

One of the first things I remember from when I joined Northeastern last fall was receiving an email that talked about Wellness Days for undergraduate students. It immediately hit me as to why this provision did not exist for graduate students like me. From then, it has been a long journey of joining the right student organizations and a steadfast driving force to make a positive impact on a graduate student's journey at Northeastern.

As an international student in a completely new atmosphere, it was important to me to expose myself to different cultures and experiences. I went out of my way to join student organizations that aligned with my interests and gave me the global experience I was seeking.

As a volunteer with Bridges Boston, a community service organization with a Northeastern chapter, I had the opportunity to volunteer on weekends at churches to help the homeless people of Boston. We would gather on a bi-weekly basis and cook meals in a community kitchen to feed close to 50 homeless individuals, arrange for clothes and medicines through a donation drive and just sit and converse with these people. I met students from various colleges in the Massachusetts area, starting from Suffolk to MIT. This was by far the most eye-opening experience of my life here. The luxury of privilege permeates to our daily life, and we get swept up by monotony. This experience offered me the reality check that kept me grounded. I realized the community building opportunities that lie with coming together for a greater cause and help those in need. I hope to integrate some of these personal traits into my leadership role at GSG. It could range from something as simple as organizing cleanliness drives for our internal team of senators and e-board members by collaborating with the Off-campus Student Engagement Office as a means of team building OR conducting a large scale semester-wise trash2treasure competition for all graduate students that is gamified and incentivized. Through my position as an e-board member I hope to promote more community service ethos in our graduate student community.

I was also a member of NEU Graduate Women in Science and Engineering, an avenue that introduced me to the power of strong, influential women making waves of impact in the world. We interacted with several Northeastern STEM women in leadership to learn strategies on business, thesis writing, case study presentations and overall mentorship in shaping STEM careers. Attending these sessions left me with a feeling of awe of the power of women supporting women. I hope to create similar experiences for the larger female-identifying student population through GSG's platform. Fostering communities and creating inclusive environments where women feel empowered to thrive is of great value to me. Increasing visibility of women led initiatives in GSG is a goal that I hope to work towards.

All of us are here with different agendas and hopes and dreams, but one thing I'm sure that unites everyone at Northeastern is to have the best graduate study experience possible. Putting students' needs first and bridging gaps in the system requires consistent effort and determination and with my experience of having led an ad-hoc committee within GSG, participating in all GSG events in the past year and having clearly laid out plans for the next term, I am sure of working with the rest of the team to bring these projects to fruition.