



The Midnight Oil

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Please send your comments and suggestions to Ugsa_publicity@listsncsu.edu



Winds of Change



Ali Kefeli
UGSA President

Leadership often involves managing people, which is one of the most difficult of all tasks. It requires coordination and motivation of the actions of others to achieve a common goal. A successful leader has to gain the agreement of others to be governed by and work together towards that goal. That agreement is only facilitated by self confidence and instilment of authority through credibility. This year, UGSA has had leaders that have always been personally committed and dedicated to the goal of our organization. We are motivated by our commitment to the people involved, and also by a strong sense of community. We tried to see the big picture, and communicated this vision to

inspire others. And last year, the vision we put forth for UGSA was "improved communication".

We have come a long way in terms of forming a better communication infrastructure for UGSA this year. We took down our broken and dysfunctional web site, and held a contest for a brand new site design. In August 2009, we launched our new, dynamic, accessible and organized web site. Moreover, as a new way to improve communication among our representatives and constituents, we launched the first ever electronic newsletter for UGSA, "PawPrints" with more than 6500 subscribers. In addition, UGSA is now a member of The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, and our VP-External attended their yearly conference in University of Nebraska, as an effort to put NC State's name out there and lobby for some of the issues brought to our attention by grad students.

2009 was a very important year for NC State, especially after the resignation of Chancellor James L. Oblinger. I had the privilege to serve in the Chancellor Search Committee as one of the two student body representatives. We

worked hard to listen to the needs of all the constituencies of NC State through public forums and worked diligently on numerous nominees. We are very excited about chancellor elect Dr. William Randolph Woodson joining our great university with whom I had the chance to form a warm personal relationship.

The UGSA Research Symposium kept growing from 150 to more than 190 participants this year. We have also successfully held the TA awards where about 100 outstanding TA's were recognized for their service to our university. We supported the Graduate Education Week in April, had a successful social at the Buckhead Saloon in Fall, and co-sponsored with Graduate School, 10 Preparing Future Leaders (PFL) seminars. The Jorge Cham lecture in April 13th was one of the biggest events ever hosted by UGSA, with 300 participants watching the lecture live and 350 more streaming it over the internet.

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Winds of Change

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It is clear that with your help, we have come a long way this year. There is definitely a heightened awareness of UGSA on campus and outside. My mission for UGSA for 2011 involves striving to accelerate this trend. We need more events, more visibility, more accessibility and more recognition. We will continue to put UGSA's name out there with increasing motivation and passion. I will make sure we form a continuous connection with NC State's student newspaper Technician. Next year, you will see UGSA events covered in Technician. We will work with Graduate

School to make better the Graduate Education Week, and continue our support for social events, research symposiums, professional development seminars, financial aid on travel and thesis, and funding for department chapters. All these tasks will be undertaken with UGSA's branding and visibility in mind, emphasizing our involvement in various aspects of campus life.

Within this framework, the new executive board's ability to take action and accomplish important tasks, our passion for the development of the graduate life at NC

State and our track record of leadership abilities put this executive board in a great spot to continue serving as the governing body of UGSA. This team brings experience, ingenuity and design to the table, leads by example, and will set the standard to follow. Expect great things from UGSA in 2010-2011.

P.S. Subscribe to PawPrints by sending a message to mj2@lists.ncsu.edu with the body "subscribe ugsa-news"

Who's Who of the Graduate Students?



Congratulations to the winners of the Fifth Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium! The Symposium not only showcases the outstanding quality and diversity of graduate-level research here at NC State, but also demonstrates the importance of graduate level research to state policy- and decision-makers. Although

more than 530 students astutely defended their research projects to both in-house faculty and outside collaborators, only two students in each of the eight categories could take home the prize:

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Who's Who of the Graduate Students?

