

SGPS Calls By-Election

In our last election we filled the positions of President and VP Internal Graduate. The By-Election has been called to fill the positions of VP External, VP Operations and VP Internal Professional. Time is running out to complete the nomination package. Please contact the current Executive of the SGPS with any questions you have (executive@sgps.ca). If you have any questions about the election process, please direct them to the Chief Returning Officer, Neal Pilger (cro@sgps.ca).

Official due date for nomination packages is March 20th at 4:00 p.m.

SGPS Is Hiring For All Positions!

The SGPS is looking to fill many positions for the coming year. We have recently expanded the number of staff positions at the SGPS. We are very excited to push forward with these new positions to improve the services provided by the SGPS.

Working for the SGPS is a great experience. The hours are very flexible. Many positions require only a small number of hours per month. Get involved, improve your resume and make some spending cash!

Positions being hired for:

- Communications Commissioner
- Layout Manager
- Systems Manager
- Promotions Manager
- Equity Commissioner: Internal
- Equity Commissioner: External
- Social Commissioner
- Committee Coordinator
- Logistics Coordinator
- Planning Coordinator
- Athletics Coordinator

Application Deadline is Friday April 4th, 2008. Interviews will take place April 10 to 14.

For more information about these positions and for information regarding the application process, please visit our website: <http://www.sgps.ca/jobs/jobs.html>

Tricolour Award

The Tricolour Award and induction in the Tricolour Society is the highest tribute that can be paid to a student for valuable and distinguished service to the University in non-athletic, extra-curricular activities. Such service may have been confined to a single field, or it may have taken the form of a significant contribution over a wide range of activities.

The award is named after Dr. Agnes Benidickson who was Chancellor of Queens University from 1980 until 1996. More information about the award can be found at the following URL: <http://www.queensu.ca/rector/tricolour.htm>

Nomination packages are available at the SGPS office. **The nomination period ends Wednesday March 19th at 4:00 p.m.**

SGPS Special Awards

Please take a moment to think about who you may wish to nominate for the following 3 awards. We know there are a lot of deserving individuals, but we need you to tell us who these people are! Nomination forms are available on the SGPS website:

<http://www.sgps.ca/events/specialawards.html>

SGPS Student Contribution Award

Nominees must be an SGPS member and must have made a significant contribution to the SGPS membership and/or Queen's Community.

SGPS Administration/Staff Appreciation Award

Nominees must be a Queen's University staff or faculty member and must have made a significant contribution to the SGPS membership outside of the classroom.

SGPS Teaching Assistant/Teaching Fellow Excellence Award

Nominees must be a TA or TF and an SGPS member for some interval of time during the 12 months preceding the nomination period. Nominees must have made a significant contribution to the SGPS membership and/or Queen's Community.

GreenUP! Festival

The third annual GreenUP! festival is quickly approaching! Come celebrate earth-friendly living with us on Sunday March 30th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Queen's University (Biosciences Complex Atrium). Admission is FREE and everyone is welcome. Spend the day or come for an hour and discover how easy it is to live greener and SAVE MONEY at the same time!

<http://www.greenupfestival.ca>

D A R K N I G H T

SGPS FORMAL THURSDAY APRIL 3RD
\$15 IN ADVANCE OR \$20 AT THE DOOR

DATE: APRIL 3, 2008

TIME: 9:00 P.M. UNTIL 2:00 A.M.

LOCATION: JOY SUPPER CLUB

COST: \$15 IN ADVANCE - \$20 AT THE DOOR

TICKETS: AVAILABLE AT THE SGPS OFFICE

DRESS CODE: FORMAL WEAR

COME EAT, DRINK, DANCE AND BE MERRY
GOTHAM STYLE! AWESOME DOOR PRIZES,
FANTASTIC DJ, TASTY APPETIZERS AND THE
SGPS AWARDS PRESENTATION.

LIMO RIDES AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS OF 10 THAT SIGN UP IN ADVANCE
SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY - SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY

Grad Students in Education Symposium

April 2nd, 2008 from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Open to ALL, with Wine & Cheese Reception at Duncan McArthur Hall

Cost: Free

Deadline to Register: March 26th

Register at <http://educ.queensu.ca/~gses/>

Federal Budget 2008 - How It Effects You

The announcement of new scholarship money for graduate students will increase access to graduate research positions in Canada and will allow more graduate students to conduct innovative research.

