

Spring 2005

Upcoming Events:

- April 24th—Grad Night at FLICKS, Hotel Rwanda, 7pm, Memorial Auditorium
- May 7th—International Festival, Betchel International Center lawn, noon-5pm
- May 21st—Family Carnival, 10am-1pm, Escondido Village between Hulme Court and Barnes Court
- June 12th—2005 Commencement; Congratulations from the GSC!

GSC Weekly Meetings:

Each Wednesday from 6pm to 7:30pm, GCC, Nairobi Conference Room

All are welcomed! Dinner is provided.

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Edited by Luke C. Miller



GCC Pub Opening in May...No, Seriously, May

Just think of our GCC pub as a fine wine. It is most impressive after it's been locked away for...well, let's say six months. Now after a six month delay, the much anticipated graduate student pub at the Graduate Community Center (GCC) is scheduled to open in May.

The pub will be named The Seven Fifty Pub and Eatery. The name is taken from

its location at 750 Escondido Road. It's opening later this Spring promises to transform the GCC.

The Seven Fifty Pub and Eatery will bring a wide array of services and life to the already vital Graduate Community Center. The Seven Fifty will be run by members of the same family that bring you CIAO! (in Terman) and Caffe Riace (in

downtown Palo Alto). The Carubba brothers, Giuseppe and Maurizio, and their close friend Josh, are anxious to bring their brand of good times to the campus. The Seven-Fifty will be a full service eatery serving hot food

from around the world as well as an array of soju and sake based cocktails. Whether it be a night out with friends, a casual dinner or a relaxing drink while sucking up wi-fi on your laptop, or a conference for 100, The Seven Fifty will

be the community spot to do it all!

The Carubba brothers are planning events with the GSC and GSPB in preparation for the opening.

As Giuseppe explained, "A broad range of events are already in the works; from poker night to karaoke, the roaring twenties to the disco seventies, samba to tango, our mission is to make The Seven Fifty a place to call your own...we'll keep the good times rolling." Cheers, and see you at The Seven Fifty!



Jump on the Caltrain! Get Your GO-Pass

Have you picked up your free 2005 GO-Pass yet? If not, what are you waiting for? Take a hacksaw to that chain connecting you to your office or lab or computer and get yourself over to Bonair Siding.

Now through December 2005, all graduate students who live off-campus (sorry, but residents of Stanford West and Oak Creek Apartments are considered on-campus) are eligible for completely FREE transit on Caltrain. Use it to commute into Stanford, or relax on the weekends by taking the

train to San Francisco or San Jose. Use it as little or as often as you like. Ride anywhere, anytime.

The GSC has been working with the university toward the implementation of this program for three years. Our efforts were a direct response to the persistent requests from students.

Help make this trial program a success. To receive your 2005 GO-Pass, stop by Parking & Transportation Services, show your student ID, and start riding TODAY!

Access Vaden Health Center Via the Internet

You can find the site at none other than http://vadenpatient.stanford.edu. This service launched in September. It allows students to retrieve lab results, communicate with their doctors, and access follow-up information after visits. Give it a try; see how it can work for you! Go Vaden!

2004-2005 GSC

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GSC-DC Changing the Face of Stanford Graduate Population

By John Davis and Alice Lincoln,
Diversity Committee Co-Chairs

In March, the GSC-Diversity Committee called a meeting of Stanford diversity administrators—the Vice Provost and Dean of Research and Graduate Policy, the seven Stanford school's diversity officers, and members of both the Diversity Action Council and the Commission on Graduate Education. This was the largest yet in a year-long series of discussions we've initiated with University administrators to identify ways Stanford can increase its under-represented minority and female graduate popu-

lation to levels more reflective of national population averages (i.e., 50% female, 13% African American, 14% Chicano/Latino, and 1% Native American).

At this and subsequent meetings with the key university administrators as well as administrators from each of Stanford's seven schools, we have refined our draft recommendations and are preparing to present a University-wide plan for increasing graduate diversity. Specifically, we will lay out our vision for initiatives that will foster between the schools collaborative recruiting, information sharing,

and support for diversity students.

The University has put significant effort into diversifying its undergraduate population; the impressive success of those efforts indicate to us that with more coordinated actions, Stanford could achieve a significantly more diverse graduate population as well.

