

GRADUATE STUDIES BULLETIN

Important Dates To Remember

February 18: GradFest in Student Memorial Center

March 3: Deadline to order cap and gown for May commencement

March 7: Spring Break begins after last class

March 17: Spring Break ends at 7 a.m.

March 17: Fall class schedules are available to view online

March 28: Last day to withdraw from a class and receive a "W"

April 1: Summer and Fall Registration Begins for graduate degree-seeking students

April 8-9: Possible weather make-up days

April 24: Graduate Research Symposium

April 25: Deadline for submitting graduate theses

May 1-2: Reading Days (No classes)

May 5-9: FINALS WEEK

May 7: Graduate Honors & Awards Ceremony

May 10: Commencement Ceremony

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



By Dr. Victor DeSantis,
Dean of
Graduate
Studies and
Research

Welcome back to a wonderful spring semester here at Millersville University! The Office of Graduate Studies and Research is excited to be starting the semester with many announcements of great happenings on campus.

We are thrilled to present, for the second time, our MU/ SU/ WCU Graduate Research Symposium which will be held on April 24, 2008. I would invite interested graduate students that have been conducting research or working on a creative project to submit their work for consideration to the Office of Graduate Studies. Please refer to the article on page 3 for more information.

As part of the 5-year Graduate Studies Review and our overall movement toward graduate program assessment, we have re-

ceived funding to implement the Noel-Levitz "Adult Student Priorities Survey," a product currently used by many graduate schools across the nation.

The Noel Levitz ASPS will allow us to understand what's important to our adult students and how satisfied they are across many educational and environmental attributes. It will also give us comparative data against other graduate programs across the country.

The Office of Graduate Studies in collaboration with Institutional Assessment and Planning will implement this survey to all graduate students in mid-February. This survey will provide you the chance to tell the University what you are experiencing as a graduate student on our campus.

I am very excited about this project as it will be the first systematic data collection from our graduate students using a nationally benchmarked and scientifically validated instrument. As the dean, this feedback will

greatly assist me in addressing any deficiencies in our graduate programs and services. Students will have the option to complete the survey by hard copy or online. Please pay close attention to your marauder e-mail account in which you will receive an e-mail with the link to the survey site. All participants will be entered into a drawing for some great prizes! Please, get involved and let us know your thoughts. This survey will help as we strive to make your graduate experience the best. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

Finally, please join me in welcoming the two newest members of our student services staff to the Office of Graduate Studies. Megan Kauffman joined the office in December as our new records and data assistant. Jessica Taylor just joined us in February as our new graduate assistant.

Best wishes to you all this semester.

Graduate Assistant Applications

The Office of Graduate Studies is excited about the number of applications we have received for Graduate Assistant positions for the 2008-2009 school year. If you are still interested in applying for an assistantship, we will accept additional applications in the event that there are positions that remain open. First consideration will be given to those who met the Feb. 1 deadline.

The application form may be found online at the Graduate Studies website.

Graduation Information

If you are planning to graduate in May, please note that your Application for Graduation was due by February 1, 2008. If you have not yet applied, you must submit your application ASAP to be eligible for graduation in May. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Megan Kauffman in the Office of Graduate Studies and Research at 717-872-3099 or by e-mail at Megan.Kauffman@millersville.edu.

HIGHLIGHT ON GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

My name is Kristin Weidman and I have been the Graduate Assistant Coordinator for the Millersville Mentoring Alliance Program (MMAP) since the Fall semester of 2006.

The MMAP is a branch of the Office of the Assistant Provost for Academic Services. You can find us on MU's webpage at www.millersville.edu/~mmap. We provide one-on-one mentoring by connecting interested MU students with qualified MU faculty, staff, peer, alumni, or community mentors. The mentors in the MMAP are committed volunteers who encourage students to develop to their full potential. Mentoring pairs give support, share experiences, and set goals with one another. In some form or another we have all had mentors in our lives, but the MMAP helps formalize this process and gives participants the tools and assistance needed to be successful.

As the Graduate Coordinator I aid the Administrative Assistant for the Assistant Provost for Academic Services in developing, planning, and implementing all MMAP programs and activities. Much of my time is spent planning, promoting and facilitating the variety of meetings, events, and trainings we have each semester as well as communicating and collaborating with current MMAP participants. I also work closely with the students from the Lancaster Partnership Program who are currently freshmen at MU. Other important parts of my position are "matching" students with a mentor who meets their needs and making sure our database is up-to-date.

