A Message from the Dean

Dear Members of the Graduate Studies community, faculty and students,

I want to welcome you to the inaugural edition of the USM Graduate Studies newsletter. The newsletter is for our current and prospective students, faculty, and staff involved in graduate programs and scholarly work; alumni of our programs; and friends who wish to support graduate education at the University of Southern Maine. Each semester, this newsletter will be one of the ways we will highlight graduate programs, faculty, and students who comprise our community as well as provide important information on graduate studies policies, programs, and events.

In the Office of Graduate Studies we want to help you from the time you arrive, as you progress toward your degree, and as you graduate. We will keep you updated on services and events through the web and e-mail. The Office of Graduate Studies and Graduate Admissions are here to support your study and your research. You are being challenged academically, meeting new friends and, we hope, using all of the resources of USM and the Portland area to make the most of your experience at the University. We appreciate that there is life beyond the classroom, lab, or library, and we strongly encourage you to take part in extracurricular activities such as the developing Graduate Student Government organization. Our graduate faculty and students enhance the intellectual life at USM through their scholarship, research, and participation in campus activities.

Please feel free to drop by the Office of Graduate Studies, located at 45 Exeter Street. We look forward to helping make your graduate educational experience both academically and personally rewarding. We are pleased you have joined us at USM.

Dahlia Lynn, Ph.D.
Dean of Graduate Studies

Graduate Student Government Initiative at USM

In January of 2010 a small group of graduate students from the MBA and Muskie programs explored ways to advocate for the interests of graduate students at USM through the creation of a graduate student government organization at USM. After gaining support from various administrative offices, these students began taking the necessary steps to create such an organization. Other students joined the exploratory team and committee representation expanded to include students from the Social Work, School Counseling, School Psychology, American and New England Studies, and Computer Science graduate programs.

The Exploratory Committee held a graduate student community forum on March 12th attended by over thirty-five graduate students. Representatives of the committee explained the possible benefits of a student organization and listened to the President of the UMO graduate student government speak about the activities of the GSG at the UMO campus. Organizing members emphasized that graduate student government can provide representation, academic support, and networking opportunities for USM’s graduate student body.

A web-based survey was launched on March 16th to measure student interest in forming a graduate student government and the willingness to pay a fee to support the organization’s activities. The group is using the survey data to determine the level of support for graduate student government at USM and is proceeding to create a governing constitution and by-laws as part of this process. Graduate students interested in becoming involved in the GSG may contact Janet Casey at jancasey@usm.maine.edu.
Samantha Langley-Tumbaugh Named Associate VP of Academic Affairs for Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activity

Professor Samantha Langley-Tumbaugh is the new Associate Vice-President of Academic Affairs for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity at USM. Dr. Langley-Tumbaugh has extensive experience with NSF, NIH, NASA and the EPA, as well as private funders, and frequently collaborates with researchers from multiple disciplines and other universities. Professor Langley-Tumbaugh’s appreciation for interdisciplinarity at USM began with her faculty appointment in the College of Arts and Sciences, where she became familiar with the expertise of USM faculty in the fine arts, humanities, and social sciences, along with the physical and natural sciences. She is particularly interested in fostering the potential for interdisciplinary research at USM.

Dr. Langley-Tumbaugh will be working closely with the USM Research Council and faculty members to strategically utilize current resources and identify new funding sources for future research.

A Day in the Life of a USM Grad Student: Tim Divoll

I’ve always been interested in shark conservation despite the low diversity of sharks we have here in the Gulf of Maine. Under the guidance of Dr. David Evers at the BioDiversity Research Institute, I’ve been collaborating with Dr. Neil Hammerschlag, a shark expert at the University of Miami, by analyzing the mercury content in sharks. To gain some field experience, I proposed an independent study this semester to analyze all of the shark mercury data from Dr. Neil Hammerschlag’s sharks and prepare it for a collaborative publication between Neil and Dr. Evers. Of course, to fully understand the shark habitat, a trip to Miami was required during spring break to get out in the waters with Dr. Hammer (as he’s called by his colleagues) and his student-run shark team, the R.J. Dunlap Marine Conservation Program. All of the action was captured by film-maker Joe Romeiro and I was able to learn how to safely haul in, measure, tag, and obtain tissue samples for testing. I apparently brought good luck to the group as we were able to place a smart-positioning satellite tag on a female bull shark for the first time in research history. We also had a nice surprise when we caught a 14-foot sawfish (endangered species) that we successfully released.

