



# The Graduate Times

IU Graduate and Professional Student Organization Newsletter

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## Joe Graduate Student Ponders the Election

by Nick Clark, GPSO Moderator

In considering the appropriate angle for this article, I find myself thinking of my own election, last November, as Moderator of the Graduate and Professional Student Organization (GPSO). Much as is now the case in our country, the GPSO was coming off a period of great uncertainty. The GPSO required a calm voice to re-establish faith in our graduate government and put us on a new path. Most of all, the GPSO needed a real maverick who could change how business was done in the Graduate School. But, you see, one thing really stood in my way: Joe the Graduate Student (or Jane Graduate Student).

I sympathize with Joe (or Jane) the Graduate Student. Joe makes a horrible living in a highly-demanding job. It appears as if it will be decades before Joe has any real job security. The media does not really notice Joe until it is convenient. And, worst of all, nobody seems to realize that Joe is the smartest person in the room. Although it was clear that Joe did not want me to raise his mandatory fees, I was not really sure what Joe wanted from government. I did not get the sense that Joe was a libertarian; clearly Joe has some expectation from government. Yet, I could not get any sense of those expectations; Joe was having too much fun taking jobs at the government.

I ran for Moderator and won, probably due to the historic candidacy of a white male from Nebraska running for high GPSO office. I have since tried to serve Joe by proposing new ideas and acting on his concerns as they have come to the attention of the GPSO. I really feel like that has been the direction of this Presidential campaign. The candidates have not really offered any large ideas or solutions for this country's problems, but many of the candidates, in both the primaries and the general race, have engaged in a dialogue with the American people.

I realize that it is naïve, but I also expect that Barack Obama and John McCain will both continue to listen to the American people after the election. That does not mean they will probably hear the voice of Joe the Graduate Student. Both candidates have served to generate interest, discussion and participation from the graduate student community and we should all be a little grateful for that. However, the best chance Joe Graduate Student has to improve his own conditions is to focus his attention on university-level governance.

All that said, here are my predictions about the Presidential election:

**Obama: MN, IA, WI, MI, PA, NV, CO, NM, VA, NC and FL (329/270)**

**McCain: MO, ND, MO, IN, OH, WV, NH (209/270)**

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## STUDENT SHOWCASE

### IUB Law Students as Poll Watchers

by Amanda Meglemre, GPSO Assistant Moderator and Law Graduate Student

This November 4th, as citizens go to vote in what promises to be a very interesting and potentially historic election, law students will have a special role. While anyone can get involved in the various Get out the Vote campaigns of the political parties, lawyers and law students are eligible to serve as credentialed poll watchers. In Indiana, the Republicans and the Democrats are allowed to have various party appointed individuals at each polling location. There are partisan Poll Challengers, Poll Watchers, Poll Judges, etc. A Poll Watcher is a lawyer or law student who has received training on the Indiana State Statutes relating to voting and especially to voter identification requirements. Many of us law students have already served in this capacity during early voting. We volunteer to spend hours receiving training and training others to help guarantee the right to vote for those who might otherwise be disenfranchised. A poll watcher must carefully avoid the appearance of obstructing or interfering with voting while confronting poll workers if someone is being improperly given a provisional ballot - demand a real ballot if you're offered

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a provisional ballot! Poll watchers are not allowed to speak directly to voters, but we question poll workers if we believe someone is inappropriately being asked for proof of residency or if a valid ID is being rejected. I am proud of the work that I am doing, but it's not the only or the most important job happening on Election Day. Since we cannot talk to voters in the polling site, it is important to have other volunteers waiting outside to help people who have had trouble voting. If you are not eligible to be a poll watcher, there is still room for you to help in this way or to help drive people to the polls on Election Day. And don't forget the most important job that everyone has that day: Vote!

## **Sabrina Lloyd and her must-see play MARISOL**



*Last week I ran into Sabrina Lloyd and learned that she is directing a brand new play, Marisol. I was fascinated by the idea of a second year student directing her own play so I asked Sabrina to tell our readers how can one succeed in the theatre department and to share a few exclusive director's comments on Marisol. Here is her story:*

### ***About being a graduate student in the theatre department***

So, I'm Sabrina Lloyd, 2nd year MFA directing student. Generally, the only students that direct in the season are the MFA directing students. All other students have opportunities to direct independent projects that have some school sponsorship in the alternative spaces throughout the year. Students need to have a faculty sponsor them and submit a proposal prior to scheduling deadlines each semester, so the opportunities are competitive. The same goes for acting students: the main role for Marisol is a 3rd year MFA Acting student's thesis role. However, all other roles were open to any Indiana student that auditioned. Beyond the main-stage productions, there are many other performance and technical opportunities within the school through the department and the Union Board and the greater community of Bloomington.

