Our first teachers are our parents and we are taught from their experiences in the beginning. These form our soil and nutrients. Then there are Kindergartens and pre-schools. This is where we learn to be receptive and use what we have been taught by our parents. These are called the roots. Have you ever thought why our pre-schools are always in places where we are born or have our roots in?

The best part of everyone’s life is their school, we never want to let go and always yearn to return there. This is where most of our characteristics and personalities are wrought. We become hard as a stem, we experience emotions like love, hatred, envy, happiness, sadness, jealousy and beauty which are all like the bark of the tree, easily removed and replaced. Up until now we have been heading in only one direction. All of us have got the same kind of education, same history, math, science and other stuff. Then what?

We branch out...we do our undergraduate. Everyone selects their own stream and each stream represents a branch. And every branch has more branches. Have you ever seen a tree with no leaves on it? How does it look?

That is why we are here. We make our education system more beautiful. We are the leaves, fruits and flowers to all the branches that we represent and this newsletter is the sunshine that will energize you on your way to GRADUATION!

In the words of “Zig Ziglar” - ’It’s not what you’ve got, it’s what you use that makes a difference’;
Hope you will all find the newsletter very useful.

- Sanjeev Gangadharan, Newsletter Chair
Graduate Student Council
About Graduate Students Council

Did you know that approximately 18,000 students are graduate students, which make up about 1/3 of total UF student population? Did you know that one third of all UF graduate students are international students? About 40% of graduate students are over the age of 28 at UF. The University of Florida is ranked first in the nation for the total graduate number of graduate degrees and doctoral/professional degrees awarded among public universities. The graduate student population is growing, thriving, and successful on our campus. To make sure that graduate students have the best experience they can at UF, the Graduate Student Council (GSC) strives to represent all graduate students in voicing their concerns, needs and ideas.

GSC is the united voice of graduate students. It represents graduate students’ needs, concerns, and ideas, and provides a number of services. A graduate student is any student continuing his or her education at UF after receiving a Bachelor’s degree (from any university). This includes, but is not limited to professional students, master students, Ph.D. students and post doctorates. GSC exists to provide all graduate students a well-rounded and enjoyable experience at UF and makes sure the graduate student voice is heard. GSC meets with UF administration along with many other UF service leaders on a regular basis to share graduate students’ needs and concerns. To stay connected with campus, GSC has committees that discuss concerns brought forward by graduate students. In terms of opportunities, GSC provides $250 travel grants for many students presenting research throughout the country and the world. GSC also partners with large graduate organizations to put on social and educational events.

GSC is really excited to launch a bimonthly newsletter to inform and connect graduate students from all across campus. If you are a graduate student, come voice your ideas and be involved on our campus. Come out to our monthly general body meetings, the third Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. Like us on Facebook (facebook.com/UFGraduateStudentCouncil) or check out our website (tiny.cc/ufgsc) for more updates and information. Please take some time to complete our survey which will help us get some feedback to improve our services for you. (https://ufljour.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_50SZ8neh2VZ5sGx)

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<td>Irma Campos</td>
<td>Advocate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mingru Wang</td>
<td>Community Service Co-Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xi Wang</td>
<td>Fundraising Co-Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aoran Liu</td>
<td>Fundraising Co-Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tushar Bhattacharyya</td>
<td>Historian</td>
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<td>Sanjeev Gangadharan</td>
<td>Newsletter Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Strunk</td>
<td>Public Relations Co-Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revathi Kakani</td>
<td>Public Relations Co-Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ian Holton</td>
<td>Research Chair</td>
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<td>Heidi Steinour</td>
<td>Sustainability Chair</td>
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<td>Brittanv Osbourne</td>
<td>Web Editor</td>
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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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With an enrollment of nearly 50,000 students annually, UF is home to 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes.

University of Florida started as a small seminary in 1853. It opened its doors in Gainesville in 1906 with 102 students. Today it is one of the most comprehensive and academically diverse universities in the nation.

Since 1985, UF has been a member of the Association of American Universities, the higher-education organization comprising the top 61 public and private institutions in North America.

UFIC

The University of Florida has enrolled almost 1,600 new international students this fall, a record number for us. Currently UF hosts nearly 6,000 international students, most of whom are enrolled as graduate students pursuing Master’s and Doctoral degrees. The International Center is pleased to have all of you as part of the Global Gator Nation. We are prepared to assist you at any time throughout your time here with us. Please visit us whenever a need arises.

