

FORUM ON GRADUATE STUDENT AFFAIRS

AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

Dear FGSA Members

We know that it is a difficult time for everyone, so we have revived the FGSA newsletter to provide you with some resources that may be of help to you. If you are interested in getting involved to address challenges students face in physics and adjacent fields, we also have included a call for nominations for our executive committee.

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NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020

APS Office of Government Affairs

Supporting International Students

During the past several months, APS leaders, staff and members have diligently worked to push back against White House executive actions that harm international students who are essential to the physics community and vital to the US scientific enterprise. [Read more in APS News.](#)

Helping the Physics Community Recover from COVID-19

APS continues to make progress on recommendations to restore research after labs re-open as outlined in a [letter](#) to Congress by APS President Phil Bucksbaum. For example, the House and Senate have introduced the RISE (Research Investment to Spark the Economy) Act to provide emergency relief funding for federal science agencies. The APS Office of Government Affairs has organized several grassroots campaigns that have led to a significant number of co-sponsors of the bill. On a related note, APS has also worked to ensure that graduate students and post-docs are financially supported during the health crisis. [Read more in APS News.](#)

APS Careers

APS Webinars

Looking for professional development while staying at home during the pandemic? Join [APS Webinars](#) to get free guidance and tips from experts in industry, academia, and national labs. Check out videos from our [summer webinar series](#) and join our email list to hear more about our upcoming series on Success in Industry and other topics! [Sign up now.](#)

Careers 2020

The Careers 2020 guide outlines the breadth of opportunities for physics graduates in industry, national labs, and beyond — and provides guidance on how to land those jobs. It also includes a list of companies that hire physicists. View the [digital version online](#), or let us know if you would like to receive a physical copy by [signing up here](#).

APS Graduate Student Involvement in the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition

The [AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition](#) is a network of scientific associations, including the American Physical Society, that realizes scientists have a role to play in human rights. The Coalition was established in 2009, and since then it has facilitated communication and cooperation on the topic of human rights within the scientific community, as well as between the human rights and scientific communities.

Among the Coalition's efforts is its dedication to [providing opportunities for students](#) to learn about the connections between human rights and science and also showcase their work in this area. As a result, Coalition members like APS are invited to appoint a graduate student to represent their organizations. In addition to the two individuals from APS who serve on the Coalition's Council, i.e., a member of the Office of International Affairs and a member of the [Committee on International Freedom of Scientists](#), APS is also represented by a graduate student delegate selected by the Forum on Graduate Student Affairs (FGSA). This FGSA delegate participates in the Science and Human Rights Coalition's annual meeting, which includes special student-focused sessions. The FGSA delegate also has the chance to join various human rights projects or develop their own activities.

Vikram Singh Prasher, who served as APS's first graduate student delegate to the Coalition, surveyed some APS graduate student and early-career members to gauge their knowledge about human rights and the connection to science. He wrote about his experience in the July

2014 issue of *APS News*, "[Human Rights Engaging Physics Students and Current Graduates](#)."

Each year, the Coalition sponsors a Student Essay Competition and Student Digital Media Competition to highlight undergraduate and graduate students' work at the intersection of human rights and science. Another former FGSA delegate, Lucas Hackl, was instrumental in establishing and managing those competitions when they were first created. Hackl also served as a co-Team Lead on another Coalition project, the "Resource Development for Science and Human Rights Campus Groups." That project resulted in the "[Science and Human Rights Campus Event Toolkit](#)" that serves as a guide for students to organize and host events on campus or in their communities that are focused on science and human rights.

More recently, the current FGSA delegate, Lesya Horyn, has been active in organizing both the Coalition's [2019 Science, Technology, and Human Rights Conference](#) as well as the upcoming [2020 Conference](#) that is scheduled for October 22-23. The 2020 Conference will be held virtually and is hosted by AAAS. You are encouraged to [register](#) for the meeting and learn about the connections across science, technology, and human rights.

While Horyn's service concludes in 2020, APS welcomes the incoming FGSA delegate, [Brett Green](#), to the Coalition! The Society thanks him for taking on this role and for his willingness to represent APS.

FGSA Elections Announcement

We are very grateful for your support of our FGSA community. FGSA is currently accepting nominations for the offices of

Chair-Elect (3-year term as Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past Chair)

Secretary (2-year term)

Two Members-at-Large (2-year term)

The executive committee is an active group of volunteers from around the world that advocate for graduate students and are involved in the greater physics community ranging from government and international affairs, physics careers and professional development support, physics' role in society, and more. Further information on these positions is [available here](#).

We encourage you to nominate yourself or someone you know for a position with the Forum on Graduate Student Affairs. Your nomination should include a recent photograph, a brief biography, and a candidate statement, no longer than 250 words. **All nominations must be received by 11:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 (date subject to change).**

Nominations can be submitted by emailing the aforementioned materials to fgsaelection@aps.org.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet with others interested in graduate student affairs, gain valuable experience interacting with a wide variety of both scientists and nonscientists to promote physics and science literacy, and give a voice to graduate student concerns and issues.

Please remember, attracting and serving a diverse and inclusive membership worldwide is a primary goal for APS. In calling for nominations, we wish to remind you how important it is to give full consideration to women, members of underrepresented minority groups, and scientists from outside the United States.

We hope that you take the time to make a nomination for these important positions and thank you again for your support.

If you have any questions about the time commitment, responsibilities, or nomination process, please feel free to contact the FGSA Secretary, Raju Ghimire at rajughimireg@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

FGSA Executive Committee

FGSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair

Tiffany Nichols (01/20 - 12/20)

Chair-Elect

Delilah Gates (01/20 - 12/20)

Treasurer

Arjun Aryal (01/20 - 12/21)

Secretary

Raju Ghimire (01/19 - 12/20)

Councilor

LaNell Williams (01/20 - 12/23)

Member-at-Large

Danielle Scheff (01/18 - 12/20)

Member-at-Large

Niyousha Davachi (05/20 - 12/20)

Member-at-Large

Kevin Nuckolls (01/19 - 12/20)

Member-at-Large

Charitha Perera (01/19 - 12/20)

International Student Affairs Officer

Max Stammer (01/20 - 12/21)

**APS Student Representative to AAAS Science
and Human Rights Coalition**

Brett Greene (8/20-12/21)

**FGSA Ex-Officio Advisor to the APS Committee
on Careers and Professional Development**

Xuan Chen (01/20 - 12/20)