Letter from the GSG President

We hope you all had a fun and relaxing holiday season with your family and friends. GSG accomplished a lot last fall: we advocated for students throughout the USC presidential search process, celebrated our fellow Trojans from abroad during our second annual International Student Appreciation Week, registered and educated students leading up to the November midterms, launched the Trojan Food Pantry to support our peers, and organized many other community service and social events. Thank you to all of our supporters and partners for making our programs possible!

As we head into this semester, GSG will be slowly transitioning to our next team - the 2019-2020 Executive Board. Leading this new group will be two incredible individuals that I am so happy to introduce. The President-Elect of GSG is Skye Parral, a 4th-year PhD student in Quantitative Psychology and our current Vice President of Administration. The Senior Vice President-Elect is Sam Cwalina, a 3rd-year PhD student in Preventative Medicine and our current HSC Director of Social Programming. Joining them will be Melisa Osborne as the Vice President of Administration, Cassandra Flores-Montano as the Vice President of Advocacy, and Bryce Tappan as the Vice President of Programming. All five are strong leaders at USC and are eager to advance our programs and initiatives next year!

In this newsletter, you will find brief updates from each of the three branches of GSG, an overview of our ongoing programs and advocacy initiatives, details about upcoming social events, and opportunities for students to get involved. If you would like to learn more about GSG or inquire about specific issues, you can find our contact information on the last page of this newsletter. There, you can also sign up to receive our weekly UPC and HSC Newsletters so you can stay up-to-date on everything GSG has to offer.

Have a wonderful semester, and as always, Fight On!

Joycelyn Yip
USC Graduate Student Government  |  President, 2018-2019
Graduate Student Government (GSG) is an organization run entirely by your fellow graduate students and is responsible for the proper management of use of the Graduate Student Programming Fee. The Executive Board of GSG consists of 27 members, and this group of leaders works closely with USC administrators and other campus partners and organizations to sponsor social events, advance University-wide and school-specific interests, and administer programs that target and benefit the entire graduate student population.

To help guide the Executive Board and to assist in communicating with the hundreds of graduate programs that USC has to offer, GSG also has a Senate made up of ~65 student representatives from the various schools and departments across USC. This structure, which will be transitioning into a 50-member senate that is allocated based on current enrollment next year, ensures that your concerns and needs are represented at the highest level. The Senate meets monthly to discuss different graduate student issues and votes on how GSG should best move forward.

GSG’s activities can broadly be divided into 3 pillars: Administration, Advocacy, and Programming.

- The Administration team handles the operation of GSG, as well as the many services GSG provides, such as reduced-cost public transportation U-PASS cards, supplemental travel grants for academic conferences, and funding for graduate student organizations to host their own events.
- The Advocacy team meets with USC administrators to find ways to address the various needs that graduate students have in an ever-changing University environment, ranging from issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access to resources for issues such as mental and physical health.
- The Programming team plans events to provide opportunities for graduate students from various disciplines to get to know one another. We host happy hours, subsidized events, community service trips, and tailgates both on and off our campuses throughout the year.

Amongst the three teams, 6 directors representing the Health Sciences Campus work to bridge the physical divide between the campuses through collaborative efforts with the University Park Campus directors. The HSC directors work on programming and advocacy initiatives that are often specific to HSC students.

If you would like to learn more about the GSG Senate or the Executive Board, please contact the Director of Elections and Recruitment at gsger@usc.edu. Please note that Senators are selected and sent by the individual departments or schools, so if you would like to get in touch with your Senator or apply to become a Senator, please contact the student organization that represents your program for more details.
GSG has a number of different programs and resources available to students, which were described in our Trimester Newsletter - Fall 2018 | Volume II - Issue 1. If you have questions about any of our funding sources that cannot be answered by the appropriate director, please contact Skye, our Vice President of Administration, at gsgvpadm@usc.edu.

Registered Student Organization (RSO) Event Funding - gsg.usc.edu/student-funding/roso-event-funding

The graph to the left shows the FY19 GSG Budget. This report is based upon the most recent numbers available to us including final amounts submitted to USC Accounts Payable, quotes from vendors, and requested spring amounts which have not yet been processed. With our finance reports, we hope to educate our applicants and the graduate student body on the use of our funding.

Travel Grants Program Update - gsg.knack.com/tg

In Fall 2018, GSG supported 234 applicants who attended 190 conferences hosted in cities from San Diego, California to Bali, Indonesia. Students have been reimbursed an average of over $500 per conference, exhausting all $120,000 allocated for the funding cycle. These students carried the USC flag throughout the world, by presenting original research, participating in case competitions, receiving awards, organizing committees, and even leading a musical performance.

Applications are now open for the Spring 2019 funding cycle, which covers travel to conferences between January 1st and June 30th, 2019. More than $15,000 in funding have already been requested, and we are on track to exhaust the $120,000 allocated for the entire funding cycle, so please make sure to apply early!

