

The FORUM

The Newsletter of the SPSP Graduate Student Committee

Spring 2008

This issue of the FORUM offers a recap of the annual SPSP conference held in February in Albuquerque. Be sure to check out the various events offered by the GSC and pencil in events you may be interested in checking out next year when we gather in Tampa! With summer quickly approaching, many of us will begin preparing for the fall semester. Be sure to check out the articles on grant writing and vitalizing your vita to help you in your preparations! Finally, the newly elected 2008/2009 GSC members introduce themselves to you, and Elizabeth Lee offers her final President's Corner before turning the column over to incoming GSC President Helen Lin. Good luck finishing out the school year!

Finding Grant Money: It may be easier than you think

Need money to help reach your research goals? Need to buy equipment, pay research participants, or travel? Grant money may be easier to find than you think. The goal of this article is to give you some ideas to help you in your search for resources. Hall and Howlett (2003) suggest that most project ideas could be successfully supported by several funding sources; however grant proposals that closely match the funder's goals are more likely to receive funding. Therefore, the purpose of the grant should be considered. Is the grant for training, research materials, or both?

The first place to look for small research grants is at your own institution. Many universities provide research funding to graduate students ranging from several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars through specific departments, colleges, or other groups (e.g., Women in Natural Sciences). There may be opportunities based on the specific research that you do. For example, if you do research investigating gender issues, a Women's Studies program

may provide small research grants.

Second, many psychology organizations offer research awards and/or competitions. For example, the American Psychological Association (APA) has a dissertation research award program (awards range from \$1000 to \$5000; <http://www.apa.org/science/dissinfo.html>) with the next deadline being 9/15/2008. The Association for Psychological Science (APS) holds a student grant competition every year (awards range from \$300 to \$500) specifically for research in its initial development. Deadlines for this program are typically in November (<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/apssc/awards/grant.cfm>). In addition, the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) has several grant programs (<http://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=482>) such as the Clara Mayo Grants to support masters' theses and pre-dissertation research on sexism, racism, or prejudice (awards up to \$1000) and the

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Vitalizing your vita

In this short article on resources to help graduate students develop powerful CVs, I will outline two excellent resources. I encourage you to read the original sources as soon as possible.

When I was asked to write this article, I knew exactly where to start: Charles G. Lord's chapter in *The Compleat Academic* (Lord, 2003). Within this chapter is the aptly named section "Keeping Score: You Are Your Vita". One of Lord's main pieces of advice is to create a CV on the first day of your first year of graduate school. From that point on, he advises graduate students to "alter your perspective so that you derive your professional self-respect entirely from what is on that document" (p. 10). Although it will seem daunting at first to have one's self-esteem contingent upon a mostly empty document, you should remember that you are just starting out, and your CV really can't be anything but empty at that point. Being reminded that your vita is empty should be a potent motivator to get something going that could eventually make its way onto your vita. In fact, "everything you do in graduate school should have as its ultimate goal developing your academic vita" (p. 11).

Another great resource for graduate students looking to hone their CVs is the PsychWiki web-

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Wrapping Up SPSP

This year's slate of activities at SPSP presented by the GSC was bigger and better than ever! In addition to our old stand-bys such as the poster award, we introduced some new events and expanded others. Take a look below at a recap of our events; if you missed them plan on attending in Tampa!

6th Annual Student Poster Award

In each of the seven poster sessions, a winner and two runners up were selected for the best posters presented with a graduate student as the first author. The winners received an awards certificate, a \$100 monetary award, free personal copies of MediaLab or DirectRT for the remainder of their graduate student career plus one year post-graduation, courtesy of Empirisoft, and their choice of either a DirectIn Millisecond Precision Keyboard or a DirectIN Precision Response Box with Custom Button Layout, also courtesy of Empirisoft. Runner-ups received an award certificate accompanied with a \$50 monetary award.

2nd Annual Student Social Hour

The social hour this year was even bigger than last year! Over 100 graduate students attended, mingled, networked, ate, and drank on Saturday night. In addition we held a raffle. Some lucky students walked away with prizes such as a membership to SPSP, a subscription to JPSP, and signed copies of seminal research articles including Baron and Kenny's (1986) mediation-moderation paper and Gaertner and Dovidio's (1986) chapter on aversive racism among others.

