PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDRAISING

Throughout the year, CJ GSO offered a number of professional development events. A series of informative brown bags were hosted on a variety of topics including Mentoring (Dr. Boisvert), Burnout (Drs. Azimi, O’Neal, and Hayes), How to Write a Thesis/Portfolio/Dissertation (Dr. Boisvert), Conference Dos and Don’ts (Dr. Butler), Grant Writing (Drs. King and Tasca), Navigating Academia (Drs. Connolly, C. Franklin, and King), Loan Forgiveness (Student Money Management Center), and Publishing (Drs. T. Franklin, Randa, and Zhao). We also had our first CV Interactive Workshop where students received feedback on their academic resumes (Drs. Azimi, Boisvert, Ingram, Toman, and Vaughn).

We planned and hosted two bake sales—one for Halloween and one for Valentine’s Day. Many graduate students donated themed treats to sell in the CJ building lobby and, between the two events, $1,600 was raised! Half of this money was allocated for student travel scholarships to national conferences. After a competitive application process, $100 scholarships were awarded to Alondra Garza, Alicia Jurek, Jazmin Palacios, Brittany Acquaviva, Jessica Fleming, Amanda Goodson, Nicole Niebuhr, and Wesley Smith.

FOCUSING ON SERVICE

On March 2nd, faculty and students competed in the Woodlands Marathon. The student relay team (Eric Cooke, Josh Shadwick, Xinting Wang, and Matthias Woecener) narrowly beat the faculty team (Drs. Connolly, Ingram, Orrick, and Toman) in the race. Each team chose to raise funds for a non-profit leading up to the event. The faculty team outdid the student team and raised $1,390 for the Montgomery County Women’s Center. The student team raised $1,300 for SAAFE House. Look out for a rematch next spring!

On April 22nd, our organization hosted Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes to raise awareness about sexual assault and gender violence as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This university-wide event was led and organized by second year doctoral student, Matthew Bills. There was a great turnout—117 students joined the mile long walk across campus! Special thanks to Matt and the rest of the Walk a Mile committee!

The 2018-2019 officers (Amber Griffin, Micaela Alvarado, Kat Meeker, and Josh Shadwick) want to sincerely congratulate the incoming officers (Ethan Marshall, Wesley Smith, Kelsey Kramer, and Beverly Liu) and wish them the best this upcoming school year. Thank you to all of the faculty, staff, and students who continuously support CJ GSO!