



The Gazette

News, Commentary, and other Marginally Important Stuff
for students lucky enough to be in the GSP
(Seriously... read it... it's exquisite)

Issue 1.2



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow GSPers,

Slowly coming to my senses, and even more slowly realizing that it is already April, I, like many of you, am wondering how this year is speeding by so quickly. Fortunately, the breakneck pace of life on the Hilltop gives us little time to dwell on such matters. Of far greater importance is the day-to-day grind of classes, activities, service, and, for us, the advancement of the cause embodied by GSP. As each successive semester rolls by, we must all ask ourselves what this program means to us, what its ultimate purpose is, and how we can give back to it.

First off, the GSP is probably, for most of us, the reason we are attending this fine university. I know that my own GSP aid caused Georgetown's offer to be competitive with that of another extremely desirable and generous school. This of course, is the aim and purpose of the program: to secure for Georgetown the attendance of highly qualified students who may be tempted to enroll elsewhere because of the fact that other institutions can offer more compelling financial aid packages than we can. The economically varied, perseverant, talented, and pragmatic students thus cultivated represent a cadre that would cause our founder, John Carroll, to swell with pride.

Our task then, as GSP recipients, is to devote our efforts to expanding the scope of this program and empowering its members to do good work. As we are consistently reminded, although GSP students come from a wide array of backgrounds, all share a common affinity for service and a desire to strive for excellence. We have all worked hard to get where we are today and, fortunately, more work is demanded of us. Extending the opportunity of GSP to those in our footsteps with vast potential and sound work ethic must be our common end. Whether you are mentoring, writing for the Gazette, helping lead the program, faithfully attending GSP events, contacting your donors, or simply offering advice, you are doing your part. It's up to all of us to shoulder the burdens of service and leadership to meet community expectations. Recruiting talented and deserving individuals for Georgetown to mold into admirable scholars, citizens, and leaders is a noble cause in which we all have a pivotal role to play.

-Drew Peterson, SFS '10
Sponsored by GSP '77
Editor

NOTES FROM STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Hey all!

Consistent with our goal of emphasizing the mentor-mentee relationship, the Student Leadership Committee successfully planned and executed their first event last semester! Over 40 GSP students shared in a night of as-good-as-it-gets home cooking by sophomore mentors, lively conversations, and embarrassing freshmen stories (because embarrassment equals quality bonding!). Thank you to all who showed up. Also, at our suggestion, the Admissions Office hosted a career luncheon last month. Present were GSP Donors representing business, health, government, law, and the non-profit sector to share their professional stories with us. Georgetown alumna and GSP donor Cristina McGinniss, Executive Vice President of Broadway Video/NBC (producer of *Saturday Night Live*, *Late Night with Conan O' Brien*, and the film *Mean Girls*), was our featured speaker. With two successful events behind us, the Student Leadership Committee looks forwards to two equally exciting upcoming GSP events. We are interested in sponsoring a resume writing and interview skills workshop facilitated by GSP donors, as well as a year-end barbeque outside of Copley Hall. GSP scholars, donors and allies interested in chairing, planning, or volunteering, for either or both events, do not hesitate to contact me at snh4@georgetown.edu. Let's ride on the momentum!

-Amy Hang, COL '09
Sponsored by GSP '80
Student Leadership Committee Chair



DONOR THOUGHTS

Dena Walter Reger (SFS '80) reflects on some unique aspects of the Georgetown community and explains how she feels the GSP fits into that picture.

I must first congratulate every one of you on your selection for the Georgetown Scholarship Program. The main goal of this initiative is to yield the best and the brightest, so you must possess many extraordinary qualities for our admissions officers to have identified you for GSP. After having the opportunity to meet many of you, I know this to be true – your accomplishments are undoubtedly impressive and your desire to succeed at Georgetown and beyond is inspiring. If the GSP made Georgetown a more attractive choice for you, then we donors have succeeded in our mission!