UFIC is also proud to send more than 2,000 of our domestic students, mostly undergraduates but increasingly including graduate students, to study and conduct research abroad each year. These students travel to more than 50 countries around the world. As we engage in the process of greater internationalization of our campus, we strive to support our students’ study abroad interests and meet their needs in every way possible. UFIC also contributes to expansion of UF’s presence across the globe through our presence with on-the-ground entities in China, India, France, and most recently, Chile. We also anticipate becoming an increasingly prominent partner with academic units across the entire campus as we begin the implementation of our major Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to further internationalize our university. The QEP, titled “Learning Without Borders,” is specifically targeted at undergraduate learning outcomes but we expect that the implementation of the plan will spill over to graduate education as well.

Our university is an active promoter of international education, scholarship and understanding. We are proud to say that the Gator Nation is everywhere. We hope you all take advantage of our diverse campus and that you have a productive and rewarding time with us.

UFIC will be celebrating International Education Week (IEW) 2012, from November 12th to 16th. All colleges, departments and UF units are encouraged to join and UFIC plans to make visible all that is being done across the campus to internationalize educational activities on campus. UFIC is prepared to help you publicize those events by including them on the IEW calendar.

Please contact Mabel Cardec (mcardec@ufic.ufl.edu or 273-1515) for further information.
I-Cubed at UF

Innovation through Institutional Integration (I-Cubed) is a five-year project funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to foster integration of all NSF-funded student-based research and training programs in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), including SBE (Social, Behavioral, and Economics) disciplines at the University of Florida. The goal of I-Cubed is to facilitate collaboration and dialogue among graduate student programs through the synergism of their resources, capabilities and experience to fully involve graduate students, faculty and administration. I-Cubed fosters the preparation of students with a true competitive edge through an extended focus on professionally-oriented training programs designed for the real world.

The Graduate Student Advisory Council (known as GSAC) is the driving force in shaping graduate education campus-wide. The Council helps prioritize students’ interests and needs, as well as facilitate communication between graduate students, faculty, and administrators. The GSAC is a student group made up of graduate students from diverse backgrounds, in various colleges and stages of their graduate career at UF. GSAC helps identify missing elements in graduate student training, provides feedback and helps improve the existing professional development opportunities for graduate students, and organizes Graduate Student Research Day and other professional development activities.

Through student surveys, I-Cubed has identified Teaching Training, Ethics, and Mentoring as three areas of graduate student training that have missing elements at UF. I-Cubed has canvassed resources and on-going initiatives at UF, and is working with the GSAC and faculty to provide opportunities to graduate students in these areas. The I-Cubed website (http://i3.institutes.ufl.edu/) acts as a depository of information and professional development activities for graduate students. I-Cubed is also on Facebook (facebook.com/UFicubed) and Twitter (#ufi3).

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH DAY

The event will include monetary, gustatory and of course intellectual benefits. Do not miss it at:

http://i3.institutes.ufl.edu/2012-graduate-student-research-day/
The Center for Leadership and Service (CLS) enhances the education of students through meaningful experiences designed to prepare socially responsible individuals to create positive, sustainable change. The CLS is committed to providing structure and resources for students to promote and advocate for social, environmental, and economic justice. Through the CLS, students can engage in lifelong service and participation by connecting with the greater community in action, change, and learning.

The CLS strives to provide students with the chance to learn about social issues through their community engagement programs through direct service, exposure to the non-profit sector, and service learning opportunities. Advocacy programs include Gator Global Initiative and Projects for Peace and community Engagement opportunities include Florida Alternative Breaks, MLK Day of Service, Gator Plunge, and Volunteer Organization Fairs. The CLS also offers mentoring opportunities at the elementary, middle, and high schools in the area through After School Gators, Motiv-8, Project MASCOT, and Gator Teen Mentors. Additionally, every year, the CLS presents programs and conferences to assist students in developing the necessary skills to assume roles of leadership and service in a culturally diverse society. Students may get involved through the CLS by emailing to join the listserv at cls@leadershipandservice.ufl.edu or by scheduling a one-on-one service consultation.

Graduate Assistants

The Graduate Assistants United is a labor union that represents all Teaching Assistants, Research Assistants, and other Graduate Assistants at the University of Florida. When you are a Graduate Assistant (GA), you are more than just another student, you are also an employee. GA’s perform over half of the academic work (teaching and research) at UF, and serve in many other support roles across campus. Their skills keep the University running smoothly.

Graduate Assistants United was founded in 1972 to improve the lives of all Graduate Assistants during their time at UF. As a recognized labor union, GAU gives Graduate Assistants the right to negotiate the terms of your employment through a contract with the University of Florida. GAU has made possible; tuition waivers, free health insurance, regular pay increases, paid sick leave, due process rights, and a formal grievance procedure to enforce these rights.

GAU is still working on improving your rights and benefits today. Their current campaigns focus on reducing employment fees, improving health insurance, and gaining Family Medical Leave benefits for all GAs.

