NURSING DOCTORATE IS A GO
BY MIMI KO CRUZ, SENIOR WRITER, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

SCHOOL OF NURSING TO OFFER SYSTEM’S NEAREST DEGREE PROGRAM

It’s official: the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program to be offered jointly by Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Long Beach and Cal State Los Angeles in the fall has been accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Southern California CSU D.N.P. Consortium now is sifting through student applications and expects to accept its first students for the new program in the fall. Dr. Penny C. Weismuller, associate professor and coordinator of CSUF’s nursing graduate programs, is serving as the D.N.P. consortium director.

Dr. Cindy Smith Greenberg, professor and director of Cal State Fullerton’s School of Nursing, said 36 students are expected to be accepted and admitted to the new program. The doctorate is the professional-practice degree that qualifies those who earn it to work in advance-practice fields and in higher education.

Cal State Fullerton is the lead campus for the program and where the D.N.P. students will complete their first year of course work. In their second year, Greenberg said, the students will work with faculty members in their specialty at one of the three consortium campuses.

D.N.P. students will be expected to complete 36 units of course work in two years.

“To prepare nurses at this level meets a community need, and we’re very excited about it,” Greenberg said. “The program also helps achieve the recommendations of the 2010 Institute of Medicine Report on the future of nursing, which calls for increasing the education of nurses and doubling the number of nurses with doctoral degrees by 2020.”

IN THIS ISSUE:
* GRADUATE STUDENT HOUSING
* CAMPUS CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS
* COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
* GRADUATE EQUITY PROGRAM
Over the past few months, scores of prospective students attended information sessions led by Weismuller.

Dr. Shari McMahan, dean of the College of Health and Human Development, credited Weismuller with leading the development of the collaborative doctoral program, coordinating efforts among the three campuses and providing guidance in curriculum building.

“We are ready to start the program,” McMahan said, adding that two Fullerton lecturers—Nicholas P. Gorman and Katherine Tong—will move into tenure-track positions in the fall as assistant professors of nursing. Their assignments will include teaching and advising in the D.N.P. program.

School of Nursing Stats
Cal State Fullerton’s nursing program is one of the largest in the California State University system. Enrollment grew by more than 1,200 percent between 1998 (69 nursing majors) and 2009 (857 majors). Today, about 800 nursing majors are enrolled.

“In this age of expanding health care knowledge, the D.N.P. prepares nurses for work in increasingly complex health care systems,” Greenberg said.

“To improve health care outcomes, the evidence generated by research must be translated into clinical practice. The D.N.P. prepares practitioners to evaluate the available scientific evidence and use it in clinical practice to provide best-practice interventions, ultimately improving the quality and safety of health care.”

One of the university’s aims is to prepare more nurses to work in myriad settings, thus curbing the nation’s nursing shortage, which is projected to reach 800,000 by 2020. In California, which ranks in the bottom five states for registered nurses per capita, the shortage is estimated to be as high as 50,000 by 2015.

Don’t be frightened by the looming threat of theses and research. If you want a little guidance on how to approach the projects headed your way, there is hope: the Graduate Learning Specialists. Funded by the EPOCHS Program, Graduate Learning Specialists Helen Alexander and Dr. Gerardo Arellano make it their mission to help graduate students become confident and capable scholars.

Dr. Gerardo Arellano says his goals are to help guide graduate students and to take the fear out of research. While his strength is helping students understand research methodologies, he also assists students through the whole writing process and even acts as a mentor.

“I help give students breadth in their research. I push them. I think the students get a lot out of it,” says Arellano.

In addition to one-on-one tutoring, Arellano facilitates a number of workshops including a workshop series. This series is aimed at helping students understand the research methods used by authors and how those methods contribute to or detract from their arguments. He also offers a weekend workshop titled “Writing Boot Camp” in which graduate students come together as a group to share and circulate their research. “Research is both a collective and a social activity,” Arellano asserts.

Dr. Arellano and Helen Alexander are available in the University Learning Center to help graduate students with all aspects of writing and research. For more information on the Graduate Learning Specialists, see fullerton.edu/graduate. To make an appointment, call the University Learning Center at (657) 278-2738.
THE GOOD HABIT OF APPLYING FOR GRANTS

“And what do you do for a living?”

