

It has been an incredibly busy month. All orientation talks and events have finally wrapped up with the final O-talk given last week. I have outlined most of my work/activities over the last month below.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

I submitted a written report which addressed some of the concerns of SGPS members in relation to the Queen's Centre- we are still waiting for policy (human resources) specifically in relation to employment opportunities for our members. Trustees were excited to hear about what SGPS members are doing these days and I focused on the needs of our members. As a result, many of the Trustees have contacted me expressing an interest in fundraising for the SGPS. I hope I will have more updates as the year progresses.

**SENATE:**

I am delighted to tell you that the SGPS was successful in obtaining a motion for Academic Amnesty at Senate in September. Here is the motion that was passed:

Whereas youth voter turnout is historically much lower than the average voter turnout for provincial elections; and  
Whereas many Queen's students who live off campus will be away from their local polling station to attend classes on voting day during the hours of poll operation; and  
Whereas students who live off-campus need to be able to leave late or return early if they have classes scheduled on October 6 2011 to be able to vote;  
and BIRT Thursday, October 6, 2011 be declared a day of academic amnesty for all students to vote in the provincial elections such that;

1. If a student does not have a three hour break for this day, they may provide a copy of their class schedule to a professor and be absent to vote. No student shall receive academic penalty (be it grades or otherwise) for being absent in such a case.
2. No major evaluations be scheduled for this day, including but not limited to, tests, exams, midterms, presentations, and assignment due dates with no academic penalty; and
3. Students who do not attend classes, labs, tutorials, etc. on this day should be given the opportunity to make-up work they may have missed with no academic penalty.

**RECTOR ELECTIONS AND POLICY:**

I have been working over the last three months creating and editing the new Rector policy. This policy was finally completed and it ensures SGPS members are able to cast their ballots via the SGPS in the upcoming Rector election. The policy was presented to AMS Assembly on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The policy passed with very little discussion and no opposition. As you will note, the policy has been brought to SGPS council to vote on tonight. This was a long process with a lot of last minute revisions and meetings with the AMS. Through determined discussions and some compromise, we were able to protect our interests. I could not have been able to bring this policy into fruition without the assistance of our Speaker and the Bylaw and Policy committee who were instrumental to this process. Thanks to all of you for your hard work on an incredibly tight timeline.

The Rector nominations opened on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and will run until October 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be an all candidates debate- stay tuned to the SGPS webpage for this date and details. Campaigning will run from October 14<sup>th</sup> to October 24<sup>th</sup> with ballots to be cast on October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

**HONORARY DEGREE SELECTION COMMITTEE:**

The committee met mid-September and reviewed the fantastic nominations submitted for honorary degrees. The committee discussed and subsequently selected the recipients. They will be notified and the results will be made public in the not too distant future.

**SGPS OFFICE AND SOCIAL SPACE:**

As you all know, we were finally able to get more space for our offices, a social lounge and an additional boardroom after many, many years. Unfortunately, there was some water damage to one of the offices, being my office. Repairs are underway and I am told that I will be able to return to my space soon. Don't forget about the social lounge on the second floor, which is a great area for a group study session, to relax and socialize.

**LEVANA GENDER ADVOCACY AND OPIRG (THE GREY HOUSE):**

As you all remember, last month we passed a motion supporting the residents of the grey house. I am delighted to tell you that these groups do not have to relocate as originally told. These groups are secure in their space for at least another year. We will be creating policy in the next few months that will address how shared space is allocated between the SGPS and the AMS.

**SLC (Student Life Centre Council):**

The upcoming year will be somewhat of a transition year as we begin to work through the new SLC Constitution. As well, the new Operation and Management agreement will continue to be worked through with specific attention to yes, creating specific policies.

The council met for the first time this year. The council discussed space allocation (as noted in the Grey House info above) and how policy needs to be created to address how space is allocated; policy created that ensures SGPS members are still entitled to work in the SLC as house managers and creation of committees with SGPS representation.

**SGPS AMS SERVICE AGREEMENT:**

This is still an ongoing discussion with the AMS and unfortunately we have been busy writing policy, revising policy and creating more policy (in between meetings). I am hopeful that this will come to a resolution in the near future.

**FOOD COMMITTEE:**

I had the pleasure of attending my first food committee meeting. There were representatives from the AMS, the University, and Food Services. It was a great opportunity for me to inquire about what efforts have been made for an additional Graduate and Professional student meal plan(s)-unfortunately there have been no new additions. I am in the process of arranging for a one on one meeting to see what services/meal plans they can create for SGPS members. If you have any ideas, thoughts or concerns, please feel free to email me. I am also looking into the \$5 Friday lunches to see if SGPS members could benefit from this.

