



SOGS Update



Newsletter for the Society of Graduate Students
The University of Western Ontario

Volume 47
September 2010

Upcoming Grad Club Events

The Grad Club now serves (At the Bar) Margaritas, Daiquiris & Smoothies.

Ask your bartender for your favorite flavour.

**Mondays
Open Mic & Euchre night @ 7:30 pm.**

Trivia Night
Every Tuesday @ 8pm.

**Wednesdays
Rock Band @ 8pm.**

The Legend Rick McGhie
Thursdays, 8pm-12am.
Friday Dance Party
9pm -11pm.
Free parking after 8 pm.



SOGS Health Plan - Opt-In and Online Opt-Out Deadlines

The Opt-In and Opt-Out Fall deadline is September 30, 2010. Full-Time Graduate Students with alternative health coverage are welcome to opt-out of the SOGS Health Plan Opt-Out at <https://grad.uwo.ca/student/index.cfm> Part-time students are not automatically included on the health plan and must submit a completed opt-in form along with payment to the SOGS office by the deadline.

Students on leave and Post-Doctoral Fellows are also eligible for the health plan. Please visit the SOGS website for further details or feel free to drop by the SOGS office before September 30. For more information visit <http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/Benefits/>.

Put it Into Practice Conference Registration

This conference will expose graduate students and postdocs to the abundance of opportunity that exists for getting involved in local and global communities. You will learn how you can apply your knowledge and skills now and build

September Trivia Contest

Each month SOGS hosts a trivia contest featuring information from our annual Dayplanner. Correct answers are entered into a draw and ten students win a gift certificate to the Grad Club! Please email your entry to sogs.contest@uwo.ca by October 10, 2010. Winners will be notified by email and their names posted in next month's newsletter.

Q. Which day of the week does the Grad Club host Rockband?
Last month's answer: Monday.

August winners: Renita Sudirga, Siamak Bashardoust, Stephen Hudson, Shahram Amirnia, Amir Takhmar. Marie-Ève Caty, Nima Hejazi, Christina Castellani and Maggie Kubow

Put it Into Practice Conference Registration (Cont'd)

the much needed practical experience that will help prepare you for successful academic and non-academic careers. Patents, intellectual property, and entrepreneurship will be discussed in this conference. If you have not already registered, please visit <http://grad.uwo.ca/PIIP.htm> for further information including keynote speakers, conference agenda and registration.

Upcoming Events At The Teaching Support Centre

For a significant portion of graduate students, TAs at Western are the first steps on a long road of research. They do so in the pursuit of a faculty or research position, of which teaching may comprise a considerable portion. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/tsc/index.html> for more information about upcoming events at the teaching support center.

Grad Club Events and Specials

- a) UFC120-Saturday October 16, 2010; 10pm, Start - 19+ event- No Cover - Free Parking.
- b) *Grad Club Lunch Buffets* -Tuesday Asian Stirfry Bar; Wednesday - East Indian Buffet; Thursday - Pasta Bar; Friday - Theme Buffet - Next Week Theme "Italian" 11:30am to 1:30pm; \$9.25 one trip.
- c) Weekly Specials! Check out current specials at <http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/gradclub/Menus/specials.html> or visit <http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/gradclub/>.

Bus Pass

Fall Bus pass and SOGS handbook/dayplanner are available in the SOGS office. Bus passes are given out daily from 9 am to 4 pm. Your student card is required in order to obtain a bus pass.

Graduate Education Council (GEC)

There is currently a need for graduate student representation on the GEC. The role of the GEC is to serve as a central forum to propose academic policies to be approved by Senate; guide the development of graduate and postdoctoral studies at Western; and to provide a representative and open forum to give advice on any aspect of graduate education. Students normally serve one year term. The committee currently allows for 1 graduate student representative on each faculty (11 total). Without total representation, a significant portion of graduate students could potentially be neglected when new policies are proposed. Below is the current membership, with a number of empty positions for graduate students. SOGS encourage you to run for these positions, because they give both yourself and graduate students in your faculty a voice in policy decisions. SOGS council will be voting to accept graduate students as members of the GEC. Please visit http://www.grad.uwo.ca/_files/downloads/GEC/GEC_Membership.pdf or http://www.grad.uwo.ca/faculty_staff/GEC.htm. Please forward your name at sogs.president@uwo.ca before 29th September.

Spaces Available for SOGS Events

VP Student Services would like to announce there are spaces still available for

- 1) Open Mic and Euchre Night: Averaging 5 new performers a week. The most entertaining night of the week at the Grad Club. Great way to meet new people on campus.
- 2) Grad Student Exclusive Latin Dance Instruction: Monday evenings 5:00-8:00
- 3) Horseback Trail Riding: Date to be Announced
- 4) Halloween Party: Saturday, October 30th at the Grad Club
- 5) BAT Team (Social Planning and Events Coordinators): 45 New Members and more are welcome.

Joint Fund for Graduate Research and Scholarship

The Joint Fund for Graduate Research and Scholarship was created to support on-campus events (conferences and lectures) that offer opportunities for Western graduate students to present and discuss their research. To date, the committee has received several applications, but is still accepting more. If you are interested in submitting an application, the form can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/Programs/jointFund.html>.

Activities for International Students-Fall 2010

International and Exchange Student Centre is arranging different events and programs through out the fall term. To view complete events calendar for international students, visit <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/int/>.

Keep up-to-date with Grad Club information by signing up for the Grad Club Newsletter. To sign up, email sogs@uwo.ca with the subject "GC Newsletter"

SOGS President Message to Members

Dear incoming SOGS member,

On behalf of the Society of Graduate Students (SOGS), its staff and the executive team, I would like to welcome you to the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at the University of Western Ontario. SOGS represents the interests of over 4,400 full-time and part-time graduate students and provides a number of services designed to help your academic studies. Some of our services and programs include:

- An annual dayplanner with extensive information on all programs and services.
- Supplemental health and dental plan, part-time students can opt into the plan before September 30.
- A bus pass for each term that you are a full-time graduate student.
- SOGS offers a variety of financial aid programs, including emergency loans, subsidies for conference travel, childcare and a number of bursaries.
- The Grad Club gives graduate students a 5% discount on food purchases.
- The Western Research Forum is designed to expose your research to the Western community.

There are several levels of SOGS government where individuals may participate: 1) The executive team, who run the day-to-day operations of the Society, and oversee SOGS committees; 2) Council, consisting of representatives from each department (or program); 3) the various committees and finally, 4) the general membership, which includes all members of SOGS. While the Executive is responsible for the operation of the Society on a daily basis, the decisions of the Society are made not by individual executive members but SOGS committees, council and ultimately the general membership. Much of the vital work of the Society is done through committees. Some examples include negotiating our health plan, managing the Grad Club and establishing the budget for the coming year. Because SOGS empowers both Council and the general membership, our decisions are above all else democratic, and as such it is vitally important that you become involved. Involvement in SOGS is rewarded in a number of ways including: Grad Club vouchers for attending committee meetings, honoraria for both commissioners and committee chairs, departmental grants based on councillor attendance, as well a number of paid executive positions. If you are interested in any of the above programs, I encourage you to visit us on the second floor of the University Community Centre (UCC) Room 260 and pick up your bus pass and the annual dayplanner. We are open Monday to Friday between 9 am and 4 pm. If you are interested in joining any level of government, please check out our website (www.uwo.ca/sogs), or come and visit us at UCC 260. I would like to wish all of you a successful year and look forward to working with you in the future.

Duncan Sutherland

President

Society of Graduate Students; E-mail: sogs.president@uwo.ca.