### ***About the play***

Marisol is a dark fairy tale of one woman who transcends human limitations through embracing her interdependent responsibility. It takes place in a world similar to our own but much worse off. Credit Card

companies serve as fascist governments, the moon has left the solar system, our God has become senile and the angels are in revolt. It is the end times. The story begins when Marisol's Guardian Angel reveals herself and warns Marisol that she has to leave her to join the war, and that Marisol will be on her own. Like the Wizard of Oz, the world as she knows it transforms, and learns from many people she meets on her journey from the Bronx to Brooklyn in search of a lost friend.

This piece is unfortunately more relevant than a year ago when I proposed it. It's a dystopian vision of a future that may not be so far off. Keeping with its humanist themes (although I believe the piece embraces many ideas of spirituality) all sound effects and music will be performed and created live by actors in the space. It is a very environmental piece, but the audience will not be physically asked to participate.

### ***About the director's vision***

As the director, it is my job to focus the piece, balance the pacing, encourage brave acting, orchestrate and structure the sound and movement of the piece, and be the leader of the artistic vision of the piece. I have to be the outside eye that can see the work as a whole and make sure each individual contribution leads up to one cohesive piece. I structure the rehearsal process, determine the casting, and approve the design concepts. It's very much like being a captain on a ship, each person fulfills a role, brings their own talents and voice to the piece, and it's my job to make sure it's all working towards getting us where we need to go. It's of course terrifying and a lot of responsibility, but I wouldn't want to do it if I KNEW I would succeed. A piece this large and yet this intimate is very intimidating, there are lots of personalities, temperaments and ways of working that I have to balance.

Making it look beautiful from so many angles in the Wells-Metz will be a challenge, we're performing the play in a tennis-court style with audience on the left and the right of the space. It will also be my first experience with so much technology, my background is in much smaller Chicago Off-Loop theatres. I'm more excited than nervous though, I just have to stay calm and work one day at a time. If I set up my rehearsal process well, I should be able to just follow it until opening night and then let the play fly on it's own!

***You are all invited to see Marisol at the Lee Norvelle Theatre and Drama Center on December 5, 6, 9-13, 2008 at 7:30 pm and on December 13 at 2:00 pm. Web info: <http://www.indiana.edu/~thtr/productions/2008/lntdc/4marisol/index.html>***

## The Graduate Junction: A Global Community for Researchers

by Heather Hund, *The Graduate Junction*

### Who else shares my research interests?

A question no doubt asked by many a grad student at some time or another in his or her studies was the one that inspired two students in England, Dan Colegate and Esther Dingley, to take a bold step to change this. After attending a conference in Sweden in 2007 where Dan met dozens of other PhD researchers working in his area, he went home to try and find a website to connect with others but couldn't find one. Thus the idea for The Graduate Junction ([www.graduatejunction.com](http://www.graduatejunction.com)) was born.

Two hundred miles away in Oxford, I had just delved into my studies in Art History as I commenced my Master's. While I was truly enjoying the experience, I was shocked at the difficulty I encountered in connecting with others and in finding opportunities to share my research outside of my community, a sentiment likely compounded by my previous experience in the business world where I quickly amassed a large professional network and was constantly exposed to new opportunities.

Thus, I was thrilled to discover and become involved with The Graduate Junction which allows graduate researchers of all disciplines across the world to find and communicate with others who share common research interests – literally all the way from Africa and Asia to Indiana. Not only is the community large and diverse, but the research keyword function allows you to easily connect with others and find opportunities that you might not otherwise encounter outside of your specific environment or community.

In addition to enabling students to establish their research networks, The Graduate Junction also aims to serve as a central information source of information for early career researchers by presenting conferences, journals, job opportunities and advice on multiple pertinent topics – all in one place. Want to find out who shares your research interests, learn about relevant conferences, or get something as simple as advice from your peers on how to best give a talk about your research? Look no further.

While The Graduate Junction offers numerous opportunities, perhaps the best thing about the site is that it's a community. It is shaped by member researchers and, after its initial trial launch in May 2008, is already home to over 11,000 Master's, PhD, and Postdoctoral researchers from over 70 countries.

As the community continues to expand, we continue to add new features and listings to further facilitate academic networking and collaboration between early-career researchers. And unlike other sites, The Graduate Junction is run solely by other graduate students, which means that our only goal is to meet your needs. Thus, we would love to get your input and suggestions, so please feel free to email me or any other member of the team. And we sincerely hope that you enjoy being a part of this global community of researchers.