"Graduate student research in Canada is under-funded, and this budget takes small steps to address that," said Graham Cox, Chairperson of the National Graduate Caucus of the Canadian Federation of Students, "Graduate students play a large role in both basic research and faculty renewal-two cornerstones in maintaining healthy public universities."

The government announced an additional 500 Canada Graduate Scholarships available for PhD students, providing \$50,000 per year for up-to three years of study. In addition, 250 scholarship holders will now be able to get funding to study abroad for one semester. However, budget 2008's investments in the granting councils were slim and unbalanced. Although the majority of graduate students (53%) carry out research in the social science and humanities, scholarships announced in the budget favour science and technology research areas over the social sciences and humanities by more than five to one. "The Conservative government has to get passed the idea that it has a role in meddling with the university research agenda. Intervening by setting the priorities for independent research goes against the principles of academic freedom and scholarly inquiry," said Cox.

The National Graduate Caucus, of which the SGPS is a member, is Canada's voice of graduate students, uniting over 60,000 graduate students from all ten provinces.

Should you have any comments or other thoughts about the federal budget announcement and its impact on graduate education please share those with us by dropping by the SGPS office or contacting Jovan Groen, VP External at: vpex@sgps.ca, or Graham Cox, NGC Chairperson at: ngc@cfs-fcee.ca.

International Students: Filing Your Taxes

It's the time of year when we consider whether or not we must/should complete that tax form. If you received any Canadian funds in the calendar year 2007 you are required to complete a form. Also, you are likely eligible to receive tax credits regardless of whether or not you worked in Canada. For example, you are eligible for tax credits based on rent and sales tax. Your tax return could be hundreds of dollars per year. The biggest problem, of course, is to know how to fill out the forms! Income Tax Clinics will be held in the QUIC to assist you in completing the forms.

Clinics for people with income:

Wednesday, March 26 at 6:00 pm
Tuesday, April 8 at 12:00 pm (noon)
Thursday, April 17 at 6:00 pm
Tuesday, April 22 at 12:00 pm (noon)

Clinics for people with no income:

Tuesday, March 18 at 12:00 pm (noon)
Thursday, April 3 at 6:00 pm
Friday, April 11 at 12:00 pm (noon)
Thursday, April 24 at 6:00 pm

Note: If you had scholarship or bursary income only, please attend a session for people with NO income.

Note: It is possible to back file in the event you did not file in previous years of eligibility.

Building The Multiversity

Press Release:

The Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS) at Queen's University presents:

Building the Multiversity: A public forum on designing institutional frameworks for diversity and inclusivity

This event is the first in a series of presentations and discussions about ways to restructure universities to make them more inclusive institutions. The panel discussion will focus on spaces and services dedicated to the identified specific interests and needs of populations socially marginalized due to race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical ability, etc. Dr. Robert J. Harris, Jr., Vice-Provost for Diversity and Faculty Development at Cornell University will briefly describe the process recently undertaken at Cornell to redesign policies and restructure the institution. A panel discussion and open forum will follow.

Panelists Include:

Michele Chittenden, Coordinator for Services for Students with Disabilities at the Adaptive Technology Centre, Queen's University;

Dr. Robert G. May, member of the Positive Space Committee, and assistant-professor in the English Department, Queen's University;

Jeanette M. Parsons, University Advisor on Equity, Queen's University;

Georgina Riel, Director of the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre, Queen's University; and

Barbara Schlafer, Director of the Ban Righ Centre, located on the Queen's University campus.

This event is accessible to the mobility impaired, and FM hearing assistance devices will be available as well.

Light refreshments will be served.

Date: Wednesday, 19 March 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Policy Studies Building Room 202 - 138 Union Street, in Kingston

Correspondence: Morgan Vanek, Equity Commissioner: Email: equity@sgps.ca

File Your Taxes Online - FREE!

The Canadian Federation of Students has been able to negotiate a FREE deal on tax filing for our member locals through UFile.ca. The service is available in English and in French. In order to keep this free service, we need to make sure that our members are gaining access to the site. <http://www.ufile.ca/Home/cfs.asp>

