Environmental Science and Policy Program

Well sampling to track groundwater contamination at Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Iosco County, Michigan.
DEAN’S MESSAGE

Environmental Science and Policy Program

I am pleased to introduce this edition of the Graduate Post! We have a special feature on the Environmental Science and Policy Program at MSU. The doctoral specialization began this Fall semester and the overall program began just a year ago. ESPP represents the most all-encompassing research focus and graduate specialization at Michigan State University, with faculty participating from twelve colleges. Because of the broad interest in ESPP, we also include an interview with Provost and President-Designate Lou Anna K. Simon who initiated the discussions and the focused approach that lead to the establishment of this Program. The courses in the ESPP doctoral specialization provide an interdisciplinary approach to connecting research in the physical, biological, and social sciences to develop a sound scientific basis for policy. The humanities connection leads to an understanding of the role of values and ethics in making policy. There are also opportunities for “media training” and developing broad communication skills, as well as understanding (and assisting) the role of government in policy decisions. Visit their website for more information: http://www.environment.msu.edu/.

Also highlighted in this edition is the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate (CID). This program is national in scope with interested programs submitting an application and then invited to participate. I am pleased that five MSU units (Department of English, Department of History, Neuroscience Program, Department of Teacher Education and the Division of Science and Math Education) were chosen by Carnegie to participate. Each unit has its own focus on doctoral education and all include discussions amongst faculty and graduate students to understand a variety of issues and work at improvements. The Departments of English and History are planning a national conference at MSU of CID participants to discuss the issue of academic integration of students during the critical dissertation-writing years and its effect on improving doctoral completion. Updates and lessons learned from all the CID participating units will be a topic in a future Graduate Post.

Finally, I enthusiastically announce the implementation of Career Selection and Professional Skill Development series of workshops for graduate students. Under the leadership of Rique Campa, Graduate School Faculty-in-Residence and Judith Stoddart, Graduate School Fellowships Coordinator, and including Associate Deans Tony Nunez and Yevonne Smith, TA Program Director, Kevin Johnston, and Career and Placement Specialist for Doctoral Students, Matt Helm (who will be featured in the Spring 2005 Graduate Post), this series brings graduate students from across the campus together to learn about mentoring, academic interviewing and exciting careers in industry, government, and non-profit sectors. The Graduate School staff will evaluate and assess these programs for effectiveness and appreciate any suggestions you might have for improvement (and any volunteers for participation!). For more information please visit: http://grad.msu.edu/professional.htm.

Karen L. Klemperer

REMINDER: The Graduate Handbook Template project is well underway in most units. Each graduate program must have an updated Graduate Handbook that includes the recommendations in the Research Mentoring Task Force Report and the allied recommendations from the faculty on the University Graduate Council (03-04) by September 2005.

You can find the Graduate Handbook Template (http://www.grad.msu.edu/staff/ght.htm ) and the Research Mentoring Task Force report (http://grad.msu.edu/staff/mentoring.htm) on the Graduate School’s homepage: http://grad.msu.edu/. Please call or email Associate Dean Tony Nunez or Dr. Les Manderscheid in the Graduate School for more information.
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GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITION
Travel Grants Recognition and Research Enhancement Awards are now listed exclusively on the web at http://grad.msu.edu/gradpost.htm.

The Graduate Post

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