*Heather Hund, The Graduate Junction  
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M.A. Art History, University of Oxford*

## COMMUNITY

### Bowl for Kids Sake

Bowl For Kids Sake is Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana biggest fundraiser of the year, raising over \$200,000 in 2008 to support children in the community. Now it is time to reach even higher as the 2009 campaign kicks off.

Julia Gruber, a 4th year doctoral student, has been a part of the Bowl since 2002 as a member of the Counseling Psychology department team. She "love[s] that BFKS is a chance to see the whole community come together to show that children are valued in Bloomington. You can just feel the energy at the bowling sessions. Not to mention, the bowling party is a lot of fun!"

Not only is Bowling For Kid's Sake fun, it has tangible results. The Big Brother Big Sister program matches children with caring adults in the community. Children who are matched demonstrate improved performance in school, lower rates of substance abuse, better relationships with family, increases in self esteem and improved educational and career goals.

Not only does it benefit the Littles, but it leaves a profound

impact on the Bigs as well. Julia Gruber demonstrates this impact by her enthusiasm. She has been a Big Sister for three and a half years and continues to invest in that relationship as well as being active in collecting donations to help other children get matched with compassionate adults.

Gruber says "I am grateful that community members donate enough money to give me the opportunity to be a part of an amazing young woman's life. Almost every Big that you talk to will tell you how much they get back. I know it is beneficial to my Little, but I also get the privilege of having her in my life."

BBBS representatives say that Indiana University students have a deep impact on the agency, and through that, the children. IU graduate students have given of their time, creativity, talents and generosity as Bigs, interns, volunteers, fundraisers and board members. They bring an extra level of commitment and enthusiasm that directly impacts the children.

So what better way to influence the life of a child than to take part in the 2009 IU Bowl For Kids Sake. The event takes place on February 25 and 26, but the fundraising starts now. **Contact Leitia Webb at [leiwebb@indiana.edu](mailto:leiwebb@indiana.edu) if you want to be involved in making this year's BFKS the biggest success yet!**

**GPSO Elections**  
**Read and Run**  
**for Office!**



**Learn what the executive committee officers have to say about their positions and what motivates them in their job.**

***The GPSO Liaison , by Leslie Blaha***

I love talking to new people! Acting as GPSO Liaison has provided a unique opportunity to meet members of graduate student organizations across IU Bloomington, including Black Graduate Student Association, Latino Graduate Student Association and Crossroads. Each group has a unique perspective and ideas about graduate life in Bloomington, and they all sponsor amazing events, like Mexican film screenings and coffeehouse gatherings. I also have the opportunity to be part of the Graduate Emissaries, as they develop resources for peer recruitment of under-represented individuals into graduate programs. This has been an extraordinary way to learn about campus and to contribute to our graduate community.

***Assistant moderator, by Amanda Meglemre***

When I was asked to write this article about what I do as Assistant Moderator, I had no idea how to start. It's fun to joke that I'm the person that hands the question cards to the Moderator as he moderates a debate. The Moderator title makes sense when you think of the grassroots GPSO culture, but Assistant Moderator has to be explained to people. If you want to know the explicit duties, they're pretty well enumerated in the GPSO Constitution and Bylaws. The most easily identifiable responsibility that I have is to get updates from the people we have on committees. I periodically email people appointed to BFC and other campus committees, and I check in with the GPSO Standing Committees to ask them how they're doing.

That said, I spend relatively little time doing that. I spend a lot of time acting as support staff. If the Moderator wants feedback on something, I make sure to give it. If the Events Coordinator needs someone to help set up for a party, I go early to help. If applications need to be read, I read them and give my opinion. I try to go to every event we hold as I am able. The amount of time that I spend working as Assistant Moderator can vary wildly for this reason. During Fall Orientation, I was afraid to keep count of how many hours I was doing work for GPSO. This past week I was on vacation in Kansas and spent maybe 2 hours working on GPSO business. For me, as a law student, the flexibility is invaluable. After I ran for Assistant Moderator, I found out that the Moderator position was funded. I spent about a month regretting not running for that instead. But, I enjoy

my position and could not have done half the job Nick is doing as Moderator. I work hard to be a resource for all of the executive committee and to be supportive of the Moderator. Every position is what you make it; I hope that I have made mine well.

