

THE GIST

BY THE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

A MESSAGE FROM THE INSTITUTIONAL ADVOCACY AND ADVISORY CHAIR



Welcome back, GradVols! As you embark on another academic semester, it's important to prioritize your studies and well-being. Grad school can be demanding, and it's okay to acknowledge the challenges you may face.

GSS hopes to foster a sense of belonging and facilitate connections among graduate and professional students. Whether through campus resources, peer support, or programming and events, there's a network here for you. Mental health services, including the [Student Counseling Center](#) and the [Counselor Training Clinic](#), are also available on campus,

Be kind to yourself, stay connected, and don't hesitate to seek help if you need it. Wishing you a successful and fulfilling semester ahead!

Taylor Baird, GSS Institutional Advocacy and Advisory Chair

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

[Teaching Resources](#)

For those new to teaching or wishing to brush up on the basics.

[Open Graduate Assistantships](#)

The [Graduate School](#) shares many graduate assistantship openings currently available on campus.

[Graduate Commons at Hodges Library](#)

A place just for grad students! Tap your VolCard to access.

[Office of Ombuds Services](#)

A confidential, safe, and informal space to constructively discuss university-related challenges.

[UT Center for Professional Education & Lifelong Learning](#)

Looking for what to do next? Check out UT's non-credit professional education, personal enrichment courses, and certificate programs.

UPCOMING GSS ACTIVITIES



[Chipotle Grad Night Out](#)

Grad Night Out is a fundraising initiative in partnership with various local restaurants, where a percentage of your purchase is donated to GSS. Join us for the first [Grad Night Out of the semester at the Chipotle](#)

[on Cumberland on Jan. 24 from 5 to 9 PM!](#)

Vol Wall Meetup!

De-stress, meet other grad students, and try rock climbing for FREE! Athletic gear is recommended. Climbing gear, light snacks, and drinks will be provided. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 31, from 5 to 9 PM at the [Vol Wall in the HPER building](#).



International Mother Language Day

In collaboration with the I-House and the World Language and Cultures Department, GSS is excited to announce the 'International Mother Language Day' celebration on February 21.

Stay tuned for more details!

GSS TRAVEL AWARDS: APPLY TODAY!

The [GSS Travel Awards](#) support graduate and professional students presenting research on behalf of UT at in-person or virtual professional conferences. If you are a student presenting as a first author, you are eligible for support with travel costs through this mechanism. Requests for travel between March 1 and April 30 must be submitted by February 14.

[Apply for a GSS Travel Award today!](#)

GRAD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: BRIAN BOYCE




Brian Boyce is a PhD student in Cultural Anthropology who is also enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies. In addition, Brian is the president of the [Caribbean Student Organization](#) (CSA) and the vice president of the [Multicultural Graduate Student Organization](#) (MGSO).

This past October, with some help from the [GSS Travel Awards](#), Brian traveled to Frankfurt, Germany, to present his paper “Congo Square: The Meeting Place” at an international conference. “The Travel Award application process was fairly simple, as I already had the necessary documents,” Brian stated.

Check out the full story on the [GSS Instagram](#) - coming soon!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Winter Farmers Market

 Every Saturday from 10AM - 2PM

 Market Square

Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live Glow Party

 Three shows January 27-28

 Thompson-Boling Arena at Food City Center

Craft Axe Throwing Grad Social

 February 2, 5:30 to 7:30 PM

 Craft Axe Throwing Downtown -

119 W Fifth Ave #150, Knoxville, TN 37917

Please [RSVP by January 31](#) so CSE can have a headcount.

National Women & Girls in Sports Day

Celebration

 February 5, 5:30 to 9 PM

 Women's Basketball Hall of Fame

Dogwood Arts House and Garden Show

 February 9-11, starting at 10 AM

 Knoxville Convention Center

Ice Bears Leap Year Game

 February 29, starting at 7:35 PM

 Knoxville Convention Center

Seating is limited to the first 75 students to RSVP with a UT email. Please [RSVP for a free ticket by February 12](#). More information about guest tickets can be found in the [RSVP link](#).

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY ON ROCKY TOP



It's never too late to honor the legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. From January 29 to February 9, the [Jones Center for Leadership and Service](#) will host the [MLK Days of Service](#), where “volunteers will depart to various service sites in the Greater Knoxville area to serve, reflect on the meaning of Dr. King’s legacy and make meaningful connections with nonprofits in our area.”

Contact Us

The Graduate Student Senate

174A Student Union
1502 Cumberland Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37916

Phone: 865-974-6517

Website: gss.utk.edu

Email: gss@utk.edu

If you or your organization are interested in being featured, please fill out our story form. Let us know your thoughts about this newsletter and how we can improve it!

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