

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAMMING

Kristina Erstad

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Greetings.

Since the last GAPSA assembly meeting I have:

- Attended GAPSA Programming Committee meeting February 5, 2008
- Attended GAPSA's presentation to the Student Service Fees Committee February 9, 2008
- Attended GAPSA executive board meeting February 20, 2008
- Attended GAPSA social at the Varsity Theater February 22, 2008

On February 22, 2008 GAPSA had the first social of the spring semester. The event was held at the Varsity Theater and catering was by the Loring Pasta Bar. Almost 300 graduate and professional students attended. There was a prize drawing that was quite popular and many students stayed especially for that. Comment cards have been introduced at all programming events this year and have yielded useful information and feedback for the programming committee. Graduate and professional students appreciate a good free meal and look for more chances to interact. Based on feedback from this social the programming committee will look into a comedian for the April 4th social. As in previous years the GAPSA socials continue to be popular events. In surveys done by the GAPSA programming committee this year, we found that the programming events of GAPSA, along with GAPSA grant programs, lead to many graduate and professional students first contact with GAPSA outside of orientations. Therefore, it has been important to make GAPSA executives and GAPSA program information (brochures and magnets) available at these events. The only set back at this social was that the cookies ran out rather fast due to students taking many more cookies than the two per person planned for. Some students filled containers with cookies to take home. On the one hand this shows the popularity of the Loring Pasta Bar's food, but on the other hand in the future cookies/desserts might need to be handed out with meals to allow everyone in attendance to enjoy. Thank you to all who attended and/or passed on the word to their colleagues.

On March 7, 2008 GAPSA will be having an event at both the Gopher Spot and Goldy's Gameroom. The highlights of the event are free bowling and billiards, Goldy appearance, and free beverages and cake. Various board games are also available for attendees to use while at the event and there are prizes for graduate and professional student's children in attendance. The event is for all graduate and professional students and those with children are encouraged to attend this family friendly event. While talking to attendees at the fall event some of the graduate and professional students met their families at the event and this provided them with a break from their work and a chance to spend quality time with their families. Please pass along the information about this event to your colleagues and post information about this event in your departments. Thanks!

My main focus in the coming month will be the planning and executing of a successful Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week. Mufaddal and I look forward to hearing from each

council soon and solidifying a list of events for the week. If you need help/guidance in planning your council's event please let me know. Councils may partner with other councils or plan an individual event. The possibilities are endless! The most important thing is for each council to participate! I have applied for two grants for this weeklong event and the programming committee is actively seeking out sponsors.

Although orientations are not until August/September I am still working to build relationships between program staff and GAPSAs. As many of you know GAPSAs doubled the number of orientations they participated in this past year. A letter was sent out at the beginning of spring semester to all the contacts GAPSAs had for orientations. The main purpose of these letters was to thank staff for working with GAPSAs this past year and to encourage more communication and cooperative in the future.

The programming committee decided to again sponsor an event at a Minnesota Twins game this year. The date of the event falls perfectly during Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week. This event was not going to be continued due to its cost, but because of the hard work of the programming committee, especially Matt, the Twins have offered GAPSAs a great deal that cuts GAPSAs's cost by almost half from last year.

Finally, the programming committee will be brainstorming and planning an event to be held during the end of April/beginning of May. If you have ideas please let me know either by attending the upcoming programming committee meeting or contacting me by phone or email.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

March 5, 2008 programming committee meeting 6:00 p.m. (please RSVP if attending or have agenda items)

March 7, 2008 Family Bowling at Goldy's Gameroom & The Gopher Spot 5:30-8:00 p.m.

March 31 - April 4, 2008 Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week

April 2, 2008 GAPSAs sponsored Minnesota Twins game

April 4, 2008 GAPSAs social at the Varsity Theater 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Thank You,

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