

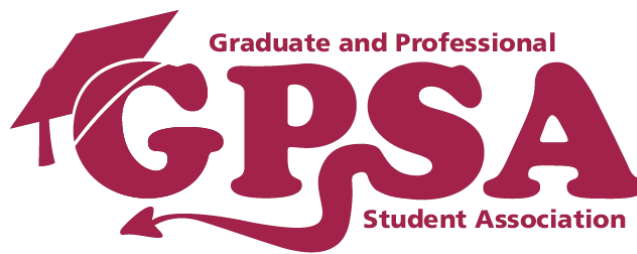
Vice President of External Affairs March 2014 Report

- We are now accepting applications for the GPSA Arijit Guha Graduate Student Advocacy Awards <http://gpsa.asu.edu/advocacy/arijit-guha-graduate-student-advocacy-awards/>. Applications can be submitted until March 31st. The winner of the two \$1000 awards will be announced in early April at the GPSA Awards Ceremony.
- GPSA traveled to Washington, DC in early March for the Legislative Action Days organized by the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS).
- We partnered with ASU Libraries to support their efforts to raise awareness about Open Access during Open Education Week <http://libguides.asu.edu/content.php?pid=564770&sid=4655211>.

Director Reports:

Director of Legislative Affairs

- SB 1062 was [vetoed by Governor Brewer](#) on February 26th. This controversial bill made international headlines as it passed the state legislature and the governor considered signing it into law. GPSA's [resolution](#) in opposition to the bill was mentioned in the State Press [here](#), and GPSA was the first of the ASU student governments to pass legislation regarding SB 1062 (we actually may have been the first AZ student government to do so!). Special thank yous go out to the EA committee for helping prepare GPSA's bill and to you, the assembly, for your consideration of it.
- I will attend the next Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) meeting in Tucson on April 3rd and 4th.
- Arizona Students' Association
 - The 1st annual Student Congress will be taking place on April 25th-27th! This will be right here at ASU and will be the very first major event to take place under ASA's new structure. Please encourage other student leaders to consider running for offices in the new structure of ASA. <http://azstudents.org/events/annual-arizona-students-congress/>
 - Partook in organizing and participating in ASA's Lobby Con '14 and Lobby Day <http://azstudents.org/news/37th-annual-lobby-con-lobby-day-and-ussas-electoral-action-training/>.
 - students decided and lobbied on the following issues: 1. in-state tuition for DREAMers, 2. SB 1358 (medical and legal amnesty for first offenders involving underage drinking), and 3. approval of student IDs as a valid voter ID
 - ABOR and ASA were unable to come to agreeable terms during mediation, so the appeal will now continue to the 9th district court of appeals with a trial likely to happen sometime in the next 18 months.
 - Please do not hesitate to contact me for questions about ASA or voter registration efforts at leg.affairs.gpsaofasu@gmail.com.
- I attended my first meeting of the Arizona We Want Institute (<http://www.thearizonawewant.org/>) on behalf of GPSA and ASA to build institutional connections with advocates in the business and nonprofit sectors. I represented the student voice in the "Retaining Young Talent" focus group and am a part of their mailing server awaiting future events. I'm happy to speak more with anyone who



wants to get involved with the institute or represent GPSA at the next meeting.

- I was interviewed along with the Executive Director of ASA on the 'Arizona at Work' radio show (KXXT 1010 AM) on March 5th about ASA, student loans, HB 2169, SB 1062, and graduate student life in Arizona and the student experience at ASU.

Director of Student Advocacy

This week is Mental Health Week!!

We've partnered with various organizations on campus like ASU Health and Wellness, HCSAC, and ASU Counseling Services to bring awareness to mental health issues campus-wide. Yesterday, we had a famous writer and off-Broadway performer fly to AZ just to do a Suicide Prevention Performance at the Empty Space performance center at the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication! We ordered food and drinks and had a really great time. We had a volunteer counselor present from ASU Counseling Services in case students were triggered by the content. We should be proud of the collaboration we were able to achieve between many different organizations. Things ran so smoothly!

Coming up, we will be co-sponsoring the Out of the Darkness Campus Walk on Sunday at 10 am on Hayden Lawn. It is free so come show your support! Pauline will be welcoming everyone and giving opening remarks on behalf of the student population. GPSA will have a table set up there to represent and support graduate students. Let Pauline (pauline.venieris@asu.edu) know if you would like to volunteer. More information about registration and walk details can be found at <http://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=2533>

Sincerely,

German Cadenas, VP of External Affairs

Adam Monroe, Director of Legislative Affairs

Pauline Venieris, Director of Student Advocacy