In closing, I want to remind you all to get involved. As I noted earlier in my report, the Rector elections are underway and I encourage you all to get out there and vote: let your voice be heard!

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Burford-Grinnell  
President, SGPS  
[president@sgps.ca](mailto:president@sgps.ca)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the VP Graduate  
October 2011

### **Greetings!**

We're already one month into the new academic year; I hope that everyone is thriving in their academic pursuits! It's been a busy month with orientation week activities and getting settled in. Here's what's been happening on my end:

### **FREE Queen's Steering Committee**

A callout has been made in our latest SGPS newsletter looking for members-at-large to join the FREE Queen's Steering Committee. Please also advertise this newsletter announcement widely within your departments. As you know, FREE Queen's is a free workshop series put on by Queen's University students for Queen's University students and Kingston community members. The FREE Queen's Steering Committee will be tasked with overseeing proposal submissions and selecting proposals that will be included in our FREE Queen's programming (February - April 2012). Currently, we are looking for 3 SGPS members-at-large to join our committee. If you or anyone within your department are interested in this opportunity, please email me at [vpg@sgps.ca](mailto:vpg@sgps.ca) with the following: name, contact information, and a short paragraph (no more than 100 words) outlining why you would like to serve on the committee. Expressions of interest are due by **Friday, October, 21 at 4 p.m.**

### **Academic Affairs Standing Committee (AASC)**

These are repeat announcements from my last council report. The AASC is working on a few initiatives and we require your input and assistance!

We are currently gathering student feedback with regards to ways that the accessibility and clarity of Fall 2011/Winter 2012 registration information can be improved. I have not yet received your contributions for this initiative, so I ask that you take a moment to contribute at least one item to the list that we are creating. One way to go about this is to ask your departmental Graduate Studies Office what has been the most frequently asked question related to Fall 2011 registration. Once you have obtained the question, please email me at [vpg@sgps.ca](mailto:vpg@sgps.ca) so that I may add it to the list. We aim to present this list of recommendations to the Office of the University Registrar (OUR) in November, so that we can work together with the OUR to improve the accessibility and clarity of registration information going forward!

Additionally, I am interested in getting a wide representation on the AASC. We are currently lacking representation from the Faculty of Engineering & Applied Sciences, the Faculty of Law, the School of Business, the School of Policy Studies, and the School of Urban & Regional Planning. If you would like to join the AASC to work on short-term projects on academically-related issues that have a wide-ranging importance on SGPS members, then we welcome your involvement! Email me for more info at [vpg@sgps.ca](mailto:vpg@sgps.ca).

### **Health, Counselling and Disability Services (HCDS)**

This is a repeat announcement from previous council reports. The AASC is currently tasked with compiling a list of service gaps (re: HCDS) that our membership has experienced recently. Again, I have not yet received your contributions for this initiative, so I ask that you take a moment to contribute at least one item to the list that we are creating. Our goal is to work together with HCDS to find ways to bridge the identified service gaps to meet the various needs of our membership.

This concludes my report to council.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Karagiorgakis  
VP Graduate  
[vpg@sgps.ca](mailto:vpg@sgps.ca)

**-OPEN ACCESS WEEK-**

This month will be punctuated by Open Access Week, October 24-30. Due to a lack of resources this year, the Open Access Week Planning committee will not be hosting its own set of panels, but is hoping instead to broadcast two panels organized by the Right to Research Coalition: one on Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 8pm; the second on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 12pm (location TBD – we will advertise on the SGPS website, stay tuned). Open Access Week is geared towards raising awareness about the restrictions placed on public access to journal articles – why are taxpayers prevented from accessing the results of research funded through public moneys? Why do students, who pay excessive user fees for their education, face increasingly limited access to the materials they rely on to do their work?

In response to increases in subscription prices for journals, several research institutes (Harvard, MIT, Columbia, UBC, Concordia, amongst others) have begun the process of enacting campus-based policies requiring research outputs to be deposited in freely accessibly online repositories. Researchers from other institutions are also pushing for open access as a method of distribution that aligns with feminist research methodologies. Professor Carys Craig of Osgoode Hall Law School is one of them – and Queen's Feminist Legal Studies has invited Professor Craig to give a workshop on this topic on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> (1pm, MacDonald Hall, Room 201).

