

Psychological & Brain Sciences

Graduate Student Newsletter

Issue 001 - Fall 2021

Edited by W. Connor Gibbs & Sophie Peterson

Hello everyone! Welcome back! Wow, it feels good to say that and have us actually be back IN PERSON.

In this quarter's issue, in addition to announcing the social event the Graduate Executive Committee (GEC) has planned, you will also have an opportunity to get to know our new chair, Dr. Shelly Gable, a bit more. A few of the GEC members had the chance to interview Shelly and we wanted to share parts of that conversation with you all. Not only is Shelly a wonderful person but she has a true vision for bettering the department for all of its members.

Shelly has tasked the GEC with helping her recruit graduate students to serve on various department committees. We are looking for graduate students to serve on the following committees:

- Graduate Admissions Committee
- Graduate Affairs Committee
- Graduate Executive Committee
- Undergraduate Experience Committee

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, even if you are currently serving on one of them, please complete [this form](#) by **Friday, October 15th**.

Lastly, Robby Nadler from Grad Div will be holding a graduate student wringing workshop specifically for PBS grads on **November 5th at 3:00pm** in the SAGE room. It will be a non-milestone specific, general writing structure workshop. More information about this workshop will be shared in the coming weeks but please mark your calendar if you are interested.

Well, that's all for now. We wish you a great rest of your quarter and hope to see you all at the welcome back party!

Thank you,

The Graduate Executive Committee

Social Event This Quarter

PSYCH & BRAIN SCIENCES



HALLOWEEN PARTY



WHEN: Friday October 15th, 5:00-8:00pm

WHERE: SAGE Room (Psych 1312)

WHO: PBS graduate students, faculty, and staff



Costumes are encouraged!

Masks are required inside.



Win a raffle prize for gift cards to local SB businesses!

Light food and beverages will be provided.
For alcoholic drinks, donate to the drink fund via Venmo to Connor Gibbs (@WConnorGibbs)

by Thursday, Oct 14th



Meet the new chair of PBS, Dr. Shelly Gable!

Shelly is a personality and social psychologist who studies the importance of close relationships and positive emotions. She has been at UCSB for the past 15 years, and before that she was a professor at UCLA so she is a veteran in the UC system! The GEC had an opportunity to catch up with Shelly to discuss her goals as the new chair and how she intends to support the graduate students of PBS.

How do you plan to grow and support diversity in the department?

I can't specifically say I can address graduate student diversity without addressing faculty diversity and undergraduate diversity, I think

they're all rolled into one. So graduate students need to feel that they are not just represented in the graduate population but also their groups are represented at the faculty and staff level. And the undergraduate level goes at the same thing because they want to see representation in the graduate students. I got a grant from UCOP for the next two years that is aimed at advancing faculty diversity and it allows us to focus the next years on increasing our recruitment and retention of faculty.

What issues do you think are the most important for improving the graduate student experience?

I've been trying to think about ways in which we can be more transparent in the department but also make the information more easily accessible. Some of the time it's apparent that issues arise because students aren't aware of the things that are already going on in the department or resources that are out there. So, I've added a lot of graduate student representatives to existing committees in the department. That unfortunately puts more burden on graduate students, but it has to be an active process. In order for graduate students to have a voice, then those voices need to actually be there.

How can graduate students be the most helpful to you as you work towards your various goals for the department?

I think that's a great question and I really want to encourage students to take a turn sitting on those committees. And it shouldn't be the same graduate students, the idea of

diversity and inclusion is about different voices at the table. The reasons to do it are to obviously contribute in the here and now, but it's the kind of experience that students always ask "Why should I do this? I have so many things to do!" and it's absolutely true everyone's plates are really full in graduate school. But one of the things that is really important for me is that we train students for whatever may come ahead in their careers and lives. And committee work and contributing to this decision-making process is important for any position, not just academia.

Any advice for new graduate students and those of us returning after being virtual for over a year?

I really think everybody has to give themselves and everyone else a little bit of grace in this transition period. As far as returning students I'm so excited to see everyone back on campus. I think we all need to realize that just as we made an abrupt change, it's going to be hard to go back completely. We just need to give each other a lot of grace and understanding when it comes to coming back to campus. I think for the new students, and I count the first and second year students in that pile, we need to be very intentional in how we think about integrating new students into our culture and community in PBS.

 Follow us on Twitter [@pbs_grads](https://twitter.com/pbs_grads)

Do you know a PBS grad student with exciting news or a recent accomplishment?

Fill out [this form](#) so we can share it on our Twitter!

This newsletter was organized by the Graduate Executive Committee. If you would like to provide *anonymous* feedback on this newsletter, please complete this [Google Form](#).