

GPA

GENERATION
PEACE
ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER



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A Week With the Leadership Initiative
GPA International Service Projects Begin
OSDP Workshop in Atlantic City
and more

GENERATION PEACE

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GPA IN GUYANA

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Above: GPA Leadership initiative participants leads the OSDP workshop in song in Atlantic City, NJ.

Front Cover: 1st year Kohta Nishioka poses with some of the youth in Guyana.

Inside Cover: 1st year, S. Kawachi poses with new friends in Guyana.

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Photos throughout the newsletter taken by Christopher Stair, Joe Giampoli, and Teddy Sylte. Spread Design by Christopher Stair. Articles contributed by Keimi Kanno and Elissa Allen



GPA PARTICIPATES IN THE OSDP WORKSHOP IN ATLANTIC CITY

From November 6 to November 9, 2011 the Leadership Initiative at 43rd street, which included 60 members of GPA, were encouraged to participate in the Original Substance of the Divine Principle workshop in Atlantic City at Trump Plaza.

The Leadership Initiative contributed 65 participants out of the 600 present that included as many as 60 ministers and clergy members from different faiths. Upon special permission given by True Parents, the majority of the lectures were given in English by

Reverend Jenkins, Bishop Stallings, with an introductory lecture in Korean by Reverend Yuu.

The schedule was rigorous with lectures beginning as early as 6:00am and ending at 9:30pm. However, despite the early start, the participants filled the air with youthful energy.

Every lecture session started off with praise and workshop songs lead by Bishop Jesse Edwards, Reverend Daugherty, and Reverend Cotter. It was truly a

powerful and exciting moment that called the Spirit of God to be present in the conference room during their time there.

The content of the lecture covered everything from Introduction to the Divine Principle, Principle of Creation, The Human Fall, Mission of the Messiah, Restoration, and The Second Advent. It was a great opportunity for the members of the Leadership Initiative to listen to so much of the Divine Principle and to receive it from such a wonderful and experienced lecturer as Reverend Jenkins. Hearing the content of the Divine Principle in the same room as the Christian Ministers amplified the experience. Having been born into the faith, we Blessed Children have often taken the Divine Principle for granted, not fully appreciating the depth of its content. But after hearing the testimonies of our senior ACLC leaders and ministers whose lives have been directly transformed by the power of the Divine Principle, we could feel the importance growing up in this culture. Having witnessed the ministers' gratitude for True Parents and their determination to witness to others about them, I, a member of the Second Generation, felt deeply moved.

The ministers were impressed to see so many young people involved in such a movement and were curious to know more about them. Ministers and members of the Leadership Initiative engaged in fellowship at the dinner table and while singing songs of praise and worship. By being present at the workshop, the members of the Leadership Initiative visibly added spirit to the atmosphere.

The second night of the workshop concluded with an altar call where those needing or seeking for prayer could receive love and attention from various ministers. Everyone went forth with open hearts and participants shed both tears of joy and tears of repentance. It was a very deep and moving experience where

almost all of the Leadership Initiative members came to the front of the stage to receive prayer. To many it was an unforgettable experience where participants of different faiths, ethnicities and backgrounds could gather as brothers and sisters. God was surely present during that time.

Another highlight of the workshop was the Blessing Ceremony. Participants saw a beautiful video showing testimonies of ministers who received the blessing and how it healed and changed their marriages for the better. Following the video was a panel of couples who also gave testimonies about receiving the Blessing. For members of the Leadership Initiative, it was the first time hearing testimonies about how powerful the Blessing is.



All in all, the OSDP workshop was a wonderful experience for both the Leadership Initiative and the clergy who both attended the event in Atlantic City. Both sides benefited where the clergy could feel inspired by the youthful presence of the young Unificationists involved in church activities, and the young Unificationists could see the strength that the new truth, taught by True Parents, inspired the

ministers. It was an enriching, win-win situation for all. Since this workshop, it became evident that young Unificationists add a special flavor to the OSDP experience for ACLC ministers and clergy. Therefore on November 14, 2011 60 members from the GPA Fundraising Module participated in the OSDP workshop in Las Vegas. We would like to thank everyone for making this experience possible, especially In Jin Nim for giving us this amazing opportunity!