Outstanding Research Award Symposium

This symposium on Friday morning featured the winners of the Graduate Student Committee's Outstanding Research Award. The speakers were Jessica Salvatore, Jeremy P. Jamieson, Elizabeth Levy Paluck, and Zachary K. Rothschild who were the four winners of the research competition that was peer-reviewed by other graduate SPSP members. These students now have a talk at SPSP on their CV, something to think about when the call for submissions goes out for next year's conference.

Poster

The GSC also presented a poster that resulted from a survey that many of you filled out last year. The poster described the characteristics of SPSP graduate student members including teaching experience and opportunities, research experience, and career goals. Thanks to everyone who stopped by!

Mentor Luncheon

One of our most popular events every year was the mentor luncheon. Twenty well-known SPSP members sat down to lunch with a handful of graduate students. Each table focused on a specific topic; this year they ranged from career development and job search to social cognition and social neuroscience and many more. As always, we got some really positive feedback both from the faculty as well as the students. For next year, remember to sign up early! Some of the more popular tables were filled very quickly.

Thanks to everyone who came to the GSC's events at SPSP. We look forward to seeing you at SPSP 2009 in Tampa! Please don't hesitate to e-mail any of the GSC members with suggestions for new events or to give us feedback on the events that you attended in Albuquerque.

By David Portnoy

Vitalizing Vita cont.

page "Curriculum Vitae." In contrast to Lord's more philosophical stance, the PsychWiki page offers a more pragmatic approach, outlining what to include on a CV by section. Students can peruse this page, and choose which sections to include on their own CV. PsychWiki offers an excellent piece of advice that every graduate student should follow: "look at the CV of others in the field, particularly those individuals who are currently doing the types of jobs you are seeking to acquire."

These two outstanding resources are a must-read for all graduate students. Enjoy vitalizing your vita! Check out these resources:

1) Lord, C.G. (2003). A guide to PhD graduate student: How to keep score in the big leagues. In J.M. Darley, M.P. Zanna, & H.L. Roediger III (Eds.), *The Compleat Academic*, 3-15. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

2) http://www.psychwiki.com/wiki/Curriculum_Vitae

By Sonia Kang

Meet the New GSC Members

Hello! My name is **Sonia Kang** and I am continuing on for my second term as a GSC Member-at-Large. I am a 2nd year Ph.D. student in Social Psychology at the University of Toronto, and my research interests include the experience and effects of prejudice and discrimination across the lifespan. One of my ongoing goals as Member-at-Large is to create a stronger graduate community among all graduate student members of SPSP, no matter where they are in the world. I am looking forward to another great year on the GSC and hope to see continued success, growth, and positive change this year!

Hello, my name is **Megan O'Grady**, and I am a third year doctoral student in the applied social psychology program at Colorado State University. I am also involved in additional training toward a health psychology concentration. I am currently working on my dissertation which investigates self-presentation and impression management processes in relation to alcohol use. This is my second year serving as a member-at-large for the GSC, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve for another year. I hope to continue to help provide the resources that graduate students need to connect with each other and reach their goals. I welcome any suggestions that you may have to help provide better resources to the graduate students of SPSP!

Hi everyone! My name is **Jen Pattershall**, and I'm a second year doctoral student at the University of Maine. My primary research focuses on the psychological variables that differentiate political liberals and conservatives, though I am also involved in several other projects with my advisor and fellow graduate students at UMaine. This is my first year with the GSC, and I am excited to help continue the success of the various graduate student programs, such as the mentor lunch and graduate student social hour at the annual conference. I also hope to start some new programs that will help graduate students connect with each other and with faculty. I am particularly concerned with helping students at more isolated institutions gain access to more networking opportunities. I look forward to a productive year with the GSC!

Hello! I am **Greg Preuss**, and I am a third year doctoral student in Social Psychology at Ohio University. Between my completion of the Master's program at Wake Forest University and my entry into the Ph.D. program at Ohio University, I spent two years as a visiting full-time faculty member at liberal arts universities. My research focuses on self-enhancement on dimensions that are relevant to dating. In addition, I study topics related to the perception that one is envied by others. In the future, I also hope to conduct persuasion research in the field of consumer psychology. My wonderful academic and social experiences at the 2008 Summer Institute of Social Psychology made me a firm believer in the value of networking and inspired me to run for this position. As your representative, I will work diligently to help the graduate community learn more about the many types of post-graduate employment opportunities that will be available to us. I am looking forward to representing you and welcome any suggestions you may have.