“Student,” I answered. But then I realized—being a student is not how I earn a living. I guess being a student is my occupation in that it occupies my time, but it does not actually provide money to pay for my tuition and living expenses. Or can it? By using your status as a student to apply for scholarships, fellowships, and grants, you may be able to ease your financial burden.

Instead of thinking about applying for aid as an “extra” that you complete on top of your studies, think of it as an essential part of your education. If your job is being a student or a scholar, applying for aid is how you get paid.

If you are planning on becoming a professor, applying for fellowships and grants is a big part of how you will fund your future research. The ability to prepare a competitive grant application is very valuable in academia and in the nonprofit sector. Professors often apply for grants to pay for new equipment or to fund travel to conduct research. Some grants take the form of course releases in which professors can devote the time that they would normally spend teaching a class to research and writing. Outside of academia, grant writing is a marketable skill highly valued by nonprofit organizations such as museums and community agencies.

Students can improve the competitiveness of their grant applications by keeping three things in mind. First, your writing should be clear and concise. Second, you should think about the mindset of the person reviewing the grant, what the reviewer will be looking for, and how you can word your application to make it as understandable as possible. Third, answer every part of every question. Every little question that goes unanswered on your application can count against you. If you are interested in further developing your grant writing abilities, you might try asking your professors if they know of any opportunities to write a grant. They may appreciate the help and you will gain valuable practical experience.

There are several funding opportunities available through the EPOCHS program listed in this newsletter as well as on the web at fullerton.edu/graduate. Financial aid may also be available through your academic department, place of work, and a variety of other places. So, find an opportunity and go for it!

BY JED KUHN

GRAD RESEARCH FUND

The Graduate Student Research Fund awards grants to help students with the costs of research supplies and travel to conferences. Awards range from $100-$400. Some past winners have used the grant for new lab equipment, plane tickets to the site of a conference, and the printing of pamphlets to complete a graduate project. If you would like help paying for a legitimate research need, the Graduate Student Research Fund may be able to help. See www.fullerton/graduate for more details.

AWARDED STUDENTS

NOVEMBER 2011
Burrel Vann Jr.           Joanne Linnenbrink
Henriksen Daniel         Candace Aguirre
Ivan Sanchez             Sara Briley
Pamela Wright            Jay Buteyn
Seongeun Kim             Emily Rayburn
Rebecca Sheedy           Manely Rashedan

NEXT UPCOMING DEADLINE

APRIL 23, 2012

Eligibility Requirements:
1. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a graduate degree program at CSUF and must be in good academic standing.
2. Applicants must have filed a FAFSA and have a demonstrated financial need.
3. Submit a completed application to the Office of Graduate Studies, along with a letter of recommendation from a faculty member.
Master’s degree programs serve a variety of purposes. Many programs are scholarly in nature and train students to become researchers and professors. Cal State Fullerton offers a wide range of scholarly programs in a number of fields. Some programs are more professional in nature. Professional programs train students in the specific skills and knowledge they will need to excel in a field outside of academia. The following is a sample of some of the programs available at Cal State Fullerton to students pursuing careers outside of academia. Many of these programs do not require that you possess a specifically related Bachelor’s degree. If you would like to use a master’s degree to change the trajectory of your career, one of these programs may offer you the ideal opportunity.

Counseling
If you like to help people and would like a career where you can offer emotional support to others, counseling may be a good career for you. A master’s degree serves as the minimum qualification and entry point into the counseling profession. Counseling is not just limited to private practice; counselors perform a variety of functions and duties in settings such as K-12 schools, higher education, community agencies, hospitals, government agencies, and businesses.

Cal State Fullerton offers two programs that can lead to a career as a counselor. One program is the Master of Science degree in Counseling. This can be completed in as little as two-and-a-half years. For more information, see hhd.fullerton.edu/counsel. The other program is the Master of Science degree in Clinical Psychology. See hss.fullerton.edu/psychology for more details.