- Contributed by Keimi Kanno



LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

By: Keimi Kanno

The purpose of the Leadership Initiative is to give students the skills and tools necessary to help contribute to their Lovin' Life Ministry satellite churches. To accomplish this, the weekly and daily schedule of the Leadership Initiative is specifically designed to give students the most relevant, up-to-date and practical experiences. In New York many educational resources are available. Not only do students have the opportunity to see Lovin' Life up close and personal, they can also meet the people who organize Lovin' Life and who work behind the scenes. These professionals do not only have many years of experience with Lovin' Life, but with the Unification movement as well.

Being located near the Headquarters Church in America translates into quick thinking and a much needed exercise in flexibility to keep up with the most hard-working people on Heaven and Earth, our True Parents, and with their best ambassadors, the True Children.

To give a taste of what members of the Leadership Initiative go through, I will illustrate what happened during the week from October 31 to November 6, 2011.

Everyday from 9:00am to 12:00pm is reserved for guest speakers teaching about Contemporary Ministry, the Bible, Leadership, Life of Faith, and the

Unification Movement. The afternoons from 1:00pm to 5:00pm are dedicated to various practicums or internships. Students choose the field they are most interested in and gain hands-on experience shadowing or working with someone from the various departments of HSA-UWC. For example, students have the opportunity to work with Jaga Gavin or Christine Froehlich in Youth Ministry, to learn about graphic design with Tamara Gavin, to write for Unification News and communications, or to collaborate with the Lovin' Life video crew. In the evening all of the students attend programs hosted by the Lovin' Life Learning Center which they learn how to host and how to properly set up.

Monday October 31, 2011:

On Monday Heather Thalheimer, the director of the Leadership Initiative, gave a lecture on ministry structure and function. After lunch break, everyone divided up into their various practicums. Monday is particularly special as they attend the music practicum which Sonic Cult main guitarist and manager, Joe Young, hosts. In the performing arts practicum students filmed the next episode of Mr. The Fish for CARP while other students practiced dance choreography. Debby Gullery from the Blessed Family Ministry spoke to the ministry practicum, and the service practicum set up a coat drive to collect donations at Lovin' Life.

Monday evenings are set aside for team meetings. Each member gathers together with their teams and team leaders to reflect upon their week. They discuss their goals for the week and how they were or were not able to accomplish them. Team members share any inspiring or interesting experiences that they have had. They also take time to delve deeper into the message of In Jin Nim's sermon from the previous Sunday all-together as a group.

Tuesday November 1, 2011:

On Tuesday, a very special guest speaker Bishop Jesse and Tanya Edwards, spoke during the morning session. Bishop Jesse and Tanya Edwards is a very prominent couple in ACLC who love God and True Parents very much. They came to shed light upon the many confusing interpretations of the Bible, and to share their personal testimony to our students. Needless to say, Bishop Edwards is a very powerful speaker who answered any and all questions openly relating to the Divine Principle and the Bible.

That afternoon Ariana Moon and her father Jin Sung Nim blessed us by teaching us a ballroom dance



lesson. They focused on preparing everyone for a ballroom competition which everyone will participate in after Thanksgiving. After an hour and a half of ballroom dance lessons, everyone went to their practicums. The Tuesday practicums are graphic design, performing arts, choir and ministry. Choir is one of the largest practicums that work under Mrs. Nancy Kubo and her daughter Mitsuru Kubo, a member

of Sonic Cult. The choir is preparing to go to Korea to compete in the God's Day talent show in front of True Parents where True Children are the judges. Out of 100 who auditioned, only 42 made it into the choir.

Tuesday night is Korean drama night with a showing of a few episodes from the Korean drama Queen Seon Duk. Korean drama night is a tool to teach about heart of attendance, Korean culture, and valuable life lessons. Sometimes Jin Sung Nim attends the viewing, and afterwards leads discussion on the main themes of the drama.

Wednesday November 2, 2011:

Wednesday morning we had another special guest speaker, Reverend Jim Edgerly from Massachusetts. Reverend Edgerly talked about the organization



Above: Mrs. Kubo Leads the female portion of the choir in their weekly choir practice on Saturday.

of a ministry and how to create powerful and effective teams. He uses his personal experiences as **examples** of effective and ineffective organizing and shows how the Principle also applies to the organization of a church. He explains how he applied the universal principles presented in the Divine Principle into his own church community depicting the evolutionary development that took place and the result of it. The presentation was very inspiring.

