



THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

The mission of the Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs (SLMA) at The Graduate School is to enhance the quality of life for all graduate students through the sponsorship of academic and social activities. We work closely with students and graduate student organizations to identify and satisfy student needs and serve as an advocate for all students. We are deeply invested in the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority students (URM). SLMA has an open-door policy, offering resources and assistance. We work continuously to achieve The Graduate School's overall mission of maintaining a successful and diverse student body.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

We serve in an advisory capacity to the student-run Graduate Leadership Council (GLC), an organization comprised of seven graduate associations serving students on the Chicago and Evanston campuses to promote a successful educational experience for all students and provide a voice for student views. For a complete listing of graduate student organizations and more information on the GLC, please visit: <http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/graduate-life/student-associations/>.

CONFERENCES

The Black Graduate Student Association hosts an annual conference & banquet, allowing students from Chicago area schools, CIC schools and institutions across the nation to present their research, receive feedback, and network. For more details visit: <http://www.nubgsa.com/>

QUARTERLY TGS "NIGHT/DAY OUT" EVENTS

SMLA sponsors the popular quarterly TGS "Night Out" events, a night of fun with peers in local venues. To meet the needs of students with families, SMLA also hosts a quarterly family-focused "Day Out." Activities include trips to the zoo, local children's museums, the Botanical Gardens and more. "Day Out" events introduce parents to a supportive network of peers and provide opportunities for families to enjoy free, relaxing local events.

COMMUNITY BUILDING GRANTS

The Graduate School offers community building grants, awarding funding to jumpstart programs and clubs around four main themes: sports, culture, arts, and academic/professional development. Recent examples of clubs are curling and quilt-making. The goal of these grants is to create friendship among Northwestern students who would not normally cross paths.



NEW STUDENT DINNER & BI-ANNUAL RECEPTIONS

New enrollees and their buddies are invited to a welcome dinner held on orientation day. The Multicultural Affairs division hosts bi-annual networking receptions for new and current underrepresented students, faculty, and administrators. We also arrange bi-annual coffee breaks, upon request, and annual lunches for underrepresented students and faculty on the Chicago campus.

THE BUDDY SYSTEM AND ALUMNI RESOURCES

Our office pairs newly admitted underrepresented students with currently enrolled peer students, or "buddies", who volunteer to serve as a resource. Buddies orient students to their department, the University, and the surrounding community. SMLA also connects admitted underrepresented students with underrepresented doctoral graduates from Northwestern who are currently in academic settings.

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