Biotechnology
Would you like to work in the cutting-edge biotechnology industry? Biotechnology is a broad field that encompasses everything from research and clinical trials to regulation and business. In collaboration with Cal Poly Pomona and Cal State Los Angeles, Cal State Fullerton offers a master’s degree program in Biotechnology with six concentrations. A bachelor’s in biology is not required—this program accepts students with backgrounds in business, computer science, chemistry, math, engineering, and more.

For more information on the CSU’s Master of Biotechnology program, see www.calstate.edu/pabs.

Computer Science
Computers and software run the world. A degree in computer science is extremely versatile and can lead to careers in gaming, website design, security, database systems, robotics and more. Computer science can be a very challenging and lucrative career.

Cal State Fullerton offers a Master of Science degree in Computer Science. Students not possessing an undergraduate degree in computer science will have to complete some prerequisites. See cs.fullerton.edu for more details.

Teaching
For those with patience and a love for learning and education, teaching can be an incredibly rewarding career. To become a teacher, you must complete a postbaccalaureate teaching credential program. Credential programs are usually split into single-subject (for middle school and high school teachers), multiple-subject (for elementary school teachers), and multiple-subject/special education (for special education teachers at all levels). Those looking to teach in high-needs areas, such as special education, may be eligible for a number of scholarships and loan-repayment programs, making their program less costly.

Cal State Fullerton offers a variety of credential programs, some partnered with master’s degree programs, to help you enter the teaching profession. See ed.fullerton.edu for more details.
Nursing
Listed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as the occupation with the largest projected growth in employment, nurses are in high demand. Nurses provide health care in hospitals and community settings. Nursing is a great career option for those interested in helping people in a medical environment.

Cal State Fullerton offers an entry-level Master of Science in Nursing program. Prospective students must meet a number of prerequisites before applying to the program. See nursing.fullerton.edu for more information.

Social Work
If you have a desire to help people and strongly believe in social justice, you may find social work a rewarding career path. Social workers find employment in a wide variety of settings including social service agencies, health agencies, adoption agencies, child protective services, hospitals, and psychiatric facilities.

Cal State Fullerton’s MSW program takes about two years of full-time study to complete. For more information, see hhd.fullerton.edu/MSW.

Higher Education
Here at Cal State Fullerton, we are surrounded by professionals in offices such as housing, residential life, minority and international affairs, financial aid, and academic advising. If you would like to be on the other side of the desk—advisor rather than advisee—one way of getting into the field of student support is through a master’s degree in Higher Education.

Cal State Fullerton offers a master’s degree in Higher Education that is designed to be completed in two years. For more information, see ed.fullerton.edu/edleadership.

Business
Do you possess an entrepreneurial spirit, a talent for sales, and a drive to make money? A career in business may be your perfect fit. Business is perhaps the largest and most varied profession. You can make, sell, and market just about anything. A Master’s of Business Administration degree will give you the resources necessary to jump into this challenging career field.

CSU Fullerton offers multiple M.B.A. programs and concentrations to suit the needs of any student, from those looking to go to school full-time to the working professional. Prospective students will need to take the GMAT to gain admission into the program. For more information on CSU Fullerton’s M.B.A. program, log on to business.fullerton.edu.

Public Administration
If you would like to be a leader in government and nonprofit organizations, public administration is the career path for you. A Master’s degree program in Public Administration draws on information from the social sciences and business to develop students into knowledgeable and capable leaders. This degree is appropriate for those who have found themselves working in public service and want to advance to managerial positions as well as those looking to enter careers in public service.

Cal State Fullerton’s M.P.A. program requires just a few prerequisites in economics and government that you may be able to complete in your first year. See hss.fullerton.edu/paj for more details.

Cal State Fullerton offers even more professional programs! For a complete list, see fullerton.edu/graduate.