The afternoon practicums on Wednesday are: music lead by Joe Young or Mitsuru Kubo, Ministry, Service, and SAT study. The SAT study group was made available for any of the Leadership Initiative students who wished to improve their SAT scores in order to apply to more prestigious colleges.

Junction, a mid-week youth service for both New Jersey and New York, is held on Wednesday nights. Members from the Tri-state area come for inspiration where Lovin' Life Youth Pastor Jaga Gavin gives a short sermon highlighting practical life lessons. However, this day was particularly unique because our Heavenly Parent called us for a special mission. We were informed that the Leadership Initiative should

attend the Original Substance of the Divine Principle Workshop in Atlantic City, NJ. The plan was to leave on Sunday after service which was in Bridgeport, CT that week. Therefore, we started making arrangements for travel to both Sunday Service in Bridgeport and the workshop in Atlantic City.

Thursday November 3, 2011:

Thursday morning is dedicated to a small group activity called Starting Point. It is a Small Group designed for new members in order to better explain life of faith practices such as prayer, reflection, reporting, etc. The facilitator of Starting Point guides the group through exercises and discussions to gain a stronger understanding of these difficult themes. Starting Point is a real and engaging way to teach about life of faith without direct lecturing.

In the afternoon Ariana and Jin Sung Nim came to teach ballroom lessons. We worked on technique for the Viennese waltz, swing, and Cha-Cha. Afterwards we separated into the various practicums (ministry, choir, performing arts).

Thursday evening is the highlight of the week

with a ballroom social. We spend the evening dancing away, showing our perfected moves that we **honed during the earlier lessons.**

Friday November 4, 2011:

Mr. Gerry Servito came on Friday morning to give a session on an introduction to Unification Thought. He came complete with many years of experience and a passion for the Principle. He gave an explanation of the Three Great Blessings according to Unification Thought, and the purpose of life. He demonstrated the process of creation and the essence of God-given creativity by singing his own original song.

Friday afternoons intentionally lack structure so that students can either work on personal projects or prepare for the evening program - Open Mic. Open Mic is a Friday night event where many of the Leadership Initiative students sing, dance, or showcase their special talents, making it a very exciting evening.



Saturday November 5, 2011:

On Saturday the choir practices all day with Mrs. Kubo who flies in all the way from Seattle. Those who are not a part of the choir and are studying for the SAT spends most of their time preparing by taking a full practice test during the day. In future modules when there will be no choir or SAT group, most of the students will be busy with New York or New Jersey youth ministry programs.

Sunday November 6, 2011:

On this particular Sunday, service was held at Bridgeport University. The Leadership Initiative left early on Sunday morning to help set up for service. Af-

terwards they participated in a ballroom social hosted by the Bridgeport community. Late in the afternoon we departed for Atlantic City, NJ for the beginning of the OSDP workshop. The workshop itself was a great experience for everyone. It was wonderful to have such experienced and amazing speakers such as Reverend Jenkins and Bishop Stallings.

Wednesday November 9, 2011:

The OSDP Workshop in Atlantic City, NJ concluded in the early afternoon. After a three hour bus ride back to the city, the students arrived in time for Junction. That night Linda Haft gave the "Smart

Relationships" lecture, previously known as "Free Teens". It's a great eye-opening experience as Linda Haft stunned the audience with powerful statistics about teen pregnancy, STDs, and single-parent families. Linda Haft gave an exciting presentation that was easily relatable and practical.

On that same evening, Jin Sung Nim invited the group from

Junction to a 3 Doors Down concert at the Manhattan Center. We were very lucky to be able to enjoy a free concert with amazing live performances. It was truly an incredible blessing to spend more time with True Family, and the chance to end an intense experience at the ODSP workshop in such an exhilarating way was very rewarding.

That sums up a typical week at the 43rd street Lovin' Life Learning Center for the Leadership Initiative. Every week is very different from the last, but the coordinators do their best to keep some consistency in the activities and the education. Thank you In Jin Nim for allowing us so many precious and important experiences that are essential to becoming excellent sons and daughters of God.

