A Message from the Dean

Dear members of the USM graduate community,

There are many things that we can be thankful for at this time of the year...several stories in this month’s newsletter focus on important milestones for the USM graduate students and faculty. The USM Graduate Student Government is actively working to develop an agenda reflecting the issues and concerns of graduate students and I look forward to working with the elected leadership of the GSG on these matters. The Doctorate of Nursing Practice in the School of Nursing has been approved and we are working towards the first cohort class entering next fall! The Office of Graduate Studies will be co-sponsoring an Open House for prospective DNP students in early January. Other events include a reception on December 1st for all Graduate Certificate students, not already matriculated into one of our Graduate Certificate programs. Look for announcements regarding location and time. The “Graduate Student Success” workshops are underway and are attracting a great deal of interest. We hope to increase the number of these workshops throughout the spring semester.

Lastly, I also want to draw your attention to an exciting event taking place on November 19th. The University of Southern Maine’s Strategic Planning Steering Committee invites you to join a campus-wide conversation about

What does it mean for USM to be a 21st century university? What will we look like to students at USM?

Friday, November 19th
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm and 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Locations
Portland Campus:
214 Abromson, 41 Payson Smith, 419 Wishcamper
Gotham Campus:
Presidential Dining Room, 101 Bailey Hall, 112 Upperclass Hall
Lewiston-Auburn Campus:
LAC 285, LAC 170

USM TO OFFER DOCTORATE OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREE

At its September 2010 meeting, the University of Maine System Board of Trustees approved USM’s launch of a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program. USM’s nursing program, the largest in the state, will provide the DNP in response to the pressing needs for specialized nurse professionals. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing anticipates that the DNP will be the required credential for all advanced practice nurses by 2015. Advanced practice nurses include nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, and nurse anesthetists. Currently, advanced practice nurses are prepared in master’s degree programs.

The USM nursing program’s Statement of Program Plan for the DNP establishes that growing challenges in health care are driving the need for advanced nurse training. The DNP is practice-focused and provides nurses with the advanced leadership and management skills needed in the future operations of healthcare delivery. Aging and diverse populations; the higher incidence of chronic illnesses; the application of new and complex scientific knowledge; and the delivery of complex care in traditional and non-traditional settings will require nurse clinicians with more sophisticated skills. Transforming the health care delivery system will require clinicians to design, evaluate, and continually improve the safety and quality of patient care. These skills include direct care of individual patients, management of care, administration of nursing systems and the development and implementation of health policy.

Presently, there are 120 programs in the nation that offer the Doctorate in Nursing Practice. Another 161 institutions in the United States are considering or are planning the development of a DNP program. Five of these are located in Massachusetts but, to date, USM is Maine’s only proposed DNP program.
Meet The New Graduate Student Senate Officers

Nathan Grant is enrolled in the Public Policy and Management program at the Muskie School for Public Service. His present policy interests include education, the environment, and citizen participation in democracy. Nathan serves as the USM Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees and on USM’s University Council and Strategic Planning Steering Committee. As a tireless advocate for student participation in university governance, Nathan played a critical role in the creation of the USM Graduate Student Government. He hopes that the Senate will support student research and create opportunities for professional networking that will improve graduate students’ job prospects upon graduation. As the Senate’s newly elected President, Nathan will continue to recruit senators from unrepresented graduate programs and lead the group through their first year. A lifelong resident of Maine, Nathan enjoys exploring the natural beauty of his home state with his wife Renee. Whenever possible, Nathan escapes Maine to explore far-off destinations.

Nathan Grant
President

Gerry Shannon returned to USM this fall to seek a master’s degree in Computer Science. Gerry previously earned a bachelor’s degree in Theatre at USM and has lived in Portland since 1997. While enrolled as an undergraduate, Gerry formed a new student group called the MTPlayers and directed it for four years. Gerry enjoyed bringing musical theatre to the USM campus, getting students engaged, taking on a student leadership position, and building memories with his peers. Gerry’s interest in the Graduate Student Government extends from his experience as president of MTPlayers. He enjoys finding ways to get students involved on campus and helping to build a supportive community. When he leaves USM with his advanced degree in computer science, Gerry plans to utilize his new skills by designing software for the theatre world. In Gerry’s rare down time, he choreographs and dances with the local dance troupe Vivid Motion, enjoys cooking, and supports his wife who is enrolled in a Master’s program at UNE.

