Hi everyone! My name is Lou Sabina, and I’m excited to serve as your CGSE President for the 2009-2010 school year. I come to you with hopes of building on what has made CGSE a strong organization for the University of Pittsburgh in the past and further develop it for future School of Education students.

This year, you will notice some exciting changes to CGSE. First, travel grants will be divvied up between semesters, allowing more students to apply and take part in funding opportunities for conferences, while we continue to support research with our supplemental research grant. We are encouraging all students that apply for grants to be actively involved in planning and preparation for our CGSE conference and present their research for our group.

Social event planning will occur frequently throughout the year, beginning in September with a trip to PNC Park to see the Pirates take on Manny Ramirez and the Los Angeles Dodgers on September 25th at 7:05 PM. Also, the development of a comprehensive graduate school of education conference is something that we are hoping to make a reality. For the first time ever, every graduate school in Western PA, in addition to all school districts, will be invited to attend and present their research and best practices.

I look forward to making this an active and involved year for CGSE. Should you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help with any of our activities, please attend our general meetings or contact me at lls25@pitt.edu. I am in the CGSE office every Tuesday from 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM and would love to hear from you!

Note from the President
Office Hours

To accommodate the needs of the CGSE student body, the four officers have agreed to hold office hours throughout the school year. This will be done in an effort to involve more people in CGSE and truly work for you, the student body. Details on office hours are as follows:

Lou Sabina
Lou will hold office hours every Tuesday (when general CGSE meetings are not scheduled) between 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM. If you have any interest in getting involved in planning and preparation for the CGSE conference, Lou would greatly appreciate your help. Please note that Lou’s office hours will be after 3:00 PM, to accommodate any MAT or School Leadership students with any questions.

Susanna Benko & Stephanie Kane-Mainier
Susanna and Stephanie will hold office hours on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 1:30 - 3:00 PM. They will assist with general questions and those regarding grant applications (but not necessarily the distribution of funding) and grant writing.

Tabetha Bernstein-Danis
Tabetha will hold office hours on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Tabetha will assist with any financial questions involving grants or budgeting for the 2009-2010 school year, in addition to assisting with our conferences.

Conference, Research, and Travel Grants

CGSE aims to support graduate students by providing grants for travel to conferences and for research support.

Travel Grants are awarded for students who are attending or presenting at a local or national conference. These grants range from $125-175, and are awarded based on the level of participation in the conference that a student attends. Students may apply for one travel grant per semester.

Supplemental Grants are awarded to students who are conducting academic research for a dissertation, Masters thesis, supervised research or directed study. These grants may be awarded for up to $500. Students may apply for one supplemental grant per academic year. Information for both grants, including grant applications, submission deadlines, and the review process, can be found on the CGSE website.

Library Research Workshops

If you need a basic overview of the University of Pittsburgh’s library database for electronic resources or some practice with RefWorks, the Hillman Library has graciously volunteered their time to present in the Education Lab on the 5th floor of Posvar Hall.

Dates and times for general research sessions are:

- **September 20th**: 7:20 PM-8:45 PM
- **September 30th**: 7:20 PM-8:45 PM
- **October 7th**: 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

Dates and times for RefWorks sessions are:

- **October 6th**: 7:20 PM-8:45 PM
- **October 13th**: 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

Pittsburgh Pirates CGSE Night—September 25th

Our first evening social event will take place on Friday, September 25th as the Pittsburgh Pirates host the Los Angeles Dodgers at 7:05 PM. Cost is just $13 per attendee for an infield-grandstand seat.