***Moderator, by Nick Clark***

The Moderator should seek to help the Assembly establish a sense of purpose and direction for the GPSO. To serve this function, it is important for the Moderator to establish clear agendas for the Executive Committee and the Assembly and guide these bodies to define and prioritize objectives for the GPSO. Perhaps more importantly, it is vital for the Moderator to promote these objectives; for instance, through authoring resolutions, suggesting policy changes to the IU administration and promoting GPSO initiatives to the wider campus community. The Moderator should serve on and make appointments to different IUB and GPSO committees. The Moderator should work with the Events Coordinator to develop events that promote a tighter social and professional community for graduate students, with the Treasurer to maintain GPSO budget priorities, with the Communications Coordinator to conduct GPSO business and respond to personal requests and with the Assistant Moderator to maintain the GPSO's operations.

***Parliamentarian, by Lee Anne Bache***

When I became Parliamentarian of GPSO two years ago I was certainly not looking for the position, I was nominated; presumably thanks to my scowl of frustration at the length of the 2+ hour long meeting. However, my desire to make our assembly meetings more efficient and more pleasant for the representatives kept me in the position for two years. As Parliamentarian I have had the pleasure of working with some of the most enthusiastic, effective student leaders I have ever met while deepening my own understanding of the university system and graduate students' rights and responsibilities within that system.

*continued from page 1, Joe Graduate Student*

I expect the Democrats will finish with 60 seats in the Senate, winning seats in VA, NH, NM, CO, OR, AL, NC, MN and GA. There is also a slim chance they could pick up seats in KY, MS and TX.

I expect the Democrats will pick up around 30 seats in the House and finish with over 250 seats.

Of course, none of the polls may be right on the Presidential race. If you believe in the "Bradley Effect" then the polls may be under-estimating racial bias. If you believe in the "Cell Phone Effect" then polls may be under-estimating the extent of Obama's youth support. You can find interesting articles on both possibilities at [www.pollster.com](http://www.pollster.com)

If you're interested in all this, please join us for the GPSO Election Watch, Tuesday, November 4 at Coaches Bar and Grille, beginning at 7. We will have drink specials, free food and several cool white boards.

## **Pari Prerana Award**

The Indiana University Graduate and Professional Student Organization and the University Graduate School are proud to announce the Indiana University Bloomington Pari Prerana Award, 2009. The deadline for applications is February 28, 2009.

The Pari Prerana (Essence of Inspiration) Award at Indiana University was established through the support of sponsors from the Indian subcontinent. The award strives to recognize and honor students who have overcome a severe physical, cognitive or other health related challenge/s and have demonstrated academic excellence.

Last Spring Jenelle Dorner, was recognized by Indiana University Graduate School leadership and GPSO members at the University Graduate School Awards Ceremony. The award strives to recognize and honor students who have overcome severe physical, cognitive or other health related challenge/s and have demonstrated academic excellence. The objective of Pari Prerana is to provide university and community wide recognition to such students and their narratives (life stories and experiences) through various local media outlets. The award's goal is to contribute to building the self esteem, courage and competitive spirit among graduate students with challenges and to further Indiana University's mission.

Jenelle's life can serve as an example for us all. She began her studies at IU in 2003 after completing her B.S.

in Animal Science and her M.S. degree in Kinesiology at the University of Illinois. She is currently a dual degree Ph.D. candidate in Neuroscience and Psychology. Her decision to study Neuroscience stems from her personal experiences with severe generalized dystonia which causes muscle spasms, affecting her ability to walk and move. In addition to her dystonia, Jenelle suffers of gastroparesis (stomach paralysis) and fibromyalgia (Chronic pain condition which proved even more difficult to cope with. As a testament to her strong personality and achievements she received nominations from four Indiana University Bloomington professors and graduate student colleagues. One of her recommenders writes:

"Quite simply, Jenelle is one of the most intelligent, highly gifted and motivated graduate students I have experienced in my 15 years in science. She has been highly successful in conducting novel and important studies in her research area of interest; [...] This is simply an amazing level of scholarship for any graduate student, let alone one who has had to deal with such physical hardships and setbacks in her life. [...] Each time I hear of another one of her health setbacks, I assume that her progress with her research will be delayed and each time, she has proved me wrong."

For any questions about the award please e-mail [gpsos@indiana.edu](mailto:gpsos@indiana.edu).

## **The Recipients of the Fall 2008 GPSO Graduate Student Conference Award are:**

The Student Association in the Jacobs School of Music - \$250

The Association of SPEA PhD Students (ASPS) - \$150

The Graduate Student Association in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology - \$250

The African American and African Diaspora Studies Graduate Society - \$100

## **Call for Articles**

**Students are invited to submit articles for the Student Showcase section of the Newsletter. To submit an article, please e-mail Csilla Kajtar, GPSO Communication Coordinator, at [gpsos@indiana.edu](mailto:gpsos@indiana.edu).**