FROM THE DEAN

This edition of The Graduate Post highlights where our PhD graduates are. As you can see by the map and accompanying article, they are professionals working in all 50 states and in more than 100 countries worldwide. As we work to track our PhD graduates, social media networks are invaluable. We ran an experiment this past year to try to find as many of our PhD graduates from 1995-2010 using these online platforms. We could find 95% of our domestically-located graduates and a smaller percent of our internationally-placed graduates. The Chronicle for Higher Education ran an article on June 11, 2012, on using social media to find graduates and highlighted the efforts of the MSU Graduate School. Some of you contacted me after reading the article to say how pleased you were to be “found”! We like keeping up with all of you and your activities!

Our Certification in College Teaching Programs are also highlighted in this issue. These were developed in 1997 in partnership with participating colleges. Graduate students with interests in becoming faculty are using the programs to help them develop a teaching portfolio to track their many accomplishments in the classroom. They also have a chance to become knowledgeable about the assessment of student learning, the appropriate use of technology in the classroom, creating a classroom environment to support learning, and more. Check out the article and the website. If you are a faculty member and have advice for us, please let me know!

Karen L. Klomparens

If you prefer to receive an emailed PDF version of future editions of The Graduate Post, please email gradschool@grd.msu.edu. Please include “Graduate Post” in the subject line, and provide your full name and email address.
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WHERE ARE ALL OUR PhD’S? USING LINKEDIN TO FIND OUT

Michigan State University has conferred PhD degrees on over 23,000 students since first awarding a botany degree to Edward J. Petry in 1926. These alumni have gone far since leaving the ivy-covered halls of our campus, both in terms of career and location. Our alumni teach, conduct research in the public and private sectors, and run their own companies. They’ve traveled to reach the far corners of the globe. There are PhD alumni living in all fifty states and in nearly 100 countries in the world.

A recent article in The Chronicle of Higher Education described a new effort by the MSU Graduate School to locate alumni using Google searches and social networks such as LinkedIn and Facebook. Our staff used these websites to identify alumni and to determine what jobs they obtained after graduating. This information about student outcomes and job placement rates will be communicated to graduate programs and potential applicants. It will also help faculty improve curriculum by providing information for program review processes.

Deborah Campa, PhD, Associate Dean of the Graduate School

To help students meet the program workshop requirements, plan their mentored teaching project, and provide them with a template for their teaching portfolio, the Graduate School staff developed and sponsored the University Graduate Certification in College Teaching Institute. Initially, this Institute was funded through grants from the Council of Graduate Schools and the national Science Foundation. This day-and-a-half intensive program is usually attended by 65 to 100 graduate students from numerous disciplines. It is held annually after the end of spring semester courses.

For more information about the University Graduate Certification in College Teaching Program, visit: http://grad.msu.edu/collegeteaching/.

CERTIFICATION IN COLLEGE TEACHING AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY: HELPING TO PREPARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF ACADEMICS

By Rique Campa, PhD, Associate Dean of the Graduate School

Teaching is a component of professional development in which some doctoral students planning future careers at academic institutions often seek additional experience and credentials. This is true of doctoral students planning to teach at research-intensive universities, or liberal arts colleges, or community colleges. Over the last three years at Michigan State University there has been a growing interest among graduate students seeking additional skills and credentials associated with teaching and evaluating learning in the classroom.

To help prepare MSU doctoral students for a future in academia, the Graduate School coordinates the University Graduate Certification in College Teaching programs. These programs are a partnership with participating colleges. They help graduate students organize, develop, and document their teaching experiences. Through a series of focused workshops, a class on discipline-specific teaching methods, and a mentored teaching project that doctoral students develop, participants build and consolidate their preparation for college and university teaching careers. The program culminates in the development of an electronic portfolio that helps students prepare for academic job interviews and plan for their professional development as early career faculty. By completing the various components of the program, students gain experience with five key competencies, namely developing discipline-related teaching strategies, creating effective learning environments, incorporating technology into the classroom, understanding the university environment, and assessing student learning.

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EDWARD J. PETRY ENDOWMENT: HONORING MSU’S FIRST PhD ALUMNUS

In 1926 Edward J. Petry received his PhD in Botany from what was then known as Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science. Petry would go down in history as the first PhD graduate from our institution.

In 2003 the Edward J. Petry Endowment in Support of Graduate Fellowships was created honoring this distinguished alumus with a lead gift from Dean Karen Klomparens. The Petry Endowment funds both supplemental fellowships and stand-alone fellowship awards. It allows students increased opportunities to engage in innovative research, and the opportunity to take full advantage of the intellectual community at MSU while they focus on their academic pursuits. Awards are not restricted to students in any particular program or college. The fellowships are awarded at the discretion of the dean of the Graduate School.

Contributions to the Petry Endowment benefit graduate students directly. Gifts to the fund are invested as principal, and the annual interest earned by the investment is distributed through fellowships used to help attract the best and brightest graduate students to MSU by providing direct financial support. The ability to attract superior students also helps in the recruitment of the best faculty members who are actively engaged in research that will solve the big issues facing the world today.

You can add your support for graduate student education by making a gift to the Edward J. Petry Endowment at http://SupportForStudents.msu.edu.

**Above:** An archive photo of the Botany Building (now known as Old Botany)

Photo Credit: MSU Archives and Historical Collections
MEET SHERRAE HAYES, UNIVERSITY ENRICHMENT FELLOW

Sherrae Hayes is a University Enrichment Fellow studying African American & African Studies. She received a BA from Tennessee State University in 2008, and an MA from New York University in 2010. Sherrae is focusing her research on urban education and the ways student identities are reaffirmed through history and culture.

“It was such a huge honor to be considered for the [University Enrichment Fellowship]... The University Enrichment Fellowship has allowed me to connect with other University Enrichment Fellows and see what their journey is in ways that have been really enriching for my experience here at MSU.”

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

PHOTO CREDIT: MSU GRADUATE SCHOOL

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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