



*August 2007*

### Fall '07 GA Meetings

President's Room, Coffman Union @ 5 pm

- September 12
- October 18
- November 29

---

### *Brief Job Descriptions for current COGS openings:*

**Vice President of External Relations:** primary liaison to Directors of Graduate Study, interfaces with Minnesota State Legislature, judges leadership award competition.

**Vice President of Communications:** primary liaison to the media, maintains the COGS website, takes meeting minutes, judges travel grant award competition.

**Senators:** represent COGS at Student and University Senate and at GAPSA. COGS has seven senators and several alternates. Senators may hold another elected position if they wish.

### What is COGS?

COGS is the representative body for all graduate students at the University of Minnesota. It is our mission to represent and serve the needs of graduate students by working with the graduate school and university administration, sponsoring events and programs helpful to students, and by appointing graduate students to important university committees such as Policy and Review councils or University Senate. The GradLetter is one of our three primary means of communicating with the graduate student body. These newsletters are distributed two to three times per year as summaries of COGS projects, important issues affecting graduate students, and opportunities for involvement. Also look for email Extras to announce up-coming events or important information requiring immediate attention. Our third way of communicating with you is through your program representative to the COGS general assembly, so make sure your department or program is sending someone on your behalf. For more information, see our website [www.cogs.umn.edu](http://www.cogs.umn.edu).

### Cheaper Garage Parking Coming Soon!

This spring, Jason Wilde and Geoff Hart drafted a resolution expressing interest in getting graduate students cheaper evening and weekend parking options that was to be presented to the Parking and Transportation (P + T) department. COGS unanimously passed the resolution, and we then brought the resolution to GAPSA where it was also overwhelmingly passed. Throughout the whole process, they have worked hand in hand with the Parking and Transportation department to come up with feasible options considering current parking constraints on all campuses. To accurately assess the demand and dynamics of the issue, a survey was drafted that over 1000 graduate and professional students completed. After repeated meetings with Bob Baker and Victoria Nelson at the P + T department, Suzanne Sobotka, Kristen Denzer (past and current GAPSA presidents), and Geoff have secured tentative approval for the program! They are currently working out logistics for enacting such a program. The P + T department will open up a limited number of spots in parking ramps/garages around all the campuses for evening (after 4:30) and weekend parking. Students will get card access allowing 22 parks per semester for around \$70. These spots will go fast so be sure to look for an email in your inbox for further instructions. There should also be information coming on the P + T departments webpage.

*-Geoff Hart*

## A Letter from the COGS President

Welcome to the 2007-2008 academic year. A special welcome to all of you beginning a graduate program this fall. I hope you had a good summer, whether it was filled with research or relaxation. Here at COGS we have been gearing up for the new year, bringing new officers up to speed and planning workshops for the fall.

Our Graduate Student Life Workshops return this year. The Forms and Formalities workshop on how to navigate the paperwork required along the way to earning your degree is scheduled for early October, watch for details. Keep an eye out for other workshops on applying for fellowships, tackling the job search and more. If there is a topic that you would like to see covered in a workshop let us know by sending us an email at [cogs@umn.edu](mailto:cogs@umn.edu).

COGS is here to work on issues important to graduate students. We have worked to keep stadium fees down, find parking options for grad students, clarifying MN property tax refund rules for graduate assistants and more. Please let us know what issues are important to you! We want to help make your time at the U of M as good as possible.

There are many opportunities to get involved at COGS, there are two executive officer positions open (VP of communications and VP for external relations) in addition to representing COGS at Student Senate or your own grad program at COGS meetings. Check out our website for more information on position responsibilities.

I look forward to working for you this year. Feel free

to contact me at [cogs@umn.edu](mailto:cogs@umn.edu) with any concerns you think COGS should deal with. Good luck with the new school year!

– Carol Powers  
COGS President

### Upcoming Events:

**General Assembly Meetings:** Come to General Assembly meetings to learn more about issues relevant to all aspects graduate studies and graduate student life. GA meetings are a great opportunity to interact with students from diverse programs and have something to eat. All GA meetings this term are at 5:00 pm in the President's Room, Coffman Memorial Union, and every graduate student is encouraged to attend.

- Wednesday, September 12
- Thursday, October 18
- Thursday, November 29

**Forms and Formalities Workshop:** Confused about the paperwork you need to file as a graduate student? Come get the scoop on exactly which forms you need to file and when they need to be filed, and learn about the new online system for filing degree forms!

- MA students: October 3
- PhD students: October 4

For information– Eden Kaiser: [kaise113@umn.edu](mailto:kaise113@umn.edu)

### Please Contact Us:

#### Your 2007-2008 COGS Elected Representatives

#### Officers–

**President:** Carol Powers, Agronomy  
/Plant Genetics ([power134@umn.edu](mailto:power134@umn.edu))

**Executive VP:** Bryan Gordon,  
Linguistics ([gordo225@umn.edu](mailto:gordo225@umn.edu))

**VP for Communications:** OPEN

**Parliamentarian:** OPEN

**VP for Internal Relations:** Eric Grashorn,  
Physics ([gras0057@umn.edu](mailto:gras0057@umn.edu))

**VP for Finance:** Andy Exley,  
Computer Science ([exley@cs.umn.edu](mailto:exley@cs.umn.edu))

**VP for External Relations:** OPEN

#### Policy and Review Council Chairs–

**Biological Sciences:** Geoff Hart,  
Microbiology... ([hart0792@umn.edu](mailto:hart0792@umn.edu))

**Health Sciences:** Saibu Sharma,  
Health Sciences ([sharm071@umn.edu](mailto:sharm071@umn.edu))

**Language, Literature, and Arts:** Eden Kaiser,  
Linguistics([kaise113@umn.edu](mailto:kaise113@umn.edu))

**Education and Psychology:** Caroline Hilk,  
Educational Psychology ([hilkx006@umn.edu](mailto:hilkx006@umn.edu))

**Engineering, Physical and Mathematical Sciences:**  
Scott Johnson, ([scottj@cs.umn.edu](mailto:scottj@cs.umn.edu))

**Social Sciences:** Eli Meyerhoff,  
Political Science ([meye0781@umn.edu](mailto:meye0781@umn.edu))