
Geography Peoples' Society



Resources

GPS Website: uwogps.wordpress.com

SSSC Website: ssscwestern.ca

UWO Geography Website: geography.uwo.ca

Meetings

- Undergraduate Affairs Committee (**UAC**)
 - Monthly meeting chaired by Professors within the department
 - *Attended by President, VP Academics and Ivey Rep*
 - Discuss issues concerning undergraduate courses (i.e., prerequisites, anti-requisites, descriptions), module requirements, as well as strategic plans regarding course and program enrollments.
- Department Meetings
 - Monthly meetings attended by professors and graduates within the department to discuss initiatives within the program – similar to UAC but geared more towards Research and Graduate Studies
 - *Attended by President and VP Events*
- GeoGrad Society
 - Website: <https://geogradblog.wordpress.com/>
 - Meetings will be *attended by the President* and occur every 1-2 months
- Social Science Students' Council (**SSSC**)
 - Group of elected representatives who meet bi-weekly to discuss university affairs, events, academics and finances within the faculty of social science
 - Two department representatives from each department
 - *Geography: Luke and Chantal*
 - Meetings are OPEN! Anybody can attend and if you attend >3 meetings you gain speaking rights as a **member-at-large!**
- Student Donation Fund Committee (**SDF**)
 - Attended by SSSC Department Representatives (*Geography: Luke Ridgway*), VP Finance of SSSC and SDF Commissioner
 - Discuss allocation of student donation funds to various initiatives within departments based on proposed requests made by Undergraduate Chairs (*Geography: Dan Shrubsole*)
- Academic Conference Committee (through SSSC)
 - Discuss planning and development of SSSC Academic conference
 - *Geography Representative: Chantal Francoeur*

Mission Statement

The GPS creates a strong and supportive undergraduate community within geography.

The GPS represents geography undergraduates' academic, professional and social interests to the department, the faculty and the university at large.

The GPS fosters opportunities for leadership, academic achievement and well-being, professional development and social functions.

Future Goals

- The GPS aims to establish a charity committee within the club in order to promote community engagement
- The GPS aims to establish a more inclusive structure through Open Meetings and Events.

VP Academics

Overview

Regularly attend and organized academic focused events, meetings and orientation days to promote a strong academic community within the department

Objectives

- Continue Responsibilities
 - UAC Meetings – regular attendance, construction of dynamic model of Geography Modules at Western
 - March Break and Fall Preview – volunteer organization
- GeoBuddies
 - Continue to create a positive academic environment for geographers
 - De-stressors to promote mental health

Activities

1. Re-structuring of GeoBuddies program – into an positive academic environment through weekly study rooms
2. GeoBuddies Launch Event – advertisement for bi-election for first year representation, well planned and in coordination with elections, and in collaboration with VP Communications
3. Prep Lunch – hold prep lunches before every large open house at Western to help education the GPS about the geography department, invite SSC department reps

Elizabeth Sutherland

Outgoing

2014-2015

Long-term goals

- Continue to develop an inclusive and positive academic community
- Build resource availability within GeoBuddies study room
- Expand specific course related help sessions

Changes to see

- Include social aspects with study room
- Create UAC reports during GPS meetings
- More exec involvement during study room – create a scheduling or shift system

VP Academics

Chantal Francoeur
Incoming
2015-2016

Overview

To continue to develop the academic community within the geography department and introduce new initiatives to strengthen it.

Objectives

- Develop GeoBuddies/Study Room
 - Twice a week too accommodate first year geography exams
 - More involvement through
- Create new academic events

Activities:

1. Specific course study rooms – preparations would promote the study room past “busy times” and they is lots of club experiences within courses
 - Tailoered to Geography 1100
 - Practice questions and trivia games
2. De-stressors – Four de-stressors a year to correspond with midterms and final projects
 - Documentaries, games nights, dog, blind date with a map
 - Study kits
3. Fall-Preview and March Break
 - Possible incentives for interested high-school students (e.g. GPS pencils or stickers)
 - Lap-top open displaying our website and dynamic course model

This Year’s Goals

- To maintain the success of the Study Room/GeoBuddies and to continue to develop it through events

Future Goals

- Continuation of the study room and increase the number of people using it
- Developing long term academic goals

VP Communication

Overview

To see increased involvement of all execs within communications and to develop stronger communication internally and externally of the GPS.

