In fall of 2011, a group of like-minded graduate students came together with one common goal: to form a political and social body for the graduate students at Salisbury University. The Graduate Student Council (GSC) was then created to serve this purpose. The GSC strives to give graduate students a voice on campus, advocate for their rights and provide programs that benefit the graduate student community.

The GSC has achieved some notable accomplishments throughout its three and a half years of existence:

- During the 2012-2013 academic years, the GSC advocated for and accomplished increasing SU’s graduate assistants’ (GA) stipends from $2,500 to $4,000 per semester.
- In addition, every month the GSC offers a GA of the Month Award, where faculty and staff are invited to nominate the GAs who they believe demonstrate excellence to their position to receive this award.
- Last semester, Aaron Basko, assistant vice president for enrollment management, facilitated our first professional development session: “How to Market a Master’s Degree During the Job Search.”

The GSC has accomplished a great deal over the past few years, but there is still much to achieve.

The Executive Board members held their first Winter Strategic Planning Session to establish a vision for the GSC over the course of the next few semesters. The Executive Board brainstormed ways to increase overall graduate program representation and how to build a stronger relationship with campus partners and the undergraduate Student Government Association. Simultaneously, the board is looking into creating an appreciation award for those faculty and/or staff members who have had the biggest impact on the academic or professional endeavors of the graduate student population. Finally, the board is looking to provide more professional development sessions focusing on topics such as financial literacy, job development and resume building. This year marks the first time that the GSC will offer a travel grant to help graduate students attend conferences or travel to distant interviews.

Members of the GSC believe in the phrase “work hard, play hard.” There are several opportunities to socialize with other graduate students on and off campus through the GSC. On the first Friday of each month, GSC members meet at The Deli across from campus to share stories and reflect on the busy life of a graduate student. Twice a semester, the GSC hosts a coffee hour on campus to help give grads a boost going into their evening class. Keep an eye out for emails from the GSC to stay up-to-date on these events.

SU’s Graduate Student Council strives to make each graduate student’s experience a positive one. If you are a graduate student, or know a graduate student, who wants to get involved, it is never too late to reach out. Consider coming to one of our professional development sessions, have dinner at one of our social hours or apply for our travel grant. For more information, follow us on Facebook (Salisbury University Graduate Student Council) or contact us at gsc@gulls.salisbury.edu.

Get to Know the Graduate Student Council

By Kevin Knudsen, Graduate Student Council President

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate Assistant of the Month Award

Graduate Assistants acknowledged for demonstrating excellence to their position include:

- **SEPTEMBER 2014**: Deanna Schloemer
- **OCTOBER 2014**: Candace Raddiff
- **NOVEMBER 2014**: Eric Nardi
- **DECEMBER 2014**: Jenny McFadden