



**Graduate Student Association**

**Report to University Council**

**March 24, 2011**

**Report on Ongoing Activities of GSA**

- **2011 Interdisciplinary Conference**

Scheduled for April 2, the 2011 GSA Interdisciplinary Conference is themed *Building Bridges: Impacts of Graduate Research* and will be held on campus in the Miller Learning Center. The conference committee accepted 66 abstracts for presentation. The event will be held all day, next Saturday and is open to the entire UGA campus to attend.

The Conference planning committee has assembled a strong lineup of events for the conference including an opening presentation from Vice Provost Libby Morris on UGA initiatives to advance interdisciplinary studies and a keynote speech from Dr. Lorilee Sandman. In addition to the presentations, GSA will be hosting three different workshops: An applied interdisciplinary workshop, a graduate life workshop, and a publishing workshop.

The committee has also developed a working lunch where professors who work in multiple disciplines will speak with conference presenters about their research. We believe this will present a unique opportunity for the conference presenters to hone their presentation skills and to further advance the goals of the conference.

GSA has received generous support from President Adams, Provost Morehead, and Dean Grasso in putting together what we believe to be one of the best conferences to date. We thank each of these individuals for their support and assistance.

- **Spring Book Swap with Graduate and Professional Scholars (GAPS)**

GSA has continued to work with GAPS to provide social events for graduate students. We held a book swap this month where students could exchange both textbooks and pleasure reading in a social setting. Going forward, we believe that the partnership with GAPS will present an outstanding opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds and multiple disciplines to interact with one another.

- **GSA Elections**

GSA has begun to solicit nominations for elections for next year's officers. We will be hosting a candidate forum on April 7<sup>th</sup> to hear platforms for those seeking the position of President, Vice President, and Secretary. Voting will take place the following week and the new officers should be elected in time for the April meeting of University Council.