



# E-NEWSLETTER

## In This Issue

SGPS Hiring ★ Win an iPod Touch ★ Upcoming TA / TF Survey  
Online Study ★ Queen's Intramurals ★ Award Winners ★ Committees

The SGPS Office will have reduced hours for the summer. From May 1st until Mid-August, the SGPS Office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 until 4:30 (closed 12:00 until 1 for lunch). We apologize for any inconvenience this causes.

## SGPS HIRING PERIOD EXTENDED

We have a lot of fantastic positions available. We need you! Get some spending money, boost your resume and make some new friends!

**Applications will be accepted until Thursday April 24th, 2008**

We are accepting applications for the following positions:

Communications Commissioner: \$3000 / year

Layout Manager: \$1500 / year

Promotions Manager: Paid on commission

Systems Manager: Contract

Social Commissioner: \$3000 / year

Athletics Coordinator: \$1000 / year

Logistics Coordinator: \$1000 / year

Planning Coordinator: \$1000 / year

Committee Coordinator: \$1500 / year

For a small number of hours per week you can make a big difference. Take a moment to consider applying for one of our jobs.

For all the details please visit our website: <http://www.sgps.ca>

## SGPS Executive

*The SGPS would like to welcome the new Executive team. We are thrilled to have such a great group of new people to represent our membership (you!). Our new Executive members are:*

*President:  
Jeff Welsh*

*VP External:  
Mark Rosner*

*VP Internal Graduate:  
Sean Tucker*

*VP Internal Professional:  
Jamie Kneen*

*VP Operations:  
Vicky Bae*

## WIN AN 8GB IPOD TOUCH

The SGPS, School of Graduate Studies and Research, Centre for Teaching and Learning and partners in the Queen's Learning Commons want to ensure that academic services develop to meet the needs of Queen's graduate students. **A comprehensive review of existing services** is currently underway. In order to get an accurate and representative view of your current support needs, we strongly encourage you to **contribute to our review via the attached survey**. In just a few minutes, your opinions can help us improve the academic services we offer to you and our whole graduate community. The survey will take approximately **15minutes to complete**. As compensation for your time, you will be entered into a draw to **win an 8GB iPod Touch**.

The survey will be accessible for 1 week only and is available online at:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=O11qnyMWsaI62vt7yHo\\_2fmg\\_3d\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=O11qnyMWsaI62vt7yHo_2fmg_3d_3d)

There are no known foreseeable risks to your participation and you will not be adversely affected if you choose not to participate. All data will be kept confidential and individual respondents will not be identified in publication or presentation of results. Please review the letter of information below for further details regarding the study.

Your feedback is greatly appreciated and we thank you in advance for your participation.

### Research Study: Needs Assessment of Graduate Students' Academic Support Services

The Queen's Learning Commons in conjunction with Queen's Support Service Partners is conducting an assessment of graduate student academic support services. You are invited to participate in a survey to offer your feedback on the graduate student supports at Queen's and to identify services you feel might help you in achieving continued success in your academic studies. This research has been cleared by the Queen's University General Research Ethics Board.

In this part of the research, we wish to document the views graduate students regarding their awareness and use of existing support services as well as suggestions for future support development. To do this, we invite you to complete an online survey. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Participants who indicate their email address at the end of the survey will be entered into a draw to **win an 8GB iPod Touch**. The winner of the draw will be contacted upon completion of data collection. All individuals who indicate their email address and submit the survey (even if partially complete) will be entered into the draw.

Other than your email address, no other identifying information will be obtained from you. All data will be kept secured in a locked office on a password protected computer and your confidentiality ensured to the best of our ability. This research may result in publications of various types, including journal articles, professional publications, newsletters, and books: however, individual participants will not be identifiable in any publication or presentation of results.

By completing the online survey, you will be giving consent to your participation in this study and that you have understood the nature of your participation in this research. If you have any questions about this project, please contact the researchers Christopher DeLuca [atdelucac@educ.queensu.ca](mailto:atdelucac@educ.queensu.ca) or Laura McEwen at [mcewenl@educ.queensu.ca](mailto:mcewenl@educ.queensu.ca), or Andy Leger from the Center for Teaching and Learning at 613-533-6428 or via email at: [taas@post.queensu.ca](mailto:taas@post.queensu.ca). For questions, concerns or complaints about the research ethics of this study, contact the Education Research Ethics Board at [ereb@queensu.ca](mailto:ereb@queensu.ca) or the Chair of the Queen's University General Research Ethics Board, Dr. Steve Leighton, 613- 533-6081, email [chair.GREB@queensu.ca](mailto:chair.GREB@queensu.ca).

## UPCOMING TA / TF SURVEY

What would you like to see improved about being a Teaching Assistant or Teaching Fellow at Queen's? The SGPS would like to hear from you! In the coming weeks you will be invited to complete a short survey about TA and TF work-related issues. Your participation in the survey will help us more effectively represent your interests on university committees that develop and oversee graduate student employment policies. More information about the survey will follow by email.

