I am pleased to welcome you to graduate study at the University of Southern Maine.

I hope you will have a rewarding and successful academic year. Your decision to begin graduate studies is an important one. For some of you, entry into one of our graduate programs represents a continuation of your undergraduate work at USM. For others USM may be a new experience as you begin the next phase of your education. Regardless of the path that brought you here, you are most welcome. The Graduate School will be here to support your professional development and personal well-being, as well as provide assistance with the administrative requirements of graduate studies.

The Graduate Studies Orientation Program is designed to introduce you to the university as well as to the administrative services and social opportunities available to students. We hope you will take advantage of the orientation and this chance to become better acquainted with the graduate community at USM.

Graduate students enhance the intellectual life at the University of Southern Maine through their scholarship, research, and participation in campus activities. On behalf of the students, administrators, graduate faculty and staff, we welcome you to this important phase of your academic and professional development. We wish you every success.

Again, welcome to USM.

Dr. Dahlia Lynn
Dean of Graduate Studies

The development of a graduate student government at USM advanced in May when President Botman and Chancellor Richard Pattenaude approved the group’s constitution and by-laws. Students are meeting over the summer and making plans for an election of senators in September.

Nomination forms (due on September 17) are available for students interested in representing their program on the Graduate Student Senate.

In a survey administered last April, graduate students identified the main purposes of the organization as:

- Providing graduate student representation at the university
- Addressing issues of concern to graduate students with the administration
- Supporting professional development events
- Creating a greater sense of graduate student community at USM

Forty-nine percent of the survey participants thought a graduate student organization should be formed at USM. Forty-three percent were undecided and only seven percent were opposed.

Fall elections will allow all matriculated graduate students to select representatives to the Graduate Student Senate. The newly formed Senate will elect officers to serve during the inaugural year.

More information about the Graduate Student Government and nomination forms for senators can be found on this site:
http://www.usm.maine.edu/grad/GSG_Home.html
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DOCTORAL STUDENT: JULIETA MARTINO

As a third year PhD student, I think the best word to describe a day in my life of a grad student is busy! The program has a way of taking over your life and the lab becomes your second home. I even make out a grocery list for things I need for my week in the lab!

My day in the lab begins by settling in at my desk, chatting a bit with colleagues, and drinking yerba mate tea (an Argentine tradition). Once I am awake, I go to the lab area and check all the cells to make sure they look healthy and happy. I am studying living bowhead whale and human lung cells and contributing to the understanding of how chromium causes lung cancer. The bowhead whale lung cells are interesting because tumors rarely occur in these animals despite exposure to carcinogenic compounds. We hope that our research will reveal a type of resistance or mechanism that explains the low tumor incidence seen in the wild populations of these whales.

The cells are fed fresh nutrients, grow, get old, and eventually die. They also become crowded in their “housing” and need to be moved to a new home. Taking care of the cells takes priority over any personal plans that I might have. Sometimes I need to come into the lab very early or very late in the day to add a reagent to an experiment. The cells live comfortably and warm in the incubators and never take into account snowstorms, weekends, holidays, or beautiful beach days!

What the cells look like and how much they have multiplied determines my weekly plan in the lab and the number of new experiments that I can set up. I usually also have previous experiments going on in different phases, so those need to be taken care of as well. Part of my day also includes making slides and working at the microscopes. In addition to my laboratory research, I must make time to attend classes, study, analyze data, meet with my dissertation committee and advisor, read papers, prepare presentations, attend journal clubs and study sections, help teach classes, and train new students. This can easily add up to a ten-hour-plus day. At the end of each long day I am ready to go to my other home and get some rest.

Another day in the life of a graduate student will begin tomorrow and, even though unpredictable, it will be busy for sure!

Juli says that the opportunity to study marine toxicology led her on the 5,200 mile journey from her homeland of Argentina to “beautiful (but cold) Maine.” While conducting whale research in Argentina, she learned of the work that John Wise was doing at USM. Julieta applied for and received a Fulbright Fellowship that allowed her to enroll in UMaine’s Biochemistry and Molecular Biology PhD program. Through the USM/UMaine Collaborative PhD agreement, Julieta has been attending classes and working in USM’s Wise Lab since the fall of 2007.
FALL WORKSHOPS PLANNED FOR USM GRADUATE STUDENTS

Our Graduate Pathways to Success (GPS) programs are non-credit workshops, seminars and other activities designed to complement your graduate program’s academic curriculum and mentorship experience.

