

# calendar of Events:

Mar 2- Senate Meeting, 7pm in 330 Student Union

Mar 2- Distinguished Speakers Series presents Jhumpa Lahiri, 8pm in CFA

Mar 4- Java Junction, 11am - 1pm in 310 Student Union. Free Tim Horton's coffee and donuts for graduate students

Mar 8- Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Party, 9pm - 1am at Pearl Street Grill & Brewery (76 Pearl St.)

Mar 25- Beer Tasting and BBQ, 6pm at Flying Bison Brewery (491 Ontario St.)

Tickets on sale now at the SBI Ticket Office (221 SU) for \$8 each. 2 max per UB ID.

Mar 30- Distinguished Speakers Series presents Cory Booker, 8pm in CFA

March, 2011

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echo

## A Graduate Student Publication of the University at Buffalo Distinguished Speakers Series presents Cory Booker



The University at Buffalo is honored to present Cory Booker, the Mayor of Newark New Jersey, on March 30th at the Center for the Arts. This evening is sure to be exciting as Mayor Booker shares with us his incredible story; how he helped pull the city of Newark back from the abyss with a dynamic team who swept into power and drove out the nay-sayers and the business as usual politicians who talked a lot, but did very little to change the direction of the city. A story that is all too familiar in cities nationwide, Booker has made formidable strides, taken a stand and made a difference.

Under his watch, since 2006 Newark has seen a decrease in and currently leads the country in violent crime reduction. The month of March (2010) marked Newark New Jersey's first murder free month in over 44 years.

Booker does much more than just talk, he is a man of action. In 1999 he went on a ten day hunger strike and lived in a tent in front of Garden Spires, a public housing project to protest open air drug dealing and its associated violence. From 1998 to 2006 he lived in Brick Towers, a troubled housing complex in Newark's Central Ward, where he worked to organize tenants to fight for improved living conditions.

Cory Anthony Booker did not come from humble beginnings. Born in April 1969 his parents were some of the first African American executives at IBM. Booker grew up in the affluent community of Harrington Park and has been labeled a carpet bagger by his critics. He attended Stanford University where he earned a BA in political science and an MA in sociology. He then earned a Rhodes Scholarship and studied at Queens College in Oxford earning an Honours degree in modern history in 1994. We hope you join us for what is sure to be an eventful evening. Free tickets will be available soon at the SBI Ticket Office (221 Student Union) for graduate students with a UB ID. -S.W. Krysty Jr.

## Spotlight on Graduate Poetics Group

The Graduate Poetics Group (GPG) is an organization whose purpose is to support graduate poetics activities at the University at Buffalo. Its primary goals include, but are not limited to, the following: Acting as an administrative body for poetics activities; facilitating, and in some cases contributing, funding for graduate poetics students who wish to undertake poetics-related activities (hosting events, producing publications, event paraphernalia, etc.); seeking ways to maximize and best use its own funding for above-mentioned activities; collaborating with other graduate organizations when possible; acting as liaison between the Poetics Program at UB (which includes faculty) and students in the program; sponsoring scholarly and creative poetics-related exchanges among students and faculty. It currently sponsors events such as Small Press in the Archive (guest speakers who give small press-related talks in UB's Poetry Archive) and Opening Night (activities at the beginning of each term to welcome the community to engage with UB Poetics), among other community events and contribution to campus life.

If you would like more information about the Graduate Poetics Group, please contact the club President, Chris Sylvester, at [cps8@buffalo.edu](mailto:cps8@buffalo.edu).

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## Out and About

The *Blue Monk* is a great place to meet friends and have a nice meal and an imported beer.

Located on Elmwood Avenue in the space formerly known as *Merlin's*, the style of the establishment is a Belgian Beer House. As for the atmosphere, the bar is cozy and the seating limited so get there early for Happy Hour. The interior was recently gutted and refit. It is comfortable and welcoming. During the summer there will be a patio judging by the garage door that has been installed. It does not disappoint on any level with maybe the exception of the bill as it is a bit on the pricey side, but hey, even graduate students splurge every now and then.

