**Notes: 9-16-13**

*For those of you who were unable to attend the GSA meeting, please refer to the items listed below. They may help you determine who to contact with particular questions and/or include specific tips/deadlines/events to be aware of and mark on your calendars!*

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**Meeting:**
GSA officer meetings will most likely be held on Mondays (not every Monday) during the time slot of 12:00-1:00 pm. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause some of you.

**VPs of Departments:**
It is your responsibility to forward any information about happenings within your concentration to us in order to receive recognition. This includes students who are participating in conferences, receiving awards, etc. We want to give credit where credit is due! Please send any information to ccigsa@gmail.com.

**“Scholarly Hours”: Making Connections:**
The GSA is working to create an “open door” opportunity to bridge the gap between faculty and grad students. VPs should reach out to their faculty members to see if they would like to extend their office hours to include meetings with grad students; specifically to discuss research projects that they may need graduate assistance with. GSA is hoping to schedule this event the week of October 7-11 or 21-25 (the sooner-the better). The goal is to make this process as seamless as possible by simply asking faculty to extend their regular office hours to students in the graduate program. VPs – Please go ahead and contact your concentration’s faculty members to determine if this is something they would be interested in participating in. In your inquiry, please discuss each member’s research projects (if any) and the times during which they will be in their office for students to come by.

**Happy Hour:**
Social events will see a slight change as the GSA moves to better accommodate a variety of schedules. Events will begin being held on Fridays as well as Thursdays, and locations will include venues that are more family-friendly! We hope to see you there!

**Networking Formal:**
The GSA would like to hold a formal for all of its members. This formal plans to include students from other departments on campus in order to boost networking opportunities for all graduate students. There are no set plans for a date nor details, however, put your feelers out there to determine if this is something you and other graduate students may be interested in!

**Survey:**
In an effort to better serve its members, the GSA is looking to survey its students on their experiences as graduate students. VP, Erica Jenkins, is working with faculty to formulate a questionnaire that will contain items about individual experiences with GSA and the CCI program as a whole. Surveys will not be distributed until next semester (most likely).

**Practicum:**
On October 10 from 3:00-5:00 pm GSA will discuss conference details. This session is open to ALL graduate students and we encourage ALL of you to attend. There will be speakers who have experience attending conferences and presenting. This is a great time for you to ask questions! More details coming soon!

**Website:**
Synthia Clark has been hard at work creating the foundation for the GSA website. The website will include news, about-us, executive board, awards, faculty & alumni interviews, and resource sections. We will keep you all posted about the progress of the website. The site will be a fabulous resource to all graduate students, both prospective and current!

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**Final Notes:**
We are very proud of all of our members as they set and achieve goals within their programs. Keep up the hard work and we will continue to do our best to serve you. The GSA continues to create buzz, and we are very excited to gain recognition from our faculty and staff!

**Officers and general members:** Please be on the lookout for an email containing a link to Google docs. We request you fill in your name, UTK email, and any additional information you would like to provide. Phone numbers are appreciated but not required. This will serve as our GSA Directory. Also, all meeting notes will be moved to a Google doc format as well to allow better access for all members.