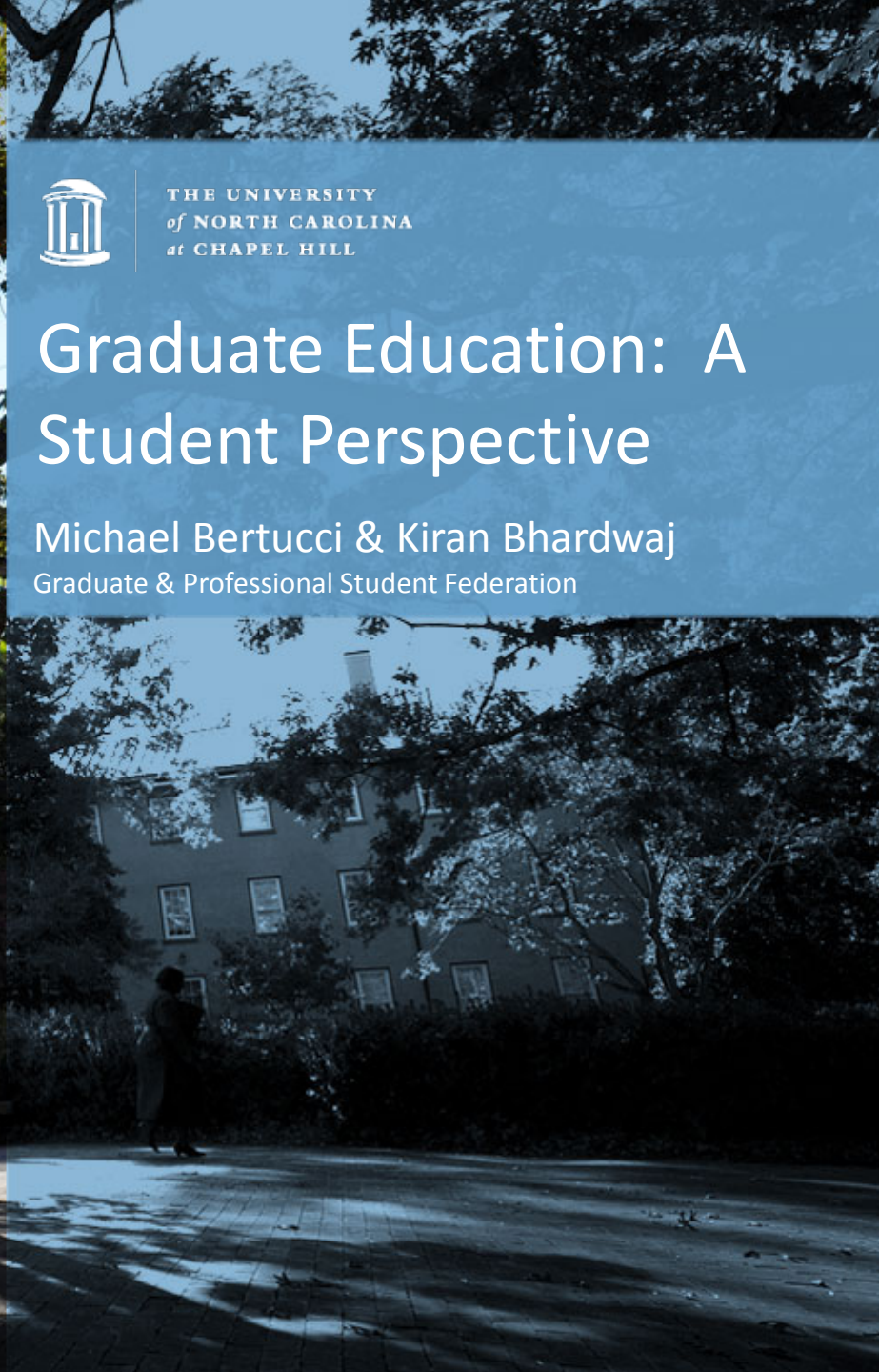




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Graduate Education: A Student Perspective

Michael Bertucci & Kiran Bhardwaj
Graduate & Professional Student Federation



Today's Graduate Student

- Research Assistant
 - Top 10 research institution
- Teaching Assistant
- Mentor
 - Academic & Student Organizations
- Community Member
- Spouse/Parent
- Oh yes, and a Student



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The Data:

Graduate – 8,262

 Doctoral

 Masters

Professional – 2,513

Total: 10,755 or 37% of student population

16.5% of the graduate population is > 35 years old

3,613 graduate students NOT from NC

Minimum graduate student stipend is \$15,200; Fees \$1,904.05

Federal loan interest rates are a *minimum* of 6.8%, no subsidy



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Graduate & Professional Student Federation (GPSF)



The representative body of all graduate & professional students
ADVOCATE – CONNECT – COLLABORATE

Legislative

Executive

Judicial

Congress
(Grad/UG)

Senate
(Grad)

Executive
Board

Honor
Court

Cabinet

External
Appointments



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State & Federal Advocacy

- GPSF State Advocacy Day
- Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) Day on the Hill

UNC-CH, UC Berkeley, U of Michigan, UT Austin, U of Washington, UCLA, UC San Diego, Texas A&M



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GPSF Emergency Fund

- **Affordability** is the biggest concern amongst the graduate & professional student population
- **Goal:** Minimize students taking out more loans while in school and unenrollment due to financial stress

The Fund

- Fund dedicated to providing financial assistance to graduate students with unexpected, emergency expenses
- Sustain through fundraising (Student Opportunity Chair)



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Other GPSF Programs

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH DAY

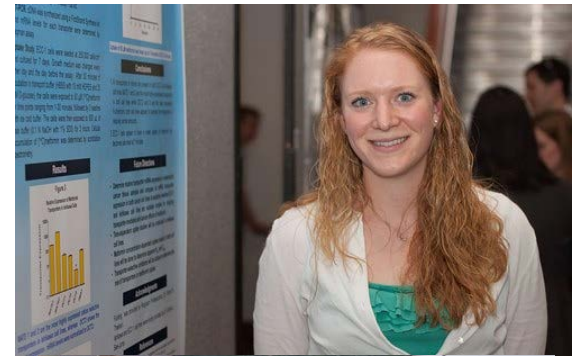
Annual event open to undergraduates, graduates, and post-docs to encourage academic collaboration & discussions

GPSF GRAD GAMES

3 days of fun, social competition for new and current graduate students

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- UNC Can Castle Competition
- Ronald McDonald House
- Habitat for Humanity
- High School Mentoring



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Future Directions

Strategy for GPSF & the University:

- Liaise between student population and university.
- Identify major needs and suggest workable solutions



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Financial Conscientiousness

HARD DETAILS:

- Tuition
- Stipends
- Fees
- The intersection of these

SOFT DETAILS:

- How clearly and regularly information is given to us.
- Timeliness of work assignments
- Clarity of responsibilities



Mentorship

- Our relationship to faculty
 - Reason to come to Carolina
 - Matter of professional development
 - For this reason, we care deeply about the University's ability to recruit and retain excellent faculty.
- Our relationship to each other
 - Best resource for graduate students, according to graduate students
 - Recognize our development as mentors