Hi, I'm **Helen Lin**. I'm a 4th-year doctoral student in the social psychology program at the University of Houston. My research interests include unrealistic beliefs in romantic relationships, the experiences of being single, and relational outcomes associated with hiding aspects of oneself. Recently, I have also become interested in studying online social networking. I truly enjoy all aspects of the research process, so my goal is to work in a non-academic research position when I graduate! I'm thrilled to serve as your new president for the 2008-2009 term and know I have big shoes to fill. The past GSCs have done a tremendous job of organizing SPSP events for graduate students, but just as importantly, they have helped better their fellow graduate students by providing useful resources on the GSC list-serve, in this newsletter, and on the SPSP student website. I plan to build on all their hard work with the assistance and ingenuity of Sonia, Megan, Jennifer, and Greg this year. Please don't hesitate to contact us at spspgsc@yahoo.com with any comments or fresh ideas you want to see implemented. I look forward to working with and for you all!

*The Editor for this issue of The Forum was Jennifer Knack, UT Arlington
The layout was created by Camille Johnson, San Jose State University*

President's Corner

Sometimes it may seem like it'll take some bizarre alignment of the stars in order to get your work done. The scary truth is that there really is an endless amount of work you could be doing. So forget the stars and the wishful thinking. It's mainly up to you to figure out what counts as an adequate amount of work to get done each day. But take heart since this is something every grad student struggles with. Possibly, your peers are the only people around who are supporting you in adaptive ways to keep chipping away at your work. Sure, your advisor likely has an ideal amount set in mind, but you're ultimately in the position to know what is doable or not. You know yourself best.

The conversation topics among grad students often intermingle with proclamations of how busy and overwhelmed we are. We get frustrated with how the institute of graduate school seems structured to dole out unnecessary hassles. We feel disappointed when our proposals don't get funded and our manipulations don't work. We feel afraid when it seems like everyone else is magically making progress. We barely have time to even celebrate with our peers when something great actually happens because we're already worrying about the next priority. Ranting with your peers can be useful if much of the focus is on cheering each other on and reminding each other of the accomplishments we do have under our belt. Stress has an efficient way of clouding our memory of positive achievements and original motives for going to grad school.

We could, but probably shouldn't spend an endless amount of time researching answers for our troubles. As grad students, any mundane decision can be converted into a research project. That may be why

our first impulse to help a struggling friend is to offer advice for solving problems. But sometimes all that that friend needs is someone to validate his or her reactions as normal. Bonding with someone who understands can make all the difference. Part of what attracted me to working for the GSC was that it seemed like it'd be a good outlet for all the time I spend looking up info on how to write a grant proposal, how to be a model mentee, how to initiate collaborations, etc. But I soon realized that meeting so many diverse peers that I can relate to is what made working for the GSC worthwhile. I've had a lot of fun with John, Sonia, Jen, Megan, and David putting together things that we thought would be valuable to you, and I hope this past year we've been one of your trusty sources of support by Elizabeth Lee.

Finding grant money, continued

Grants-In-Aid Program (awards up to \$1000). Deadlines for these awards are typically in May and October each year. Other psychology or professional research organizations that you are a member of may have similar awards, check out their websites to see if they do!

Third, while very competitive, the United States government offers research and training funding to graduate students. The National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Fulbright Program are some examples. The NSF graduate research fellowship program provides a stipend and pays for some education and travel expenses (<http://www.nsfgradfellows.org/>). Deadlines are typically in November of each year. NIH offers training fellowships through programs like the National Research Service Award (NRSA) for health-related research,

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deadlines fall three times per year (<http://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsa.htm>). Fulbright programs (http://us.fulbrightonline.org/thinking_type.html) offer funding for international research and provide funds for things like travel, book and research allowances, and health benefits.

Finally, there are private funders too (e.g., corporations, foundations, etc.). There are many online tools to find private and government funding sources. Some examples of these are SPIN (Sponsored Programs Information Network, http://www.infoed.org/new_spin/spin.asp), Grants.gov (<http://grants.gov/>), and Foundation Directory Online (<http://fconline.fdncenter.org/>). Check with your institution to see if you have access to these useful search tools, some require that your institution has a subscription. Good luck in your search for funding!!

by Megan O'Grady