



Fall Bulletin 2002

<http://gsc.stanford.edu>

Dear Fellow Graduate Student,

The long summer has ended, and fall has arrived, along with the start of a new school year. We'd like to warmly welcome all returning students back to the Farm, along with the new crop of fresh graduate students, just starting off here! You will find graduate school is a unique, engrossing, yet enriching time in your life. The GSC strives to better the lives of graduate students—through advocacy efforts, social programming activities, and financial assistance of other student groups' events.

We have been busy this summer. To update you on just a fraction: On the **health care** front, we have been helping implement the new insurance subsidies we successfully negotiated in the Spring. On **student space concerns**, we have been advocating for a new Graduate Community Center. On bettering **student services**, a new University Task Force has been formed, and we were able to obtain greater student representation on the committee. On **housing**, the Studios we have been fighting for over the years are almost complete—Studio 5 just opened, and Studio 6 will be opening in the winter. Finally, on the **national level**, we have sent GSC members to Washington D.C. to lobby for Tax Relief. This bulletin contains more in-depth articles on several of these efforts.

In the midst of all of our advocating, we also made sure we were having some fun in the sun - our 4th of July BBQ was a tremendous success, and we are looking forward to our annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

Stanford is a unique and wonderful place to be—we hope you take advantage of all it has to offer. Come and meet us and participate in strengthening graduate life here! Our weekly meetings are open to all graduate students (6pm Weds at Bechtel International Center), and we encourage anyone interested to attend. Also, check out our website at: <http://gsc.stanford.edu>

Best wishes,

Grace Chang - GSC Chair

Elizabeth Marin - GSC Deputy Chair

Substantial Changes in Health Care for 2002/03

by Ray Rivera & Lisa Wong, Graduate Health Care Task Force
New Vaden Health Care Center

The Vaden Health Care Center has replaced the Cowell Health Care Center. It is located at 866 Campus Drive, right next to the old Cowell site and across from Wilbur Field. Most services are free to registered Stanford students. Spouses and domestic partners can use most services on a fee basis.

Student and Dependent Health Insurance Subsidies

The Graduate Health Care Task Force, Vice Provost Awakuni, and Provost Etchemendy have worked to avail premium subsidies for all Stanford graduate students and their families enrolled in

Stanford health insurance in the academic year 2002-2003. Single students will be eligible for the Stanford Cardinal Care Insurance Plan, while dependents of students will be eligible for the Stanford Student Dependent Insurance Plan. Amount of subsidies will be made according to student household status and amount of Stanford income, if any, received during the quarter. For details, read below and visit <http://cardinalcare.stanford.edu>

Enrollment in Stanford Insurance Plans

As in previous years, REGISTERED graduate students (taking classes or on TGR) will be automatically enrolled in Cardinal Care for single-student coverage unless they go into Axxess and waive that coverage before the start of each quarter. For UNREGISTERED quarters (not taking classes; for many students this is the summer quarter) or taking classes at another school, the student must contact the insurance office at Vaden and write a check for the full premium amount prior to the first day of the quarter. There is no subsidy in that instance. The year starts all over again each September 1, so students must waive the health insurance each year if they don't want it (but they must have other insurance to satisfy the mandatory insurance requirement). Graduate students will not automatically be enrolled in dependent health insurance; they must apply for the Stanford dependent health insurance policy during an "open enrollment" period each Fall Quarter (or during their first quarter on campus if their first enrolled quarter at Stanford is not Fall Quarter). For enrollment questions not addressed on their website, call Vaden at (650) 723-2135.

Subsidy Details

Eligibility will be determined at the end of the third week of each quarter on the basis of information in Graduate Financial System (GFS), which will trigger the appropriate subsidy to flow to a single student's bill. Therefore, you might not see the correct subsidy amount on your student bill until after the third week of the quarter. Single graduate students do not need to apply to receive a single-student health insurance subsidy, but graduate students with dependents will need to apply to receive a dependent health insurance subsidy.

