

THE GRADUATE POST

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FROM THE DEAN



On June 21, 2013, the MSU Board of Trustees approved the budget to plan for the renovation of Chittenden Hall to house all of the Graduate School offices now scattered across three buildings. On October 25 plans were approved, clearing the way to begin work on this exciting project.

Chittenden was built in 1901 and is part of the original “lab row” of buildings on north campus. Originally housing the Dairy faculty (they made cheese and butter as part of the student’s education!), it eventually housed the Department of Forestry. Our goal in Chittenden is to provide a “neighborhood-like” environment for graduate and graduate-professional students, who comprise ~20% of the total MSU population of students. The neighborhood concept, similar to those established for MSU undergraduate students, will provide “one stop shopping” for information and assistance. The next edition of the Graduate Post will focus on Chittenden Hall. In the meantime you can stay up-to-date on the project progress at <http://chittendenhall.grd.msu.edu>.

One of those areas most frequently a focus on graduate and graduate-professional student questions and requests is information and assistance for career and professional development. In this issue of the Graduate Post we summarize just a few of our programs that serve the future of our graduate students. You can read about PhD Career Services which helps students focus on the competencies needed for a wide range of careers. The Medical Student Research Journal demonstrates a specific set of competencies related to medical research with leadership from MSU medical students. Graduate School ongoing and new grants highlight some of our efforts to focus on the professional development of our students. Finally, we have two spotlights on some of our PhD alumni.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Post. In the Spring, you’ll learn more about Chittenden Hall as the new home for the Graduate School. In addition, in 2014 the Graduate School will be 20 years old. We are planning a number of events that you will read about in the Spring edition of the Post. If you have suggestions on topics for future issues of the Post, please don’t hesitate to suggest them to our Editor, Katie Kelly (kellyk13@msu.edu).

Karen L. Klomparens

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MICHIGAN STATE
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BRIDGING THE GAP: DOCTORAL PROGRAMS & FUTURE CAREERS

By Julia McAnallen, Career Services and Placement

<http://careersuccess.msu.edu/phdcareers>

Last year the Graduate School partnered with the Career Services Network to create a new role at MSU: Career Services Coordinator for graduate students pursuing careers in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. This position, which I assumed in May 2013, arose out of the growing need (nationally) to support PhD students interested in careers beyond the professoriate. In my role as Graduate Career Services Coordinator, I have undertaken several initiatives to make information about career paths in the public, private, and non-profit sectors more accessible to MSU PhD students. These initiatives include new social media accounts, Twitter (twitter.com/phdcareersmsu) and Facebook (facebook.com/msugradcareersuccess), as well as a new PhD Career Services website (careersuccess.msu.edu/phdcareers). I also launched a new alumni blog series called "Alumni Pathways - MSU PhDs," which features alumni in a variety of careers. The first blog in the series was published on October 10. Please contact me if you are interested in contributing to a future blog post!

In the interest of supporting graduate students and postdocs at MSU, I have also organized an advisory board of eleven PhD students and one post-doctoral fellow to discuss issues surrounding graduate professional development and careers. One of the topics we recently addressed was the issue of the language, especially the metaphors, used to discuss PhD career paths. The goal is to gradually move away from the dichotomy of "academic" vs. "non-academic" and



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toward labels that capture the genuine diversity of careers paths open to MSU PhDs in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as in higher education—both academic and staff positions.



To fully support the graduate student community at MSU, it is also important to increase awareness of the versatility and value of the PhD to employers and the general public. In support of this goal, I started a new campaign - "Hire a PhD!" - in collaboration with another member of our staff. We launched this initiative through an interview on Business Next radio that aired in mid-October.

Since my arrival in May, I have been inspired and impressed by the graduate students I have had the opportunity to work with, as well as the alumni who I have talked to over the phone, email, and in person. If you would like to connect with me to share your story and insights, please don't hesitate to call or write! I can be reached via email at mcanall8@msu.edu, or via phone at (517) 884-1333.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Here are some related stories from the Graduate School.

