UPCOMING EVENTS:

WAM-O-RAMA! Enjoy live performances by three Twin-Cities groups: Night Moves, Hollow Boys, and Electric Children. A night of jazz, hip-hop and blues in the Weisman Art Museum gallery. Weisman Art Museum, East Bank, Friday Sept 7 at 7:00pm.

Bowl for a Buck: Every Thursday at 5:00pm bowl for $1 per person, per game. Free popcorn! Goldy’s Gameroom, Coffman Memorial Union. September 6 - December 6.

COGS General Assembly Meeting: Monday Sept 17th 5:30 (Dinner), 6:00 (Meeting) in the Mississippi Room in Coffman Union

Find out about opportunities for graduate students to become involved in COGS this year, get info on travel and leadership awards, and find exciting political, social, and alumni events by visiting our website: www.cogs.umn.edu

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Welcome back to another semester!

In the 2011-2012 school year, we made some great progress. We passed a resolution calling for the partial standardization of offer letters (so that all incoming students get accurate information about fees and insurance before making a decision), another resolution to audit the expenses paid for by student fees, and another to reexamine the collegiate fees. The past president (Emily Combs) and I will be working on the implementation of these resolutions this year. Last year, we also created focus groups on health care at Boynton (the campus health care center) and changes at Boynton have already occurred in response to their findings. A big part of our mission this year is to improve transparency and communication at the University.

For this year, we have also established two new committees to discuss student fees and the new quality metrics. These committees are responsible for establishing our detailed positions on these matters. Any graduate students interested in joining these committees are welcome. We also place graduate students as voting members in many important University committees such as the Graduate Assistant Health Plan Committee and the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee.

Moving forward, we hope to be a force for greater transparency in University affairs, a forum for addressing student concerns, and an efficient and capable means of disseminating information to the student body.

In many ways the graduate students here at the University of Minnesota are the core of the University, and I am pleased to serve as your president for the 2012-2013 school year. The Council of Graduate Students (COGS) serves you as both advocate and source of information. Every department is entitled to a student representative at COGS, who serves as a conduit of information between the department and the council as a whole.

We invite and encourage all graduate students to attend our meetings, find out who their departmental representative is, and to stay informed. Any graduate student is also welcome to introduce new resolutions for debate at our general assembly. I look forward to hearing from you; you can contact us at cogs@umn.edu with any issues, opinions, or concerns.

-Aaron Beek, COGS President
HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS: COGS publishes two valuable guides developed by and for graduate students. Both guides are available for download on the COGS website.

Staying on course: Mutual Roles and Responsibilities in the Graduate School Experience.

This in-depth guide helps you get the most of your graduate experience. It includes advice for first-year students on finding an advisor, filling out forms, and getting accustomed to graduate student life. It also provides advice to continuing students on taking preliminary, presenting, motivation, job searching, and having fun. There is also advice for faculty on interacting with graduate students.

Graduate Student Survival Guide

This handy volume is a summary of services you may need during graduate school. Do you know where to get your UCard, get forms, and buy books? How do you get around campus? Where can you eat, get coffee, or get money? Where can you find a place to live and buy cheap furniture? This survival guide will help point you in the right direction. Updated regularly, this is the guide to graduate student life at the U!

COGS ALL STUDENT SURVEY

Every other spring since 2006 COGS has administered a survey of all graduate students; last year we expanded to include professional students as well. More than 3,800 students took our survey last spring; we look forward to releasing the results this fall! The survey covers all areas of student life and the experiences of international students and student parents. We hope you will look for the report this fall.

BOYNTON HEALTH SERVICES FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

In the spring of 2012 COGS conducted a survey of graduate student satisfaction with Boynton Health Services. The results: mostly positive! The reports (for international men and women, and domestic men and women) are available for reading on the COGS website.

COGS AWARDS:

Last year COGS gave $40,000 in travel grants with $20,000 of internal funding and a generous donation of $20,000 from the Graduate School to specifically fund students at conferences. CoGs also gave out 5 leadership awards to graduate students, as well as 11 Outstanding Faculty Awards. Ours is the only faculty award chosen solely by graduate students.

We will be accepting travel grant applications for travel between September 1st and January 21st beginning on September 4th. Visit www.cogs.umn.edu for details!

Find COGS on the Internet:

Web: www.cogs.umn.edu
Email: cogs@umn.edu
Like us on Facebook!
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2012-2013 COGS LEADERSHIP

President: Aaron Beek, CNES
Executive VP: Andrew McNally, American Studies
VP Finance: Kyutae (Leo) Kim, Financial Mathematics
VP University Relations: Scott Petty, Economics
VP Communications: Norm Shamas, CNES
VP Internal Relations: Laurie Knies, Sociology
Senators:
  Andrew McNally, Writing Studies
  Anna Beek, CNES
  Celeste Falcon, Agronomy/Plant Genetics
  Jacqueline Wendel, Biomedical Engineering
  Neil Dhingra, Electrical Engineering
Graduate Education Council Representatives:
  Cece Martin, Plant Biological Sciences
  Tim Salo, Computer Science
  Ryan Thompson, Musicology