The Graduate Health Care Task Force and University officials have set up a system to answer questions that might arise. First, consult http://cardinalcare.stanford.edu/graduate_faq.html If questions remain, contact your individual department. If this does not resolve the problem, a clearinghouse has been set up to handle concerns case-by-case. Email grad-insurance@stanford.edu call (650) 723-2135

Finally, we wish to recognize our colleagues on the Graduate Health Care Task Force, whose dedication and efforts have helped bring about major changes in health care for graduate students and families at Stanford: Grace Chang, Kristine McCoy, and Mark Smith. We also wish to thank Gladys Limon and Michael Shapiro whose consultation and keen insight have proved invaluable.

Hello and welcome back! As your ASSU President and Vice President, we are here to support the GSC in its many advocacy efforts on behalf of graduate students at Stanford. This year, we look forward to helping your elected representatives fight for improved health care coverage, better housing, and a graduate student community center. In addition, we are here to help bridge the gap between the undergraduate and graduate communities, starting with increased communication and interaction with all Stanford students. Hopefully you'll see us around during the year; please let us know if there is anything that we can do for you!

Yours Truly,

*Mónica Henestroza ASSU President
Nick Rodriguez ASSU Vice President*

500 Grad Students Attended Fourth of July BBQ

by Wendelin Wright

On July 4, the Graduate Student Council and the Graduate Student Programming Board co-sponsored the Annual Fourth of July Barbecue. More than 500 graduate students and their friends and families enjoyed a traditional American celebration at Willis Lounge in the Rains Houses. The picnic style lunch included hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, watermelon, and other treats. Perfect weather and the enthusiastic participation of more than 25 volunteers made this a great event. The Fourth of July BBQ is quickly becoming one of the most popular grad student traditions at Stanford! *(Photo by Elizabeth Marin)*



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● **There's a world outside your office!** ●

● Would you like to receive weekly updates about upcoming ●
● social events for graduate students? ●

● *Email majordomo@lists.stanford.edu and write ●
● "subscribe grad-events" in the body of the email. ●*

Advocacy for Housing & Graduate Community Center

by Elizabeth Marin, Graduate Housing Advisory Committee (GHAC)

The largest supply of affordable housing since the Bay Area housing crunch began became available to meet student demand this year, the direct result of past years' advocacy efforts by graduate students and expansion of university housing programs, as well as the recent economic downturn. The construction of EV Studios 5 and 6 adds 320 new units to the on-campus housing supply, while the administration has taken advantage of the current market to negotiate long term leases with nearby apartment complexes.

However, given the volatile nature of our local housing market, we should not become complacent. We must prepare for the future housing needs of Stanford students by continuing to advocate for on-campus housing construction. In the meantime, we will work to improve current on-campus and off-campus housing options for students. We are also hoping to redesign the housing lottery to include on-campus, off-campus subsidized, and housing stipend check, making it easier to evaluate true demand and to give students their preferred housing options and more stable housing situations. Finally, we are advocating for construction of a Graduate Community Center in Escondido Village to improve graduate social life.

Despite the numerous social and cultural events organized by grad student organizations at Stanford, many grad students still complain about the lack of a cohesive graduate community that cuts across departments, ethnic groups, and residences. The Graduate Student Council and Graduate Student Programming Board organize a number of events targeting the broader graduate population, but many students have also expressed a wish for a social center on campus where they could gather casually in the evenings, preferably near the underserved Escondido Village residences. There is also an acute need for additional student space to host parties, receptions, and meetings, given the scarcity and cost of venues on campus.

Members of the GSC, the GHAC, and the Student Space Committee and ASSU President Mónica Henestroza are advocating the construction of a Graduate Community Center that would serve these needs. We have detailed guidelines for a two story, 12,000 sq. ft. building, drawn up by Chris Griffith and others from Student Affairs and Residential Housing and Dining. The plans include a ground floor containing a café/bar and large multipurpose room for social activities and a second floor with a copier/fax/printer room and conference rooms for student organizations and a semiformal reception lounge. This project is included in the General Use Permit, and the site on Escondido Road has been approved by the Capital Improvement Program. All we need to go ahead with the project is funding, estimated in 2000 to be approximately \$4 million.

