

Happy New Millennium!

It is an exciting time for us here in the GSC. Changes are being made all around that concern grad students. New housing is almost constructed with more scheduled to be on the way; CardinalCare health insurance is changing providers; and many on-campus services are now open late into the night (though many of them will not exist unless more people use them); and next year we'll have a new university president.

Now our work is always in progress and we couldn't accomplish anything without the time and dedication of many grads. As you know, our student life here is temporary (I hope) and so is the GSC's membership. We are in constant need of new advice and members in order to pursue our missions. ASSU elections are just around the corner and I encourage you to attend our weekly meetings and run for one of the 15 elected GSC positions.

As always, check our web page (<http://gsc.stanford.edu>) for constant updates. May this millennium be the best yet!

Kaleb Michaud

GSC Chair – gsc@assu.stanford.edu

Stanford is Now Open After Midnight

by ASSU President Michael Levin

"Stanford After Midnight" is an exciting initiative organized by the ASSU and Dean of Students Office. The program is designed to extend various facility hours on campus after midnight, many until 2 a.m., 7 nights a week. We believe this initiative will enhance the quality of life for students in and out of the classroom. The ASSU and Dean of Students Office are hopeful that Stanford After Midnight will support academic performance through increased study and computer space, enhance student wellness in terms of their emotional and physical condition, provide students with late night options other than drinking, increase student organizational meeting space, and increase overall utilization of campus facilities to better match student lifestyles. Participating vendors include the following:

ATHLETICS

- *Ford Center (basketball courts) are now open until 2:00 a.m. each evening.
- *Tresidder Fitness is now open until 2:00 a.m. each evening.
- *DeGuerre/Raquetball is now open until 2:00 a.m. each evening.

TRESIDDER UNION

- *Meeting rooms are now open until 2:00 a.m. each evening for student organizations and study groups.
- *The Computer Lair is now open until 2:00 a.m. each evening.
- *Pollo Rey is now known as The Treehouse (with a new menu) and is now open until 2:00 a.m. each evening.

(continued on back cover)

Housing Subsidy Program in Jeopardy

Single graduate students living in university subsidized off-campus apartments learned recently that they are likely not to be able to renew their contracts next year due to budgetary constraints.

These students received a letter and survey from Community Housing Services indicating that leases in Oak Creek and Sharon Green, and possibly in many other complexes, will not be renewed. The survey asked whether students would be willing to renew under a variety of scenarios, including multiple apartment changes within a year or a delayed move into new on-campus studio apartments.

The off-campus subsidy program was initiated by former Provost Condoleezza Rice two years ago in response to the growing affordable housing crisis for graduate students. Last year the university enlarged the program to house approximately 700 students and spouses, significantly more than the 250 housed in its first year.

Administrators cite concerns about filling new on-campus studio apartments that will not open until January of next year and the need to use subsidy funds to pay down the debt on this new housing as reasons for scaling back the subsidy program. Current projections, based on some conversions from singles to couples housing, indicate that even with the new on-campus spaces this change could result in a net decrease in total students housed next year.

The Graduate Student Council regularly discusses housing concerns and plans to address the reduction of the subsidy program in the near future with administrators. We welcome the input of all graduate students, and we are particularly interested in the opinions of those living in off-campus subsidized apartments. In particular, what are the costs and inconveniences of moving every year (even multiple times), and how can an off-campus housing program best be preserved without resulting in vacancies on campus? Please join our discussion list by sending an email to gsc@assu.stanford.edu including "HOUSING" in the subject line.



No(se) pressure - grads had fun in the games at Carnival in EV last fall including the "pass the life-saver on a toothpick" race.

Health Insurance Update

by *Ira M. Friedman, M.D.*

Director, Cowell Student Health Service

Cowell Student Health Service has been working closely with GSC leadership and the students and staff on the Insurance Committee to renew Cardinal Care and the Student Dependent Insurance Plan for the 2000-2001 academic year. Here is a sense of what to expect.

