

## SERVICE PHILOSOPHY

Although publications may be the currency of our field, I feel that service is the grease that lubricates the many functions of academia. Throughout graduate school, my mentors impressed the importance of quality service upon me. Few things are as useful as a great review (*even rejects*), as inspiring as a thoughtful letter of recommendation, or as rewarding as being part of an efficient committee. I believe that providing considerate service is the best way to encourage future reciprocity. To this end, I have attempted to balance service between my department, my university, and the field.

At the departmental level, my service mostly concerned graduate student affairs. For example, on two occasions faculty have asked that I help coordinate and lead our annual teaching assistant training exercises. The goal of these activities is to provide new graduate students with a crash course in teaching undergraduates. I think of it as an exciting way to meet and interact with new students and to share insights that help them better acclimatize to their new roles. In addition to these exercises, my peers have elected me to serve as the faculty representative/liaison, the faculty search committee student rep., and the Telecommunications' department Graduate and Professional Student Organization (GPSO) Rep. In each of these positions I was responsible for conveying graduate student concerns to other committees and representatives, which I gathered using online surveys and face-to-face meetings. Serving my department in these capacities have helped me understand and respect the process of self-governance and provided a glimpse into my desired future role as an academic.

Although the least represented, my service at the university level may have had the largest impact on graduate student affairs. During my tenure as a GPSO Rep., we made a near record number of legislative changes aimed at reforming university-wide student matters. For example, we debated and instigated change to increase the GPSO's racial diversity, strengthened the university's Energy Master Plan to promote campus-wide green initiatives, and advocated for the use of preferred names across all campus communications to protect the privacy of transgendered individuals. Additionally for the GPSO, I volunteered to serve on the Programming Committee to help coordinate social events for graduate students. As a committee, we organized downtown art walks, cocktail hours, movie nights, dances, and group picnics. Serving at the university level was formative, as it forced me to abandon my personal academic silo and consider the divergent perspectives of over 8000 graduate and professional students.

For the field, I have provided reviews for conferences such as the National and International Communication Associations (NCA & ICA) and for the Foundations for Digital Games. Similarly, I have volunteered reviews for the journal *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking* and the *Human Ethology Bulletin*. In addition to providing reviews, I am currently

helping plan a pre-conference event for the Game Studies Interest Group of ICA for the 2015 conference. It has been a revealing experience, as I was unaware of all the meticulous planning that goes into such endeavors. Nevertheless, I am excited to see the fruition of our efforts in Puerto Rico come next May.

All service considered, I feel that serving the field is the most rewarding because it allows me to observe the bleeding edge of communication science and it offers invaluable networking opportunities. Despite my favoritism, I am thankful for the service opportunities I have had at all levels. I look forward to becoming an academic to continue my current service, to expand into new types of service, and to advise students of my own.