Following are their recent events:

- International Student Tailgate: October 20th (morning to end of the game) in front of the Hub (non-international students are welcomed!)
- Potluck: Nov 11 from 5 pm to 9pm - Potluck Event at Diamond Village Community Center

This event is sponsored by the labor union of graduate students. It is intended to reach out to grads and their family members! The purpose of the event is for you to have a good time & pitch in your concerns regarding:

- GatorGradCare
- Child Care
- Family and Medical Leave
- International Student Issues
- Fees
- Anything and everything else that relates to your work at UF!

THE MAYORS COUNCIL

The Mayors’ Council is an organization that represents and promotes cultural, educational, and recreational activities at the five campus graduate housing villages. All UF students and their families are invited to attend our programs! Current events include free chess and Zumba classes (see website for current schedule) and a Community Garden for Tanglewood residents. Our events are great for families but also for residents to meet their neighbors and de-stress after a hard day at school.

If you live on graduate and family housing, we also invite you to attend the monthly residents meetings with the “student-Mayors” and Housing staff. As the 2012 Outstanding Graduate Student Organization, We look forward to your participation in village events, your feedback and suggestions as we work together to further add color and style to your on-campus experience.

For more information, visit http://mayorscouncil.housing.ufl.edu/ or contact mayorscouncil@gmail.com.

MULTICULTURAL AND DIVERSITY AFFAIRS

Multicultural & Diversity Affairs is comprised of 5 distinct departments: the Institute of Black Culture (IBC), the Institute of Hispanic Latino Cultures (IHLC, “La Casita”), Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender (LGBT) Affairs, Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Affairs, and Intercultural Engagement.

The IBC promotes and affirms Black culture, history, leadership, and scholarship. The IBC coordinates a variety of cultural, social, and educational programs focused on the Black experience at the UFL, in the USA and across the diaspora. The IBC functions as a resource for individual Black students and the surrounding community by collaborating with campus and community stakeholders to actively support efforts to recruit and retain Black students in higher education.

The IHLC (“La Casita”) advocates on behalf of and alongside with Hispanic-Latina/o students &Gainesville. We create a safe, affirming, inclusive, and empowering place for Hispanics-Latinas/os and provide education, resources, programming, and service opportunities for UF and Gainesville.

LGBT Affairs strives to educate, advocate, and support LGBTQQA people and issues at the University of Florida and the Gainesville community. Through student centered programming, outreach, community building and advocacy, LGBT Affairs is committed to creating a safe and developmentally supportive and affirming campus-community environment for students, staff, faculty, and alumni of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.

APIA Affairs raises awareness of APIA issues throughout the UF community, advocates for the needs of APIA students, and assists in the personal development of all students by providing services and resources in the following four areas: Leadership Development, Educational Programming, Advocacy for Asian American Studies, and Mentoring and Language Exchange Networks.

Intercultural Engagement provides opportunities that create awareness, create safe and respectful spaces to learn more about oneself and others and where meaningful intercultural experiences and dialogues embrace the uniqueness of the many cultural, religious, and identity groups through our broad definition of diversity, which includes, among other dimensions of diversity, socioeconomic status, political beliefs, veteran’s status, sex, gender, racial/ethnic background, multifaceted identities, religious/spiritual affiliation, and other traditionally marginalized and underrepresented communities.

For more information, go to www.multicultural.ufl.edu
**IGSA**

The IGSA as an organization strives to support and guide Indian Grad Students, right from when they arrive in Gainesville, throughout their stay at UF, helping maintain cultural identity, while instilling a spirit of camaraderie and friendship. Non-Indian and non-Grad Students are also welcome, to join us in our activities and get a taste of India.

IGSA organizes various fun events year round: From Potlucks, Volleyball Tournaments and our very own Desi Music Parties aka. Rock-n-Roll (in Spring & Fall) to the Colorful Celebrations of Holi and Diwali Festivals, we have it all!

You can reach us at [http://ufigsa.cloudaccess.net/](http://ufigsa.cloudaccess.net/) or e-mail us: igsa.uf@gmail.com and of course; Facebook - IGSA at UF

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**FACSS**

Friendship association of Chinese Students and Scholars aims at service Chinese students and scholars, at the same time promote Chinese culture. New student settle down assistant is our unique promise for all Chinese students and scholars. This year we helped over 460 new students settle down including pick them up at the airport, provide temporary accommodation, and help them check-in with UFIC, open bank and cell phone carrier account.

Our generally activities annually including: Mid-autumn Dancing Party, Badminton Tournament, Karaoke Contest, Card Games, Annual Dating Games, and Chinese Spring Festival Gala Show. This month we will carry out our three main activities, they are mid-autumn dancing night and the badminton tournament, and Karaoke Contest.