We need your help. If you are interested in changing the face of the Stanford graduate population, please email alincoln@stanford.edu or visit <http://gsc.stanford.edu/Advocacy/Diversity>. •

Munger Graduate Residence: Project Moving Forward

By Matthew Ginder-Vogel and
Michael Beman, *Committee Co-Chairs*

The Munger residence project has evolved significantly in the last year and continues to move forward. Construction will begin next summer.

The new plan (recently approved by the Board of Trustees) for the Munger residences includes six buildings with dormer-style elevations. Significant improvements include shorter buildings for less impact on nearby residences, broken-up fronting along Campus Drive, pedestrian paths, and new

common spaces and plazas designed to meet the needs of all constituencies. The parking garage will be located under Wilbur Field, ensuring the future of Wilbur Field as an open playing field.

The outgoing lanes of Campus Drive, toward Junipero Serra, will be widened to two lanes from one this summer. The newly divided road will offer significant enhancements for pedestrian safety and will alleviate traffic leaving campus in the evening. While this is a separate project from the Munger residences, there will be long-term

improvements in traffic flow that will benefit Munger residents and the campus community in general.

Positive for both undergraduates and graduate students will be the increased housing availability, with Crothers and Crothers Memorial slated to become undergraduate housing when Munger opens in 2007. Stanford Housing plans to work closely with residents to meet individual needs. For more details, contact Matt (gindervm@stanford.edu) or Mike (beman@stanford.edu) or visit: <http://mungerhousing.stanford.edu/>. •

CGE Conversation Sessions a Success: Thank You

By Sohini Ramachandran, *Coordinating Subcommittee*

Numerous conversation sessions were held in March as part of the work of the Commission on Graduate Education (CGE). These focus groups provided graduate students the opportunity to discuss a range of topics related to graduate life. The sessions were held in order to assist the CGE in identifying areas where improvement in educational opportunities and the general quality of life for graduate students can take place.

They were the primary venue

through which the grad student voice is represented in the CGE's important work. Professor Denis Phillips, a member of the Commission, spearheaded this effort, along with GSC Chair Moriah Thomason, Dean of Graduate Life Chris Griffith, Assistant Dean of Research and Graduate Policy Claudia Schweikert, and GSC member Sohini Ramachandran.

The topics discussed included advising and mentoring, funding, career preparation, students with families, international student issues, minority student issues, gender issues, and conflict resolu-

tion. The groups gave students the opportunity to brainstorm innovative solutions for problems that exist and learn more about already existing models in the university that might be applicable to different departments.

Our thanks go to the students who participated in these focus groups and the many more who replied to emails indicating they were willing to participate in focus groups. Your thoughts expressed via emails and in the focus groups will help formulate the recommendations the CGE will make to President Hennessy in June. •

Like the Arts? Join SOCA

By James Lin, SOCA Director

The Student Organizing Committee for the Arts (SOCA) is a student group that seeks to celebrate and promote the arts at Stanford by creating artistic opportunities for the community. Our projects include The Stanford Sound-track (a compilation of campus bands/musicians), An Art Affair (an annual outdoor arts festival), SOCA in the City (where you can win tickets to local arts events/performances), SOCA To Go (small performances held at various on-campus locations), and Artist Forum Nights. For more information, visit <http://soca.stanford.edu>. If you are interested in joining the SOCA team, contact jameslin@stanford.edu. •

New Group for Women in Science and Engineering

By Maria Spletter

We are attempting to organize a new graduate student group that will sponsor social events and seminars and provide information and support for women in science and engineering. We would like to host one large seminar speaker active in promoting women in S&E as well as one large social event to foster connections between female faculty and graduate students across S&E departments.

