Welcome, from the GSC Executive Board

Greetings from the Graduate Student Council! This inaugural newsletter represents a collaboration between the GSC Executive Board and the graduate student community at Brown University. It is intended to be a unifying work, one that bridges departments and disciplines, bringing us together in our shared aim to improve graduate student education and life at our institution. With these remarks in mind, we encourage you to see this newsletter as a forum for the issues that matter most to you.

Public and private institutions across the country are struggling to keep pace with growing student populations as well as changing administrative demands; all too often, graduate students are caught between our academic aims and the realities of student labor, the drive to excel in our scholarship and the pressures of the present market. We write with an awareness of the moment not in the spirit of cynicism, but with the aim to foster and support a space for discussion, inquiry, and advocacy. Your understanding and support of your fellow graduate students and their issues is imperative as we continue to work to strengthen our community and its recognition at Brown. In this respect, we encourage your feedback.

Our hope is that this newsletter, and the spirit it represents, continues in the coming months and years. Thank you, and looking forward!

Sincerely,
Joel Simundich, GSC President
Ali Mathwig, GSC Vice President of Advocacy

Student Profile: High Seas

Catherine Ardrey (MPA 2016)
Samuel Klarich (MPA 2016)
Kristopher Lagor (MPA 2016)
Jeremy McKenzie (MPP 2016)

What led you to this work?

Jeremy McKenzie, is an active duty Coast Guard officer. He approached the Coast Guard over the summer looking for a project proposal that would benefit both students and the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard enthusiastically responded and assigned it to the United States Coast Guard Academy’s Center for Arctic Study and Policy. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is also sponsoring the project.

What do you hope to gain from your project?

We hope to provide the Coast Guard, WWF, and the Russian government with actionable recommendations to improve the day-to-day management of the Bering region and prepare for a future of increased shipping traffic. Perhaps we can also help foster some positive communication between the Russian and United States governments.

What can students looking to make an impact in the community learn from engaged scholarship?

Our current project gives us a chance to make a significant impact on U.S. foreign policy in a region that has typically been ignored. We have the opportunity to apply international relations and policy theory for both the U.S. and Russian governments and interested NGOs like WWF. We would love to have the support of the Brown community. We need to raise approximately $15,000 to make our research in both Alaska and Russia a reality. Please donate if you can (contact us).
What is your current project?

I’m studying the effects of military-originated equipment on policing, from the perspective of law enforcement in the Baltimore area. Specifically, I’m looking at the 1033 Program, a federal program that allows law enforcement agencies to obtain surplus military equipment for free (minus shipping). My preliminary research explores how weapons and armored vehicles - a small percentage of program transfers, but the most visible and controversial connection to war - received through the 1033 Program shape officers’ work, conceptions of themselves and their communities, and relations with civilians. I’m trying to get at these questions ethnographically, which so far has mainly meant interviewing and going on ride-alongs with officers and deputies, and attending community activities and events.

What led you to this work?

I came to graduate school with a strong interest in studying sites of power. I originally wanted to study development agencies, but after Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson - less than 15 miles from where my mom grew up and where I went to university - I could not stop reading about the case, race and police use of force, and the “militarization” of policing. So, I changed direction. Ferguson made me want to better understand, among other things, the infrastructures and logics of policing - how officers make sense of their jobs, how certain ideologies shift or are perpetuated, how something like the 1033 Program is understood by those who take part in it. In other words, I wanted a stronger grasp on how the system works and how the complex humans within it work. Even more than this, though, Ferguson left me with the urge to do something. I wanted to put my privilege, and my academic skills and interests, to work in a way that has the potential to contribute to a better and more just world.

What do you hope to gain from your fieldwork and larger project?

I hope this project can eventually be of use to both activists and law enforcement as well as academics. As an anthropologist, I’m interested in understanding how people see the world and their place in it, and in analyzing the systems of which they are a part. Ideally, I think this kind of knowledge and analysis can produce interesting theory and help inform thinking around reform efforts. My larger project aims to eventually do both. I hope it can help both police and activists interested in police reform to better understand the program and its impact on material and social relations.

What can students looking to make an impact in the community learn from engaged scholarship?

Frankly, I’m still grappling myself with what engaged scholarship can and should do. I have some really excellent examples in my academic mentors, who do brilliant, thoughtful work. Engaged scholarship, to me, offers a way to both build knowledge and pursue social justice. Examples of well-intentioned interventions that fail to account for local contexts or oppressive systems are easy to find, in any sector. Those of us who are interested in “making a difference,” whatever that means to each of us, can learn from engaged scholarship to be critical as well as idealistic.