The programs will cover a wide range of personal and professional development topics to support you throughout your time in graduate school and to allow you to develop some of the skills and competencies needed to help you thrive as professionals in your field including:

- **Success in Graduate School:** Skills in academic writing and applying for funding, for example, help you to complete your program successfully and graduate in a timely fashion.
- **Time/Self Management:** The ability to manage stress and time are among the many skills needed to help you achieve balance in life and effectiveness in educational and work environments.
- **Professional Effectiveness:** Success as a professional requires a range of skills and knowledge related to areas such as communication, management, interaction with people, and ethical conduct.
- **Career Building:** A proactive approach to career preparation involves investigating options, developing competencies, and learning how to present yourself for career opportunities.
- **Constructive Leadership:** As professionals, you will likely be (or already are being) called upon to lead others. Acquiring leadership skills and learning from accomplished leaders will contribute towards your success as a constructive leader.

**Fall workshops** will include:
- Navigating Graduate School (balancing work, life and the classroom)
- Enhancing Library Research Skills
- Writing Strategies for Graduate Students

**Spring workshops** are being planned for:
- Regain Momentum: Getting a Fresh Perspective on Studying and Writing
- Financial Aid for Graduate Students (Fellowships, Scholarships and Awards)
- Winning the Job Search: Networking
- Resume and Cover Letter Development

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Elizabeth Mitchell

Elizabeth Mitchell began her love of science in seventh grade, when she was first asked to learn the taxonomic classification system. Throughout high school, all manner of natural history fueled her desire to become a scientist. Having grown up in Downeast Maine, Elizabeth knew she wanted to pursue a post secondary program that kept her near the sea. As an undergraduate at the University of New England, she majored in Environmental Science and minored in Marine Biology and Geographic Information Systems.

Elizabeth completed an ecology class research project her junior year on the common reed, Phragmites australis, which resulted in her presenting a poster at the New England Estuarine Research Society Spring meeting. Finding herself surrounded by researchers who truly enjoyed what they did and were encouraging to young scientists, Elizabeth decided that estuarine ecology was what she wanted to pursue for her graduate degree.

The University of Southern Maine Graduate Biology program offers a cross-disciplinary experience, while allowing its students to delve into their own personal research interests. Elizabeth has entered the lab of Dr. Karen Wilson, where she studies marsh plant ecology, specifically focusing on plant response to changing environmental conditions, hoping to shed light on predicting how our marshes will morph with rising sea levels brought on by climate change.

In her time at USM, Elizabeth has received the Maine Water Resources Research Institute Grant and the spring and summer research funds from the USM Biology department. These funds have gone towards supplies for completing her thesis research. This summer she is the lead graduate field assistant for the Sherman Marsh Restoration project in Newcastle, Maine. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a doctoral program in Ecology.

Outside of school, Elizabeth enjoys photography, traveling, reading, and expanding her knowledge of natural history.
## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

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<tr>
<th>Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of Graduate Studies</td>
<td>207-780-4877</td>
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<td>Office of Graduate Admissions</td>
<td>207-780-4386</td>
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<td>Financial Aid</td>
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<td>Student Accounts</td>
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<td>Health Services</td>
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<td>University Counseling Services</td>
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<td>Residential Life</td>
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<td>Dining Services</td>
<td>780-780-4039</td>
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<td>USM Police</td>
<td>207-780-5211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Programs/Gym</td>
<td>207-780-4939</td>
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<td>Multicultural Student Affairs</td>
<td>207-780-4006</td>
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<td>Campus Computer Store</td>
<td>207-780-4164</td>
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<td>Parking and Transportation</td>
<td>207-780-4718</td>
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<td>USM Stormline</td>
<td>207-780-4800</td>
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<td>Students with Disabilities</td>
<td>207-780-4706</td>
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<td>Student Involvement</td>
<td>207-780-4090</td>
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<td>Campus Diversity &amp; Equity</td>
<td>207-780-5510</td>
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<td>Card Services (Student ID)</td>
<td>207-780-5600</td>
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<td>Bookstore Portland</td>
<td>207-780-4070</td>
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<td>Bookstore Gorham</td>
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<td>Veterans Affairs</td>
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<td>International Programs</td>
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<td>Community Standards</td>
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<td>Sexualities and Gender Diversity</td>
<td>207-228-8235</td>
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<td>Women's Resource Center</td>
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## IMPORTANT FALL DATES

**August 15, 2010**
Payment for fall bills due. All charges posted to student accounts after August 15th must be paid when incurred.

**Monday, August 30, 2010**
Classes Begin

**September 13, 2010**
Last day to add/drop for fall semester.

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**About Us**

The University of Southern Maine enrolls over 2,000 graduate students in 27 degree programs.

For more information, visit: www.usm.maine.edu/grad

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