Objectives

- Continue Responsibilities
 - Social Media updates
 - Angelica relationship
- Staying Organized
 - Staying on top of all social media, maintenance and updates on the GPS website
 - Open up communication to every exec to increase diversity in communication
- Promote Awareness
 - Promotional campaigns within the undergraduate and graduate community

Activities

1. Hype up GeoClass, increase involvement
2. Instagram updates
3. Shadow a program for a day

Caley Savage

Outgoing

2014-2015

Long-term goals

- More involvement
- Extend our reach
- Improve GeoClass
- Long-term consistency in communication

Changes to see

- Involvement of all execs – increased organization to make sure all execs are involved
- Meeting times that work for everyone
- Rep first and the VP involvement

VP Communications

Overview

Increase the quality and quantity of communications from the GPS. This will include both external and internal communications of the society.

Objectives

- Internal Communications
 - Being accessible to all members of the GPS
 - Increasing knowledge of the communications in the club
- External Communications
 - Extending our communications to the Grad Society
 - Increased communication with SSSC
 - Professionalism
 - Event Promotions

Activities

The following activities will help promote communications within and outside of the GPS

1. Workshops – everyone on the club should know how to update the website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram page. I will take it upon myself to run workshops.
2. Media Blitz – the start of each term. GPS members will introduce themselves to ALL their geography class and promote our social media pages and website
3. Regularly Updating – posting minutes, agendas and calendars.

Claire Roy

Incoming

2015-2016

This Year's Goals

- Re-vamping the website (making it more user-friendly and accessible)
- Increasing knowledge about our social media fronts (increase followers on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram)
- Develop a strong working relationship with the Grad Society and SSSC
- Promote our events in every geography class
- Rid anything of anything with GSA on it

Future Goals

- Maintain professionalism
- Continuation of event promotion through social media, posters and in class presentations
- Strong relationships between the GPS and Grad Society, SSSC, professors and Angelica ☺

VP Events

Overview

Coordinate activities and events throughout the year within the geography department and with various clubs and organizations.

Objectives

- Continue Responsibilities
 - Pizza and Prof – potentially rebuild
 - Career Night
- Collaboration
 - VP communications to design and sell geography merchandise
 - VP academics and Graduates to plan a career night
- Promote Awareness
 - Promotional campaigns within the undergraduate and graduate community

Activities

1. Pizza and Prof – timing, perhaps a different take on an older event, revisited tradition
2. Games Night – potentially combine with a study room de-stressor
3. Charity Events – potential name: GeoParady (like Jeopardy...do you get it)
4. Continued representation to Department Meetings

Kristy Kastelic

krkastelic@gmail.com

Outgoing

2014-2015

Long-term goals

- Change the name of Pizza and Prof, but keep the professor involvement (giving the event a new identity)

Changes to see

- Department meetings are applicable to the events portfolio, having this reliability is good for the club
- Clearer designations for rep positions working with VPs
- Food drives in relation to current events (charity initiatives)
- PICTURES, PICTURES, PICTURES
- Geography graduate gifts
- Ceremonial hand-offs

Rob Richards

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Outgoing

2014-2015

VP Finance

Maintain a budget on Excel: While the budget is small enough that you wouldn't need to have it documented, it makes visualizing the numbers a lot easier, and looks much more professional. Also, by creating a comprehensive document, it can allow future VP Finance members to understand the fixed and variable costs associated with each event, to ensure the next year it is run at optimal efficiency.

- My biggest weakness this year was not making this document transparent and available to the rest of the GPS executive team. While I knew we were financially stable myself, I understand that I left most of the team in the dark with respect to where we are financially.
- Second, I was not given a financial model of the past financial history of the club so I was not able to understand how much money was allocated to certain events in the past. This year I have tried to organize that better so you have a guideline of how much to spend next year.