I believe that the Program is a meaningful endeavor, and a representation of ideals integral to the spirit of Georgetown. One of Georgetown's key qualities is its emphasis on family, something I experienced first-hand. In high school I had heard about Georgetown from an alumnus whose father and brother had also graduated from the Hilltop. I loved Georgetown the second that I stepped on campus. The School of Foreign Service provided me with so many incredible learning and living experiences – from studying abroad in Ecuador to an internship on Capitol Hill. After seeing how much I was enjoying my life, both of my younger sisters decided that Georgetown was the place for them as well. Many years later, I am blessed to have a child of my own now here at Georgetown. There is no greater joy than to sit at a Hoya basketball game with my son and watch John Thompson III and Patrick Ewing, Jr. soar to great heights with their respective fathers looking on. Georgetown has allowed me and many others to share the best that Georgetown has to offer. You are all a part of the Georgetown family now, and you will be encouraging others to join in it as well!

Additionally, I feel that the GSP is a manifestation of the Jesuit ideal of “women and men for others.” All we donors want to be a part of GSP because Georgetown gave us so many incredible opportunities. We want to share and expand our commitment to social justice, a value that Georgetown bestowed upon us while we were students. Serving others is a concept that develops quickly at Georgetown: the first decision of the GSP Class of '09 was to mentor the Class of '10! I loved seeing that happen, and you are all so lucky to have such a solid support network.

Congratulations again, and thank you for making the Georgetown Scholarship Program such a resounding success!

-Dena Walter Reger
SFS Class of 1980
GSP Donor

A Year with the GSP

Reflections on the GSP's Second Year and its Potential

Jeff Schlapinski (SFS'10/GSP'71) mulls over the potential of our program in light of what it has given him this year.

When I received my letter of acceptance to Georgetown last spring, I was, needless to say, elated. Georgetown was my first choice, and I still remember the joy I felt at that moment, simply pondering the possibilities my life at Georgetown would entail.

Yet there was something else in that fat envelope besides the news of my acceptance: a letter informing me that should I choose to come to Georgetown, I would be the recipient of a GSP scholarship. Initially, I had very little idea of what this meant, besides the fact that it would make it easier to convince my parents to pay for a private university education. However, during my first year here at Georgetown, I've been able to take part in the best that the GSP presently has to offer, as well as see the program's true potential.

The GSP Welcome Reception in September gave me my first opportunity to interact with fellow GSP Scholars and the admissions officers coordinating the program. I was very impressed with everyone I met that day. There was energy and optimism in the room that spoke to the high hopes that those involved had for the program.

Later into the semester, the Fall Luncheon gave me the sense that what I was taking part in was a rare opportunity available to a very small number of students on this campus. Chatting with the donors and taking in the fabulous spread put out by the admissions office in Copley on that fall day, I felt thankful that GSP donors would take time out of their presumably busy lives, not to mention commit their financial resources, in order to attend GSP events and spend time with GSP Scholars.

Yet as the semester progressed and the time between events lengthened, I felt the absence of something more substantial. I felt grateful to have received a GSP scholarship, but given the optimism expressed at previous events, I couldn't help but wonder what else the program was going to offer during my years here at Georgetown.

The GSP Career Luncheon showed me what is indeed possible for the GSP. The luncheon was a great opportunity to meet with donors and gain some perspective on what to expect in professional life. While I was certainly impressed with the professional accomplishments of the alumni present, I truly admired their willingness to share their vast experience and knowledge with us, already the recipients of their financial generosity.

I believe events like the career luncheon speak to one of the goals of the GSP: to create a program in which students receive not only scholarships, but also the support and advice of alumni who have excelled professionally.

(story continues in next column)

(Schlapinski, continued)

Ideally, this will mean that today's GSP Scholars will some day be in a position to make a difference in whatever walk of life they choose, not to mention to give back to the program that contributed in part to them having that opportunity.