- Business Next S5 (Michael Rogers, October 9, 2013): <http://bit.ly/HireAPhD>
- Alumni Pathways - MSU PhDs (Patty Payette, October 10, 2013): <http://bit.ly/PPayette>

STUDENT-RUN MEDICAL JOURNAL IS ONE OF A KIND

Medical Student Research Journal

<http://www.msri.org>

There is more to medical school than learning anatomy and medical procedures. Research is a large factor in medical education. MSU is the home to the "only academic journal in the United States [that is] authored, reviewed, and published by medical students for medical students." The Medical Student Research Journal was created in 2007 by two MSU College of Human Medicine students who wanted to start a publication in which medical students could showcase their research and talent. Andrew Wyman and Steven Plato worked with Dr. Clare Luz to get the first issue published in 2011, with a follow-up issue in 2013 under executive editor Chad Klochko. The staff has since grown to twenty students who are working to move the journal to a triannual publication schedule.

The journal is completely student-run, with four tiers of students involved in the process. Executive editors oversee the journal, steer its direction and lead the publication process. Senior editors are in charge of particular submissions, guiding them through the review process and communicating with the authors to convey comments and revisions while helping the student strengthen their writing skills. Junior editors assign reviewers and provide reviewers with feedback to help them develop their peer-review skills. Finally, student reviewers (medical students from around the world - not only at MSU) conduct peer-review, learn techniques for giving feedback and learn the publication process. Faculty reviewers (MDs and

PhDs) serve as a quality assurance.

Kevin Patterson serves alongside Jessica Wummel as co-executive editor of the journal. They aim to elevate the journal to a higher level during their leadership through its constant evolution. "As executive director, I plan on increasing the amount of teaching the journal does as a whole because just publishing a paper is not enough. As a group of future doctors, we need to strive to become better communicators, scientists, and consumers of the literature," Patterson says. "Many people will take scholarly articles at face value because they are published, but we need to be focused on understanding the true value of what's published and how it applies to our patients and our practices."

If you are interested in learning more about the Medical Student Research Journal, you can connect with them on Facebook (facebook.com/msrjchm) and Twitter (twitter.com/msrjchm).



COLLABORATION ABOUNDS ON & OFF CAMPUS



PHOTO CREDIT: MSU GRADUATE SCHOOL

On Saturday, September 21, five alumni returned to campus as participants in the Midwestern Chronobiology Seminar. Many of these individuals have collaborated on publications, both as graduate students at Michigan State, and later on as alumni at their current institutions.

Shown, left to right: Megan Mahoney (PhD, 2003; now an assistant professor at University of Illinois), Josh Nixon (BS, 1997; PhD, 2005; now a research scientist at the Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota), Colleen Novak (MA, 1995; PhD, 1999; now an assistant professor at Kent State University), Adam Stowie (BS, 2009; now a doctoral student at Kent State University), Alexandra Castillo-Ruiz (MA, 2006; PhD, 2010; now at the University of Massachusetts Medical School). Not pictured: Eric Carter (PhD, 2011; now a postdoc at the University of Michigan).

GRADUATE SCHOOL PREPARES STUDENTS FOR FUTURE USING NATIONAL GRANT FUNDING

The Graduate School at Michigan State University is currently operating several programs with the assistance of grant money from multiple sources. These grant-funded programs allow our administrative faculty to study the best means of educating our graduate students for future careers both in and out of academia.

The **CAFFE: Center for Academic & Future Faculty Excellence** grant is funded by the National Science Foundation. This \$1.25 Million grant allows us to develop a personalized curriculum of professional development activities and to facilitate parallel mentoring (concurrent attention by faculty mentors to the development of graduate students and postdocs as researchers and future members of the professoriate). This grant is funded through August, 2014. Associate Dean Julius Jackson and Associate Dean Antonio Nunez serve as co-principal investigators.