Our lucky day ended on a comical note. A Northern Parula landed on board, likely after flying across the Gulf of Mexico and on his migration northward. He seemed exhausted but sociable. We called our new friend Steve and he fluttered around the boat like my mother at a family holiday, checking on everyone to make sure they had what they needed. In typical captain and crew fashion, we yelled orders at Steve to help out with certain tasks, and he obliged. He landed on the line as all eight grams of him would make a difference. He landed on my data sheet, as if to help me record because I couldn’t get it all down in time. As we headed full speed for Islamorada, Steve stood tall on the bow of the boat with his feathers ruffled in the wind. His stature was not like a dainty mermaid but more rugged like a chrome bulldog on the hood of a Mack truck. When we hit the tree-lined river mouth, Steve bolted for the Bulldog on the hood of a Mack truck. When we hit the tree-lined river mouth, Steve bolted for the tree-lined river mouth, a Mack truck. When we hit the tree-lined river mouth, Steve bolted for the tree-lined river mouth. As we made a difference. He landed on the line as well as private funders, and frequently collaborates with researchers from multiple disciplines and other universities. Professor Langley-Tumbaugh’s appreciation for interdisciplinarity at USM began with her faculty appointment in the College of Arts and Sciences, where she became familiar with the expertise of USM faculty in the fine arts, humanities, and social sciences, along with the physical and natural sciences. She is particularly interested in fostering the potential for interdisciplinary research at USM.

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Tim Divoll is a Biology graduate student who is enrolled in two classes this semester, teaches Practical Anatomy, and works in both the USM laboratories and at the BioDiversity Research Institute in Gorham. This is an excerpt from his full story which can be found on www.usm.maine.edu/grad/studentstories.html.
Graduate Student Spotlight: Brynn Riley

Brynn Riley began developing her capstone project, “An operating room analysis of the Justinien University Hospital in Cap-Haïtien, Haiti” during the fall of 2009. She was drawn to the issues in Haiti’s healthcare system because of her interest in public health and international health care. The purpose of her capstone project was to provide an organizational analysis leading to specific recommendations that would improve the operating room’s efficiencies. With the support of Muskie’s Health Policy and Management Chair, Andy Coburn, Brynn planned a trip to Haiti to work in a state-run and poorly funded hospital 80 miles north of Port au Prince. She was scheduled to leave in January but the earthquake disaster postponed the trip for a few days. Arriving in Haiti one week after the earthquake (“le Jour” as the Haitians refer to the day), Brynn proceeded with her plans to develop an analysis and plan for the improvement of the Justinien University Hospital’s operating room. Ms. Riley found a strong group of doctors and nurses working hard to help mitigate the human life losses from the earthquake while coping with their own significant family tragedies. They worked together to address operating room inefficiencies through root cause analysis and team brainstorming. Through this experience, Brynn learned a great deal about Haiti’s culture and politics. She grew to admire their creative approach to thriftiness such as recycling old suction tubing to be used in weaving chair seats and using parts from salvaged equipment to fix machines. In return, her work provided hospital leaders with an empirical analysis of the hospital’s operating room level of productivity and identified strategies for improvements.

Brynn Riley received a business degree from the University of Maine at Orono and worked for several years in the insurance industry in various roles including project management and other leadership positions. She decided to explore options outside of insurance and applied to USM’s Health Policy and Management program because of its reputation and accreditation. USM’s evening classes allowed her to continue working while pursuing her master’s degree. After three years of study, Brynn is very excited to be graduating in May!

Graduate Faculty Corner: Michele Kaschub

Michele Kaschub came to USM in 1997 with a B.S. in Music Education (USM), a master’s degree in Choral Conducting (UMO), and a PhD in Music Education (Northwestern U). We asked Michele to share some thoughts on her teaching, writing, and research for this month’s Faculty Corner.