Know a graduate student who does cool work? Nominate them to be interviewed: gsc_communications@brown.edu

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**Student Groups**

The Graduate Student Council recognizes several graduate student groups. These groups represent a number of different hobbies and interests. These student groups encourage fellowship, advocacy, and community among all Brown graduate students.

To learn more about how to start your own graduate student group, or to get involved with a current group, visit: students.brown.edu/gsc/student-groups

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**The Brown Tango Club** is a new group encouraging the growth of Argentine Tango here at Brown. Monday evenings we have internationally renowned teachers run classes and a practica. New tango-ers are always welcome. Find out more on Facebook (Tango At Brown), Beersync, in Morning Mail, and on the GSBB.

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**Graduate Women in Science and Engineering (GWiSE):** a community to support and advance women and underrepresented groups in science and engineering both within and beyond Brown University. We have events throughout the year focused on fostering community and eliminating barriers. Join our listserv! Contact: Amy Sinclair-Davis or gwise@brown.edu

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**The Graduate Biomedical Engineering Society (gBMES)** is a group for all graduate students in the biomedical engineering and biotechnology programs at Brown. gBMES aims to share ideas, foster collaborations, and unite the BME community at Brown. gBMES is responsible for organizing events for the department including our annual kick-off event, social activities such as apple picking, and educational programs such as guest lecturers and alumni panels.

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**The Graduate Students of Color Collective (GSCC)** seeks to create an inclusive, supportive, and positive space for graduate students who identify as people of color. The GSCC holds monthly/bi-monthly meetings to provide resources and address collective concerns, as well as building a visible critical mass of graduate students of color on campus. Please contact Lilian Mengesha or Jennifer Wang if you'd like to get involved.
Op-Ed: Title IX for Graduate Students

You may have heard that Brown has a new Title IX Office, but did you know that Title IX applies to graduate students? As a graduate student, you are protected from sex discrimination under Title IX. You are also entitled to a number of University resources, including confidential support, remedial measures such as academic and work accommodations, and a prompt and equitable resolution process. The Title IX Office understands that scholarly communities are often small, and that the professional ties you develop in graduate school can have a lasting impact on your academic career. The Title IX Program Officer Amanda Walsh can assist you in figuring out a course of action that preserves your academic and professional goals.

If you are interested in learning more about your rights under Title IX, Brown’s sexual and gender-based harassment policy and process, or other campus resources, you can always contact the Title IX Office at Amanda_Walsh@Brown.edu or the Deputy Title IX Coordinator for the Graduate School at Brian_Walton@Brown.edu. You can also request a Title IX training for your cohort, student group, lab, departmental governance committee, entire department, or any other peer/colleague configuration you manage to make time for as a graduate student. To request a training contact Sara_Matthiesen@Brown.edu. Your request will remain private, and the Title IX Office will work with you to ensure the training includes content appropriate to your department/field.

The following are confidential resources:
Alana Sacks, SHARE Advocate, Alana_Sacks@brown.edu, 401-863-2794
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), 401-863-3476
Chaplain's Office, 401-863-2344
Sexual Assault Response Line (24-Hour Crisis Hotline), 401-863-6000

For more information, visit brown.edu/titleixoffice

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Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment: Resources to help you understand your options

These individuals can discuss the options available to you as a graduate student at Brown, and help you figure out what to do next.

SHARE Advocates, Sexual Assault Prevention and Advocacy, 401-863-2794, 3rd Floor of Health Services, (Confidential)*

Gail Cohoe, Director of the Sarah Doyle Women’s Center (SDWC), 401-863-2189, Gail_Cohoe@brown.edu, 2nd Floor of SWDC, (Not Confidential).

Ruthy Rosenberg, University Ombudsperson, ombuds@brown.edu, 401-863-6145, 3rd Floor of Hillel Building, (Not Confidential).

*A select group of Brown employees have confidentiality. They cannot reveal identifiable information shared with them to anyone without permission from the individual or as required by law. You are encouraged to inquire about an individual’s status to better understand what can remain between the two of you and what must be reported to the Title IX Office.