I invite you to attend these events, and to ask critical questions about the advantages and limits of open access for your research. You might start by asking the following: how can we get more open access publications recognized within the Journal Impact Factors? What steps can be taken to mitigate the financial burden placed on writers wishing to publish in open access sources? What policies should to be implemented to ensure that graduate students are not penalized for prioritizing open access over restricted access journals when they publish their research?

**-COPYRIGHT-**

A new piece of legislation (Bill C-11) was introduced on September 29 with the intent of modernizing the Copyright Act. Bill C-11 is the mirror image of Bill C-32, introduced during the previous Parliament. While most people would agree that changes to the Copyright Act are long overdue, the anti-circumvention provisions written into Bill C-11, like in C-32, will pose challenges for students' access to copyrighted works. As stated in a media communiqué released by the CFS, C-11 paradoxically supports the expansion of the definition of fair dealing, while at the same time undermining fair dealing through its proposed anti-circumvention provisions for digital locks. If implemented, one implication would be that students who purchase, download, and use digital books for a course would later be barred access from their e-book once the term/course came to an end. To put this into perspective, imagine having to give back, at the end of a term, the hard copy of a text you purchased, without getting any money back – not exactly realistic.

The CFS is currently advocating for the inclusion of a reasonable compromise, wherein digital locks could be bypassed for non-infringement purposes (as qualified by fair dealing, for instance) without penalty (otherwise set at a maximum of \$5,000 in fines under the proposed Act), and to eliminate broad device and service prohibitions. I think it would be worthwhile to contact our Member of Parliament, as well as Minister Clement and Moore, both responsible for copyright policy in Canada, to discuss this matter from students' perspectives. Before doing so, I would like to solicit your input on the Act, as it currently stands. As such, I would encourage you to read over the Act by clicking the following link: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=5144516&Mode=1&Language=E>. You might also be interested in Dr. Michael Geist's (Professor of Law, Canada Research Chair in Internet & E-commerce) analysis of the proposed amendments to Copyright legislation: <http://www.michaelgeist.ca/>. If you have any questions, or to discuss what you would like to see included in a letter addressed to the above-named parties, please contact me by email ([vpcca@sgps.ca](mailto:vpcca@sgps.ca)).

**-VIA RAIL ISIC DISCOUNT-**

I continue to receive several questions from our members about the ISIC discount for VIA Rail travel. As such, I would like to remind all Councilors to please pass any information disseminated at Council along to their respective departments. Please contact me to discuss which approach might work best within your department – there are many, many ways of reaching out to your fellow grads, and I would be happy to help. There is something to be said about VIA's lack of transparency when it comes to discounts for our members – I am currently working alongside the office of the Honorable Mr. Ted Hsu (MP, Kingston & the Islands) to resolve this.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne-Marie Grondin (VP CCA)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the VP Finance & Services  
October 2011

Hello, SGPS members. I hope that you're settling well into the new academic year. Since we're just gearing up with new committee membership all over the University, this will largely be an amalgamated committee report.

But first...

#### SGPS Services

ISIC card distribution seems to have gone smoothly this year. For the first time, we had CFS deliver ISIC cards directly to McArthur Hall, and we hope that worked well for all ESS students and Education grads. I also spent some time in McArthur to provide election information, and several members approached me with questions about the SGPS Health & Dental Plan and other services, so this was a great opportunity.

If you don't already have a free(!) SGPS agenda, please drop by the SGPS office to pick one up.

We continue to work with the AMS to have the SGPS brand added to the services we share, such as the Food Centre and the WalkHome service, but please note that these services are available to all of our members. You can find details about them here: <http://www.sgps.ca/services/services.html>

#### Finance & Services Committee

I've had a great turn out this year for membership in this committee, so thanks to all of you who either joined or who put a call out for others to join. We will be a busy committee this year, so I'm happy to have old and new members alike on board. Look for our report in next month's council package.

#### Queen's Daycare

At the time of writing this report, the Daycare AGM is scheduled to occur tomorrow, October 5. At that meeting, parents will be voting on whether or not to approve an across-the-board \$1/day fee increase. I will be nominating Oz Douglas, a law student, to serve on the Board of Directors as the SGPS representative for the coming year.

#### Arts & Science Joint Health & Safety Committee (JHSC)

Every employer with more than 20 employees must have a joint health and safety committee, and Queen's has eight, which you can find listed here: <http://www.safety.queensu.ca/jh&sc/jh&sc.htm>

JHSCs inspect workplaces and report their findings to the applicable departments as well as the Queen's Environmental Health and Safety office. They also make recommendations to the University. For instance, last year the A&S JHSC recommended that the University make mental health first aid training accessible to those in A&S.