The **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program** is also funded by the National Science Foundation. This grant helps to ensure the vitality of the human resource base of science and engineering in the United States and reinforces its diversity. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited US institutions. Michigan State regularly has students who receive this fellowship support from the National Science Foundation. The principal investigator for MSU is Dean Karen Klomparens.

The **CIRTL Network: 25 Research Universities Preparing a National Faculty to Advance STEM Undergraduate Learning** grant is funded by the National Science Foundation and operates through the University of Wisconsin. As a member of the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL) network, MSU's share of this \$5 million grant is just over \$142,000. This grant allows us to provide professional development opportunities for doctoral students and postdocs. New programs made possible by this grant include the CIRTL-on-TAP program, led by Assistant Dean Melissa McDaniels, and the Preparing Future Faculty-Assessing Student Learning (PFF-ASL) program. Associate Dean Rique Campa serves as principal investigator.

The **Preparing Future Faculty to Assess Student Learning: A Multifaceted Approach at MSU** grant is funded by the Council of Graduate Schools. This grant, in the amount of \$50,000, will allow MSU to expand the number of graduate students participating in collegiate Certification in College Teaching Programs (CCTPs); to develop a reliable framework for evaluating graduate student understanding and appropriate use of assessments as part of the collegiate CCTPs, CIRTL, and CAFFE; to establish cross-college intergenerational learning communities; and to engage in cross-collegiate and college-specific discussions on the promising practices for faculty to effectively mentor and prepare our current graduate students for careers as faculty. Dean Karen Klomparens serves as principal investigator. Assistant Dean Melissa McDaniels is project director.

The **MOOC-Supported Learning Communities for Future STEM Faculty: Multiple Paths to Advance Evidence-Based Teaching Across the Nation** grant is funded by the National Science Foundation Widening Implementation and Demonstration of Evidence-based Reforms (WIDER) program. This grant of just under \$750,000, shared with three other CIRTL network institutions, will be used to develop and implement two massive open online courses (MOOCs) designed to prepare future STEM faculty to implement and advance the use of evidence-based, high impact teaching practices. The principal investigator for MSU is Associate Dean Rique Campa.

The **Collaborative Research: AGEP-T: Mentoring and Community Building to Accelerate Successful Progression into the Professoriate** grant, funded for \$370,000 by the National Science Foundation, will create evidence-based mentoring initiatives within the five institutions of the Michigan Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP). Those initiatives support the recruitment, retention and graduation of U.S. students in STEM and SBE doctoral programs, emphasizing recruitment and development of students from historically underrepresented U.S. population groups. Dean Karen Klomparens is principal investigator, and Associate Deans Antonio Nunez and Julius Jackson are co-principal investigators.

You can support the outstanding students and programming of the Graduate School. Learn more at <http://supportforstudents.msu.edu>.

THE GRADUATE POST

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MEET CHRIS RICHARDSON, FAST FELLOW ALUMNUS

Chris Richardson was a Future Academic Scholars in Teaching (FAST) Fellow from 2010-2012. While at MSU he studied theoretical astrophysics. He received a BS from Eastern Illinois University in 2008, and graduated from MSU with his MS and PhD in 2013. Chris is now a physics professor at Eldon University in North Carolina. As part of the FAST fellowship program, he studied ways to keep advanced students challenged while simultaneously helping others who are falling behind.



“It has definitely influenced how I see education. I think of education in a different way as far as teaching as research...[and] how related teaching is to research... There are a lot of ideas like that, that many people just aren't aware of and the FAST fellowship helps bring those to light.”

See video interviews with Chris and other university fellows on our YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/msugradschool>.

The FAST program is just one way that the Graduate School is working to help prepare our students for a diversity of academic careers. Read more about our student programs in this issue of The Graduate Post.

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MISSION

To serve as an advocate for graduate education to the University and beyond, and to enhance the quality of graduate education at MSU in all its diverse dimensions.

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