The university is currently developing a master plan for student activity space on campus. All options are being considered, including renovation or re-programming of current spaces, and a "Super Tressider" Campus Center that could unify the diverse populations on campus. We do not oppose these ideas, but still advocate immediate construction of a Graduate Community Center which will be easily accessible to the least mobile members of our population (families and on-campus students without cars). If and when a much more costly central complex is created, the GCC could still serve as an important satellite in East Campus and perhaps focus more on serving students with children.

We have already met with Nancy Wells, Vice President of Development, and Tim Portwood, Director of University Campaigns. In their expert opinion, this project appears to be suitable for targeting a single major donor. In the year ahead, we will continue to work with Gene Awakuni, the Vice Provost for Student Affairs, towards making the creation of a Graduate Community Center a priority for the university administration.

Programs at Bechtel International Center

by Maurizio Battaglia

Bechtel International Center (I-Center) offers a variety of programs and services to the entire Stanford community. Examples are film showings, lectures & discussion groups, dance classes, and family events. The I-Center also makes its facilities available to campus organizations.

The **Overseas Resource Center (ORC)** advises students on study and work abroad opportunities. It maintains a resource library and sells international student ID cards, Youth Hostel cards, and passport photos. It also administers scholarships.

The **Office of International Visitors (OIV)** welcomes international visitors to Stanford. If you are interested in helping provide campus tours to these visitors, please contact Marilyn Herand at mherand@stanford.edu

The **International Speakers Bureau** arranges visits to local schools and community organizations by Stanford international students or students who have lived overseas

Go to <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/icenter> or subscribe to the I-Center activities list by sending an email to Majordomo@lists.stanford.edu with the following command in the body of the message: SUBSCRIBE ICENTER-SOCIAL

Join us for Grad Night at Flicks

by Wendelin Wright

On November 24, the GSC and FLiCKS will co-sponsor **Grad Night at FLiCKS** at the 7 PM showing of **My Big Fat Greek Wedding** in Memorial Auditorium.

This movie tells the story of a young Greek woman who falls in love with a non-Greek and struggles to get her family to accept him while she comes to terms with her heritage and cultural identity. This romantic comedy received rave reviews and an IMDb rating of 8.1/10.

Graduate students and their guests (1 guest per valid SUID) will be treated to free movie tickets and delicious treats. Grad Night at FLiCKS is quickly becoming one of the most popular grad student traditions. We hope to see you there! For more information about FLiCKS and the Autumn Quarter roster of films, see <http://flicks.stanford.edu>

GSC Tackles Problems with Student Services

by Kris Walker

Remember the headaches when you tried to get an explanation about an anomalous charge on your University Bill? Or when your monthly payroll deduction charge was not recalculated after your housing lease was renewed, which quietly led to a hold on your account? Or when you relied on incorrect information published on Axess, the University's primary student-administration communication tool? Well, those will soon be the "bad old days". Yes, the "good new days" are almost here.

The University recognizes there are major problems with student services, many of which are associated with technological transition. Last spring quarter, the Provost and Vice Provost of Business Affairs convened a Student Services Coordination Task Force to access the problems.

Chaired by Gene Awakuni (Vice Provost for Student Affairs), and including representation from Undergraduate Education, the Controllers Office, Residential and Dining Enterprises, ITSS, and Undergraduate Admission and Financial Aid, the task force hired an independent consultant to conduct 30 administrative interviews, 7 focus groups with grads and undergrads, and 3 focus groups with student-services staff. Now that the issues have been identified in detail, the task force has convened a working group to make recommendations on how to address them.

The GSC recognizes this is a major step in the right direction to improving the quality and consistency of student service. Because many of the services required by graduate students are unique, the GSC became involved in this issue over summer quarter to ensure there will be adequate graduate student representation on the committee. Fortunately, the task force decided to allow 2 graduate students and Chris Griffith (Assoc. Dean of Graduate Life Office) to sit on this working group.