Each committee is made up of administrative people, workers from each of the unions, and graduate and professional students who work in the buildings and departments we inspect. From a health and safety perspective, students are considered workers...up to a point. I am currently serving on the A&S JHSC as a graduate student representative, and I am going to be pushing that line a bit further. For instance, since mental health has recently been taken up by this JHSC, I would like to raise the issue of particularly dreary graduate student offices and the negative effects these spaces have on the people working in them.

Three more JHSCs are searching for student representatives: one from the Faculty of Health Sciences, one from the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and one from one of the professional programs. Please contact Pam Asselstine at [ea@sgps.ca](mailto:ea@sgps.ca) if you or someone you know is interested.

### Graduate Senate Executive Committee

I'm serving on GSEC for this term, and I've been to my first meeting. Some issues of interest that came up from the various graduate councils were times to completion, the issues that grad students have faced with the SOLUS/peoplesoft system, and difficulties students are facing with overly stringent General Research Ethics Board (GREB) demands. On behalf of the SGPS, I reported on complaints we've received about summer term shortened library hours and restricted Queen's Learning Commons services, the progress report recommendations developed by the SGPS Academic Affairs Standing Committee (AASC) last year (and which I will present to the grad councils at this month's meeting), and the lack of messaging from the Registrar's Office about the processes for returning graduate students to register. If you are still experiencing any problems with registration or the release of your funding, please contact the School of Graduate Studies right away.

### Ban Righ Foundation for Continuing University Education

If you are a mature woman student (you've returned to formal education after at least one year's absence or you have a child) and you don't know about the Ban Righ Centre, you should! It is a wonderful oasis located right on campus where women meet to study, relax, share their stories, talk with advisors, and apply for bursaries and grants...among other things! The website is here: <http://banrighcentre.queensu.ca/default.asp>

The Director of the Centre, Barb Schlaefer, is planning her retirement after many years dedicated to the continuing education of women. If you or someone you know might be interested in this challenging and rewarding position, there will be a posting on the Queen's Human Resources website during the last two weeks of October.

### The Grey House

Along with parts of the Athletics and Recreation Centre (ARC) designated at the Queen's Centre, the JDUC, and McGillivray Brown Hall, the Grey House is part of the Student Life Centre (SLC) that was formed this past year through an SLC Constitution and an Operations & Management (O&M) Agreement negotiated and signed by the SGPS, the AMS, and the University, and which is administered through the SLC Council.

Although OPIRG and Levana Women's Advocacy Group have re-ratified their AMS club status, and have been notified by the AMS Space Allocation Committee that they have been granted space for this academic year, there is much work to be done by SLC Council to clarify the silences in the agreements that deal particularly with "shared space," which is space that is paid for jointly by the two student societies, and of which the Grey House is an example. Our SGPS President, Jillian, and I both sit as voting members on the SLC Council, and we will be working throughout this year to ensure that the policies we develop are robust and reflective of SGPS members' interests.

Thanks for your rapt attention! You can always reach me at [vpfs@sgps.ca](mailto:vpfs@sgps.ca)

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Phillipson  
VP Finance and Services

Hello Council,

### **Rector Policy**

Over the past few weeks, I have been working with members of the SGPS Exec, the AMS Exec, and their Elections Team to work on joint policy for the election and removal of the Rector. This policy has been lacking for some time, and with the help of both societies, we were able to come to a policy that protects the interests of the SGPS.

This policy is being brought to Council for Approval by the SGPS, and has already been approved by the AMS. Once approved by the SGPS, it will be in effect and will govern the Rector Election that is underway, which has already begun to follow the policy draft.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

### **Committee Membership**

Any of you who are already members of committees from last year should have recently been contacted by the chair of the committee to confirm that you are still a member of the committee, and hopefully you replied and have continued your membership. For those of you that are new to Council, or have not yet joined a committee, that time is upon us once again. As a member of Council, you are required to join at least one committee. Below I will list the Committees available, and the Chair of the committee's contact information, if you have any questions about the committee. You will have until October 28, 2011 to email me with a list of committees (in preferred order) that you would like to join, and we will do our best to assign people to their first choice. If after the 28<sup>th</sup>, any member of Council has not emailed me with their preference, they will be assigned to a Committee. The final list of Committee membership will be presented at the next council meeting.