PHOTO ALBUM

October-November





The Overseas team in St. Lucia, posing with local families in front of the Trois-Piton Church in Anse La Raye

OVERSEAS SERVICE

ST. LUCIA

Reported by: Cynthia Jones and Ami Stair
Compiled by Elissa Allen, Edited by Thanh Le

As part of the Generation Peace Academy every first-year participant gets the opportunity to serve in a foreign country for twenty-one days. This module, participants are serving in three countries: St Lucia, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago. Overseas service is a great opportunity for GPA members to experience God's heart and to have a greater understanding of the world, both of which are critical for creating leaders. In St. Lucia members will be working in the village of Anse la Raye supporting different public works initiatives, in Guyana they will be working in the orphanage Joshua House, and in Trinidad and Tobago they will be working to improve two different community centers. For more about their experiences in each of the different countries, take a look at the following reports.

Life is nothing if not an adventure. The GPA group that headed to St Lucia experienced the joy of trying to travel on the busiest travel day of the year – and unfortunately missed their flight! The group was so determined not to let that happen again by showing up at the airport four hours early the following day.

Upon finally arriving in St. Lucia, a warm tropical breeze and balmy 86 degree weather welcomed the group. In contrast to the wind tunnels of New York, this was not a bad way to enjoy late November. Also there to greet them was Magnus, the leader of a local Catholic youth group called, Youth on Fire. After working with participants



Above: The GPA participants in St. Lucia practice a song to perform at the local church in Anse La Raye, St. Lucia

from last year's program, Magnus has developed a deep fondness for our church and for the GPA program. He can even name every single participant who had previously served in St. Lucia! In a humble house in the heart of the fishing village of Anse la Raye, the GPA members quickly settled into their new abode for the next three weeks. As soon as they arrived, they jumped right into service by getting the house they were staying in spic-and-span. Afterwards they met with and received education from Remy Taupier, who is the National Messiah to St. Lucia. Also, Senior Group Leader, Akira Watanabe, who as GPA staff came three days before, briefed the group on the expectations and responsibilities of living and serving in another country.

As the group began to settle into St. Lucia they discovered two things: one is the beauty of the country they are serving, and the other is the significant impact that STF 2010-2011 made on

the community.

The following day the team explored the surrounding countryside and hiked up the mountain bordering Anse la Raye. Upon reaching the end of the path they decided to press on a bit further and ended up at a beautiful waterfall. At the base they met Mr. Paul and Ms. Delrita, two



natives who care for the falls and work the farms nearby. Normally they require a \$10 entry fee, but upon remembering the good works of the previous STF group, they urged the team to jump in and swim for free, and had even offered them some native fruits. Mr. Paul and Ms. Delrita served coconuts, grapefruits, and golden apples, a small fruit with

a texture similar to that of a mango but a bit more tart, freshly harvested from the trees. The team took a refreshing dip and embraced the beauty of the forest and its waterfalls.

After an exciting afternoon, the team had two meetings in the evening. They met with a local man named Victorien Lawrence, who started a



Above: Alexa Sensini teaches the locals of Trinidad how to play the popular game "hand ninja".

youth sports club as a way of creating non-violent opportunities for teens. Victorien wanted to collaborate with GPA to work together and create an interactive youth forum that included twenty of the outstanding youth from the different sports clubs. This forum would take place on December 3, 2011. The GPA members were excited about the opportunity for cultural exchange and the chance to connect to other young people like themselves.

The memorable day drew to a close lastly at a meeting with Amy Stevens, an 18 year old local member of the community. She described being really touched by the experience of working with last year's STF participants. Amy reflected, "I felt like I was a part of the family when they were here. It's ridiculous how close we got and I am still in contact with a few of them. Ever since they left I have a better understanding of God and I love to spread the Word to others in the village." The GPA members learned a valuable lesson that day - the simple act of service can touch another person in unforgettable ways, and that little things can make a large difference. The team is in for an exciting 21 days!

