



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# welcomeBACK

EDST STUDENT NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2017

It has truly been an eventful summer, and we hope it has been a fruitful break for all of you in EDST. Now that the days are becoming shorter, and the air beginning to feel *just* a little cooler, we look forward to welcoming you back to school, especially those of you who made the excellent decision to join our family here on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Musqueam people.

Most of us would prefer summer to never end, but going back to school is also exciting. There are new (and old) friends and colleagues to look forward to, fascinating things to learn, milestones to achieve, and yes, a great programme lined up for you to look forward to this fall term!

## **NEW FACES, OLD FACES**

For those of you who just joined us, the four Graduate Academic Assistants, or “GAAs”, are

student representatives in the department dedicated to supporting you through your journey in EDST and UBC in a number of ways. These include offering peer-to-peer advice and counselling, directing you to specific resources in and outside the department and/or the university as appropriate, and organising events and workshops designed to complement your coursework. Being your friendly and helpful peers, you may always approach us and we would be on hand to speak to you or assist you.

Our team this year includes Peer Advisors **CLAUDIA DIAZ** and **MARY KOSTANDY**, and Academic Research & Publication Assistants **BERNARD CHAN** and **LENA IGNATOVICH**. Each of us comes from a diverse personal, academic, and professional background, which should come in handy in our efforts to support your journey through programmes. We also wish to sincerely thank last year’s GAAs, **SEREANA NAEPI** and **PAULINA SEMENEC**, for the excellent work they had done not only for students in the department, but also in setting the foundations of our team this year.



### CONNECT WITH US

Your GAAs are dedicated to supporting all aspects of your studies in EDST and UBC, so do not hesitate to connect with us! The most convenient way is to contact us by email via [edst.gaa@ubc.ca](mailto:edst.gaa@ubc.ca). Depending on the nature of your inquiry, you may also contact each GAA individually. We would also be happy to arrange an appointment with you should you prefer meeting us in person.

### CONNECT WITH YOU

Most of our correspondence with you is through email, so please ensure you are subscribed to the EDST-STUDENTS mailing list. Students new to the department will receive subscription instructions during orientation, or you may also contact our department office to subscribe. Most of the information in our emails is also available on our new blog, <http://blogs.ubc.ca/edstgaa> and Twitter account [@EDSTGradForum](https://twitter.com/EDSTGradForum).

### GAA EVENTS

Each term, your GAAs organise a variety of events that are designed to support and complement your studies in EDST. These include professional development workshops, meet-the-profs sessions, career advising, research sharing opportunities between peers, and much more. These events are usually led by faculty members in EDST, your peers in the department, or on occasion, members from other units and departments in UBC. Look out in your emails and on our blog for the latest going-ons, and to RSVP. An overview of GAA-organised events in September is also available in this newsletter.

### GET INVOLVED

Students in EDST are tremendously talented and there is a diverse range of expertise represented in our family. If there is an event you would like to organise, please get in touch via our blog or by email because your GAAs will facilitate your session! The theme and format of your event is entirely up to you, and we would also be on hand to provide advice if that is necessary. Remember, you don't have to limit yourself to academic topics. So do get involved, because sharing is what we are all about!

Throughout the year, there are also numerous opportunities for you to get involved by joining committees in the department or elsewhere in the university. These occasions are great ways to know more about EDST and UBC, and to gain professional experiences and know-how. These opportunities are posted on our blog, and you will also be kept updated via email notifications.

### YOUR STUDENT PROFILE

Student profiles are featured on the EDST department website. They are intended to provide to the public an overview of the talent and expertise represented amongst us. You can even showcase your dedicated page to your peers and prospective employers! You can submit your profile by visiting the "Get Involved >> Student Profiles" section in our blog.

## INTRODUCING YOUR GAAs

### ACADEMIC PEER ADVISORS

Your Academic Peer Advisors provide peer-to-peer academic counselling, and they are on hand to provide you with information concerning degree requirements, policies, procedures, traditions, expectations, and resources available in the department and the University. Academic Peer Advisors are also happy to help you settle into life in UBC and Vancouver, especially if you are new to the city.



**Claudia Diaz, Ph.D Candidate**

[claudiadiaz.rss@gmail.com](mailto:claudiadiaz.rss@gmail.com)

*Hello! I am serving as an Academic Peer Advisor for the second year, and I look forward to helping you navigate through your programme. You are welcome to get in touch by sending me an email or by making an appointment to meet in person.*



**Mary Kostandy, Ph.D Student**

[mary.kostandy@alumni.ubc.ca](mailto:mary.kostandy@alumni.ubc.ca)

*Hi, eh el akhbar?! (what's up in Arabic) I am a fourth year Ph.D student in EDST. As an incoming international student back then, I appreciated the support I received from the GAAs, and I'd like to give back in supporting you on your academic journey. All the best!*



### ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION ASSISTANTS

The Academic Research and Publication Assistants support your professional and academic development. They are community builders who plan events and workshops aimed at promoting scholarly activity, including academic writing and publishing, conferences and presentations, scholarship and funding applications, and career development.



**Bernard Chan, MA Student (Higher Education)**

[bernardc@alumni.ubc.ca](mailto:bernardc@alumni.ubc.ca)

*I joined EDST in 2014 as a M.Ed student before transferring to the MA programme. I am blessed to have received the support of so many in this department since my first day, and I look forward to supporting you in kind this new term!*



**Lena Ignatovich, Ph.D Student**

[yelene4@gmail.com](mailto:yelene4@gmail.com)

*I started the Ph.D programme at EDST in 2016 under the supervision of Drs. Leslie Andres and Judith Walker. I am excited to help you with any research or publication questions you may have. I look forward to meeting you all!*

## MONTHLY EVENT OVERVIEW



### Graduate Orientation

Visit <http://orientation.grad.ubc.ca> for more information about orientation activities organised by Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, the Graduate Student Society, and International Student Development



### Social Gathering for MA and M.Ed Students

2:00pm - 3:00pm • PCOH Kitchen  
*Snacks are provided*



### EDST Orientation

#### *Orientation to UBC Libraries*

Hosted by Jo-Anne Naslund  
4:15pm - 5:00pm (approx.) • Scarfe Building Foyer & Scarfe 1007

#### *EDST Welcome*

Hosted by EDST  
5:15pm - 7:30pm • PCOH2012  
*Refreshments are provided*



#### *Research Sharing Series*

### Student Sharing: Fieldwork

Hosted by Neila Miled & Kari Grain  
3:30pm - 4:30pm • PCOH1008



#### *Professional Development Series*

### Planning for the Academic Year

Host to be confirmed  
2:00pm - 3:00pm • PCOH2012



### Social Gathering for Ph.D and Ed.D Students

Hosted by your GAAs  
12:30pm - 1:30pm • PCOH Kitchen  
*Snacks are provided*

**RSVP:** You are requested to RSVP for most GAA-organised events and workshops. You may RSVP via our blog or by email one week before the event. The RSVP deadline is generally two days before the event, unless otherwise specified. Kindly note there is a minimum participation of 5 students in our events; otherwise, the event may be postponed or cancelled.

## GET IN TOUCH

<http://blogs.ubc.ca/edstgaa>

Email (general enquiries): [edst.gaa@ubc.ca](mailto:edst.gaa@ubc.ca)

Follow us on Twitter: [@EDSTGradForum](https://twitter.com/EDSTGradForum)