Cardinal Care (the student plan) will look very similar for 2000-2001. As a result of our three-year renewal cycle, the medical insurance carrier will change to HealthNet, a well known name in the California insurance industry and one of the carriers for the University's faculty and staff. Students will experience a few changes as a result. For example, everyone will get a new Cardinal Care identification card, and there will be a different provider network for health care when away from the campus area.

Under HealthNet, the medical benefits will be essentially unchanged, with Cowell and Stanford Medical Center providing care as they do now. There will be a minor change in the pharmacy benefit which will appeal to most students. Mental health and substance abuse coverage will remain unchanged, with the current carrier, ValueOptions. The cost of Cardinal Care, which is not yet final, will be announced in early March, but we anticipate only a modest increase in the premium.

There will be more changes in the Dependent Plan. The carrier will also be HealthNet. We are working hard to contain the costs of this coverage, so in 2000-2001 there will be only one plan, as op-

posed to the current "high" and "low" options. Also, in response to student input, we have changed the plan design to be an HMO, which will improve coverage and reduce out-of-pocket costs compared to the current "low option" plan. Although the final costs are not yet known, our goal is to reduce the cost of coverage, or at the very least, maintain the rates that apply to the current "low option" plan. We will be announcing the premium rate in early March. I welcome your comments and suggestions at 725-1365 or ira.friedman@stanford.edu.

Graduate Group Seeks Special Fee

In April, the Stanford Graduate Women's Network (GWN) will become the first graduate student organization EVER to apply for a graduate-only special fee. Many undergraduate organizations are already supported by special fee money, which appears on your Bursar's Statement as part of the line item for ASSU Fees. To get their special fee request onto the ballot, the GWN must collect signatures from 10% of the Stanford graduate population. The fee allocation will then be subject to a referendum in the April election, requiring a majority vote with at least 15% of the roughly 7500 graduate students voting in favor of the measure. If passed, early estimates suggest that the GWN bid would add less than a dollar to the ASSU fees. These fees currently total about \$24 quarterly, including funds for such items as KZSU (\$1.56), Club Sports (\$4.55), the Stanford Concert Network (\$2.00), and the Stanford Chamber Chorale (\$0.59). As with all ASSU fees, the GWN special fee would be fully refundable.

The GWN fee request is the latest indicator of a trend begun last April with the overwhelming passage of the ASSU Constitutional Amendment. The amendment was billed as creating "an ASSU for all students" and radically reshaped the ASSU legislature into largely autonomous graduate and undergraduate bodies, the GSC and Undergraduate Senate. Since then the number of graduate student organizations applying for and receiving ASSU general fee funding through the GSC has grown by leaps and bounds. For the current academic year, the GSC has already allocated over \$60,000 to new and pre-existing graduate organizations. This number is expected to rise in the coming years as more groups become aware of the availability of funding for their activities. "Overall, grad groups are really feeling empowered," noted Funding Committee member Paul Hartke, "the new GSC funding structure is pretty painless compared to the sort of hoops student groups had to jump through in the past."

What does the future hold for the funding of graduate student organizations? As more groups approach the GSC for funding each year, will budgetary constraints drive them to seek special fee funding as an alternative to increasingly scarce GSC general fee allocations? Some suggest that a lot will depend upon how graduate students respond to the GWN special fee at the polls in April. "In many respects, the GWN is almost uniquely qualified for a special fee as an organization which serves and represents such a large segment of the student body," said Pai-Ling Yin, one of several GSC members who reviewed past funding proposals by the GWN. She added, "I doubt we'll see large numbers of graduate special fee requests in the future, but this first case will definitely send a message about how the graduate community values its student organizations."

To learn more about the GWN and their activities, visit www.stanford.edu/group/gwn/. For more information about ASSU funding policies, refer to assu.stanford.edu and gsc.stanford.edu.

Do you want reliable information on your health?

Are you tired of paying Bookstore prices for the latest books on health care?

COME SEE US AT...



