

---

## *A Word from El Capitan*

---



**F**irst & foremost...  
Congratulations to last year's  
council on a job well done!

I'm really looking forward to working with a new group of faces – not that the old ones were all that bad – and to the challenge of building on last year's successes.

Every Neuroscience student and faculty member is encouraged to come out, help out and/or offer ideas regarding all aspects of the NGSA in 2005.

Two thousand & four had the NGSA folks with their hands in many pots. From organizing Neuroscience Research Day to hosting a dozen Visiting Prof Luncheons; from running the highest attended TGIF to entering a team in the RedEye whose sole purpose was to “turn down the suck”; finally, to proving that drunken neuroscientists can, and do in fact, bowl.

I look forward to 2005 being every bit as eventful.

cheers  
-dave-  
dave.hayes@ualberta.ca



---

## *This Year's Events*

---

**S**ome of this year's events will include:

Visiting Prof Luncheons - come and join us for our next lunches with Dr. Debra Titone on April 28th and Dr. Samuel Weiss on May 16th. Simply respond to the email invitation from Angela, then meet up following the talk.

Baseball season is fast approaching with the spring league starting in May. The new Campus Recreation activity guide comes out April 20, and registration for Spring Outdoor Soccer, Slowpitch, and possibly an Ultimate Frisbee league will be the first week of May. Emily will send out an email soon. You certainly don't need to know how to play...we don't. However, there is a small amount of cash allotted to ringers...

Although the next Research Day is months away, the wheels are already grinding. Do you have any suggestions? ideas? hints as to how to make it even better?

Finally, we would like to thank the Centre for Neuroscience for their generous donation of \$1500.

## *Research Day 2004*

---

Having come to Edmonton just once before, Dr. Tim Murphy was both excited and honoured that the NGSa had invited him for another visit.

His November 4th talk was considered interesting and informative by many of the students who attended. Dinner at Yanni's later that evening, followed by drinks at O'Byrnes proved to be a great opportunity for a few Grad students to gain a new perspective on being an academic. In addition

to the lectures, dozens of students utilized the opportunity to display and speak about their research to a variety of onlookers. With probably the biggest and best selection of food and bev in the history of Research Days, this was undoubtedly a favourite among the starving students.

The NGSa would like to congratulate the winners of this year's Best Research Poster Award – Mark Ballermann & Mee-Sook Song. Each received a \$100 honorarium.

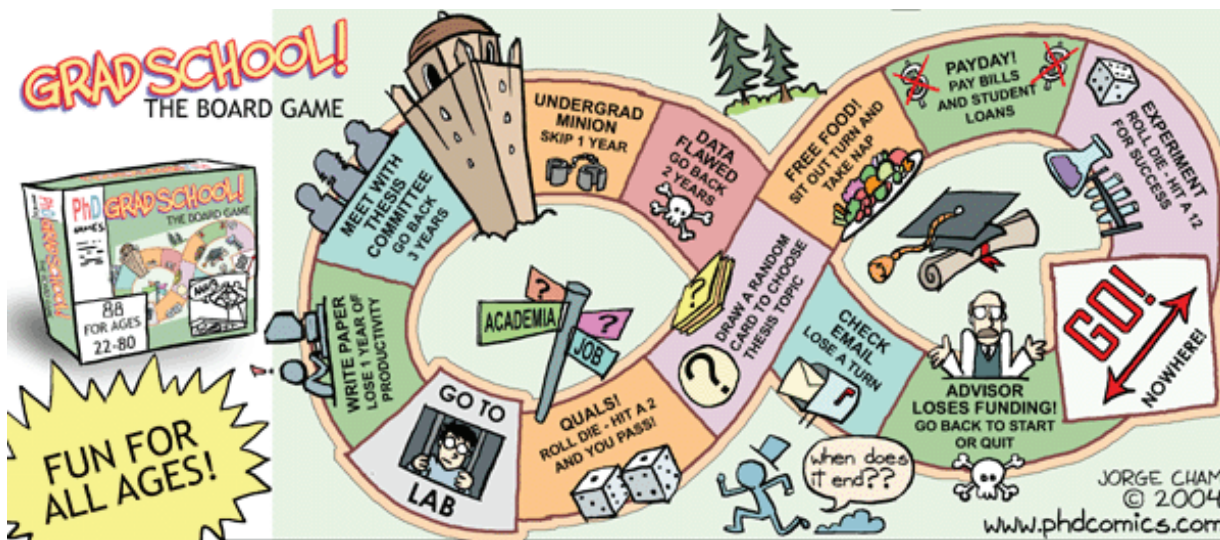


## *Student Exchange Information*

---

The Centre for Neuroscience has received funding for up to 2 students to participate in an exchange with Leipzig, Germany next year. The exchange would be 3 months in duration and could count for

credit. If you are interested, please email Keir at [keir.pearson@ualberta.ca](mailto:keir.pearson@ualberta.ca) for more info.



