

UW-L

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

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GRADUATE STUDIES UPDATE

Congratulations to UW-L graduate students who will receive their degrees in the commencement ceremony on May 16, 2009.



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Student Affairs

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Graduate Student Grants Awarded

Graduate Council approved funding for eight proposals totaling almost \$12,000. The grant recipients represented Biology, Microbiology, Human Performance, MEPD, and Recreation Management, Therapeutic Recreation.

In addition twelve students were approved for professional travel grants totaling \$2,660 to present at, or attend, a conference in their field of study.

UW-L programs that were represented in these grants included Recreation

Management, Health Professions, Biology, Physical Education Teaching, Sports Administration, and Human Performance.



Celebration of Student Research

The Twelfth Annual Celebration of Student Research and Creativity was held on Friday April 3, 2009.



This year's Celebration included 13 graduate student presentations of which twelve presented posters and one student

gave an oral presentation.

For the third year a graduate student was recognized for outstanding research presentation.

Congratulations to *Malisa Barbknecht* and her mentor *Mike Hoffman* from the Microbiology Program for receiving the Outstanding Research Presentation Award. Her research was entitled: "*Characterization of an unclassified virus and sur-*

vey for its presence in Wisconsin bluegill populations."

Thank you to all who presented and to their faculty mentors for their continued guidance, and support..

Graduate Studies is looking forward to the 2010 Celebration and is hoping even more graduate students will participate in this great opportunity to share and discuss their research accomplishments.



Note: Suggestions to improve the layout/content of this update are welcome and should be directed to:

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"Top Three Action Steps"

Secure long term allocation of existing Academic Initiative revenue for graduate students

Develop consistent web presence for UW-L Graduate programs

Develop a public relations structure for UW-L graduate studies

GRADUATE STUDIES UPDATES

Give Graduate Students A Voice On Campus!

Graduate Student Organization (GSO)

2009-2010 Leadership Opportunities!!

GSO is looking for individuals who are willing and excited to step into leadership roles; if interested please contact by email at gso@uwlax.edu or graduatestudies@uwlax.edu!

Graduate Student Survey

This spring the Office of Graduate Studies sent an on-line survey to all UWL On-Campus, On-Line, and Learning Community Graduate Students.

The goal of the survey was to gather student input on what improvements in our graduate programs might better meet the needs of our graduates students.

The survey was completed by 306 UWL graduate students from all but three graduate programs offered by the university. These students provided meaningful insights and feed-

back on their graduate careers thus far.

We were pleasantly surprised to find that a very high percentage of our current graduate students only applied and considered UW-L for their graduate program. That speaks to the quality programs of the programs at UWL. Seventy three percent of these students responded that they came to or continued their education at UWL because of a specific program offered by the university.

The survey also brought forth the fact that a significant number of stu-

dents are not aware of grant opportunities, and graduate assistantships on campus. Also noted was the limited involvement and awareness of the Graduate Student Organization (GSO).

Survey responses are still being reviewed. Further results and information will be presented in the near future.

Thank you to all who completed and returned the survey. Your feedback and opinions are greatly appreciated.

Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Update

Another successful grant-writing workshop took place on February 10, 2009.

This workshop was done in conjunction with Society of Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities (SURSCA) which brought both undergraduate and graduate students together to learn about the process of writing a successful grant proposal. Amery Bodelson, Grant Writer, and Professor Tom Kernozek

from the Physical Therapy Program shared tips for writing successful grant proposals.

Following the presentation, students were able to ask specific questions regarding the RSEL grant and the professional travel grant processes. GSO appreciates all of the faculty, staff, and students that were willing to share their knowledge about writing a successful grant.

A poster making workshop was also

held by the Office of Sponsored Research and GSO on March 3, 2009. Graduate and undergraduate students attended the informational workshop to gain tips and tricks to making professional research posters for Celebration of Student Research as well as National Conference of Undergraduate Research,

(Article Contributed by Ellie Ahmann and Carly Andersen)

Congratulations to 2009 Thesis Award Recipient

Lynn Hrabik

(Mentor: Gary Gilmore; MPH Program)

GRADUATE STUDIES UPDATES

Special Education Program Review

The Department of Educational Studies faculty support the Graduate Special Education Program currently offering three graduate level curricular tracks.

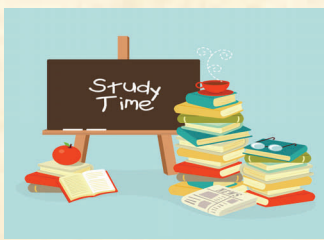
Track 1: Candidates who already hold or are eligible to hold a Wisconsin teaching license, can earn an additional teaching license in cross-categorical special education without completing the Masters in Special Education degree requirements.

Track 2: In-service teachers can add on cross-categorical special education licensure to their current Wisconsin teaching licensure as well as a Master's degree in Special Education.

Track 3: Graduate candidates earn a Master's degree in conjunction with their initial teaching licensure in cross

-categorical special education. Master's degree candidates have the capstone options of Thesis, Seminar Paper, or Comprehensive Examination.

The faculty plan to expand the graduate special education program by adding Track 4. Within this track, candidates will be able to earn a Master's degree in Education-Special Education by creating an area of expertise relating to the field of special education.



Candidates complete degree core, emphasis-related courses, and elective courses required to meet their professional development and Master's degree requirements.

This new track allows candidates to earn a Master's degree in special education without having to earn a teaching licensure. Candidates may consider creating expertise areas, such as Cognitive Disabilities, Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities, Specific Learning Disabilities, Reading Teacher, or English Language Learning.

For more information see www.uwlax.edu/soe/specialed.

(Article Contributed by Carol Angell)

Joint Committee Meeting

The Office of Graduate Studies hosted a joint information and discussion session with the Graduate Program Directors and the members of the Graduate Council on February 27, 2009

The session was kicked off by Provost Enz Finken, who discussed the current status of the Bologna Accord.

Under this Accord, 40 European countries have agreed to facilitate greater transparency, increased mobility of students, and creation of the Bachelor-Master progression (4 plus 1

or 3 plus 2 years) by 2010.

The Provost talked about the support for implementation of a policy that would facilitate a review of graduate applications even if they had three year degrees.

She suggested that we should review their academic competencies and not necessarily the number of years for their eligibility to be admitted at UWL. Currently UWL only accepts four year degrees.

Also briefly discussed was the need for a review of current graduate assis-

stantships offered to students. Concern was expressed that not all assistantships are valuable learning experiences and providing the growth in their field of study. Further assessment of these assistantships will continue.

Discussion about the current Academic Appeal Process for graduate students was also presented. Efforts are underway to streamline the process and delegate decision making to the specific graduate program departments so that the process can be completed more expeditiously.

Important Dates!

Professional Travel Grants: Applications due May 15, 2009

Commencement: May 16, 2009