Connections!
Connections

The theme of the Fall 2003-Spring 2004 issue of The Graduate Post is Connections. We feature the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Philosophy as excellent examples of units linked to other departments, programs, and centers within Michigan State University, as well as the usual connections to scholars across the United States and the world. Connection to one’s disciplinary colleagues outside the university is, of course, a very common feature of intellectual life, particularly for research activities. Global research and scholarly connections within a given discipline generally have few boundaries. Connections within one’s own university are usually less common, although the number and types of interdisciplinary research and graduate education programs are growing nationally.

The faculty and graduate students in both Anthropology and Philosophy are enthusiastically engaged across Michigan State University, while maintaining the usual collegial connections across the world and within their departments. The leadership of Chair Lynne Goldstein in Anthropology and Steve Esquith in Philosophy, as well as the commitment of the faculty, to nurturing both internal and external connections provides a lively and stimulating environment for graduate education. The Graduate School is proud of these departments and their graduate programs.

Connections also applies to three current NSF-funded Biocomplexity grants currently active at MSU. The projects, headed by David Campbell (Geography, College of Social Science), Jianguo “Jack” Liu (Fisheries and Wildlife, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources), and Richard Lenski (Crop and Soil Science, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and College of Natural Science) and their colleagues, are connected to multiple faculty in multiple MSU departments and colleges as well as to colleagues around the U.S. and the world. These are wonderful opportunities for MSU graduate students. A brief description of each project is included in this issue.

The Graduate School is pleased to introduce our newest Faculty-in-Residence, Rique Campa. We welcome Rique from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Professor Campa will be working on career planning and other professional development activities for graduate students.

Finally, we congratulate the graduate students who have received travel and/or research enhancement funding from the Graduate School over the past 2 semesters. Many of these students traveled both in the U.S. and across the globe presenting their research, learning new research techniques, and participating in panel discussions. As they participated in a wide variety of experiences, these students made connections to new colleagues and renewed connections to existing colleagues. These connections form a vital part of each student’s professional development, as well as forming an important network for his/her future. In addition, we are pleased that these students represent the excellence in MSU’s graduate programs. You can find out more about these students by visiting: http://grad.msu.edu/gradpost.htm.

Karen L. Klemperer
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