BY JED KUHN
One aspect of the Enhancing Postbaccalaureate Opportunities at Cal State Fullerton for Hispanic Students (EPOCHS) program is to engage local communities in order to promote graduate education among Latina and Latino students. To fulfill its community engagement responsibilities, the EPOCHS program recently partnered with Garden Grove High School’s English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) to present a “Pathways to College” event for current high school and middle school students and their parents. The “Pathways to College” event gave ELAC students and their parents information about making the transition to college. This included when to apply, what high school classes to take, and how to apply for financial aid. The ELAC parents even spoke with parents of current CSUF students about what it is like to watch your child go off to school. The event was the result of the efforts of ELAC president Gabriela Lohman, College of Education Professor Dr. Minerva Chavez, and EPOCHS staff member Norma Ramirez.

This program took a long-range approach to accomplishing the EPOCHS goal of increasing Latina and Latino graduate students. As many parents attending the “Pathways” event pointed out, the college process is unfamiliar to many families in their communities. Many of the students in ELAC will be the first in their families to attend college. Some of the parents reported that, in their youth, they were discouraged from going to college by parents who did not understand why it was important. By promoting the idea of a college education and introducing the idea of further education through postbaccalaureate study, the EPOCHS program is hoping that by the time these students are interested in pursuing a master’s degree, they will be given ample support from their families and communities.

Language also often acts as a barrier. It is sometimes the case that while students speak fluent English, their parents are less confident in their abilities. To counteract that barrier, the “Pathways to College” workshop presentations were all given in both English and Spanish. Dr. Chavez even encouraged many of her pre-credential students to volunteer their time to answer questions and offer campus tours in Spanish.

The “Pathways” event was a hit with both the students in attendance and their parents. About Cal State Fullerton, one student said, “I want to go to this university. I think it is good and it will help me get a scholarship and help me in my career.” Another student said, “I learned that there are many opportunities to have a better future. These workshops were helpful and encouraging.” One parent said that they learned that “college is affordable and attainable.”

The “Pathways to College” event serves as a model for what the community engagement aspect of the EPOCHS program will continue to offer. The EPOCHS program actively reaches out to local communities here in Orange County and seeks to encourage students to go to college and beyond. Today, anyone can aspire to earn a graduate education. Cal State Fullerton hopes that by encouraging postbaccalaureate study in local Latina and Latino communities, more students will earn their graduate degrees.

BY JED KUHN
Uno de los aspectos del programa de Mejorar las Oportunidades de Bachillerato Para Hispanos (EPOCHS) en la universidad estatal de Fullerton, es involucrar las comunidades locales con el fin de promover la educación de posgrado entre los estudiantes Latinos. Para cumplir con la responsabilidad de tener participación comunitaria, el programa de EPOCHS, recientemente se asoció con el comité de asesores de estudiantes del idioma inglés de las escuelas secundarias de Garden Grove (ELAC), para presentar el evento “Camino hacia la universidad” para los padres de los estudiantes actuales de las escuelas secundarias e intermedias y los estudiantes.

El evento “Camino hacia la universidad,” ofreció a los estudiantes de ELAC y a sus padres, información sobre la transición a la universidad. Esto incluyó como solicitar la aplicación, que clases se debe de tomar en la secundaria, y como solicitar ayuda financiera. Incluso, los padres de ELAC tuvieron la oportunidad de hablar con padres de estudiantes actuales de CSUF. Discutieron como se sienten al ver a su hijo/a ir a la universidad. El programa fue el resultado de los esfuerzos de la presidenta de ELAC, Gabriela Lohman, la profesora de la Facultad de Educación, Dra. Minerva Chávez, y Norma Ramírez del programa EPOCHS.

El programa EPOCHS, tiene un enfoque largo para lograr la meta de aumentar el número de Latinos que continúen el posgrado. Para los padres que asistieron al evento “Caminos” y también para muchas familias y sus comunidades, el proceso de la universidad es desconocido. Muchos estudiantes del programa ELAC, serán los primeros de su familia en asistir a la universidad. Algunos padres reportaron que, cuando fueron niños, fueron desmoralizados de ir a la universidad por los mismos padres que no entendían la importancia de continuar una educación. Al promover la idea de la educación universitaria temprano e introducir la idea de seguir la educación superior por medio de seguir un bachillerato, el programa de EPOCHS espera que los estudiantes estén interesados en seguir con una educación avanzada, con el apoyo de sus familias y sus comunidades.