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Reported by: Rachel Boothby
Compiled by Elissa Allen, Edited by Thanh Le

One of the most valuable aspects of serving in foreign countries is learning how to adapt. The GPA members who went to Trinidad and Tobago experienced that lesson the first day they arrived. It was originally intended that they take a short tour on their first day, but because of the political unrest within the country, their hosts thought it would be wise for them to stay at the church center in Diego Martin. The GPA members decided to make the best of the situation by attempting a painting project at the Church.

Despite the slight shuffling of their schedule, the team was still able to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with many guests from the local community



Above: The girls of Trinidad pose with a rose that same evening. They also witnessed a performance from the national Parang singers. Parang, a native style of singing and dancing originating from Trinidad and Tobago, is similar to caroling and often celebrates the life of Jesus Christ.

On the next day the team finished painting the local church and headed to their main service location at the St. Barbs Community Center. After



Above: The GPA participants take a group shot with the Prime Minister of Guyana

taking a bus ride up the narrow mountain streets, the members were greeted by a chain drum performance by five little boys and the President of the lower St. Barbs community, Mr. Brown. There was also a martial arts demonstration by a local black belt named Craig, and some of the GPA members Nick Kiefer, Masataka Asaoka, and Simon Nagle participated as well. After the performances, the team made their way through the village streets, meeting and greeting the local community members along the way.

After all the introductions, the team surveyed the upper St. Barb Community Center which is in bad dis-repair and even had a caved-in ceiling. However, the GPA members previously empowered by the positive attitude and the high-spirit of the people they had met and felt confident enough to tackle this task. After settling in and true to the spirit of the Caribbean, the day ended with an impromptu dance party.

Despite the unexpected outcome of the first day and the various remodeling projects, the GPA members also had opportunities to relax and to experience the country that they are serving in. On Friday they took a morning hike through the mountains and visited a waterfall where they had the opportunity to swim and soak up the natural

beauty. Afterwards, they visited the city of Moracas where they met with representatives from over forty communities all over Trinidad for a conference. The GPA members received the opportunity to introduce themselves to the community leaders and share their goals for service. They also had a chance to bond with the local youth from the community and engaged in some cultural exchange through sports. They taught the young people how to play Frisbee, and in turn, played a game of cricket! Finally at the end of the day, several representatives of GPA were interviewed on a love radio talk show. All these experiences contributed to the team's appreciation and love for the culture and for the people of Trinidad. The people did not have much in terms of material wealth, but they had tons of spirit and heart, where the music is literally, always playing.

GUYANA

Reported by Chiyo Tanimoto and William Nguyen
Compiled by Elissa Allen, Edited by Thanh Le

In each of the different countries where GPA members are serving, the participants gain a



Above: Josh Hunter and Masahiro Abe help mix cement on-site at a house building project in Guyana

wide variety of experiences. In Guyana they received the blessing of connecting with high-level politicians and the ability to represent True Parents to them. On their first full day in Guyana the GPA members met with the current President of Guyana, Bharrat Jagdeo. Originally the President had planned to meet with the team for only fifteen minutes, but President Jagdeo conversed with them for over an hour. The President was inspired by the group's commitment to Foreign Service and remarked, "Too many politicians have never even been out of their own states. They have a limited personal understanding of the people." President Jagdeo also told the team that service with too many technical negotiations are, "All about the head and has no heart behind it."

During the meeting with the President, the GPA members clearly explained that Generation Peace Academy was a project of Lovin' Life Ministries and testified to their connection to True Parents. The team explained to President Jagdeo how

Rev. Sun Myung Moon's commitment towards world peace was the impetus for their activities. At the end of their meeting they presented the President with a copy of *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* and a GPA Generation-Peace-at-Your-Service T-shirt. In addition to meeting with the President, the GPA team also had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor of Georgetown, Hamilton Green. The Mayor addressed the issues of future leadership in Guyana and mentioned that being able to put aside historical baggage and move forward was essential.

Besides meeting with various political leaders in Guyana, the main project that the GPA members will be involved in over the next twenty-one days is a construction project at the Joshua House Orphanage. The Joshua House is an orphanage operated by the Unification Church in Guyana that houses over 60 children. The team will be working at the Joshua House to build an on-site laundry facility. Besides construction, the

GPA members will interact with and take care of the orphan children staying there. The GPA members started work right away by digging out the foundation for the facility. Several team members worked at the site and others interacted with the kids. Both groups experienced tremendous joy from their time together.