SOGS and DOGS Applications: Funding has always been a main issue for the club, but both SOGS and DOGS provide a great opportunity for the GPS to consistently maintain a steady cash-flow. This year I submitted three applications, and was successful on one bringing in over \$1500 for the club. This just shows the possibilities for how much more money can be raised in the future.

- Consistency is key: Make sure you fill out an application for each opportunity available. I did not do that this year, but the more applications sent in the better the chance the GPS will be able to receive consistent financial support.
- Have your application revised by others: While I am in confident in your writing ability, having a second pair of eyes to make the application more complete is always a benefit.
- Once you have received money from SOGS or DOGS, ensure you update the revenues component of the GPS Income Statement so others can see the money on hand.

Communication: This is one of the most underrated parts of the VP Finance role. Over the past two years I have found that it is my role to ensure that I am communicating to others how much money we have on hand, but more importantly communicating with them about what events will be taking place this year and their expectations for financial need. While I communicated at times, I needed to have consistent conversations with all VP's and the President so I could project early in the year what expenses were expected. By not knowing what events would be taking place, it made it difficult to forecast revenue and expenses, hindering my ability to be transparent about how much money we have available.

- I recommend sitting down with Lizzy at the beginning of the year and discuss what events will be taking place, and then use the rough estimates of last year's costs to project how much spending will be used this year. This will help establish a direction for the exec team, as well as ensure financial stability year to year.

Timeliness: Make sure you reimburse your VP's faster than I did this year. They are putting a lot of effort into running events, and making them worry about money is the last thing that is needed. So I suggest having some sort of a float on hand at all meetings to ensure that people are reimbursed bi-weekly.

Money Storage: This year I used both the bank and my desk to store money. 95% of the budget was always kept in a bank account that I opened, and I kept 5% at home so that I would have money to give the VP's. Moving forward I suggest you use this same system, but keep 80% in the bank and 20% at home, or take 20% out before each meeting. Reason being that often you were reimbursing more than 5% of the budget to the VP's.

VP Finance

Overview

To ensure all financial aspects of the club are considered, organized and delivered in a timely manner.

Objectives

- Prepare forecasted budgets in collaboration with outgoing VP finance
- Maintain and oversee financial records and ensure availability to entire GPS
- Present regular financial report updates to the executives at GPS meetings
- Ensure monthly completion of SOGS/DOGS applications

Alex Cebulski

Incoming

2015-2016

This Year's Goals

- Updated and regular financial applications and updates

Future Goals

- Carrying-over budget outlines and floats to future VPs

Representatives Responsibilities

Common Responsibilities:

- All GPS Reps are expected to assist the VPS with execution of duties and implantation of projects.
- In addition, Reps should assist in the GeoBuddies program as a mentor and resource in weekly study rooms.
- Act as a student ambassador for undergraduate students.

4th Year Representative

Liaise with GeoGrad Society to promote Thesis/Grad program events,

3rd Year Representative

Promote events and programs within the 3rd year community

2nd Year Representative

Promote events and programs within the 2nd year community

1st Year Representative

Promote events and programs within the 1st year community

Urban Development Representative

Promote events and programs within the UDP community, and be knowledgeable about the Urban Development program

GIS Representative

Promote events and programs within the GIS community, and be knowledgeable about the GIS program

Ivey Representative

Liaison between Geography and Ivey programs, promotion of events and programs within the Dual Degree community

GPS

2015-2016

Social Science Student Council Reps

Elected by the SSC and act as a Liaison between the SSSC and GPS

- Present SSC Report at GPS meetings
- Promote GPS events and initiatives at SSC meetings
- Sit on SDFcommittee to discuss and approve funding for departments
 - Meet with Undergraduate Chair to discuss geography's request
- Sit on another committee to act as a student ambassador for undergraduate geography students within the SSC

Charity Committee

1. President
2. VP Events + one additional VP
3. 2 Reps
4. 1 additional rep from bi-elections