If you have a concern related to any TA or TF issue, we encourage you to contact our student advisors ([studentadvisors@sgps.ca](mailto:studentadvisors@sgps.ca)) or the VP Internal (Graduate) ([vpig@sgps.ca](mailto:vpig@sgps.ca)).

## ONLINE STUDY FOR PAY AND A GREAT PRIZE

PhD student seeks Queen's University graduate students to participate in an \*online\* survey study examining organizational culture in grad school programs.

### KEY FEATURES OF THE STUDY

- The study will be conducted in pairs. Each participant (Student 1) will be asked to nominate a fellow grad student in their program (Student 2) to participate as well.
- Student 1 and Student 2 must have the same faculty supervisor.
- One of the students must be a first year grad student, or in their first year with their current supervisor (NOT a requirement for both students, however).
- Student 1 and Student 2 will fill out a series of surveys spaced over 3 weeks (total time commitment approx. 60 min each person).
- All surveys are online.
- Surveys will ask participants to answer questions about their experiences in grad school and to provide some demographic information. All information provided by participants will be confidential.
- Compensation is based on the number of surveys completed. Each student who completes all their surveys can receive \$10 in appreciation for their time, and be entered in one of two \$500 draws. (Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible participants; estimated to be between 1 in 50 and 1 in 100.)
- Grad students from any grad program at Queen's University are invited to participate.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

For more information about the study and who is eligible to participate, please see the following link:

[https://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~klgoreha/info\\_Queens/](https://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~klgoreha/info_Queens/)

If you have additional questions or would like to participate, please email Katrina at [klgoreha@watarts.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:klgoreha@watarts.uwaterloo.ca)

## QUEEN'S INTRAMURAL SUMMER LEAGUES

Queen's Intramurals is pleased to announce our summer league offerings for 2008.

### **Returning this year:**

Men's & Women's soccer league (Mon-Thurs)

Softball (Sun-Thurs)

The softball league has been split into a recreational (league only) and competitive (league & championship tournament)

### **We are also pleased to announce the addition of:**

2 basketball leagues (Tues or Thurs)

2 volleyball leagues (Mon or Wed)

1 innertube waterpolo league (Tues)

And as always, the competitively priced Queen's golf tournament, being held on Wednesday June 18<sup>th</sup> @ the Colonnade Golf Club.

Complete information and registration forms can be found online at [www.queensrecreation.com](http://www.queensrecreation.com).

Spaces are limited to the first teams registered.

Soccer (16)

Softball (34)

Basketball (6 teams per night)

Volleyball (8 teams per night)

Innertube (8 teams)

For more info, check out the website, or contact the Intramural Coordinator (Duane) @ [4djp3@queensu.ca](mailto:4djp3@queensu.ca), or extension 74828.

## SGPS SPECIAL AWARDS

Congratulations to the winners of this year's awards!

**Student Contribution Award:** Alicia Kelly

**Administration/Staff Appreciation Award:** Sean Richards

**TA/TF Excellence Award:** Tracey Pennimpede

## COMMITTEES LOOKING FOR YOU

### Senate Committees

Senate Committees are still looking for graduate students! You can fill out an online application located on the senate webpage: <http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/vacancy/stuform.html>

The committees looking for a graduate student rep are:

Educational Equity, Internal Academic Review, Nominating Committee, Operations Review, and Scholarships and Student Aid. The term would be beginning September 2008.

### Customer Service Working Group

The Customer Service Working Group is in need of a graduate student representative. The time commitment is a few hours for a meeting every 2-3 months.

The purpose and objective of the Working Group is to bring Queen's campus and facilities up to the standard of the passed legislation regarding accessibility for students and faculty with impairments. The group will be meeting during the summer months so preferably the volunteer could make a meeting in May or July/August. If you are interested please email Alisa at [committee@sgps.ca](mailto:committee@sgps.ca).

### SGPS International Student Standing Committee

The SGPS International Student Standing Committee is always looking for new members. Check out their facebook group called "SGPS International Student Standing Committee" (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6057843419>).

As a committee they:

- investigate how international graduate and professional students are currently being treated at Queen's
- make recommendations to the executive, council, and other bodies at Queen's regarding how our situation can be improved
- work with the SGPS and QUIC to welcome new students and help them settle into life at Queen's.

## THANKS SGPS STAFF!!

The staff at the SGPS come to the end of their contracts on April 30th. The SGPS would like to commend and thank all the staff for an amazing year. The staff worked really hard this year to shape the future and to improve the services the SGPS provides. Without dedicated staff, the SGPS membership would suffer. The SGPS will push forward with the ideas and initiatives created this year. Thanks and best of luck to you all!