th. You will be contacted April 17th regarding the league schedule.



## Sustainability Exhibit—Call for Entries

The Office of Urban Sustainability Initiatives and the Marjorie Barrick Museum invites the submission of proposals for graduating graduate students to participate in a newly developed sustainability exhibit series. The exhibition is scheduled to open May 12, 2008 and close June 13, 2008. Exhibition entries will be screened, only twenty will be chosen.

### Submissions

Contestants should submit one piece of art or design work with the specifications described below and a typed statement of no more than 500 words explaining the subjects and concepts portrayed in the entry.

### Specs

PowerPoint presentations, 2D and 3D models and digital media are accepted.

2D Specs: Submissions must measure at least 20x24 inches. Pieces that do not fit these criteria will be considered only if submitted in a frame suitable for exhibition.

3D Specs: Weight restriction of 30 lbs with no side measuring more than 30 inches.

Digital Media Specs: Original production files submitted on DVD or CD. Still images should meet the 2D specs above. Video and animation entries should not exceed 5 minutes and should include a windows Media Player, QuickTime or

Flash version in addition to the high-res production files.

Submissions must be received by April 21, 2008. All applicants can expect notification regarding their proposal via email by April 25, 2008. Address submissions to Aurore Giguët, Marjorie Barrick Museum, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89154 - electronic submissions should be sent to [aurore.giguët@unlv.edu](mailto:aurore.giguët@unlv.edu). Call 702-895-1402 or email [aurore.giguët@unlv.edu](mailto:aurore.giguët@unlv.edu) for further information.

*Central concepts include, but are not limited to:*

How to get from a culture of consumption to a culture of sustainability

The importance of individual action

The challenge of changing habits

The relationship of a built environment to its natural setting

The economic advantages of going green

*Relevant subjects include, but are not limited to:*

Renewable energy

Waste reduction, Recycling, Conservation

Building design and materials, Landscaping

Resource efficiency (e.g., water or energy)

Food (e.g., organic, local, non-GMO)

## Spring Clean & Help Domestic Violence Survivors



Safe Nest of Southern Nevada provides temporary shelter and supplies to domestic abuse victims and their children. Help families in need while cleaning up your clutter!!!!!!

*During the entire month of April, the GPSA will collect any and all (gently used) household items. SPRING CLEAN and give your unnecessaries to those who need them!*

*Drop off your extras at the GPSA Study Area, Lied Library (3<sup>rd</sup> floor) room 3251 by Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

**Need funding for your research project or to attend a conference during the fall 2008 semester? GPSA grant information and application is available at: <http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants.htm> Deadline for the GPSA fall grant is April 15, 2008. Also available are emergency travel grants (for conference presentation only). Check the GPSA website to see if you qualify.**