Through Stanford's Nominations Commission, the following graduate students have been selected for these positions:

- Nancy Kendall (School of Education)
- Kris Walker (Department of Geophysics)

Kris is also the GSC representative to the Committee, which will help increase the visibility of students with special interests. If you have any questions for the GSC regarding this issue, please contact Kris at ktwalker@pangea.stanford.edu



This Fall **FLiCKS** *brings you...*

*Y tu Mama Tambien, Road to Perdition, About a Boy, Insomnia
My Big Fat Greek Wedding, Bourne Identity, Signs and more!!!*

Check us out every Sunday night at Mem Aud or
visit **Flicks.Stanford.edu** to submit to our mailing list

Purchase your **Fall Quarter Pass** for just \$22!!!

STANFORD STUDENT ENTERPRISES

Get the message out!

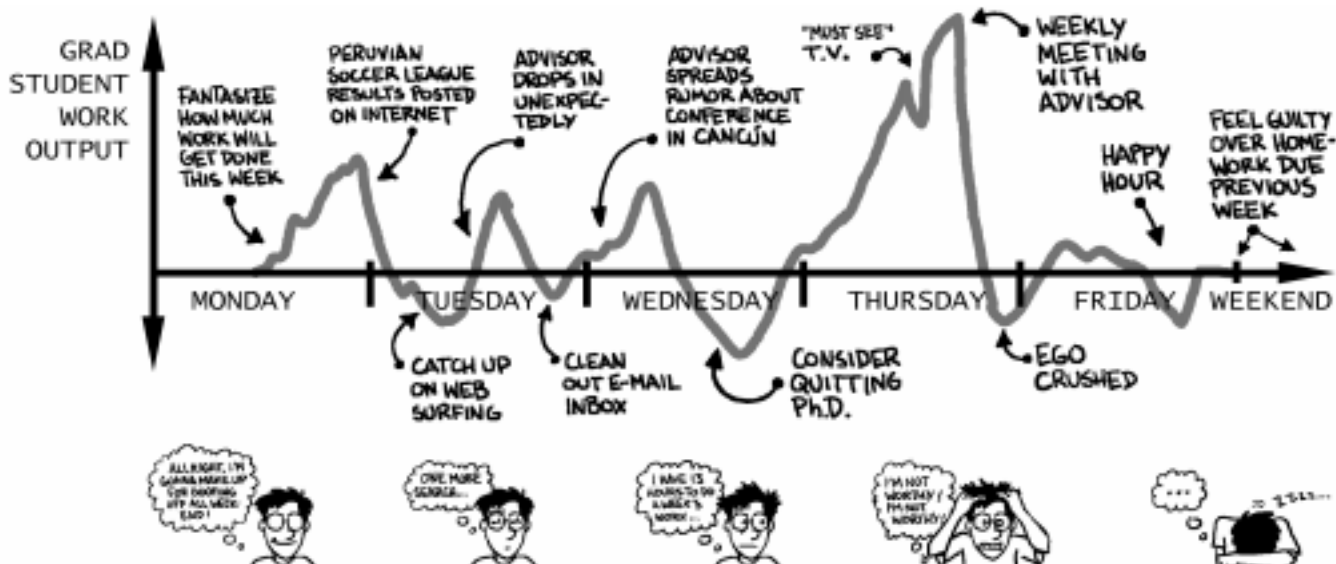
Would you like to announce an event that may be of interest to other graduate students? You can now post it on the GSC graduate student events list. For more details just go to:

http://gsc.stanford.edu/gsc_grad_events/groups.htm

Will you be on campus for Thanksgiving?

The GSC is currently planning its yearly Thanksgiving Dinner!

Check out <http://gsc.stanford.edu> in early November for more information on the schedule and the online signup options.



by Jorge Cham - to see more Comics or to buy Jorge's book go to <http://phd.stanford.edu>