On February 7th, Megan Bloom gave birth to her baby Oliver Kade.


We interviewed Jesse Pappas, the department's representative in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Council (GSASC)

What is the GSAS Council and who is it composed of?
GSASC is a student council that represents the interests of UVA graduate students in the Arts and Sciences. Meetings are attended by representatives from all GSAS departments and degree-granting programs although they are open to any students who wish to attend. Typically, each department has one graduate student representative, although large departments like ours may have two.

What are the goals of the council?

The Graduate Student Council of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has three functions:
1. to debate issues of concern to GSAS graduate students
2. to communicate the concerns of GSAS graduate students to the administration
3. to allocate the student activity fee paid by GSAS graduate students every semester

What is the budget and where does it come from?

The budget primarily comes from the $10 activity fee paid by all GSAS students. I'm not sure exactly what it adds up to, but we seem to have twenty or thirty grand to distribute each semester.

How often does the council meet and what issues are discussed in a meeting?

The council meets monthly during the school year and the budget and social committees also have separate monthly meetings. We typically discuss current GSASC activities and also consider funding requests from various graduate organizations in the College of Arts and Sciences. Sometimes we host guest speakers from the administration. Current hot-button issues include getting a common space for Arts and Sciences graduate students (there currently is none) and securing graduate student admissions to UVA sports, although this issue has been primarily resolved thanks to GSASC efforts. Other issues we have previously addressed include health insurance, increases in research fees, taxes on stipends, teaching and research assistant wages, campus housing for graduate students, and the honor system.

What are some things grad students should know of about the Council?

During the 2007-2008 school year, GSASC organized Huskey Graduate Research Exhibition, continued to fund Graduate Student IM sports teams and various colloquia/conferences and talks that benefited Graduate Students in Arts and Sciences. We organized monthly Happy Hours and Halloween and St. Patrick's Day parties to bring students from different departments together. We made progress in getting Research Only Graduate Student access to some sporting events in exchange for the partial Athletic Fees they pay by researching the other schools in our conference and making our complaints known to various administrators. To find out more or to contact your Grad Council visit the website: www.student.virginia.edu/~gsasc

What are some upcoming activities organized by the Council?

Major upcoming events include the Huskey Research Expo and the St. Patricks Day party.
EVENTS of the WEEK

Monday, February 16, 2009

- Developmental Lunch, 12:00pm-1:15pm, GIL 225
  Pam Hunt, William and Mary, *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Memory Impairments and Treatments*
- Dissertation Proposal Defense, 3pm, GIL 181
  Minkyung Koo, *The effect of recalling a positive influence on well-being*
- Professional Issues Meeting, 3:30-4:30pm, GIL 141
  *Collaboration: Getting it Started and Keeping it Going Smoothly*

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

- Community Lunch, 12:30-1:45, GIL 225
  Bob Emery, *Children's best interests*
- Social Lunch, 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL B001
  Jamie Morris, *The role of the superior temporal sulcus region in human social perception*

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

- Cognitive Lunch: 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Sheena Rogers, JMU
- Sensory and Systems Neuroscience Lunch: 12:30pm-2pm, GIL B001
  James Corson

Thursday, February 19, 2009

- Graduate student gathering at South Street with visiting students, 8pm

Friday, February 20, 2009

- Clinical Lunch: 12pm-1pm, GIL 225
  Annual Clinical Practicum Discussion (led by Lee Llewellyn)
- Jefferson Scholars Symposium featuring Matthew Lerner, James H. and Elizabeth W. Wright Fellow
  1:30pm, Lower West Oval Room of the Rotunda
  *(Not) Only the Lonely: social skills problems and treatment in ADHD and autism*
- Colloquium: 3:30-5pm, GIL 190
  Charlotte Patterson, Jim Coan, Kate Ranganath
- Departmental Party for visiting students, 7:30pm, Brian and Bethany's home, 2857 Stratford Glen Way
• Party at Matt Lerner's house for grad and visiting students