Eligibility, qualifying expenses, program limits, and deadlines can be found on our GSG Travel Grants Portal. Any questions not answered there can be directed to Andrés, our Director of Grants, at gsgtgea@usc.edu.
U-Pass Transit Program Update - gsg.usc.edu/resources/tap-program

Spring 2019 passes are $105.50 and are valid for use from January 8th to June 2nd, 2019. Fall 2018 passes will remain valid until January 20th, 2019. Passes must be purchased online before February 8th and picked up in person at our offices at UPC and HSC. Students who have previously purchased cards in the past will also need to stop by to have them reloaded.

Eligibility and instructions on how to purchase a U-Pass card can be found at our U-Pass Transit Program website. If you have further questions, please contact Monica, our Director of Campus Affairs, at gsgcamp@usc.edu.

Childcare Subsidy Grants Program - gsg.usc.edu/childcare-subsidy-grants-program

GSG awarded 15 $1,400 grants to student parents in Fall 2018 to assist with the costs of childcare. Applications for Spring 2019 grants are due by February 22nd, 2019.

For deadline updates and additional application requirements, please refer to the Childcare Subsidy Grant Program website. Questions can be directed to Monica, our Director of Campus Affairs, at gsgcamp@usc.edu.

Emergency Fund Program - gsg.usc.edu/emergency-fund-program

The GSG Emergency Fund Program is designed to help students with unforeseen expenses arising from a crisis. The fund offers limited help as a stop-gap measure in an emergency situation. The funds are not a secondary form of college financing. These funds are a last-resort measure provided to quickly address financial setbacks, and to help students stay focused on their coursework while progressing toward graduation. Originally established to assist fellow graduate students negatively impacted by the federal travel ban, the Emergency Fund has also been used for visa and DACA renewal fees, legal fees, and other costs associated with emergency travel and accommodation.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Due to the ever-changing political climate and the needs of graduate students, the GSG Emergency Fund policies are likely to change in order to provide assistance to students most in need. To stay updated, please refer to our Emergency Fund Program website. Questions and concerns can be sent to Monica, our Director of Campus Affairs, at gsgcamp@usc.edu.
Our Advocacy team accomplished many initiatives last semester, including:

- Working with the University Registrar to establish official protocols for updating preferred names and pronouns in MyUSC and other campus systems
- Recommending students, faculty, and staff for a university-sanctioned task force to investigate the history of race and racism at USC and make recommendations for campus change
- Collaborating with Undergraduate Student Government, USC Hospitality, and Campus Activities to launch the Trojan Food Pantry to support students experiencing financial and food insecurity
- Working with USC Civic Engagement to better connect students with our local communities and developing educational tools for those experiencing housing insecurity

Ongoing projects include:

- Promoting the importance of diversity, equity, access, and inclusion in University admissions as well as representation among faculty (both tenure and non-tenure), staff, and administrators
- Identifying resources for graduate students dealing with sexual assault and sexual- or gender-based violence
- Improving access to mental health support and care
- Supporting initiatives surrounding cultural competency and cultural humility in academia and healthcare
- Requesting staff support, food options, parking areas, and graduate student lounges and spaces at HSC
- Creating a more environmentally friendly and sustainable campus

GSG Executive Board members tackle these topics by participating in many University committees, some of which are the Board of Trustees’ Student Affairs and Alumni Affairs Committees, the President's Culture Commission, the Alumni Association Board of Governors’ Student Outreach Committee, the Provost’s Student Well-being Council, the Trojan Council (Academic Senate, Staff Assembly, GSG, USG), the Provost and Academic Senate’s Task Force on Sexual Harassment, the Sustainability Steering Committee, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, the Norman Topping Student Aid Funding Governing Board, and many more.

If you would like to get involved, learn more about our many advocacy initiatives, or have a suggestion for an issue GSG should address, please contact Emmett, our Vice President of Advocacy, at gsgvpadv@usc.edu.
GSG is looking forward to hosting a variety of opportunities for graduate students to socialize, explore the city, and give back to the community. This semester, you can expect to see the following events (events marked with (V) are community service events):

**HSC WEEKLY WEDNESDAY WORKOUTS**

Wednesdays @ 5:00 - 6:00pm
BBC Lawn at HSC

**MLK JR. DAY OF SERVICE (V)**

Monday, January 21st @ 6:45am - 3:00pm
RSVP Here!

**SOUTH CENTRAL HOMELESS COUNT (V)**

Thursday, January 24th @ 7:00pm - 12:00am
RSVP Here!

**WINTEr WONDeRLaND FoRMAL**

Friday, February 1st @ 8:00pm - 12:00am
Le Petit Paris in Downtown LA
RSVP Here!