What courses do you teach? I enjoy teaching music education courses that explore new pedagogies. Our Composing Together certificate of advanced study program at USM guides teachers in developing curriculum for K-12 students in the area of music composition - that’s quite different from the usual array of band, chorus and orchestra.

What do you like about teaching at USM? I work with music educators who are motivated and deeply committed to learning and improving their practice as professionals. They are invested not only in their own education, but in what they can give back to their students and communities through their music.

What are your current research/writing projects? I have recently co-authored a text on my favorite topic, children’s composition, and am now working on a second book (also with Janice Smith of Queens College/CUNY) addressing teaching music listening. We believe that once composers have made great efforts to create music, someone should be ready to listen to it! I am also authoring a chapter for a book by Northwestern University’s Center for the Study of Education and Music Experience addressing 21st Century Music Education. My chapter will address music teacher education reform at the national level while highlighting some of the new ideas that we are using at USM.

What other roles have you played in the USM community? I currently participate on the USM Graduate Council and the College of Arts and Sciences Grad Affairs Committee; chair the CAS Faculty Professional Development Committee, and serve as the Coordinator of the School of Music Graduate Studies program and the Coordinator of Music Teacher Education in the School of Music.

What are your professional activities outside of USM? I am the President-Elect of the Maine Music Educators Association, past chair of the Society for Research In Music Education Special Research Interest Group on Creativity; and past facilitator of Society for Music Teacher Education Area of Strategic Planning & Action addressing Teacher Licensure.

Michele doesn’t leave the world of music when she heads home to Windham each day. Her husband, Alan is also a School of Music faculty member. And her three children (David/singer, Kathryn/clarinetist and Daniel/singer) enjoy making music, too! Thanks to Michele Kaschub for her important contributions to graduate education at USM.
Graduate Program Highlight: Psy.D.

A master's degree in school psychology has been offered at USM since 1987. However, the growing demand for the expanded licensure options that a doctoral program would provide to students resulted in the start of the Doctor of Psychology in School Psychology (Psy.D.) in 2005. This degree program trains students to become practicing clinicians and prepares students to serve as school psychologists in the K-12 school system.

Students pursuing a Psy.D. degree develop strong clinical skills with the goal of becoming direct psychological service providers. The National Bureau of Labor Statistics (http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos056.htm#outlook) reports that demand for school psychologists is being driven by a growing awareness of how students' mental health and behavioral problems, such as bullying, affect learning. School psychologists also provide student counseling on a variety of other issues, including working with students with disabilities and managing personal crises.

The PsyD program currently enrolls thirty-one students who work with program faculty including professors Rachel Brown-Chidsey, Bud Mace, Mike Kelley, and Mark Steege. The program is accredited by the Maine Department of Education and is currently working towards accreditation by the American Psychological Association. The Psy.D. program requires the completion of 111 credits and 1500 internship hours. The program typically requires five years of full-time study to complete.

USM’s Psy.D. students are very active at USM, serving as research, teaching, and graduate assistants. Additionally, a school psychology student organization was created this year. The goals of the group are to connect students with their colleagues, alumni, faculty, professionals in their field, and the local community in meaningful ways. The organization's website offers numerous resources and information for students and school psychologists as well as a very fun “countdown to the end of the semester” clock (http://student-groups.usm.maine.edu/msasp/countdown.html). Learn more about the students in this growing program at this site!

New Graduate Student Orientation on August 12, 2010

An orientation for new graduate students will be held on Thursday, August 12, 2010, from 3 to 6 p.m. The event will be held on the first floor of the Wishcamper building.

The orientation will provide an opportunity for new students to meet their colleagues, connect with faculty, and learn about campus services available to graduate students at USM.

Exhibitors and speakers will include representatives from Card Services (Student ID), USM parking, Library Services, Dining Services, Computing Services, Campus Bookstores, and the Learning Centers.

All new graduate students are encouraged to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to receive information that will enhance their successful careers as graduate students at USM.

In addition to this live presentation, a web-based orientation for online students and students unable to attend the campus event will be launched in August.