To start with, the beer menu takes up an entire wall and is numbered. The bartender will help you with suggestions and you can sample beers before you make a commitment to a whole pint. I had three different beers all which were dark and very very tasty. My favorite was a St. Bernard Christmas bowl, which is



a Belgian stout. As if this were not enough I ordered from the extensive list of appetizers and selected the Blue Balls, which were meatballs served in a blue cheese glaze. They were quite tasty and filling, I recommend sharing an order of these with the table.

The entrees were all very interesting and I am sure every diner would find something that suits their pallet. I ordered from the specials, which change daily, selecting something I have never had the opportunity to eat before, a wild boar chop served with juniper speitzel. I was not disappointed as the chops were delicious and dark, dense and tender with no fat near the bone. The flavor was distinct and as I write this my mouth is watering for more. The speitzel was delicious too and flavored with the same berry used to make gin.

Finally, for dessert we had a chocolate cake made with stout. It was moist, delicious and not at all sweet as I expected. It was very good because it was not overwhelming, but just sweet enough that you could not stop eating it. The meal overall was outstanding and I will become a frequent patron of the *Blue Monk*. It is a very welcome addition to the Elmwood strip, and the Belgian food and ale a welcome addition anywhere.  
-S.W. Krysty Jr.

## Buffalo Hot Spots

Feeling those winter blues? You are definitely not alone as you wait for the warmth of Spring to creep into the dreary Buffalo winter. Like many others you wonder how much longer this cold weather is going to last and the remnants of snow disappear until next December when it is welcome. Until then Buffalo offers some events to warm the soul and cheer the heart so to speak.

For those of you with a little extra cash in their pocket and interest in the history of the Queen City, *Forgotten Buffalo Tours* offers Jim & Tim's Irish Buffalo beginning on March 4th. Named for Buffalo's famous sons, former Mayor Jimmy Griffin and NBC's Tim Russert, the tour will explore their Buffalo and the history of the Irish experience in our fair city, with stops at Irish pubs along the way. The \$45 ticket includes bus transportation and a meal and is sure to be an event not to miss. The tour runs throughout March; for more information please visit [www.forgottenbuffalo.com](http://www.forgottenbuffalo.com).

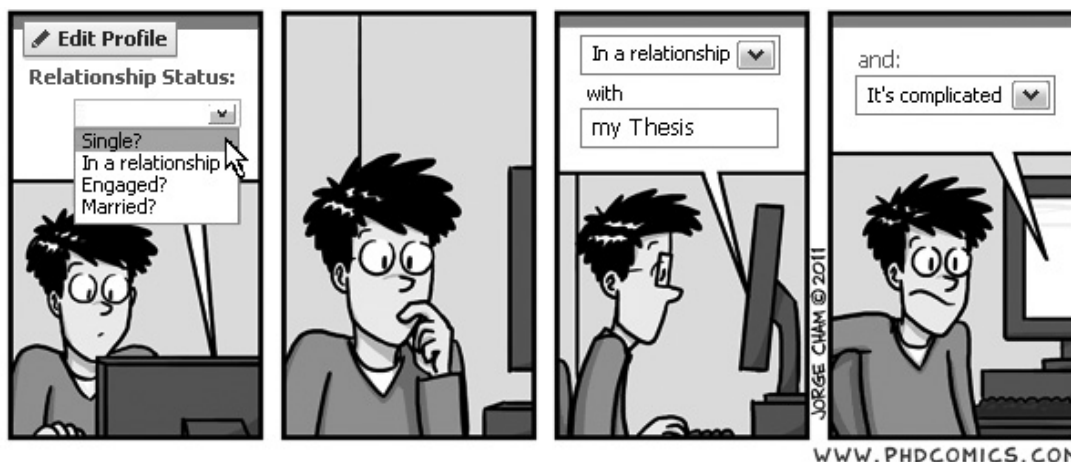
The Buffalo Home and Garden Show is always an eagerly anticipated event held this time of year. As people grow eager to be outdoors in their gardens you can check out the new trends at the show. Most people in Buffalo have small yards so they want to maximize the space and aesthetic quality of the area, thus the H&G show is a great place to get ideas and perspectives from the professionals in the industry. The H&G show runs from March 11th thru the 13th at The Buffalo Convention Center. Tickets are \$10 at the door or \$7 online at [www.buffalohomeshow.com](http://www.buffalohomeshow.com).

