

## Elections 2016

Meet the 2016 GSA Election Candidates!  
Voting begins April 14<sup>th</sup> on MyUCLA  
Grad Bar on April 14<sup>th</sup> @ Wolfgang Puck Terrace 5:00p.m.

### **GSA President**

#### **Michael Skiles (Moving Forward Slate)**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve over 2000 of you this year as Weyburn & Hilgard Resident's Association President, and all of you as a GSA Rep to the Academic Senate. WHRA's 6 socials drew record crowds, exceeding even over 600 residents, with free catered food, open bars, chocolate fondue fountains, photo booths, and DJ's, creating an amazing opportunity to meet friends from every field from all over the world. GSA's budget is more than 30 times that of WHRA's, so I'll work to magnify this success with bi-weekly Social Events at places like the Hammer Museum, Getty, Weyburn, Wolfgang Puck, and Nightclubs.

I have also worked hard to keep KREC open until a new and better grad gym is ready, to prevent apartment rent increases, and to get HBO GO accounts for our residents. If elected, I promise to even more effectively advocate for the entire Graduate Community.

#### **Jonathan Koch**

I have been honored to serve as an officer in the TA union over the past two years – as a Head Stewart and as Recording Secretary. During that time I worked in solving problems faced by many graduate students – fighting against fee hikes, health center cutbacks, expanding class sizes, and racial and gender discrimination. I'm running for President to bring those experiences to the GSA. The GSA can be a much more effective advocate for graduate student interests than it has been.

Over the past year, the GA has been distant and uninvolved in the major efforts to protect graduate students and improve out conditions. Worse yet, the GSA has fumbled on basic issues of free speech and accountability. Rather than continuing this pattern, I will ensure that the GSA functions as a democratic organization that is open and navigable to every individual and campus group.

### **Vice President of Internal Affairs**

#### **Ian Coley**

My name is Ian Coley, and I am running for Vice President of Internal Affairs of the GSA. My aim for the next year is to improve transparency and efficiency of the GSA by making the GSA Forum a more productive and useful assembly. I will improve communication between the GSA Cabinet and the Council Presidents so that all graduate students are made aware of GSA initiatives and funding decisions. I will

ensure that minutes from all committees of the GSA are available as soon as possible to the entire graduate student body. Most importantly, I will enforce the GSA Code and Constitution to keep every appointed and elected member of the GSA completely accountable to the graduate student body.

### **Ioan Istrate (Moving Forward Slate)**

My name is Ioan Istrate, an MBA Candidate at the Anderson School of Management and I am running for Vice President Internal, where I will commit to developing a community based on collaboration and shared learning. I will contribute to organizing frequent social events for all graduate students, and to also leverage career resources across schools.

The role requires a balanced overview of multiple functions, for which my prior experience equipped me. As Project Manager, I successfully brought together different viewpoints and functions towards a common goal, a skill critical in the GSA. This would be complemented by my extensive record of student leadership. As VP of International Student Relations in the Anderson Student Association, I worked on improving the experience of the international community and as Class President in my undergraduate program I coordinated multiple student teams in an international community.

I would be privileged to serve our community.

### **Vice President of External Affairs**

#### **Andres Schneider (Moving Forward Slate)**

As next year VP EX, I plan to work on the important and pressing issues for our graduate community: housing, international students representation, Kinross rec reallocation, campus climate and student wellness. I have considerable experience at GSA and I hope I can keep increasing the interaction between students and GSA. Please feel free to contact me.

### **Vice President of Academic Affairs**

#### **Tess Armstrong (Moving Forward Slate)**

I am a fourth year Ph.D. candidate studying Biomedical Physics in the David Geffen School of Medicine. While at UCLA, from 2013-2015 I joined my departmental events committee, seminar committee, and website committee. I helped organize our annual departmental retreat and Quarterly Research Symposium. I also volunteered as a TA for a MRI class in Spring 2015 and 2016.

In 2015 I was elected as the treasurer of the Weyburn and Hilgard Residents Association. My responsibilities included managing the WHRA budget, coordinating reimbursements and overseeing funds exceeding \$30,000. In

addition, I participated in GSA forum and advocated for housing concerns among graduate students.

I would like to continue to serve the graduate student community as GSA VP-Academic. My experience with the UCLA financial bureaucracy, fund management, and event organization qualify me to implement new ideas to improve the graduate student community. I would love your vote for GSA VP-Academic.

### **Alexandra Latshaw**

My name is Alexandra Latshaw and I'm running for the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs for 2016. I'm a third year graduate student in the Physics PhD program and I love getting out of the lab and getting involved with the UCLA community. I'm currently the Secretary of the Weyburn & Hilgard Residents' Association for graduate student housing and the Co-Chair of Women in Physics & Astronomy.

Initiatives that I'm passionate about are: 1) improving gender and racial diversity in Math, the Physical Sciences and UCLA as a whole; 2) securing increased funding for CAPS to provide more annual mental health care appointments; and 3) advocating against graduate student housing rent increases. My current work is on diversity initiatives in the Physics department and quality of life in graduate student housing. Now I hope to expand my focus to advocate for the entire graduate student population. Thank you.