The Scholarship of Business

Doctoral students in Finance working together in the Eli Broad Graduate School of Management are (left to right) William Johnson, Iordanis Karagiannidis, Gwinyai Utete. Close collaborative working relationships between and among graduate students and faculty are one of the unique aspects of the Ph.D. programs offered in the Broad School. These students and faculty also achieve high marks in the area of research, publishing, teaching and mentoring. For details on their innovative work, see page 4.
In this issue of The Graduate Post, we highlight the doctoral programs in the Broad College of Business, the graduate specialization in Environmental and Resource Economics, and the graduate programs that are participating in the national Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate. While these programs are all quite different, they serve to exemplify Michigan State University’s rich and varied graduate education opportunities, as well as the commitment of faculty to improving their existing programs. We also highlight and applaud the graduate teaching assistants who received Excellence in Teaching Citations!

Because M.B.A. programs are usually quite large and are the topic of such rankings as U.S. News and World Report, we don’t often think about the Ph.D. programs that are also important in determining the quality of any College of Business. Our own Broad College of Business is home to several such exemplary doctoral programs. I use the word exemplary because as you will read in our Feature Article beginning on page 4, the faculty are highly committed to their graduate students. There are many opportunities for professional development, such as presenting at conferences and writing disciplinary papers, that go along with the dissertation research. College faculty also pay close attention to placement of their doctoral students. The collegial relationship that develops between faculty and the students provides a sound environment for quality graduate education.

The Environmental and Resource Economics interdepartmental specialization is a longstanding program that hopes to attract even more graduate students as Michigan State University develops its signature research programs to complement the new Environmental Science and Policy doctoral specialization (read more about this specialization in the Fall 2003 Graduate Post). The ERE specialization represents an active and energetic collaboration among faculty in a number of departments in the College of Social Science and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. These faculty focus on a research theme that crosses their various disciplines and provides a valuable and engaging program for interested graduate students. The faculty members in this specialization not only provide content knowledge to the participating students, but also foster an intellectual atmosphere that enhances an individual student’s professional development and sense of responsibility to public service/outreach for finding creative solutions to resource issues. You can read more about this specialization on page 6.

Finally, we proudly highlight the national Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate. I am very pleased to recognize the faculty participants in this national initiative from Math Education, Teacher Education, and English. Each of these programs or departments will engage in a multi-year research project on innovations in their own doctoral programs. They will have opportunities to interact with participants in similar programs across the country and share ideas and successes. Our participants will also share their experiences with faculty from other departments and programs on campus. The Graduate School plans to sponsor a year-long series of programs that focus on the graduate experience, with the Carnegie Initiative participants as an important “window” on a focused effort toward improvement and change. If you have questions about the Carnegie Initiative, please contact Judith Stoddart in the Graduate School. Judith serves as our point person, as well as a participant in the English project.

Kevin Johnston provides commentary and kudos for the 6 graduate teaching assistants who were awarded MSU Excellence in Teaching Citations this year. The Graduate School staff salutes these students for their achievement! Read more about the award winners exclusively on the web at http://grad.msu.edu/gradpost.htm.

Finally, you will notice a new look to The Graduate Post. In order to save paper and printing costs, we moved the sections on Travel Grants Recognition and Research Enhancement Awards to the Graduate School’s webpage. You can read about the graduate and professional students we’ve supported who have presented their research at state, regional, national and international conferences by visiting: http://grad.msu.edu/gradpost.htm. You can also read the list of Research Enhancement Award recipients at the same webpage. Please take a quick look at this site so you can congratulate the students you know!

Have a safe and happy summer!

Karen L. Knapcans
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