Another event that really hits home this Winter is the Japanese Tea Ceremony on March 24th at the Frank Lloyd Wright Martin House Complex (125 Jewett Pkwy.). The ceremony reflects harmony, respect, purity and tranquility and who couldn't use a little more of those in their life? The event is held in an architectural masterpiece and takes place in the evening. For more information, please visit [www.darwinmartinhouse.org](http://www.darwinmartinhouse.org).  
-S.W. Krysty Jr.

## GSA ELECTIONS AND ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION

The GSA Officer Elections and Referendum will be held on April 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th. If you will require an absentee ballot in order to vote in the election, it must be requested by Friday, March 18th. Please email Tanya at [trc4@buffalo.edu](mailto:trc4@buffalo.edu) in order to request an absentee ballot. All absentee ballots will be mailed out on Monday, March 21st and must be postmarked for return by Thursday, March 31st, or they will not be counted.

The Election Committee will host an **Informal Information Session on Thursday, March 24th** in order to introduce the candidates and give students a chance to meet them and discuss their concerns. Free food will be served. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please keep an eye on the GSA website and the listserv for more details.



## Vice President's Note

One of my primary roles as the Vice President is to oversee the clubs of our organization. In January I performed a re-evaluation of all of our recognized Special Interest and International clubs. These organizations were asked to submit an updated list of members, and they had the option to submit a new Statement of Purpose. My goal was to familiarize myself with all of the great graduate student organizations we have on campus, but also to look for groups that may have similar focuses or similar lists of members. I wanted to make sure that we were fairly and efficiently dispersing funds to all groups. After reviewing all of the necessary documents, I am proud to announce that all of our clubs met the required guidelines. With this information in hand we were able to justify and provide additional funding to all Special Interest clubs that were awarded less than the maximum amount of funding available. We also made a few recommendations to some individual clubs that will hopefully help them to reach their full potential. I am very pleased with the club evaluations and the representation that GSA has brought forward.

I have also been working on various concerns raised by students from across the University. The International Student Fee increase is one that was brought to our attention at the end of last semester. My Funding and Employment committee and I drafted a letter to the Provost and requested a meeting in order to get some important questions answered and to see what was being done to address student concerns. While this process is still on-going, we are hopeful that they will take our suggestions and concerns seriously and that we will be able to improve the dialogue with the administration in the future about such pressing issues. We are also working with the Student Response Center to insure that international students have access to their bill online, as they do not currently mail bills abroad. Mandatory unpaid overtime for TA's and GA's is another issue that we are currently investigating, along with the GSEU, and we will keep you posted on our progress.

I have observed many positive things since taking office too. Our relationship with the Undergraduate Student Association is achieving new heights. We are working closely with them on issues that concern all students, such as safety on and around campus, tuition increases and financial aid issues, and trying to bridge the gap that separates graduates and undergraduates in order to benefit all. The E-board and I are also doing our best to make members of GSA more aware of the funding opportunities and various social and educational events that we offer to our constituents. While Jon has been working on the financial aspects, I have been working on the social side. The response has been overwhelming, as is evident by the large number of graduate students attending events hosted by GSA. Tickets for all of our events so far have been sold out and I have had an opportunity to attend many educational, social, and cultural events not only hosted by the GSA, but by a range of organizations, departments and clubs across campus. These events have broadened my horizons and opened my eyes to a whole new world; a world of appreciation and pride for the programs our constituency is creating. While attending these events, I was able to meet new people, dance, eat, and stimulate my mind. I encourage all students to get out there and get involved in an organization that interests you. Let's continue to support our peers and colleagues and the events they work so hard to offer!

