Dear Fellow Graduate Students,

To those of you who are new, welcome to CUA! To those who are returning, welcome back to another exciting year of scholarship and fellowship. Fellowship is the theme for this year’s Graduate Student Association (GSA) Executive Committee and Senate. We believe that bringing graduate students together as much as possible will lead to a graduate community that thrives even more than it already does, and in turn, leads to happier graduate students. Just as the wider university endeavors to care for the whole person, so will the GSA this year. To this end, we will provide not only a robust lineup of social events, but many on campus lectures, as well as information about grad student events sponsored by other departments, schools, and offices.

Executive Committee Updates

Welcome to the new and returning members of the Executive Committee! Being sworn in at our first Senate meeting on September 5 are the following GSA Officers who were hired over the summer:

1. Amanda Bono, Conference Committee Chair and Ph.D. student in the School of Music
2. John Meinert, Lectures Committee Chair and Ph.D. student in the School of Theology and Religious Studies
3. John Mickey, Parliamentarian and Ph.D. student in the Department of Politics
4. Michael Stell, Academic Senator and Ph.D. candidate in the School of Theology and Religious Studies
5. Kristen Wright, Public Relations Director and Ph.D. student in the Department of English

Please see [http://gradstudents.cua.edu/leadership.cfm](http://gradstudents.cua.edu/leadership.cfm) for further details about the Executive Committee.
Also, as you may have noticed, there was a change of leadership over the summer, and yours truly has taken over as President. I am very grateful for the work of Joshua Canzona, former GSA President, and wish him all the best in his career.

### Senate Updates

Please see the Senate page on the GSA website for information about your school and department Senators: [http://gradstudents.cua.edu/senatorlist.cfm](http://gradstudents.cua.edu/senatorlist.cfm). These generous colleagues of yours have volunteered to serve in order to connect graduate students to the work of the GSA. Thank them when you get a chance!

Senators, please tell us who you are if you have not already done so, by contacting Kristen Wright (17wright@cardinalmail.cua.edu) with your photo and bio. Also, don’t forget to fill out your appointment forms or alternate forms ([http://gradstudents.cua.edu/senators.cfm](http://gradstudents.cua.edu/senators.cfm)) to give to Homer Twigg, GSA Secretary (72twigg@cardinalmail.cua.edu) at your earliest convenience.

The dates and times of Senate meetings are posted here: [http://gradstudents.cua.edu/senators.cfm](http://gradstudents.cua.edu/senators.cfm)

### Save the Date: Events Committee Updates

**Crabfest is Back!** Friday, September 14, 2012, 5-10PM, Law School Lawn
Live music, games, beer, and all the crab you care to eat!
Also, as always, an array of other delectable food, including vegetarian options, is available.

Entry prices are cash only and include access to live music, games, and all the food and non-alcoholic beverages you care to consume. Beer is $1/cup.
Please see [http://gradstudents.cua.edu/gsaevents.cfm](http://gradstudents.cua.edu/gsaevents.cfm) for further details about entry prices.
We encourage all grad students to bring guests with them, especially the faculty and staff who work so diligently to improve the lives of grad students.
For a full listing of other events that the Events Committee has planned, including the Nationals game coming up, please see: [http://gradstudents.cua.edu/gsaevents.cfm](http://gradstudents.cua.edu/gsaevents.cfm)
CONFERENCES

Don’t forget that we have funds available for conference presentations and attendance.

Funding Available
Please see the website for guidelines:
http://gradstudents.cua.edu/conferences.cfm
Please contact Amanda Bono (83bono@cardinalmail.cua.edu) with further questions about conferences.

LECTURES

Don’t forget that we want to help you bring lecturers to campus.

For details, go to: http://gradstudents.cua.edu/lectures.cfm
Please contact John Meinert (44meinert@cardinalmail.cua.edu) with further questions about lectures.

Check the GSA website as the year progresses for a listing of lectures that your colleagues have sponsored: http://gradstudents.cua.edu/lecturecalendar.cfm

OTHER COMMITTEES

The GSA has several other committees, including the Women’s Issues Committee, The Committee for Establishing CUA Sponsored Child Care, and the International Students’ Committee. If you would like to join one of these committees, or simply find out what they do, please contact your Senator or Homer Twigg, GSA Secretary (72twigg@cardinalmail.cua.edu).

WEBSITE UPDATES

Please visit gradstudents.cua.edu| The website is newly updated and now includes both GSA and non-GSA events. Do you need information on conference funding or would you like to inquire about sponsoring a lecture? The GSA website is home to most up-to-date information on items of concern to the graduate student community. You can also find practical tips for graduate students, volunteer and employment opportunities, and the latest information on the work of the GSA Senate.
By the way, did you know?

Mullen Library is offering locker space for graduate students for the Fall 2012 semester. You can check out a key at the circulation desk. Space is available on September 4th. Lockers must be cleared out and all keys returned by Saturday, December 15. For more information contact the circulation desk.

Final Thoughts

As always, if you have general questions about the work of the GSA, or if you would like to suggest other ways that we can improve the lives of CUA grad students, please contact me at 25forte@cardinalmail.cua.edu or feel free to attend one of our Senate meetings. If you choose the latter, please contact your Senator first.

I wish you all the best in this new academic year and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

Sincerely,
Joseph Forte
President, Graduate Student Association
Doctoral Candidate, School of Philosophy
The Catholic University of America