The following are the SGPS Internal Committees:

- Academic Affairs Standing Committee – Chair: Irene Karagiorgakis – VP Graduate – [vpg@sgps.ca](mailto:vpg@sgps.ca)
- Campaigns & Community Affairs Standing Committee – Chair: Anne-Marie Grondin – VP Campaigns & Community Affairs – [vpcca@sgps.ca](mailto:vpcca@sgps.ca)
- Equity Issues Standing Committee – Chair: Elizabeth Amirault – Equity Commissioner – [equity@sgps.ca](mailto:equity@sgps.ca)
- Finance & Services Standing Committee – Chair: Andrea Phillipson – VP Finance & Services – [vpfs@sgps.ca](mailto:vpfs@sgps.ca)
- Human Resources Committee – Chair: Cody Yorke – VP Professional – [vpp@sgps.ca](mailto:vpp@sgps.ca)
- International Students Standing Committee – Chair: Becky Pero – International Students' Affairs Commissioner – [international@sgps.ca](mailto:international@sgps.ca)
- Strategic Planning Standing Committee – Chair: Ben Grant – [benjamin.l.grant@gmail.com](mailto:benjamin.l.grant@gmail.com)
- Sustainability Standing Committee – Chair: Ivana Zelinka – Sustainability Coordinator – [sustainability@sgps.ca](mailto:sustainability@sgps.ca)
- Social Events Standing Committee – Chair: Abdullah Abunafeesa – Social Commissioner – [social@sgps.ca](mailto:social@sgps.ca)
- Professional Students Standing Committee – Chair: Cody Yorke – VP Professional – [vpp@sgps.ca](mailto:vpp@sgps.ca)
- Bylaw & Policy Revisions Standing Committee – Chair: Eric Rapos – Speaker – [speaker@sgps.ca](mailto:speaker@sgps.ca)
- Special Awards Standing Committee – Chair: Vacant (a member of Council to be Chosen)
- UHIP Bursary Special Committee – Chair: Becky Pero – International Students' Affairs Commissioner – [international@sgps.ca](mailto:international@sgps.ca)

So please look into the committees that interest you, and let me know via email by October 28, 2011. After that time, Council Members will be assigned to a committee, and you are expected to be active participants in the Committee, as

part of your role as a Councilor.

### **Record Keeping**

I have mentioned it before, and I would like to reiterate, the job of the Deputy Speaker can be a tough one, and to help make the job easier, when you speak at Council, if you could just ensure James knows your name so it can go into the minutes correctly, rather than him and I trying to figure it out after, that would be great.

Additionally, if there is ever an issue with you not being on the mailing list, your tent card has an error, or anything of that sort, please feel free to let us know, and we will get right on it. Council is a big group, and it certainly helps if you keep us on our toes.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Rapos  
SGPS Speaker  
[speaker@sgps.ca](mailto:speaker@sgps.ca)

## Senate

<http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/agendasminutes/092711.html>

Alan Harrison, formerly Provost and Vice-President (Academic) at the University of Calgary, presented his first report to Senate as Provost and Vice-Principle (Academic). An introductory Q&A with Harrison is available online, <http://www.queensu.ca/provost/team/provost/inconversation.html>

No questions were submitted in advance to Senate. Harrison answered one question from the floor about the possibility of temporarily operating with a deficit, like several Canadian universities, rather than making temporary and/or permanent cuts to academic services. Harrison replied that the University is now obliged by the Board of Trustees to bring the deficit to zero and that the University has already been operating with a deficit for 3 years.

Senator Morelli submitted a notice of motion for October on the grading system at Queen's, which moves that "Senate rescind Motion 09-42 and implement an official grading system that includes, at a minimum, both percentage grades and letter grades." The full motion is available here:

[http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/agendasminutes/092711/Sep27\\_11Appl2.pdf](http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/agendasminutes/092711/Sep27_11Appl2.pdf)

Senator and SGPS President Jillian Burford-Grinnell's motion on academic consideration for students voting in the October 6 provincial election passed. I seconded the motion.

[http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/agendasminutes/092711/Sep27\\_11Appl1.pdf](http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/agendasminutes/092711/Sep27_11Appl1.pdf)

The Academic Planning Task Force submitted a draft of the academic plan to Senate and entertained questions and comments from Senate for 30 minutes.

Senator MacLean commented that he could not support the plan in its current articulation, finding it far too prescriptive for implementation. The Task Force's recommendations, he noted, were 89 in number.