If you and your friends/family would like to join CGSE at the game, please send the attached order form with payment by standard or university mail to Luke Haile, 140 Trees Hall by September 11th or bring the order form and payment to the CGSE meeting on September 8th. You may also take advantage of the discount by purchasing advance tickets from the Pirates directly. Simply follow the instructions on the order form. We all look forward to seeing you at the game!
Officer Contact Information and Biographies

President

E-Mail Address: lsl25@pitt.edu
Office Hours: Every Tuesday 3:00—5:30

Lou L. Sabina is a Ph.D. student in the Social and Comparative Analysis program. He is studying and researching teacher and leadership training with a focus both nationally and internationally, with an emphasis on human resources planning. Sabina is also adjunct faculty at Point Park University, Butler Community College, and Drexel University, where he teaches in both the education and business departments. In his spare time, Sabina enjoys anything involving music; specifically going to concerts and running his DJ business, yoga, watching and going to hockey games, playing tennis going to amusement parks, and playing poker.

Vice-President

E-Mail Address: slb76@pitt.edu
Office Hours: First and Third Tuesday of the Month 1:30—3:00

Susanna Benko is a Ph.D student in the Language, Literacy and Culture program within the department of Instruction and Learning. She works with the Masters in the Art of Teaching and Professional Year programs in English Education, teaching methods courses and supervising student teachers. Her broad research interests center around teacher education, curriculum studies in English Education, and pedagogies and beliefs about writing instruction. She is a CGSE representative on the Faculty-Student Research Grant review committee and is grateful to serve CGSE this year as Vice President. In her free time, Susanna enjoys yoga, running, baking, reading, and spending time with her family.

Secretary

E-Mail Address: ssk22@pitt.edu
Office Hours: First and Third Tuesday of the Month 1:30—3:00

Stephanie Kane-Mainier is a doctoral student and Teaching Fellow in the Department of Instruction and Learning in Language, Literacy, & Culture at the University of Pittsburgh and a part time instructor in the English Department in the College of Arts and Sciences. Before beginning her doctoral work, Stephanie taught high school English for thirteen years in the Pittsburgh area. She is a fellow of the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project (2001) and has served as a teacher consultant, facilitating WPWP professional development for local school districts.

Business Manager

E-Mail Address: tdb13@pitt.edu
Office Hours: Second and Fourth Wednesday of the Month 1:00—3:00

Tabetha Bernstein-Danis is an English Education doctoral student in the Department of Instruction and Learning. A teaching fellow, she teaches four classes within DIL. Her research interests are primarily focused on the support of students with special needs and students who are English language learners in mainstream secondary English classes. Before coming to Pitt, she worked as a bilingual special education teacher, literacy coach, and ELL specialist for the Providence Public School Department in Providence, Rhode Island. For the 2009 – 2010 academic year, she continues her service to the School of Education as the CGSE business manager.
CGSE is an organization designed to represent the academic, social, and professional interests of graduate students in the School of Education. Specifically, the purposes of CGSE consist of the following:

- To promote student involvement and representation in the School of Education and University governance.
- To promote academic excellence by organizing and supporting activities for enhancement of School of Education student growth and success.
- To promote cross cultural understanding by facilitating opportunities for social interaction and collaboration among culturally diverse groups of students.
- To promote student professional development.
- To promote a caring and respectful academic, social and professional atmosphere in the SOE.

During the months of September-December, we are soliciting help from any School of Education students who would like to help in the planning and preparation process. There are many tasks that need done including continuing to network and set up contacts with the remainder of the universities throughout the region, contacting the local school districts at both the teacher and administrator level, set up a dining guide in Oakland for lunch options for attendees on Thursday and Friday, and diagramming all of the parking locations throughout campus.

Once January and the spring semester begins, it is our hope that the planning and preparation portion will be nearly complete, and the emphasis will then shift towards reviewing student proposals. Not only will there be proposals for University of Pittsburgh students, but from other colleges and universities as well. Also, we’re assuming there will be a number of questions from students at other graduate schools as they complete the conference proposal submission process.

This event will only be successful with your to promote and encourage participation. If you are interested in helping out with the conference, please contact Lou directly at lls25@pitt.edu. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Lou or Tabetha tdb13@pitt.edu, although our other executive board members should be able to answer any questions. This event will not be successful without the participation and cooperation from a multitude of students across all disciplines, and we are greatly hoping for your involvement this upcoming year!