Our Karaoke Contest preliminary round and final will be held at 12th and 19th Oct. We are looking forwards to see you there. For more information of FACSS and our activities, feel free to visit our official site [http://uflchina.org/](http://uflchina.org/) and don’t forget like our Facebook page – FACSS.UF

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Pick-ups, orientations, festivals, dances and what not... Guess no one’s gonna feel homesick
1) What is 1 thing that you feel has benefited your experience (campus resources, involvement, department, etc.)?

Nirav - Being in GSC works well with everything I've done in graduate school from providing money for travel grants to building a cohesive community and experience for graduate students.

Carlos - In my department, there is a mentor program in which they match each first year graduate student with another student that has already been in the program. It was this program through the History Graduate Society that has enabled me to learn a lot about my department and graduate school.

Victor - I'm married with two young kids, and I commute from Orlando every week to my family. That has been the toughest part. My grad school experience has been challenging, a lot of work but intellectually rewarding.

2) What's your favorite part of graduate school?

Nirav - Meeting people and learning about other people's departments and their experience. It's really interesting to see people from outside of my own department and expands on my knowledge.

Carlos - Coming straight from undergraduate school, I had a different mindset which is very different from graduate school. There is a sense of community, collaboration, and everybody is very supportive of each other.

Victor - To get involved and talk with as many people as my time allows. I've gotten involved in my local church up here at UF, which keeps me sane and balanced, and I've talked with as many other PhD students and professors as I could manage.

3) Best advice for graduate students -

Nirav - Sleep more, be organized, and learn how to time manage. Basically, "think 2 semesters in advance".

Victor - Answer the "so what" question: figure out what you want to do with your grad education. One needs to have an idea of the desired end result to stay focused and to persevere during trying times, otherwise it's easy to wander and to get discouraged.

We will think 2 semesters in advance about getting a focus on our end result. Thank you very much for your valuable opinions;

Nirav Patel
Second year, M.S.
Department of Geography

Carlos Hernandez
First year, M.S.
History Department, specialization in Latin American

Victor E. Jarosiewicz
Finance Ph.D. Student
Department of Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

PUZZLED SCIENCE

The Bear
A bear walks south for one kilometer, then it walks west for one kilometer, then it walks north for one kilometer and ends up at the same point from which it started. What color was the bear?

Melanesia and Polynesia
Fiji (in Melanesia) and American Samoa (in Polynesia) are two islands in the South Pacific Ocean. Fiji is about 970 kilometers (600 miles) west of American Samoa. A small airplane can fly this distance in two hours. When will you arrive in Fiji if you leave American Samoa on a small airplane on Tuesday night at 11:30 PM?

The Jewelry Box
At an eBay auction, a woman's ring and a filigree jewelry box with a hand-painted ceramic top are on sale for $200.00 Dollars. The jewelry box is valued at $190.00 Dollars more than the ring. How much is the ring worth?

HALLOWEEN TRIVIA

1) The familiar Jack o' Lanterns are thought to have originated in which country?
   a) Spain  
   b) Ireland  
   c) Egypt  
   d) United States

2) What is the meaning of the word "hallow" in relation to this holiday?
   a) Witch  
   b) Winter  
   c) Candy  
   d) Saint

3) A popular Halloween candy in the US, what was the first penny candy to be individually wrapped for sale?
   a) Bit-O-Honey  
   b) Hershey Kisses  
   c) Tootsie Rolls  
   d) Peppermint sticks

4) There is an old belief that it is good luck to see which of the following on Halloween?
   a) Black Cat  
   b) Bat  
   c) Pumpkin  
   d) Spider

5) If you are afraid of Halloween, it might be said that you suffer from which of the following?
   a) Samhainophobia  
   b) Chemophobia  
   c) Pumpkinophobia  
   d) Aquaphobia

6) There are pumpkins that are blue instead of orange.
   a) True  
   b) False  
   (Answers Next Page)
**SPOIL – PLAY**

**PUZZLED SCIENCE:**

*The Bear:* The bear was white because it was a polar bear. The only place on earth where a bear can go south, west and north equal distances and end up where it started is the North Pole.

*Melanesia and Polynesia:* You will arrive in Fiji at 12:30 AM on Thursday. How? Perhaps if you consider the different time zones they are located in...

*The Jewelry Box:* $10...no way. The box (B) plus the ring (R) cost $200.00 Dollars:

\[
\begin{align*}
B + R &= 200 \\
B &= R + 190
\end{align*}
\]

I think you can solve linear equations...right?

**HALLOWEEN TRIVIA**

1. b  
2. d  
3. c  
4. d  
5. a  
6. a

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**Graduate Student Council Calendar – Upcoming events**

**October 2012**

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<td>GSC General Body Meeting</td>
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**November 2012**

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