(continued from p. 2)

Agricultural Sciences

Alexandra Chaytor (Animal Science): "Effect of chronic exposure of low levels of aflatoxin and deoxynivalenol on growth and immune status of pigs"

Stephen Meyers (Horticultural Science): "Palmer Amaranth Interference in Sweetpotato"

Education

Glenda Harrell (Curriculum and Instruction): "Multiple Benefits of Two-Way Dual Language Immersion"

Gemma Mojica (Mathematics Education): "Preparing Pre-service Elementary Teachers to Teach Mathematics with Learning Trajectories"

Engineering

Arjun Krishnan (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering): "Selectively Solvated Block Copolymers upon (Electro Mechanical Deformation)"

Anthony Rice (Materials Science and Engineering): "Homoeopitaxial deposition of AIN on (0001) oriented AIN substrates by MOCVD"

Humanities and Design

Meghna Tallapragada (Communication): "Public engagement in developing countries: A proposal for engagement for



benthic subpopulation of the bloom forming dinoflagellate *Karenia brevis*"

Elke Feese (Chemistry): "Synthesis of Water-Soluble Porphyrin-Peptide Conjugates"

Natural Resources

Jack Peng-Yu Wang (Forestry): "Unlocking Biofuel Industry through Comprehending Lignin Biosynthesis"

nanotechnology in water purification"

Jason Kalin (Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media): "Genetic Information and the Constitution of Medical Subjects: Critical Junctures in Genome Sequencing"

Life Sciences

Sun Hye Kim (Comparative Biomedical Sciences): "Cyclin-Dependent Kinase 4 levels affects the number of hair follicle Stem Cells in mouse epidermis"

April Wynn (Genetics): "*SEUSS*-Related Transcriptional Regulatory Complexes are Vital for Ovule Development in *Arabidopsis thaliana*"

Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Linda Waters (Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences): "The effect of nutrient constraints on cellular division rates and their consequences for maintenance of a

Kelly Oten (Entomology): "Scanning Electron Microscopy as a Tool in Understanding Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Biology, Feeding Behavior, and Host Plant Resistance"

Social Sciences and Management

David Gruber (Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media): "Decoding the Language of Brain Decoding"

Matthew Kutch (Economics): "Are Complementary and Alternative Medicines Cost-Effective in Treating Common Mental Health Disorders? A Survey Approach"

The TMO would like to give a special thanks to the UGSA Academic Policy Committee for their excellent effort to make the symposium a success!

Jessica Jenkins
Chemical Engineering

The Power of Procrastination

In a recent study done by UC Berkeley, 95% of all graduate students still feel overwhelmed and over 67% have been seriously depressed in some point in their careers. In April 2010, UGSA sponsored a lecture series conducted by Panamanian cartoonist, Jorge Cham. Cham is best known for his comic strip *Piled Higher and Deep* (PhD comics), and “The Power of Procrastination” lecture, which he has given to over 80 major universities in the US and Canada. These series focus on the life, or lack thereof, as a graduate student and in academia in general. The event was held in Dabney Hall and was followed by a book signing, which turned out to



be very successful. Cham received his PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University, where he first began writing comics. His research focused on haptic technology, novel manufacturing techniques, and biomimetic robots. His life as a graduate student spawned the ideas found in his comic work, which includes, but is not limited to, the sources of student’s anxieties as well as the guilt and myths of procrastination. Cham argues that procrastination is often a good thing

and provides a humorous collection of evidence in “The Power of Procrastination.”

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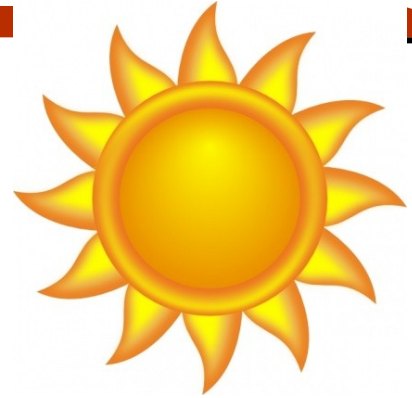
Matt Haynes
Soil Science



JORGE CHAM ©THE STANFORD DAILY

For more Ph.D. comics, go to phdcomics.com

When Summer Rolls Around...