Another Senator observed that the plan currently offers little in the direction of graduate studies at Queen's. I seconded this concern and noted that Principle 8 in the Introduction seems to take a step back from integrating graduate students into the complex teaching and research missions of the school. Principle 8 recommends that the University "consider all students, whether undergraduate, graduate or professional, first and foremost as students, putting their individual learning needs ahead of their potential contributions to the University as TAs, teachers, or researchers." I also asked whether the Task Force had considered how their multiple recommendations for more undergraduate tutors and TAs might impact teaching experience and financial support for graduate students.

One member of the Task Force replied that they did not want to present graduate students as simply marking "slaves." They invited me, or anyone, to follow up with them to find a better articulation.

The draft can be found on the APTF's official website, <http://www.queensu.ca/saptf/>, which includes an "Introduction and Outline of the Report," the four 'pillars' of the plan, and concluding statements on "The Balanced Academy" and "Recommendations."

A dissenting statement on the planning process was also communicated to Senators before Senate met and is available to the Queen's community,

<http://realacademicplanning.wordpress.com/2011/09/27/mark-jones-queen%E2%80%99s-draft-academic-plan-as-of-september-2011-a-dissent-27-september-2011/>

**Senate Operations Review Committee**

This month's SORC meeting scheduled for Oct 5 was postponed, as the committee would not make quorum. I plan to attend the rescheduled meeting later this month.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Moore



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Social Commissioner  
October, 2011

Hello All,

We have had an amazing start to the year with our hugely successful orientation week. I would like to thank our SPGS staff and executives for all their support, and all our members for their participation during Orientation week. We are looking to build on this momentum with some great activities in October and the following months.

### **SPGS Freaky Fort Fright**

The SGPS dares you to join us as for our second annual Fort Fright adventure. Come along as we walk through the eerie gates of Fort Henry into the frightening experience of Fort Fright. This engaging haunted attraction is guaranteed to raise goose bumps with its interactive use of ghouls and monsters. Fort Fright represents one of the largest-scale, detailed events productions in eastern Ontario. Additionally, this event employs the use of over 50 movie styles, quality animatronics, dynamic special effects, intense sound and lighting and a large number of costumed animators. It's safe to say that it will be a very entertaining night. The package includes transport there and back. Tickets will be sold upon departure around 6:45 pm on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Come early as spots will be given on first come basis.

Date: Friday, October 22nd

Time: 7:00 pm- 9:30 pm

Place: Meet at the JDUC (at the corner of Union and University)

Price: \$ 10.00

N.B. Wear warm clothing, due to some of the attractions being outside

### **Screening of "Piled Higher and Deeper" (PHD Comics Movie)**

Due to the overwhelming interest the SGPS has decided to bring an official screening of "Piled Higher and Deeper". The Movie is a live-action adaptation of the popular online comic strip by Jorge Cham ([www.phdcomics.com](http://www.phdcomics.com)). The film introduces audiences to the unique and funny culture of Academia and follows four graduate students (Cecilia, Mike, Tajel and the "Nameless Grad Student") as they struggle to find balance between research, teaching and their personal lives with humor and heart. This movie fully illustrates the ongoing chronicle of life (or the lack thereof) in grad school. After reading the comic strip for countless years, now we have a chance to see protagonists in a movie that we can relate with on a level like no other. Tickets will be available on the SGPS website (below) and the SGPS office as of the Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. Additionally, there will be tickets available at the door on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October, providing the event does not sell out.

Date: Friday, October 21st

Time: 7:00 pm- 9:30 pm

Place: Biosciences Auditorium

Price: \$5

N.B. Get your tickets early, as this is popular event and there is big chance that it will SELL OUT!!

## **Faculty Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest**

Looking for some ghoulish fun to partake in during the Halloween season? The SGPS invites you and your friends, office mates and lab mates (Or any other SPGS member) to participate in our Annual Pumpkin Carving and Decorating Contest.

Where: SGPS office and JDUC Steps

When: Pick up your pumpkin between Oct 20 - Oct 27th - All completed pumpkins must be into the office before 4:30pm on Thursday Oct 27th, 2011 in order to be eligible for the contest.

Details: Pumpkins will be put on display at 7pm on Oct 27th and judging will take place after. The winner will be announced, prizes awarded and then we can all head to the grad club for Trivia Night!!

Cost: FREE!!!!.

## **Volunteering for the Social Team**

The SGSP Social Team is looking for student volunteers to help plan and execute events throughout the year. We are looking for outgoing individuals with a strong desire to improve the social lives of graduate and professional students. Having a broad base of volunteers will help the SGPS better address the social needs of all of our SGPS members. Additionally, it will provide us with an invaluable grass root medium to inform our members of the great SGPS events that will take place this year. Please email [social@sgps.ca](mailto:social@sgps.ca) if you're looking to get involved.

