



# MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

March 2020

## NEWS & SERVICES

### **New GSA Website soon!**

The GSA-UW is excited to announce that it will be launching a new website in the next week. As such, hyperlinks in our March 2020 E-Newsletter may eventually be broken. To ensure continued access to accurate and up-to-date information, we will resend the newsletter to all graduate students, with updated hyperlinks, at the time of launch. Thanks in advance for your patience!

### **Vital Signs Survey 2020 Extended**

We have extended the close date of the Vital Signs Survey to *MARCH 8 at 5:00PM EST*. We want to ensure we get as many responses as possible, as your feedback will directly impact our strategic planning process ([GP-15](#)), and will help the GSA-UW to improve services and supports available to graduate students at the UWaterloo.

Participants of this survey will be entered into a competition to *win* one of the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$100 cash prizes in EACH Faculty x 2
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$50 Amazon gift cards in each Faculty x 2
- \$50, \$30, \$20 Graduate House coupons in EACH Faculty for 3<sup>rd</sup> prize

To take the survey and read more, visit our [Vital Signs Survey](#) page.

Thank you to all of those who have already completed the survey!

### **Rose Vogt Award of Excellence**

The [Rose Vogt Award of Excellence](#) is the GSA's highest award. It is named after the General Manager of the organization from 2011 to 2018. The Rose Vogt Award of Excellence may be presented once per year to an individual (or in exceptional circumstances, individuals) who demonstrates selfless dedication to graduate students. \*Nomination Deadline: *MARCH 9 at 11:59PM EST*

### **Election: Graduate Student Representative Candidates for University Senate Announced – Voting starts March 12!**

The call for nominations for two graduate student representatives to Senate closed on February 28, 2020.

Four nominations for the upcoming vacancies were received, and [candidate statements are posted on the Secretariat website](#).

Of the four candidates, the GSA Council has voted to officially endorse Sara Marsh and Twesh Upadhyaya to serve as graduate student representatives on Senate. Stay tuned for additional communications concerning the Senate elections.

### **GSA Wellness – Free Massages**

Take some time to unwind from the grad school grind. Treat yourself to a free massage therapy session brought to you by the GSA and the Collage of Massage. Date: MARCH 9 - Time: 3:30-6:30PM - Location: DC 1301 - The Fishbowl

### Annual General Meeting 2020: Request for Agenda Discussion Topics

The GSA-UW is asking graduate students to suggest decision and/or discussion items for the upcoming AGM. Please send your request to the [Corporate Secretary](#) by *MARCH 13*. The GSA will consider inclusion of the suggested topics into the agenda. The official notice of the meeting with the finalized agenda, will be distributed later, at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

### Graduate Student Initiatives Funding: Call For Proposals

Graduate students are eligible to apply for [GSIF](#) for social or academic initiatives such as a reception, a workshop, a panel, a guest lecture, hosting a conference for graduate students, and more! \*Deadline: *MARCH 15 at 12PM EST*. Visit our website for submission details.

### GSA Tax Aid Clinics & Personal Consultations

The GSA-UW hosts an [Income Tax Aid Clinic and personal consultations](#) each year to help graduate students learn how to complete their income tax return forms. A Tax Seminar is held for general information each March. Join us for this walk-in seminar. It is free! This seminar will provide an overview of the income tax return submission process. Personal consultations (by appointment) with the GSA Accountant are scheduled approximately once a week in late March and April prior to the deadline for submitting income tax returns on April 30<sup>th</sup> and is free for graduate students registered this term (GSA-UW members). Please note that the GSA-UW does not provide a tax filing service. Dates for these clinics are posted on our website.

### GRT Refunds

We have negotiated terms with GRT. Refunds for service disruption are being processed for those who have paid the GRT UPass fee and will be on Quest accounts as soon as possible. More information will be available soon.

## GRADUATE HOUSE EVENTS

**March 4** Trivia Night 7pm

**March 5** Music Bingo 7pm

**March 9** Board Game Night 6pm

**March 12** Karaoke 7:30pm

**March 17** St. Patrick's Day

**March 18** Trivia Night 7pm

**March 19** Music Bingo 7pm

**March 23** Board Game Night 6pm

**March 24** [Paint & Plant](#) 2-5pm \*Registration required

**March 25** International Graduate Student Meet & Mingle 6pm

**March 26** Karaoke 7:30pm

## GET INVOLVED

[Get involved](#) in campus life and join the GSA team!

### GSA Council Speaker & Council Deputy

We are looking for a new [Speaker of Council](#) to facilitate council meetings, be the voice of council at GSA board meetings, and serve on other committees as necessary. We are also looking for a [Deputy Speaker](#) to assist the speaker and serve in the Speaker's place when they might be unavailable. All applications for Speaker will also be considered for Deputy Speaker. Candidates will be interviewed by the Council Executive Committee, and be expected to attend the April meeting of Council to provide a case for their election to the role. These volunteer positions are open to all graduate students, and come with a small monthly stipend. Interested candidates will have until **March 15, 2020** to submit their cover letter and CV to Cindy Yeung by email at [chtyeung@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:chtyeung@uwaterloo.ca).

**GSA Council Representatives:** [Represent](#) your department in our council meetings. Email Sara at [gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gsa-engagement@uwaterloo.ca) for more information.

The following departments require a Council representative:

- Public Issues Anthropology (ARTS)
- Catholic Thought (ARTS)

- Social Work (ARTS)
- Sociology (ARTS)
- Economics (ARTS)
- Theological Studies (ARTS)
- Master of Business, Entrepreneurship & Technology MBET (ENGR)
- Combinatorics & Optimization (MATH)
- Computational Mathematics (MATH)
- Pure Mathematics (MATH)

**GSA Board Members:**

Join our [Board of Directors](#) and contribute to overseeing the corporate governance of the GSA. The GSA-UW is now accepting nominations for the upcoming Board of Directors election to fill seven (7) vacant positions.

The directorships terms of office are:

- One (1) directorship beginning May 1, 2020 and ending April 30 2021, and
- Six (6) directorships beginning May 1 2020 and ending April 30, 2022.

The call for nominations closes on *MARCH 13, 2020 at 3:00 PM EST*. More information can be found [here](#).

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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