Ah. The middle of May is upon us and that brings only one thing to mind: summer. The transition from spring to summer doesn't just bring hotter and more humid weather around Raleigh, North Carolina though. It brings the end of semester classes, less parking restrictions, less traffic on the streets, and lots of excellent concerts around town. This is your one shop stop for information (some for fun, some for usefulness) about summer time in Raleigh, NC.

NC State Campus parking restrictions are lightened. After May 24, 2010, anyone possessing a valid NCSU parking permit for any area is allowed to park in resident and commuter student parking areas. (Stray away from "B" and "C" lots, unless you feel like a ticket)

The Carmichael Gymnasium is also undergoing some reconstructive surgery this summer. Some of the weight rooms and the indoor track are both getting some tender loving care this May.

Mental Health Ideas:

Roller coasters, thrill rides, water parks, and over-priced burgers and funnel cakes.

Here are some close options:

- Carowinds Park - Charlotte, NC
- Kings Dominion – Doswell, VA
- Busch Gardens – Williamsburg, VA

If exhilaration or adrenaline isn't quite your cup of tea, try a day adding melanin to your skin or a new environment for a solid literature review at the following places:

- Outer Beach
- Topsail
- Hilton Head
- Virginia Beach

It's always helpful to properly lubricate the mind. Try a tour of a winery or brewery around town.

- Carolina Brewing Company
- Aviator Brewing Company
- Big Boss Brewing Company
- Chatham Hill Winery

Or try your hand at wine making:
Carafe Winemakers

Who doesn't love good music or plays? Summer always brings some quality concerts and shows around. Try checking out the shows playing in the following venues:

Koka Boothe Amphitheater
www.boothamphitheatre.com
Styx, Phoenix

RBC Center
www.rbccenter.com
Eagles, Michael Buble

TWC Pavilion at Walnut Creek
www.livenation.com
Rascal Flatts, John Mayer, Jack Johnson, Kings of Leon

Raleigh Boutique Amphitheater
www.livenation.com
O.A.R., Shinedown, Chevelle

Durham Performing Arts Center
www.dpacnc.com
Chicago, Beauty and the Beast

There are always activities to be found. If there's nothing in Raleigh, just head out to Durham or Chapel Hill. Good luck on your research, but always remember to have some fun, especially when it's slightly less crowded in the area!

Alina Higham
Chemical Engineering



Highlights of Graduate Education Week

The second annual Graduate Education Week (GEW) was celebrated from March 6th – 11th, 2010. The GEW celebrates the work of graduate students and serves as an opportunity to attract prospective students.

Through the week, various interesting events were held:

Habitat for Humanity - Community Service: 32 graduate students helped construct homes for Wake County's Habitat for Humanity

Family Night & International Student Fair: To celebrate diversity at NC State, students from different nationalities presented cuisines from all over the world. This event was co-sponsored by the Office of International Services (OIS)

Professional Development Seminars: Several seminars aimed at helping graduate students were held:

Working with Advisors & Committees: Dr. Rufty, an internationally recognized



Postdoc or Professional: What's the Path You Choose: Dr. Rhonda Sutton (Office of Postdoctoral Affairs) presented various options for students considering life after graduate school

5th Annual Research Symposium: This event was sponsored by UGSA and the Graduate

School. It showcased the wide variety of high-quality research carried out by graduate students at NC State

"Red Means Go" Tour - Solar Center: This was a tour of the renewable technologies at NC State - solar, wind, biomass, alternative fuels, combined heat & power, and green building

Deans vs. Grads Bowling Night: This was an informal get-together at The Alley on Hillsborough street. Both students and the Dean of Graduate School were present for the final event of GEW

Trisha Biswas
Computer Science

expert in mentoring, discussed scenarios of students who have faced delicate situations in working with their committees and advisors and shared some stories of success in an informal session with students

Making Yourself Competitive for Graduate School: This was a professional development seminar held by Dr. Duane Larick, Dean of the Graduate School for undergraduate students who plan to apply to graduate school

Getting Your Research Published: This session featured Dr. Shawn Utsey, who discussed strategies for getting ones research published from the perspective of a journal editor