**GRADUATE STUDENT HAPPY HOUR**

Thursday, February 15th @ 5:00pm
The Edison in Downtown LA

**GSG RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

Wednesday, February 20th @ 9:00am - 4:00pm
TCC 227 - The Rosen Family Screening Theater (UPC)
Thursday, February 21st @ 9:00am to 4:00pm
NTT 7409 – Topping Tower (HSC)

**BOWLING NIGHT**

Thursday, February 21st @ 5:30pm
XLanes in LA

**ANNUAL BOAT CRUISE**

Friday, March 29th @ 7:00pm
Marina Del Rey
Lyon Center (UPC) → Marina Del Rey

For more information about our various events, please follow us on Facebook and sign up for our weekly UPC and HSC newsletters. If you have questions or ideas for future events, please contact Kris, our Vice President of Programming, at gsgvppro@usc.edu.

Be sure to mark your calendars and engage with us!
GSG OUTREACH & SERVICE

In this issue, GSG would like to highlight an incredible campus partner - USC Civic Engagement. Below, we describe a handful of their signature programs, which offer both opportunities to get involved, as well as valuable resources.

**USC Housing Law Clinic -** [communities.usc.edu/usc-housing-clinic](http://communities.usc.edu/usc-housing-clinic)

The USC Housing Law Clinic provides information, referrals, and representation at no charge for local residents who face discrimination, eviction, landlord disputes, and other housing problems. If you have questions about your security deposit or your rights as a tenant, attend one of their free workshops on UPC (TBD). Sessions will be held Wednesday, January 30th; Thursday, February 28th; and Thursday, March 28th, 2019 at 5:00pm.

To RSVP to the workshops above or request specific services, community residents and students can contact Gloria Hernandez, the USC Housing Law Clinic specialist and attorney, at (213) 743-2165 or hlclinic@usc.edu.

**Good Neighbors Campaign -** [sites.usc.edu/goodneighbors](http://sites.usc.edu/goodneighbors)

The USC Good Neighbors 2019 grant application cycle is underway! Proposed programs must incorporate established university-community partnerships and support USC’s initiatives in education, health, public safety, and economic development. Programs that serve the local communities surrounding UPC and HSC are eligible. Applications are due at midnight on Friday, February 8th, 2019.

For more information about these grants, you may attend an introductory meeting on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 from 11:30am-12:30pm at UPC’s ESH 101. Please RSVP at usc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_doieaNHYtpprMK9.

**Bridges to Business Success Program -** [uscbridgesprogram.com](http://uscbridgesprogram.com)

If you are a small business owner, you are invited to apply to the Bridges to Business Success Program, which was founded to build the capacity and business leadership skills of minority, women, and veteran business owners. Classes take place over 10 Saturdays, January 19th to March 30th, 2019.

To volunteer or learn more about all of USC Civic Engagement’s programs, please contact Rocio Flores, the Program Specialist, at (213) 716-1880 or rocioflo@usc.edu. You can also receive regular updates by following them on social media @USCCivicEngage.

To add your name to the GSG Volunteering Newsletter, send an email titled “Volunteer Newsletter” with your name and preferred address to Bryce, our Director of Community Service, at gsgcs@usc.edu. For more specific opportunities at HSC, you can reach Brooke, our HSC Director of Community Service, at gghscsccs@usc.edu.
CONTACT INFORMATION

You can always stay up-to-date on GSG policies, programs, and initiatives by checking our website at gsg.usc.edu, following us on Facebook and Instagram, and signing up for our weekly UPC and HSC Newsletters. For more specific interests, you may also subscribe to our Finance Newsletter or Volunteer Newsletter for important changes and service opportunities. Newsletters are our primary way of actively contacting the graduate student body, so we hope you’ll sign up!

Our UPC office is located in SKS 410 with the Office of Campus Activities, and our HSC office is located at SRH 101A (next to Starbucks). We encourage you to stop by to say hello and meet members of the GSG Executive Board. If you would like to contact a specific director, please find their contact information at gsg.usc.edu/aboutgsg/executive-board.

For further involvement with GSG, you may take part in one of our committees led by our directors. Updated information on this year’s working groups can be found at gsg.usc.edu/get-involved/committees.

Take advantage of what we have to offer and have a wonderful semester!

USCGSG

UNIVERSITY PARK CAMPUS (UPC)

Steven & Kathryn Sample Hall - SKS 410
3607 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, CA 90089
Hours: M-F 9am - 6pm
Phone: (213) 740-5649
Email: gsgcomm@usc.edu

HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS (HSC)

Seaver Residence Hall - SRH 101A
1969 Zonal Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90033
Hours: M-F 12pm - 1pm
Phone: (323) 442-1257
Email: gsghsc@usc.edu

*Phones only staffed during office hours.
Subscribe to our newsletters here!

GSG@USC.EDU
@USCGSG #USCGSG