Gerry Shannon
Vice-President

Yahor Luhauskikh, an international student from Belarus, is enrolled in the Muskie School’s Health Policy and Management Program. His goal is to develop a deep understanding of issues in the management and government of public health that will allow him to address the challenges in assessment, planning, delivery, and management of social and healthcare services in Belarus. Yahor graduated from Belarusian State Medical University in 2009 where he was the chair of the student scientific club in the areas of Microbiology, Virology and Immunology. At USM, Yahor participates in the Muskie Student organization, the Russian Table (assists Russian language students at USM), and is involved with the 2011 Maine Model United Nations Conference. He believes that the most important issues for the new graduate student government are establishing effective interactions with USM’s administration and other groups, advocating for graduate student interests, promoting professional development, and building a sense of graduate student community at USM. In his limited spare time, Yahor can be found cycling or salsa dancing.

Yahor Luhauskikh
Treasurer

A native of West Orange, N.J., Alicia Sampson graduated from Montclair State University with a degree in Anthropology and minors in Philosophy and Latin American and Latino Studies. Since July of 2008, Sampson has served as the Service Learning Coordinator in USM’s Office of Community Service Learning. She has provided support for community identified needs, coordinates Civic Matters, and collects information about service learning throughout the institution. Alicia enrolled in USM’s Master of Social Work program this fall and continues her work in the Office of Community Service Learning. As a Senator she hopes to engage the graduate student body in addressing needs on campus as well as in the wider community. Sampson is a participant in the Institute for Civic Leadership’s Young and Emerging Leaders Pilot Program and is excited to bring experiences from this training to the Graduate Student Government. In the greater Portland community, Sampson is a facilitator at the Center for Grieving Children’s Multicultural Program, Secretary of the African Cultural Foundation’s Executive Board, and a serious amateur artist and musician.

Alicia Sampson
Co-Secretary
Dani Bernier hails from Winslow, Maine and currently lives in South Portland. She graduated from USM in May of 2010 with a degree in Women and Gender Studies. In the fall of 2010, Dani matriculated into LAC’s graduate program in Leadership Studies. Bernier’s experience with university student involvement includes her service as the secretary/treasurer of USM’s Gender Studies student organization. Dani hopes that USM’s new graduate student government creates a bridge between the graduate student body and the larger university system and improves graduate students’ visibility and influence on campus. Dani shares a quote by Margaret Wheatley as a reflection of her thoughts on leadership, “In organizations, real power and energy is generated through relationships.” In addition to being elected to the position of co-secretary of the GSG Senate, Dani will also be serving on the President’s Standing Committee on Diversity. Additionally, she is a Graduate Assistant for the Leadership Studies Program and is employed by Spurwink Services. A steady diet of yoga, candy, and strong coffee keep this first year grad student going!

DANI BERNIER
CO-SECRETARY

The office of Graduate Studies sponsored a graduate workshop entitled, “Enhancing Library Research Skills,” on October 27th. Glickman librarians Bill Grubb and Pat Prieto provided instruction on effective ways to utilize the resources available through the USM libraries for graduate research. The training included activating student ID cards to gain access to the library research tools off-campus, obtaining book loans, and beginning a research project.

Participants learned that USM’s URSUS tool searches for books in the USM libraries as well as the other UMaine system campuses. The MaineCat tool provides access to books in other Maine libraries including those at Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin. A third tool, WorldCat, searches for books worldwide. Books from any of these sources may be requested through the inter-library loan service available through Glickman. USM books may be borrowed for entire semesters; other loan terms are set by the lending institutions.

Attendees also discovered that the Glickman Library assigns a librarian as a liaison to each academic program. Students may contact these liaisons to work one-on-one for general instruction or for assistance with a particular research project. Subject-specific research information, including the best search engines for targeted research and the name of the Glickman liaison, can be found on this site: http://usm.maine.libguides.com/usmguides.