Our main goal as an organization is to link and promote existing department-specific women's groups and their events, centralize information on resources available to women in S&E and provide information to students who would like to organize or participate in women's group events. If you are interested in joining or helping to organize such a group, please contact Maria at spletter@stanford.edu. •

Awards for Study or Research Abroad Available for Grads

The Overseas Resource Center, located upstairs at the Bechtel International Center, administers scholarships for study and research overseas. All graduate students are eligible for the Fulbright scholarship and many are eligible for the Marshall, Mitchell, Gates, Churchill, English Speaking Union, German Academic Exchange Awards, Bundeskanzler, and Luce scholarships.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these awards please check the Overseas Resource Center (<http://icenter.stanford.edu/ore>) website for upcoming information session times. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Route at keroute@stanford.edu. •

Findings from the 2004 Graduate Academic Life Survey Having an Impact

By Luke C. Miller, Academic Issues Advocacy Chair

Part of our motivation as researchers is the hope our work and its findings will have a positive impact. Since the public release of our final report back in February, the analysis of the 2004 Graduate Academic Life Survey conducted by the GSC Academic Issues Advocacy Committee (GSC-AI) is having such an impact.

Administrators at the university, school and department levels have taken note of the report's findings and are taking actions. Presentations were made before the Faculty Senate, Commission on Graduate Studies, and the Graduate Deans and Administrators Working Group. The Commission on Graduate Education has conducted additional analyses of the survey data to help inform their recommendations to President Hennessy (due in June).

The GSC-AI has also conducted outreach to schools and departments and graduate student groups. Several schools and departments have requested presentations and/or additional analyses in order to better inform them of the academic life issues of concern to their students. Additionally, graduate student groups have also requested additional analyses for research questions not addressed in the final report.

Overall satisfaction rates were high with between 71 and 85 percent of respondents within-school reporting they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their overall Stanford graduate academic experience. Even higher percentages would recommend their program to others and would choose Stanford again. However, several aspects were highlighted as areas of concern for many. Respondents reported high rates of dissatisfaction with aspects of initial academic advising, the conflict resolution process, and qualifying exams. There was a 32 percent response rate.

The *Final Report: 2004 Stanford University Graduate Academic Life Survey* can be downloaded (in full or in part) from the GSC website at <http://gsc.stanford.edu/Advocacy/Surveys/GradAcademicLife>. •

Got a Student Group? We've Got Your Funding

Every year the GSC oversees the distribution of the Graduate Student General Fee to student groups. If your student group sponsors events targeted at the graduate student community, you should consider requesting funding through the GSC. Groups can receive up to \$8,000 a year. Visit our website (<http://gsc.stanford.edu/Resources/StudentGroupFunding>) for more information.

2005-2006 GSC

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Congratulations!

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Hotel Rwanda sponsored by FLICKS and the Graduate Student Council. April 24th, 7pm, Memorial Auditorium. Free donuts, juice, and a free ticket to the movie! Escape the clutches of the library and lab for at least one Sunday evening. Come, claim a free donut, and socialize with fellow grad students! You can even bring a guest!



the short term, we hope to connect more graduates and undergrads through a new student advising and mentoring program through the Undergraduate Advising Program while offering weekly free meals for select graduate students in dining halls.

Most importantly, we want to find out your issues and help put your ideas into action. Not only will we be working closely with the GSC, but we will also hold weekly office hours in White Plaza to directly interact with the Stanford community and field concerns. We look forward to both interacting and communicating with the graduate community and hope you will remember to use the ASSU as your resource for change.

childcare, commuting, and academic issues. We are committed to learning as much as possible about graduate life and are focusing on many projects that directly affect graduate students. During our term in office, we will support existing grad student organizations and facilitate the creation of new grad students are informed about available University resources and to advocate on behalf of all students when working with the University administration.

Some more specific examples of our ongoing projects include sponsoring more 24hr study, play, and group project space across campus with special focus on the GCC. In

By Melanie Kamukada and Aneto Okonkwo, ASSU President And Vice President

We are your newly elected ASSU President and Vice President, respectively. We are both excited and committed to having the ASSU improve graduate life at Stanford, and we would like to express how this can be achieved in the coming year.

The ASSU works to represent the interests and needs of Stanford students, both graduate and undergraduate, at every level of decision making within the University. We advocate for students on issues such as cost of living, housing, diversity, healthcare, and more.

Come to the Annual GRADUATE FAMILY CARNIVAL

It's free!! Refreshments, astro jump, pony rides and petting zoo, train, clowns, balloons, face painting and more.

Saturday, May 21st, 10am-1pm

Located in Escondido Village on the field next to the playground between Hulme and Barnes.

A Fun Time For All!

Sponsored by the EV Family Community Associates, Graduate Student Council, Graduate Student Programming Board and Graduate Student Life Office.