Some current projects I am working on are collaborating with the MMAP Advisory Council on recent goals to implement a comprehensive survey for all MMAP participants

to complete each academic year and to create a more effective means of communicating with the over 200 MMAP participants. We are also hoping to one day collaborate with more Academic Departments to have formal mentoring take place throughout campus.

Through my Graduate Assistantship as Coordinator of the Millersville Mentoring Alliance Program (MMAP) I have had the opportunity to work with a variety of people at Millersville University and the surrounding community. I also had the chance to attend the International Mentoring Association Conference last year in Atlanta and learn about the impact mentoring has had all over the world. I have experienced the benefits and challenges of mentoring first-hand, both as a graduate student and as a mentor. I would encourage everyone to become involved in mentoring in any way you can, as it is an experience you will never forget!

~Kristin Weidman

GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Our second annual Graduate Research Symposium will be held on April 24, 2008. Millersville University will be joining Shippensburg and West Chester Universities to present graduate research and creative projects at the Dixon University Center in Harrisburg, PA. The Office of Graduate Studies enthusiastically invites all graduate students to submit their research or creative project for consideration.

The symposium is designed to increase awareness on campuses about the state-of-the-art research and creative projects occurring each semester. The event also provides graduate students a chance to increase their presentation skills in both poster session and presentation styles.

The event will be held from 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm in order to accommodate those students who are also maintaining full-time work. Presentations will last for 15 minutes followed by time for discussion. Poster

sessions will run throughout the afternoon and evening while presentations are occurring. Registration for those presenting in the event will be taken care of by their respective University. The event is also open to the public for a small registration fee of \$10.00.

All current graduate students and any student who received their degree in the past 12 months are welcome to submit their work. Please visit the Graduate Studies website for more information about the event and a web-based portal to submit your work. We encourage faculty, administrators, graduate students and family to attend and view the research presented throughout the day. All non-presenters must register by April 12, 2008 in order to make arrangements for registration and food. We are excited for the event and look forward to seeing you there!

MU ALERT SYSTEM

The University has a new emergency text message system, using e2Campus. The state-of-the-art communication system is called MU Alert. Faculty, staff and students are asked to sign up to receive a text message on their cell phone in the event of a campus emergency or weather related delay or closing. To receive alerts, register at MUalert.millersville.edu.

SUMMER COURSE IN IRELAND!

JUNE 15-25, 2008

Comparative Education Within Divided Societies: Lessons from Ireland

3 Graduate Credit Hours (EDFN 511 or EDFN 586)

11 days/9 nights: \$1,895 plus tuition
(payment schedule available)

Request application form:
dominic.scott@millersville.edu



The GSA will be starting off strong once again this semester. The officers and members held their first meeting on January 22 in order to start planning events for the semester. Activities for the semester include: Traveling Socials

in McComsey Hall (February 6), Byerly Hall, and Stayer Education Center; Midterm Celebration at Jack's Family Tavern; assisting in the Graduate Research Symposium; and a Finals Celebration.

The GSA is also involved on campus by representing our association on various committees including University Planning Committee, Faculty Senate, and the Graduate Course and Program

Review Committee.

GSA officers Meredith Moylan, Kris Vitucci, Jessica Taylor and Erin Fawcett are actively working to gain more University funding for the GSA, so that we may plan more events in years to come. We look forward to another great semester! Come join us for our events across campus!

**FEBRUARY 2008
GRADUATE STUDIES
BULLETIN**

GRADUATE STUDIES NEWS

The Office of Graduate Studies

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Our staff would be happy to accommodate you after these hours by appointment, if needed.

To schedule a meeting with someone in our office after 5 p.m., please call us at 717-872-3099 or e-mail Megan.Kauffman@millersville.edu.

Graduate Assistant Pay Dates for Spring 2008

Graduate Assistant's bi-weekly stipend payments will be distributed on the following dates for the Spring 2008 semester:

February 1, 15, and 29

March 14 and 28

April 11 and 25

May 9

Note: Everyone is eligible for direct deposit. To activate, stop by the Payroll office to fill out the appropriate form.