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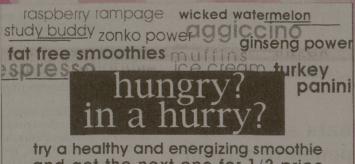
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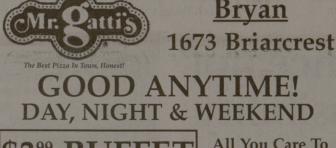
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Student council provides voice for graduate students

By Brandye Brown Staff writer

The primary concern of the Graduate Student Council (GSC) is to act as an advocate for graduate and professional student issues, GSC members said.

Clifton Griffin, GSC president and a doctorate student in the Department of Wildlife and Fishery Sciences, said the GSC focuses on graduate student needs as well as concerns of the University.

"Many issues affect graduate students as students," he said, "but graduate students are much more than students because we function as teaching assistants, and play a leading role in research.'

Blake Murden, GSC wildlife and fishery sciences representative and a doctorate candidate in the wildlife and fishery sciences department, said the GSC always has been at the University in some form.

"But in 1993, the GSC became an active player in the University, because it began to have participation by and representation from a majority of the departments around campus. Griffin said the GSC has

become more active in the past three years as cooperation has increased between the GSC and graduate students, the GSC and the Student Government Association (SGA) and the GSC and the administration.

"Currently, we have over 50 departments represented and meeting attendance runs around 60," Griffin said. "The GSC has representatives from every college, but we are still working to have all the departments represented."

Pam Hunter-Homes, GSC finance officer and master's student in the Department of Sociology, said representatives of the GSC are responsible for distributing information from the GSC meetings to constituents.

"Graduate students are spread out across the campus and departments are separated, so the bimonthly meetings on the first and third Tuesday of every month of the Graduate Student Council allow us to get information out to all graduate students and give a chance for graduate students to bring their concerns before the graduate student body as a whole," Hunter-Holmes said.

Griffin said the keystone event of the GSC is the annual Research Competition which is a speaking students to present their research to the University community.

Murden said the Research Competition is a week long event open to all students, including undergraduates.

"This is a vehicle for graduate students to present their research

November 15th

to fellow graduate students as professors," he said. "It includ cash prizes and recognition. V will invite big name guest spea ers to speak about their resear during the week." Murden sa the GSC is involved with unde graduates and the administration to deal with the issue of parki on campus.

"We have suggested through resolution that the University ha a private consulting firm or secon party to analyze the parking situ tion from Bus [Operations] parking space, because it is ob ously a problem that concerns t whole campus communit Murden said.

Chris Christensen, GSC interr affairs officer and a master's st dent in education administration said the GSC is building bon with Student Government at other student leaders to let t administration know the seriou ness of issues they present.

"The real strength of the GSC_ when we speak with the under graduates, so it is important the student government bodies half

"This is a very focused undergraduate institution R but the GSC is the communication link with undergraduates and 12 administrators."

CHRIS CHRISTENSEN GSC INTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

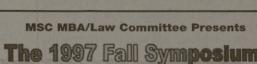
cohesion," he said. "When stidents talk as a whole the admini tration listens.'

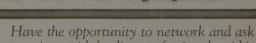
Christensen said each year th GSC builds on the foundation la in previous years.

"I believe we have come a lor way because even 5 years ago, GS was in an infantile state and no we have a cohesive group that able to communicate with almo all graduate students and so the are aware of the issues that affe them," he said. "However, the G still has a long way to gain the

respect that SGA has." Christensen said the Aggie Rir Resolution presented to the Association of Former Studen with the support of the Stude Senate is evidence of the success the cooperation between the GS

"We are making steps to con to the point where we can t graduate population, yet diffe ent," he said. "Graduate studer are unique in teaching a researching. This is a ver focused undergraduate institt tion, but the GSC is the commi nication link with undergrade ates and administrators."





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