The Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University Proudly Provides Funding to Graduate Students for Conference and Field Research Work

BURNABY, August 29, 2011 - The Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University is pleased to announce the newest results of the first round of Professional Development Grants. We would like to congratulate the following graduate students on their awards:

- Sara Ejtemae (Physics)
- Juan Glavez (Mechatronics)
- Jessica Inskip (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology)
- Stepehn Pearce (Engineering Science)
- Clare Protheroe (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology)
- Abu Saleh Mohammad Anisur Rahman (Communications)
- Kathleen Raso (Communications)
- Rianne Ravensbergen (Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology)
- Maria Cristina Ruiz-Echeverry (Education)

See below for profiles & statements from some of our recipients.

These students were each awarded $500 to support their conference and research travel, and were chosen from a strong pool of over 59 applicants. Professional Development Grants are awarded based on academic relevance, merit, and financial need.

The Graduate Student Society firmly believes conference travel and field research are an integral part of the graduate student experience and contributes to professional and academic development. We are pleased to assist our student members in covering the associated costs of their participation in these endeavors.

The Graduate Student Society has renewed this very popular service for the 2011-2012 year. The GSS has set aside a total of $30,000 for the upcoming year’s six adjudication periods. Applications for the Professional Development Grants are adjudicated by the Grants Allocation Committee, and approved by GSS Council.

Applications for travel between November 1, 2011 and February 28, 2012 are due October 3, 2011 by 4:00 PM and must be submitted to the GSS office in person, or via mail as original signatures are required. More information and application forms are available on our website, www.sfugradsociety.ca.

For further information, contact:
Sarah Chown, GSS Professional Development Coordinator
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Profiles & Statements from the Professional Development Grant recipients:

**Clare Protheroe**
Clare said, “My research study is investigating syncope, or fainting, in children and adolescents. We aim to find new diagnostic criteria for two types of syncope that occur commonly in this population because research to date focuses on adults. We are collaborating with BC Children’s Hospital and the research team in the Heart Centre will be helping us with testing patients and controls. I will be attending a conference in two weeks to present my preliminary data. The conference is joint between the International Society of Autonomic Neuroscience and the American Autonomic Society and held in Brazil so it will be an amazing opportunity.”

**Stephen Pearce**
Stephen will be taking part in a research trip where he will be working with “Side-looking (sidescan) sonar”, a common survey tool which is used for hydrographic surveys, mine hunting, and habitat classification. When operated in shallow water, sidescan sonar is susceptible to interference which arises when sound is reflected off of the sea surface, making it difficult to get a clear picture of the seafloor. Stephen noted that “The GSS Professional Development Grant will directly support shallow-water surveying in the Indian Arm fjord, and the collected data will be used to characterize common types of interference and to test algorithms which mitigate this interference.”

**Katheleen (Katie) Raso**
Katie said, “The GSS Professional Development Grant will help cover the costs of my trip to Auckland this September. I will be presenting my Honours thesis at the ‘Journalism, Media and Democracy conference’ at AUT. This research is the basis for my MA work. I am excited to present it to leaders in my field of study as I believe their insight and invaluable feedback will greatly inform the direction of my work.”

**Juan Galvez**
Juan said, “The $500 grant will be used to cover part of my expenses during the conference (i.e., registration, accommodations, transportation, etc). The aforementioned conference is the 3rd Energy Conversion Congress and Exposition (ECCE ’11), which is the flagship conference on power conversion and will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. There, I will be presenting my research on boundary control of boost converters and my work on single-phase power factor correction using boundary control.

**Abu Saleh Mohammad Anisur (Anis) Rahman**
Anis said “I want to thank the GSS Council very much for awarding me the Professional Development Grant. This grant will help me to attend a conference on 'The Political Economy of Communication' in New Zealand in September 2011. This conference is very important for my doctoral research and career networking. Without this support it would have been very difficult for me to travel there, almost completely on the other side of the world. I highly appreciate the effort that the GSS is making to make our graduate life more professional and scholarly.”