Bridging the personal divide between donor and scholar is vital. While I consider being a GSP scholarship recipient an honor, interacting with the donors funding GSP scholarships is even more rewarding. Of course, we all lead busy lives, and it's neither easy nor feasible for donors to travel to campus frequently. Yet as more and more students enter the program, we must make sure that the GSP does not lose its potential for true donor-scholar interaction before we fully explore the real possibilities.

Developing this donor-scholar dialogue would not only put a personal touch on the program, but it would help to create a shared vision for the program's future. I personally feel that donor-scholar dialogue concerning where *specifically* the program should go is critical. Likewise, from the correspondence I've had with members of the Student Leadership Committee, I've learned that the GSP coordinators in the admissions office are actively seeking student input.

The GSP is a noble venture, and I, for one, can say I'm grateful for the generosity of so many dedicated alumni. With time and the continual exchange of ideas between all members of the GSP community concerning the program's future, we can build on something truly special. **G**

-Jeff Schlapinski
SFS '10

Sponsored by GSP '71



Scholars and Alumni Unite at Reception

Kristina Arthurs (COL'09/GSP'64) discusses a recent opportunity she had to share time with some of our generous donors.

As a scholar and mentor in the Georgetown Scholarship Program, I am always happy to be involved with GSP and I am especially excited to attend receptions, in order to reunite with my donors and other familiar faces. Most recently, I had the honor of attending the GSP Reception at the home of the McCarthys, two avid GSP supporters who live in New York. Once again, it was a time to reunite with alumni, update them on life here at Georgetown, and enjoy the friendly atmosphere. The McCarthys were very hospitable and their home, which made the occasion especially warm, was well-suited for this event.

Scholars and alumni connect in that they share similar experiences of being a Hoya. These receptions always bring back donors' memories of undergraduate life here, ranging from the dorms they lived in, to the classes they took, to how the basketball team did, to the clubs in which they were involved. There are so many parallels between the Georgetown of today and the one that our alums remember. At the same time, many of the alumni say that we are extremely brilliant because if they had been subjected to the same selectivity that we are today, they would have never gotten into Georgetown! The competition just gets greater and better.

I think this reception was a great way of raising awareness of how alumni can be beneficial in financially aiding students so that they can be able to attend our fine university. In many cases I have heard that the GSP scholarship was the determining factor in students' choice of Georgetown over other prestigious universities. I appreciate the GSP Scholarship because it releases some of my financial burden. One of the reasons I chose to attend Georgetown over Cornell and John Hopkins is because I simply received the best financial aid package here at Georgetown and GSP assistance definitely helped in that respect.

Finally, these receptions are a good way of networking with alumni. Many of the donors are in different fields of work and are more than happy to explain their career experiences. For example, one alumna, Dr. Moser, definitely encouraged me to think positively about being a pre-med student and helped me to develop a different outlook on organic chemistry. She also told me to call her any time I have questions or need encouragement. Also, I am very privileged to have an internship opportunity working for Mr. Joseph Cassin, a GSP donor, in New York this summer at Cassin, Cassin & Joseph, LLP. I am very excited to be able to explore working in the field of law.

(Arthurs, continued)

I know that GSP will continue to provide financial support for many brilliant and diverse students in the future. These receptions are a good way of expressing the need for alumni to be involved with the Georgetown community. It builds a strong community of alumni and scholars. I only hope that one day I will be in a position to provide some financial assistance and friendly support to a fellow Hoya. **G**

-Kristina Arthurs

COL '09

Sponsored by GSP '64



UPCOMING EVENTS

One of the primary functions of The Gazette is the announcement and discussion of exciting events planned for GSP by the Leadership Committee. At the moment, the projects listed below are in the works and your feedback on these ideas would be greatly appreciated.

This Semester (in the works):

- GSP "Class" costume party: Halloween Round 2
- End of the year barbecue

To reiterate, feedback on these ideas (which are currently in planning phases) would be greatly appreciated. Also, if anyone has certain events or projects they would like to see GSP undertake, do not hesitate to contact us.

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The Gazette

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