Dear Students of St. Michael’s,

On behalf of the TGSA Board I’d like to say “Welcome (back)” to the Toronto School of Theology! We are looking forward to the 2016 – 2017 academic year and are glad to have you as part of the TST community.

If you have been around for a few years, we’re likely familiar to you as ADSA. While our name has changed, our purpose and scope remains the same: TGSA exists for the benefit of all graduate students at TST – full-time, part-time, local, commuter, doctoral, or advanced masters, you are a member of TGSA. The TGSA Board is made up of student representatives who are elected each year from TST’s member colleges. We serve as a forum for students to voice concerns, act as a liaison with TST’s administrative bodies, and provide student members for TST Councils and Committees. **We can best use our voice when we hear yours.** If you have any questions or concerns through this year, please get in touch with me or with Benjamin Lujan, your St Mike’s rep on TGSA.

As well as advocacy, TGSA provide opportunities both for students’ professional growth and the development of a scholarly community across TST. To this end TGSA will be hosting both professional development seminars and inter-college social events throughout the school year, as well as a conference for all TST graduate students in the spring. With all of these events is old adage applies: the more the merrier! Our goal is to organize events that are worth stepping out of the library to attend, so we hope you will take advantage of the opportunities to connect with other TST students. **The first event for the new school year will be our annual OGS/SSHRC grant writing workshop which will take place September 15th, followed by the annual welcome back BBQ.** Stay tuned for more information.

Speaking of information, TGSA has a variety of ways it communicates with its members. We will occasionally send out emails via TST’s graduate student listserv. We also maintain a TGSA Facebook group (Toronto School of Theology Graduate Students’ Association – it is a closed group, but simply request to join and a board member will approve you), a Twitter account (@tsttgsa), and our very own website: [http://tgsa.sa.utoronto.ca](http://tgsa.sa.utoronto.ca) Information about TGSA events, board meetings, and other relevant happenings will be broadcast in these digital locations so please read/like/follow/join the channel that works best for you.

The Advanced Degree Students’ Association is here to advocate for you and to help ensure you have a productive and enjoyable time at the Toronto School of Theology. If you have any ideas, questions, concerns, if there is anything else you think we can be doing but are not, please don’t hesitate to get in touch. There are a few openings on the TGSA Board (some program representatives and a non-voting secretary), so if you have an interest in planning events, serving your fellow students, and/or acquiring CV lines, please email me with any questions you have about how to get involved 😊.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer. All of us on the board look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Warmly,

Allison Murray
President, TST Graduate Students’ Association