Lastly, the social team would love to hear your feedback regarding the types of events we're running and ways we can make them more appealing to our SGPS members. If you have any general inquiries or feedback don't hesitate to contact us at [social@sgps.ca](mailto:social@sgps.ca).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Abdullahi Abunafeesa  
Social Commissioner  
([social@sgps.ca](mailto:social@sgps.ca))

### SGPS Computer Network

- I completed an upgrade to our server for mail services. The update allows better handling of mail searches and allows server-side search for web clients. The update also applies some security patches.
- I am in the middle of re-writing some of the calendar services on the server. One staff person has experienced calendar issues, which should be corrected with the update.
- I have needed to conduct a bit more research with respect to off-site backups. This process does continue and I hope to conclude the job by the end of the year.
- I have written new software for our wiki server that allows it to respond more quickly to user queries.
- I am looking at a significant server software upgrade (new OS version). I will take my time to verify the new software will suit our needs and fit into our existing infrastructure.
- I have switched out one of our ailing computers for one that I have fixed. I will now fix another one!
- I continue working to allow each computer in the office to keep differential backups on the main server. Some more infrastructure work is needed before this is in working condition.

### SGPS Website

- I continue working on the Council and Get Involved sections of our website to make them more informative and welcoming.
- I am finalizing the new UHIP information so it can be posted to our website.
- I have continued to update the SGPS Votes! section of our site prior to the election.
- I have patched the webserver with software updates.
- I have added law clinic information to the services section of our website.
- I am weighing the benefits of creating a mobile version of our website. If you have any comments, I would love to hear them.

### Communications

- Overall, the optional fee opt-out service went smoothly. The bulk of members that experienced issues were also experiencing registration issues. I will work with the Registrar to improve the process for next year.
- Health and dental opt-outs went smoothly.
- All credits now appear on Solus accounts (for those that completed optional fee or health/dental opt-outs during the opt-out period).
- I ran into an issue with mailing lists. I am working with IT to resolve the issue.
- I would love to hear any/all feedback regarding the Orientation Week Survival Guide.
- I have completed updating the Council Orientation Guide. I welcome feedback so we can continue to improve this guide.
- I am working with Exec, Speaker, CRO for the upcoming Rector elections. One of the major communications projects will be to prepare the elections space and ensure it is consistent with the AMS voting space.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sean Richards - [info@sgps.ca](mailto:info@sgps.ca)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the International Team  
October 2011

Dear SGPS Council Members,

I hope that you have all had a great start of term – I must admit, it has been a busy one! The International Team has also been quite busy planning and organizing initiatives for international graduate and professional students. Below is some information on what the International Team has been up to this September.

Things we've been working on:

- The International Student Graduate Orientation event took place on the evening of Wednesday September 14, and was quite successful (it would be interesting to further support QUIC in preparing this initiative). SGPS had representation from the International Team, the Student Advisors, the VP Graduate, and EI Presidente;
- The SGPS International Team also held three drop-in sessions at QUIC during the first two weeks of school. These sessions provided a space for international graduate and professional students to come and ask questions. I think these sessions worked well as a method of directing international graduate and professional students to something/someone specific, and bridging the gap between QUIC's services and those of SGPS';
- Continue to discuss the potential expansion of Kingston Transit's summer service with the AMS' Municipal Affairs Commissioner and a staff member at Kingston Transit;
- Have been in contact with ASUS to discuss their recent focus on international issues;
- Continue to communicate upcoming events to international students via the SGPS Newsletter and Facebook Page, as well as obtain important resources, including the City's Fall Leisure Magazine;
- Participating in the Equity Team's Anti-accent Discrimination Campaign.

We're looking forward to:

- Engaging domestic and international students through the introduction of a Cultural Engagement Group, in association with QUIC, that will provide a relaxed, social environment for students to interact and encourage each other culturally (first meeting October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 530-630pm at QUIC);
- City's Student Engagement Communications Committee will meet in early October;
- Developing the International Students' Standing Committee (we are still looking for members);
- Continuing to compile information about UHIP;
- Sundae Sunday to be held at An Clachan!

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns about the above, if you have any ideas that you would like to share, or if you would like to get involved in the international committee.