Following the presentation, Bill Grubb and Pat Prieto published the following site as a follow-up to the workshop: http://usm.maine.libguides.com/graduate. A second version of this seminar, that will include information about journal article research and citation tools, will be held on December 7th. The library workshops will also be repeated during the spring semester.

University Council:
Nathan Grant

President’s Council on Diversity:
Danielle Bernier

UMaine System Board of Trustees:
Nathan Grant

Faculty Senate:
Yahor Luhauskikh

Graduate Council:
Sandra Goff

Strategic Planning Steering Committee:
Nathan Grant

Strategic Planning Goal 2 (Student Success):
Alicia Sampson

Strategic Planning Goal 6 (Diversity):
Danae Kesel

Strategic Planning Goal 7 (Strengthening Community):
Gerry Shannon

ENHANCING LIBRARY RESEARCH SKILLS WORKSHOP OFFERED FOR USM’S GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate Student Government
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINEN GSG COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE ASSIGNMENTS

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A Day in the Life of a USM Grad Student: Marieke Van Der Steenhoven

I find the most efficient way to start a day in the life of a graduate student is with a cup of coffee. Lately, I've been adding a shot of espresso to mine. Food is also a crucial element in having a productive, successful day. I don't know how I would survive graduate school without bagels (or some sort of toast product). Often I wake in the middle of the night, in a partial-panic and I've found that four pieces of toast is really the only way to calm that anxiety.

Like all graduate programs, the American & New England Studies (ANES) program requires a lot of time, energy, and work. One of the aspects that I most appreciate about it is the flexibility and diversity; students and professors come from a wide range of backgrounds and academic interests while the courses are interdisciplinary and afford a variety of options for research and writing. My background is in art history, and during the past three semesters I have been able to connect and integrate this academic discipline with theories and practices in popular culture, literature, economics, and geography.

A typical day in the life of an ANES student undoubtedly involves a lot of reading, research, and writing. And if you're like me, you will indulge in some creative procrastination strategies. I have found that engaging in projects outside of the academic setting to be a wonderfully effective way to put off work: in the past months (with the help of friends) I've worked on a publication about inventors of everyday objects, created a conceptual art installation, and hosted several dinner parties. Work also provides a respite. Through the generosity of USM, I hold a graduate assistantship in Glickman Library’s Special Collections where I get to spend 10 hours a week processing collections from a wide range of individuals, communities, and organizations from around the state. Not only am I enhancing my resume, the work is cathartic for me. In addition, I am the education assistant at the Maine Historical Society, where I develop, facilitate, and participate in history-based programs for students. This is a fun, creative outlet with the challenges of getting surly 8th graders excited about learning history. Somehow, all this procrastination and work inevitably leads back to my academic pursuits. The beauty of American & New England Studies is that the academic, scholarly work interpenetrates the quotidian. And, with thanks to caffeine and carbohydrates, it all gets done.

Faculty Spotlight: Yuseung Kim

If all goes well, Yuseung Kim, a new professor in the Muskie School’s community planning and development program, will one day finalize a GIS (geographic information systems)-based tool to demonstrate the potential cost of urban sprawl for the entire state of Maine. In the meantime, he is working on a model for the greater metropolitan areas of Bangor and Portland that will show the possible consequences of urban growth without adequate community planning efforts.

Professor Kim comes to Maine from Colorado where he earned a doctorate from the University of Colorado (Denver) in design and planning while working as a lecturer. Prior to that, Dr. Kim worked in South Korea as a researcher and planner at the Seoul Development Institute, a think tank for the metropolitan government, where he focused primarily on economic planning and urban growth modeling. Professor Kim also holds a master's degree in regional planning from Cornell University.

In his first semester at USM, Professor Kim—a native of Seoul, South Korea—is teaching the class “Elements of Plan Making” and participating in the Sustainability Solutions Initiative - a federally funded partnership between USM and UMaine to link science with policy solutions that support human needs while preserving the planet's crucial ecological systems. More information can be found at: http://www.umaine.edu/sustainabilitysolutions/index.htm.

Emily Reinholt is a graduate student in the Community Planning and Development program. Jennifer Hutchins is the Director of Communications for the Muskie School and a 2008 graduate of the Public Policy and Management program.