Located at the back of the Cowell clinic, First Floor

Open 12-5 Monday thru Friday

➤ CHECK OUT OUR BOOKS

We have a collection of over 700 consumer-oriented books, CD-Roms, periodicals, reference manuals and pamphlets on every health concern ranging from mental health to contraceptives to exercise and nutrition. You are welcome to spend time with us in the library and/or take our books home with you.

➤ TALK TO OUR ON-SITE VOLUNTEERS

We have trained volunteers at the library to answer your questions, help you locate resources on particular health care issues and refer you to health care practitioners at Cowell and elsewhere.

➤ MAKE REQUESTS

We welcome you to make recommendations for acquisitions of materials you feel would contribute to our collection of information on health issues important to the graduate student community.

The GSC wants YOU!

by ASSU Vice President John Mills

Are you concerned about graduate housing, health insurance for graduate students and their dependents, stipend levels, child care for graduate students with children, or other quality of life issues facing Stanford graduate students? In other words, are you a graduate student at Stanford? Then the Graduate Student Council needs you!

Represent your fellow graduate students on Stanford's official graduate student representative body, the Graduate Student Council. The GSC invites you to attend GSC meetings (Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., Bechtel International Center, dinner provided) to learn more about what they do and how you can contribute to the quality of graduate student life at Stanford by serving on the GSC.

If you are interested in becoming an elected GSC Member, please file a Declaration of Intent by Friday, March 3 at the ASSU Office to run for a seat on the GSC in the ASSU Spring General Election.

Mark your calendars now! The ASSU Spring General Election will be held online April 19th and 20th. Graduate students may vote for ASSU President and Vice President, Graduate Student Council, and graduate student fees. Shape the political agenda of the graduate student community for the coming academic year—please vote in the ASSU Spring General Election!

For further information, please visit <http://assu.stanford.edu/election>, or contact Cody Muhly, Assistant ASSU Elections Commissioner, via e-mail at cmule@stanford.edu.

Have Concerns about the Libraries?

The GSC has been working with the Committee on Libraries to improve the library hours for graduate students. As a result, hours have been extended in Green library on Saturdays. If you have concerns about the library hours during intersessions, summer quarters, and weekends, please let the following people know how the libraries can better accommodate the graduate student community.

* Michael A. Keller

University Librarian

E-mail: makeller@sulmail.stanford.edu

* Professor John Bender

Chair, Academic Council Committee on Libraries

E-mail: bender@stanford.edu

What is the GSPB?

by Pai-Ling Yin

The Graduate Student Programming Board (GSPB) is the group that throws parties and other graduate student support events on campus (often in conjunction with the GSC and other groups). We meet every Friday at noon for lunch (free) from noon-1pm in Tresidder Union, 2nd Floor, Sequoia room, unless otherwise specified in our weekly e-mail updates. If you have an idea for a party, would like to organize a campus-wide party, or would like to organize some other campus wide event/seminar, please send an email to majordomo@lists with the line "subscribe gradprogram@lists" in the body of the message. For info on activities we have done in the past, go to <http://www.stanford.edu/group/gspb>

Look forward to the following events this quarter: semi-formal dance, graduate support seminars (how to deal with procrastination, thesis writing, eating healthy), financial support seminars (including tax seminars near tax time), and lottery dinners! To add more to this list, come to our meetings on Fridays!

Did You Know?

You can get a permanent e-mail address that you will always remember: yourname@stanfordalumni.org. Any mail sent there can be read on the web (great when you are traveling) or automatically forwarded to another account at your work or residence. Check out <http://stanfordalumni.org>.

Student Family Issues

by Aranzazu Lascurain, Family Life Advisor

Graduate students with families will be interested to know our progress with health insurance for dependents, child care, housing, and supporting our volunteer CA's in Escondido Village family housing. I and another graduate student, Patricia Santana, met with President Casper on January 12 to express our concerns with the inavailability and high costs of childcare for students. I believe he heard a strong message that this is a priority issue for many students and suggested we work with Provost Hennessy to ensure some changes take place.

