

October 8, 2007

Dear Professors, Faculty, and Staff,

We are writing to announce the formation of the Graduate Student Association in Atmospheric Sciences, hereafter known as GSAAS, at Howard University. The association has been formed as a student organization with three main goals in mind:

1. To foster growth of Atmospheric Sciences both at/in the name of Howard University and in general.
2. To provide a student-faculty/staff interface which will allow for better communication of concerns and opinions of both parties, pertaining to the HUPAS program.
3. To facilitate interrelationships among the many departments and disciplines in the HUPAS program.

GSAAS plans to forward these goals through series of professional, social, and educational events, as well as panels and discussions among HUPAS members. There will be general meetings of GSAAS members, at least once each month, where events and issues will be discussed. In addition, there will be several committees formed by GSAAS members for the planning of discussions and events.

We hope to include among the events a regular series of seminars, camaraderie-building events such as a retreat or new-student mentoring programs, and networking/outreach programs such as visits to a local high school or to one of the local research offices (NASA-Goddard, National Weather Service, etc.), and the building of a local AMS chapter. A list of descriptions and dates of proposed GSAAS activities for the 2007-2008 academic year has been attached to this letter.

The GSAAS Executive Board and Committee members will be working hard to execute these events. However, our goals cannot be met by the actions of the student members of GSAAS alone. Therefore, we are asking your help in these endeavors firstly by means of moral support and communication, and secondly by participation. We ask that you would share with us your concerns and hopes for the GSAAS group and the HUPAS program, as well as any ideas for events you may have. We also ask you will be willing to help us meet specific goals. Currently, there are three areas where your help is needed.

First, we would like to found a Howard University student chapter of the American Meteorological Society. There is interest among the students, but we have need of two faculty advisors; if you would be willing to act on our behalf, please let us know.

Second, there are three events in works specifically involving the professors. The first event is focused on the professors. We would like our first seminar event to be two seminars during the month of October, introducing students to the HUPAS faculty and their research. We would ask for all the professors to present for 10-15 minutes on their areas of research and any current projects open for students to pursue. We feel this event would provide faculty a chance to meet new (and old!) students, at the same time it would give students a chance to meet faculty, including potential advisors, as well as for students to see possible projects – or at least research topics - they may be able to pursue at Howard University. We ask all HUPAS faculty to provide us with two possible dates they would be willing to present.

The second event is a trip to the National Center for Environmental Prediction. We are planning on a tour of the NCEP facilities on Monday, November 5 from 9 AM to 12 PM. The tour should

include presentations by Dr. Louis W. Uccellini, NCEP director, and NESDIS. Please allow for students to go to this event in regards to scheduled exams, project due dates or other presentations. If you would like to be included, please let us know. We need names, contact info, and nationality of all interested NO LATER than Thursday, October 18.

The third event we would like you to participate in will be on Friday, November 16. We are planning a potluck Thanksgiving lunch. The event will be held in CSTE A, beginning at noon. We would like everyone to bring something to share. (This includes both food and conversation!) Please let us know if you are planning on attending.

Finally, there is a matter of resources. As GSAAS is a new student organization, there is a lack of funds and supplies. We need paper for membership forms and flyers, as well as binders to hold documents and space to store these supplies. Any donations you would be willing to give to GSAAS would be greatly appreciated. In particular, anything in the way of office supplies, work space accessibility, or publicity-related items (such as t-shirts) would be of use.

We are looking forward to working with all of you in working toward our goals. We may be contacted at GSAAS.HU@gmail.com, or you may email one of the Executive Board members. We also have a mailing list; please contact one of the Executive Board members or email us at the above address to join. With your help, we are confident we can make this fledgling organization into a valuable part of Howard University and the atmospheric science community as a whole.

Sincerely,
The GSAAS Executive Board, 2007

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