Overall I have genuinely enjoyed my job as Vice President and meeting the many new people I have come across. I am encouraged by the spirit of graduate students' support to continue moving forward. We have all sorts of events planned for the rest of the semester, so if I haven't had a chance to meet you yet, I hope you will come out and see what we have to offer. I am especially looking forward to the second annual Bon Spiel curling event that will be held in Niagara Falls Canada next month. I usually hate ice, but last year I fell in love with curling and this is why I will be going again this year. Be on the lookout for this or any of our other great offerings. I hope the weather will get warmer to allow those of you who despise the cold as I do to come out and be part of the team. I look forward to working with you in the future as I continue to be of service to the GSA.

-Grace Mukupa, GSA Vice President

## Rewind

February 2011 saw GSA hunker down and get to business in this bitter cold long stretch of winter. We offered MDRF grant workshops in order to prepare graduate students for grant writing as the application deadlines for Spring 2011 approach. These were well attended and well worth the time for applicants to familiarize themselves with the Mark Diamond process.

Last month's Senate meeting was postponed a week due to the University shutting down because of a blizzard that never arrived. We were in a little room on the first floor, but we made the best of things and got the work before us completed in a reasonable fashion.

The Bandits game was a bit of a disappointment in that they lost to the Philadelphia Wings in a game where they trailed most of the time and were constantly fighting. I tell you we just can't catch a break as of late with these professional sports teams in Buffalo. Between the Bandits and the Sabres there must be a curse on the HSBC Arena.

Java Junction went off well, as always, and we gear up for warmer weather and less need for coffee. Can it be that in two short months school will be out for the year? We will be wandering around campus in t-shirts and shorts and this long, cold winter will be just a memory. I for one can't wait and here is hoping March is in like a lion and out like a lamb! -S.W. Krysty Jr.



## Fast Forward

We hope the warmer weather we received just a tease of in February will make itself more consistent in the month of March. With warmer weather comes more activities in the GSA office and we look to Spring and Summer for events that will take us outside, or out and about to say the least.

March is a very busy month for GSA and it has Spring Break right in its midst. March 2nd has both the Senate meeting and the Distinguished Speakers Series presentation of Jhumpa Lahiri that is sure to be informative. Java Junction will be held on the 4th of March in the GSA office from 11am – 1pm, a great opportunity to come by and meet the staff and officers. On the 8th of March we are offering our Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Party at Pearl Street Grill & Brewery. The party runs from 9pm til 1am (open bar until midnight), a DJ and prizes throughout the evening. This party is always a blast and a highlight of the GSA calendar. Get your tickets at the Sub Board Ticket Office at 221 Student Union for just \$15 each, \$20 at the door if there are still tickets available.

After we return from Spring Break another eagerly anticipated event, the Beer Tasting and BBQ at Flying Bison Brewery, takes place on March 25th at 6pm. There are a limited quantity of tickets available, so get them ASAP before they sell out. These tickets will go on sale March 1st at the Sub Board Ticket Office (limit 2 per UB ID).

Finally, we wrap up the month with a second Distinguished Speaker, esteemed Mayor of Newark New Jersey Cory Booker on March 30th. This event is sure to be informative and enlightening as he shares his struggles to pull a city back from the abyss. Free tickets will be available to graduate students, one per UB ID, at the Sub Board Ticket Office. Keep an eye on the listserv and the GSA website for more details. -S.W. Krysty Jr.

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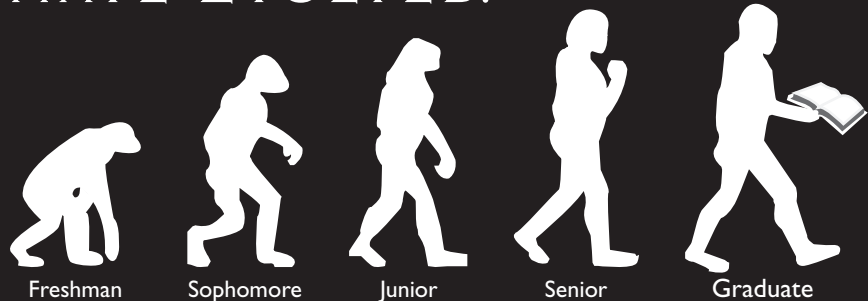
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