The University's Health Insurance Committee (on which three students sit) has decided to terminate their Dependent Health Plan contract with BlueShield because of hugely increased costs, the poor coverage and thus the dropping enrollment over the past two years. They have decided to go with an HMO plan that would provide better coverage, no deductible, and would cost about the same as the present plan. (see page 2)

Another concern has been the lack of a minimum compensation for our family CAs in Escondido Village. Currently, they are all volunteers who on top of having families organize courtyard activities, are prepared to assist in times of emergencies, and try to create a supportive community environment. Two years ago they received a modest compensation that allowed them to focus a little more attention on these activities. It is these activities and community building support that ensure that families at Stanford feel welcome, included, and feel like they are a productive part of the community. We are looking to see how we might approach the administration on this important issue.

These issues are terribly important for graduate students with families who already have a burdened load on top of their studies. These are also issues which if slightly improved could support the student with their studies in a timely fashion. If you have any life stories you would like to share regarding the above issues, especially child care since we will be focusing on this issue next, or any other issues you would like represented please contact me at ataranza@hardlines.com. We are also always looking for more graduate students with families to come to our meetings on Wednesdays, 6pm, we're a friendly bunch!

Thanks to KLA-Tencor for Sponsoring Thanksgiving!

For job opportunities please visit their web site at

<http://www.kla-tencor.com>.



Thanks to MacArthur Park Restaurant

Thanksgiving was catered by MacArthur Park catering, famous for barbecue and fine dining. Try out their restaurant on University Avenue at El Camino. Call 650-321-9990 for a reservation!

After Midnight (continued from front page)

*Tresidder Express is now open until 1:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and until midnight Friday and Saturday for a 6-week trial period. *The Coffee House is now open until 2:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until midnight Friday and Saturday. *Pulse is now open until 2:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday, until midnight Friday, and from 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Sunday. Only self-service operations are now available after 5:00 p.m.

MEYERLIBRARY

*Meyer Library's first two floors will be open 24 hours a day beginning sometime between mid-winter quarter and early spring quarter

STANFORD BOOKSTORE

*Stanford Bookstore is now open until 11:00 p.m. Fridays for a 6-week trial period.

The ultimate success of Stanford After Midnight will, of course, be determined to a great extent by how well these extended operating hours are utilized by students and other members of the campus community. Departments and vendors will modify their hours of operation for the spring quarter and beyond based on student utilization and/or revenue. We hope you share the excitement of this collaborative effort between the ASSU and the University and take advantage of the many opportunities afforded by Stanford After Midnight.

MBNA® America is proud to sponsor GSC events!

MBNA is the provider of the Stanford Alumni Association Platinum Plus (SM) MasterCard® credit card. Visit us at www.webapply.com/Stanford. To learn more about students and credit visit our site at www.smartcredittips.com.

TOP TEN REASONS TO JOIN THE GSC

10. One free dinner every week.
9. Learn the REAL story behind all those silly Daily articles...
8. Meet tons of people from all departments and disciplines.
7. Hone your skills of persuasion and debate.
6. Learn how to navigate the red tape of a multi-billion dollar bureaucracy.
5. Meet top university officials (then see #6-7)
4. Learn subtleties of equations like "rent + ramen = stipend"
3. Throw parties for tens and THOUSANDS of your closest friends!
2. Work alongside some of the coolest, cleverest, most dynamic (and humble...) folks at Stanford!
1. **Make a real difference, improve the quality of life for yourself and your peers, shape the future of Stanford and its graduate community!!!**



---Mardi Gras---

will be hosted by Escondido Village CA's at Hacienda Commons in Rains 9pm to 1am on March 4, co-sponsored by MBNA, GSC, and GSPB. Look for more events soon to be co-

STANFORD sponsored by MBNA, Stanford Alumni Association, GSC and GSPB.
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Help Wanted

GSPB Needs Web Builder, Paid contract to design website with database capabilities. Please e-mail pyin@leland if interested.