Warm Regards,

The SGPS International Team

Becky Pero  
International Student Affairs Commissioner  
international@sgps.ca

Holly McIndoe  
International Student Affairs Coordinator  
isc@sgps.ca

With school back in the full swing of things, sustainability events on campus are switching gears as well. Here is a report of some of them:

### **Sustainability Wide Meeting**

The Queen's Sustainability Office held the first sustainability wide meeting with AMS, SGPS coordinators and other student groups. Topics discussed included updates on projects already on the go as well as future initiatives. Some current campus initiatives discussed included: Organic waste disposal at all dining rooms and retail food outlets; E-waste recycling; Furniture re-use program; Solar PV project; Assessing the viability of replacing some campus fleet vehicles with electric alternatives – currently an electric vehicle is being used by the Parking office; Community Garden at West Campus; Bottled water sales ban on campus effective September 2012 and etc. Future projects and opportunities to get involved with sustainability initiatives on campus included: Inventory/assessment of current recycling station deployment on campus and Promotion work for upcoming recycling initiatives including Tim Horton's cups and Styrofoam.

### **Solar Educational Centre** - opening on October 15<sup>th</sup>

Speaking of the solar project, all systems are in place and work on the selected buildings is about to commence. In addition, the planned Queen's Solar Educational Centre will officially open on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2011. It will serve as an educational / promo feature containing information about the project and the amount of energy produced. It will be placed at the corner of Union St. & Division St.

### **Queen's Re-Cycle Bike Shop**

The work on the bike shop is also slowly starting up – I have met with Adam DiSimine (new AMS sustainability commissioner) and re-connected with the personnel and volunteers involved in the project last year, including members of Yellow Bike Action + Frontenac Cycle about organizing new workshops and setting up the shop. As this is still a busy time for everyone, we are still in planning stages, but working on establishing an online place to collaborate in meantime. I hope to have more details in coming weeks.

Dear Council,

There was a strong push by both the SGPS and the AMS to promote the Ontario provincial election this month. According to Elections Ontario officials, the advanced campus polls (September 21-23) were a tremendous success in terms of the number of students who voted. This trend is consistent with province-wide numbers that indicate that more Ontarians voted during advanced polls than ever before. Through the SGPS Votes! campaign the following initiatives were used to get the word out about the election as well as the CFS Take it Over strategy:

- Queen's Journal advertisements
- Posters
- Flyers were distributed throughout residential student areas around Queen's
- Facebook advertisements (over 30,000 Facebook users saw the campaign ads)
- Facebook events page
- Twitter feed
- Tabling on West Campus and the Queen's Centre
- Attendance at all-candidates debate, September 19
- Worked closely with the AMS Academic Affairs Commissioner

**Recommendations:**

1. The SGPS should increase its use of the Queen's Journal advertisement space (and student club discount) to promote Society services, the AGM, job postings, and executive elections.
2. As a CFS local, the SGPS should be more active throughout the year building a support network of student members who are able to promote CFS campaigns. Having such a volunteer base would have been useful during the elections promotion campaign in September.
3. In addition to using the QJ as a medium to promote the SGPS, the Society should work to expand its use of social media tools.
4. Continue to build a strong relationship with AMS commissioners and executives and work on issues of mutual interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Stevens



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Graduate Computing Society, SGPS Representatives  
October 2011

## INTRODUCTION REPORT

Hi Everyone!

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves to you as we have just been chosen to be the Graduate Computing Society's representatives to SGPS!

Haroon: I am a fourth year PhD student at school of computing. I have masters in computer engineering and masters in performance engineering. My research interest in particular is to develop tools and techniques to facilitate practitioners of Ultra large scale systems such as Google, Facebook, Amazon, twitter and Research In motion (RIM) to effectively monitor their infrastructure; spanning over thousands of machines. During my masters tenure at Acadia University (Nova Scotia) I had been closely engaged with Acadia Graduate Student Society. I served as PhD committee member for computer science department as well as graduate senate member at Acadia University. I also held the position as 'President' for the *Muslim Student Association* of Acadia for one year. I am very excited to start my new proactive role of SGPS Relations Officers for GCS.

Melissa: I am a first year Master's student also in the School of Computing. I did my undergrad at Queen's in Computer Science. During my time as an undergrad I worked with the Computing Student's Association in many different positions including Vice President, Finance Commissioner and Fourth Year Representative. I will be working with Biomedical Imaging libraries during my Master's and I'm super excited to be involved with SGPS and to get to represent all computing graduate students!

Can't wait to meet you all!

Haroon Malik & Melissa Trezise  
Graduate Computing Society  
SGPS Representatives