For Thanksgiving the team toured around the city of Georgetown to see the cultural and historical sites. They concluded the day with dinner at a Chinese restaurant where, as in typical Thanksgiving style, they all shared something that they were grateful for. No matter the location or the food, the heart of gratitude is the key to Thanksgiving.

Heart seemed to be the theme to their overall experience so far. Georgia Pearson, an experienced overseas organizer, shared with the group that the idea of service is not the amount of work they do, but the heart behind it. Hopefully, that heart will continue to deepen throughout their experiences and interactions with the people of Guyana.

To learn more about these projects, to see pictures and read testimonies please visit our new website www.GenerationPeaceServes.com

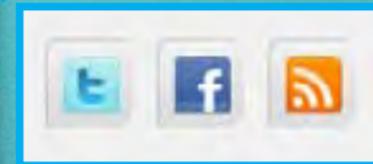


NEW WEBSITES

www.GenerationPeaceAcademy.org



OVERVIEW: This is our public website, the face of GPA on the internet. This site is readily accessible to the general public. Here, you can see pictures of all the current participants as well as donate to support the program.



The GPA twitter feed, Facebook page and RSS feed can all be accessed from the set of buttons located on the top right of the page.

www.GenerationPeaceServes.org

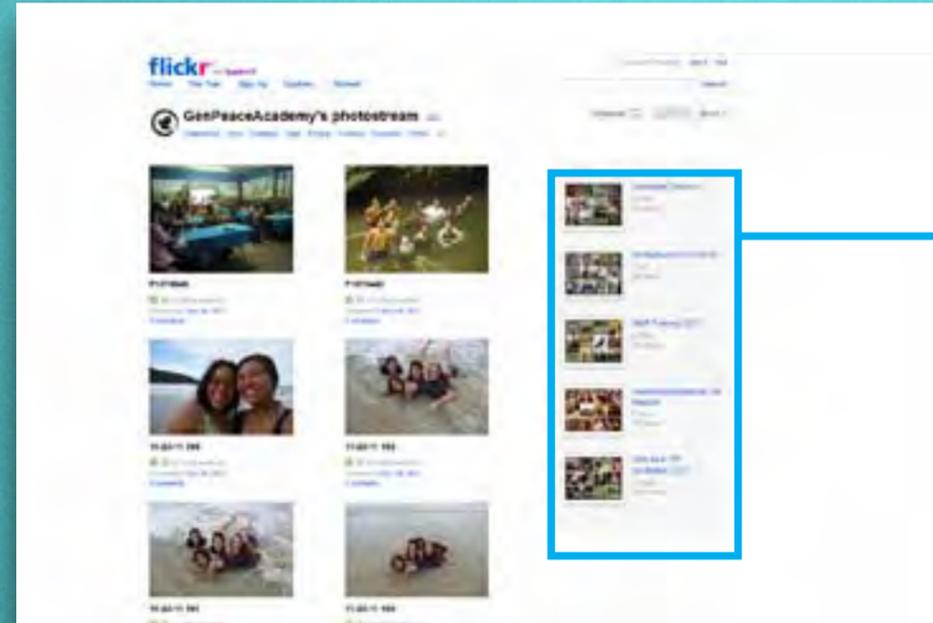


OVERVIEW: This page is specifically created for the Overseas Service Module on GPA. It is almost identical in layout to the GPA website and has a very simple navigation menu along the top.

NEWS: In the news section you can read about the projects that are happening right now in the countries the GPA participants are currently in.

NEW WEBSITES

www.Flickr.com/GenPeaceAcademy



OVERVIEW: This is our photo hosting website where we upload all the pictures taken during the GPA year.

COLLECTIONS: The photos are organized into "collections" in the sidebar here. They are organized into logical categories such as the different modules. Within each collection, there are "sets" which further organize the pictures into more specific categories.

www.Twitter.com/GenPeaceAcademy



OVERVIEW: This is GPA's Twitter feed. Here we post short summaries (tweets) about what is happening currently on GPA.

NOTE: A twitter account is required to subscribe to our twitter feed. Our twitter, because of its simplicity and ease of use, will be the fastest way to learn of current events on GPA as well as up to date information.