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GradalCon 2015
Graduate Student Career Options Conference

CONNECTIONS | CONVERSATIONS | CONFIDENCE

9 Panels featuring 40+ Grad Alumni
- Communications • Government/Policy
- Science Research • Business
- Education • Non-Profit • Data Science
- Science Education & Communication • Consulting

Conference Schedule
9:15 am: Student Breakfast
10:30 am: Alumni Career Panel Track 1
12:00 pm: Networking Lunch
1:15 pm: Alumni Career Panel Track 2
2:45 pm: Small Group Alumni/Student Fencing 1
2:30 pm: Small Group Alumni/Student Fencing 2
4:15 pm: Closing Meal and Board Reception

11.14.2015
Saturday, November 14
Learn about the alumni by visiting tinyurl.com/gradcon2015student.

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Thanksgiving PUB TRIVIA Night

The BGSC invites you to participate in our first Thanksgiving Pub Trivia Night

Date: Friday November 13th
Time: Doors open at 7:30pm
Trivia Begins 8:00pm
Location: Grad Student Lounge

Food and Drinks will be provided
Prizes will be awarded to the winning team
As space is limited, registration is on a first come, first served basis. Teams (up to 4) should register by Friday, November 6th via GoogleDoc Registration Form.

For additional information, please see our GSC Facebook, or contact us at gsc@brown.edu.

Exclusive space for Grad activities

Nelson Fitness Center
235 Hope Street

Studio 1: Saturdays and Sundays 6-8pm
Studio 2: Saturdays 3-6pm

Graduate Lounge
42 Charlesfield Street

Available upon request:
Check the calendar at students.brown.edu/gsc/resources/spaces/graduate-lounge
International Graduate Students

Are you aware of some of the initiatives that have taken root at Brown in order to promote international awareness and community on campus?

The International Writer's Blog (http://blogs.brown.edu/international-writers) is an ever-growing collection of stories and artwork related to international experience here at Brown and beyond. Their mission is to create a platform for Brown's international and ELL community to share cultural and linguistic experiences. Participation ranges from graduate students to undergraduates to faculty members. Submit a pitch for your story and the blog's staff will work with you to edit your story with the goal of eventually publishing it for the rest of the Brown community and the world to see!

The Center for Language Studies (http://www.brown.edu/academics/language-studies) has recently begun a new initiative called Language Weeks. Several weeks throughout each semester are devoted to events and programming with the goal of exposing the Brown community to the culture and traditions surrounding a specific language. For more information, please contact Language_Studies@Brown.edu or check out the Center's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/cls-brown.

The Language Partner Program (http://www.brown.edu/academics/college/support/writing-center/language-partners) is a resource for those hoping to learn another language or improve their English. The program pairs native English-speaking students studying a foreign language with students who are native speakers of that language and who desire to improve their English. The partners help each other in practicing and developing their respective second language capabilities, dividing their time equally between the two languages. Fill out the online form, and staff will assist you in finding a language partner.

Finally, the English Language Learning program offers year-round seminars for English language learners. Space is limited, so sign up early!

Student Committees

The Graduate Student Council works with external groups across the university to ensure that graduate student interests are represented. These external committee graduate representatives meet regularly throughout the academic year on a variety of issues. Several of the current representatives have shared the following updates. If you have any questions for a specific committee representative, please find out more at students.brown.edu/gsc/officers/external-committees.

The University Resources Committee is responsible for recommending the annual operating and capital budget to the President of Brown University. Graduate student representatives are responsible for advocating for graduate students, and making their financial needs visible, during these budget deliberations.

The graduate students on the Graduate Council Committee assist with setting and reviewing Graduate School policies, and ensure that the student perspective is considered and acknowledged. Duties include setting admissions conditions, approving new courses, supervising and modifying existing degree requirements, and reviewing degree program proposals.

The Faculty Advisory Board consists of a small group of graduate students tasked with observing the monthly campus-wide faculty meetings. In this role, members of the committee follow the development of various on-campus issues, particularly those directly concerning graduate students at Brown, and keep the graduate student council up-to-date.

The Graduate Library Advisory Committee acts as liaison between the graduate student community and the university library system. Issues include acquisition and management, research support, digital tools, and cost-reduction. To identify areas for improvement, GLAC will issue a survey (coming soon) and welcomes comments on current issues.

The Brown University Community Council brings together members from various groups and offices around the university. It acts as a forum for discussing a broad array of issues and also may provide advisory recommendations. We serve as advocates for graduate students and ensure that their perspectives and needs are considered.