Comics Courtesy of Jorge Cham.  
www.phdcomics.com

## Meet the New Exec

*P*resident - Dave Hayes □ Email: dhayes@ualberta.ca □ Lab: Andy Greenshaw  
 Research interests: I investigate the role of serotonin in reinforcement and reward.  
 Other interests: I'm a musician.  
 Quirky/weird fact: Got rich shorting Enron stock

*V*ice President - Rhiannon Noble □ Email: rnoble@ualberta.ca □ Lab: John Greer  
 Research interests: Diaphragm development and Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia  
 Other interests: Synchronized skating, Diving, Science outreach, Traveling (which doesn't really work as a graduate student! lol)  
 Quirky/weird fact: I have a red labcoat.

*T*reasurer/Secretary - Melissa Chee Email: mchee@ualberta.ca □ Lab: William Colmers  
 Research interests: Finding out how the brain exists naturally... without any manipulations  
 Quirky/weird fact: I love the icing/whipped cream concoction on the dairy queen ice cream cakes

Sabrina Gustafson □ □ □ □ Lab: Peter Smith  
 Research interests: Inflammation and plasticity in the nervous system post-injury  
 Other interests: Playing sports & being outdoors, reading, trying to learn guitar  
 Quirky/weird fact: I have two pet frogs.

*S*ocial Committee - Angela Nguyen □ □ Email: anguyen@ualberta.ca □ □ Lab: Fred Colburne  
 Research interests: I'm interested in the role of estrogen and environmental enrichment in recovery after brain injury.  
 Other interests: Reading literature and am becoming interested in photography.  
 Quirky/weird fact: Trying to learn how to breakdance and getting lots of bruises

Janelle Pakan, Darren Clark



## Meet the New Exec (con't)

---

**S**ports Representative Emily Krauss □ □ □ □ □ Email: ekrauss@ualberta.ca □ □ Lab: John Misiaszek  
□ □ □ □ □ (Note: Please limit email to inquires regarding intramurals)

Research interests: I look at the role of reflexes in balance during walking in humans

Other interests: running, soccer, and reality tv

Quirky/weird fact: Founder of the "Kids in the Hall" Corbett Hall relay team

**PoNS** - Valerie Yeung □ □ □ □ □ Lab: Amy Tse

Research interests: The effects of fatty acides on pancreatic beta cells

Quirky/weird fact: I like to knit

**W**ebster - Mark Ballermann □ □ □ □ □ Email: mark.ballermann@ualberta.ca □ □ Lab: Karim Fouad

Research interests: The role of reticulospinal tract sprouting in recovery after spinal cord injury

Other interests: Skiing and soccer

Quirky/weird fact: His wife is having a wee one in June.

**G**SA Representatives - Luke Harris □ □ □ □ □ Email: luke.harris@ualberta.ca □ □ Lab: Dave Bennett & Ted Putman

Research interests: I am investigating muscle plasticity in response to conditions that chronically alter neuromuscular activity, such as spinal cord injury, spasticity after spinal injury, endurance training, and chronic electrical stimulation.

Other interests: Uh... rock climbing, big novels, stupid movies, and coffee.

Quirky/weird fact: I don't own a TV.

Matt Furey □ □ □ □ □ Email: m\_furey@hotmail.com □ □ □ □ □ Lab: Tessa Gordon

Research interests: Peripheral and Central Nervous System Regeneration

Other interests: Kickin' it fresh

Quirky/weird fact: He hits at least 3 home runs every year in softball! How highly abnormal! :)

Doreen Kabogo □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ Lab: Satyabrata Kar

Research interests: The role of amyloid beta peptide in Alzheimer's Disease

Other interests: Music, music, music(kidding), travel, learning new languages,...those are the main ones I have time for..

Quirky/weird fact: I'll leave this to anyone who can figure them out???: *I'm going with: "owns a huuge collection of Furbies"-mark*

## NGSA Website

---

The NGSA has a temporary home on the web at:

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~mb22/NGSA>

### THE AUTHOR LIST: GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