También el idioma a menudo actúa como una barrera. A veces es el caso que mientras los estudiantes hablan inglés con fluididad, sus padres se sienten menos seguros en sus habilidades. Para contrarrestar esta barrera, en las presentaciones de “Camino a la universidad,” los talleres fueron presentados en inglés y en español. Incluso, la Dra. Minerva Chávez animó a sus estudiantes que voluntariamente ofrecieran su tiempo para responder preguntas en español e incluso hacer recorridos en la universidad.

El evento “Caminos” fue un éxito con los estudiantes que asistieron junto con sus padres. Un estudiante dio su comentario acerca de CSUF: “Quiero ir a esta universidad. Creo que es bueno y me ayudara a conseguir becas y en mi carrera.” También otro estudiante comentó: “Aprendí que existen muchas oportunidades para obtener un futuro mejor. Estos talleres fueron útiles y motivadores.” Incluso, un padre de familia dijo que aprendió que la “universidad es accesibles y alcanzable.”

“Caminos hacia la universidad” es un evento que sirve como modelo para la comunidad con el compromiso del programa de EPOCHS. Actualmente, el programa de EPOCHS se extiende a las comunidades del condado de Orange y tiene por objeto de persuadir a estudiantes que continúen sus estudios universitarios. Hoy en día, cualquier persona puede aspirar y obtener un título de posgrado. La universidad estatal de Fullerton, espera motivar a las comunidades latinas, para que más estudiantes obtengan sus títulos de posgrados.

Translation by Maria Salazar
OVERCOMING THE LONELY GRADUATE STUDENT BLUES

CAMPUS CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

A student takes aim during an Archery Club meeting.

“I don’t need friends. I have books.”

Life as a graduate student can be a little lonely. Many of us come from distant cities or different states, having left behind the family and friends we know to pursue our educational goals. Some students, though long-time Orange County residents, find that shifting priorities have distanced them from their old group of friends. The obvious cure for loneliness would be to make new friends. Getting involved in campus clubs and organizations can help you do just that.

Cal State Fullerton has more than 250 clubs and organizations. Clubs come in multiple varieties including social, service-oriented, cultural, religious, recreational, and career-oriented. Many clubs are even specific to certain academic departments and are a great way to get to know other students in your program. Most of the clubs on campus are open to anyone who is interested in joining—graduate or undergraduate students of any age, ethnicity, or background. The clubs are often low-cost or no-cost. The following is a very small sample of the clubs available on campus. For a comprehensive list of clubs and contact information, see www.fullerton.edu/deanofstudents/studentlife.

The Women and Gender Studies Association is open to all students interested in feminism, women’s issues, and LGBTQ issues. The group is responsible for bringing a Queer Scholarship speaker series to campus this year. The group meets every Wednesday at 4pm at Aloha Java next to University Hall. Upcoming events include a lecture on March 13 titled “None Shall Pass: Transgender Studies and the Politics of Mobility,” a lecture on April 18 titled “Hidden Identities: Homosexuality and the Gay Rights Movement in Jamaica,” and a documentary screening on March 24 titled “No Girls Allowed” about a 1983 Supreme Court Case about allowing girls to attend an all-male high school. For more information, contact wgssa.csuf@gmail.com.

The Archery Club offers fans of Robin Hood the opportunity to learn how to use a bow. Interested students don’t need any experience, and equipment will be provided. The club also engages in philanthropy and holds competitions. The group meets from 6-9pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in KHS-264 and Fridays and Saturdays on the track field. There is a club fee of $15 per semester. For more information, contact archery.csuf@gmail.com.

Salsa Club welcomes students of all abilities and skill levels. A professional instructor and a team of students teach a large group of students the fundamentals of the dance. Meetings take place on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:45pm in KHS-203. There is a fee of $25 per semester for this club. Students who are more serious about their salsa may be interested in Friday night lessons. For more information, see www.csufsalsaclub.com.

The Kung Fu Club has been kicking around the CSUF campus since the 1970’s. The club includes instruction on self-defense, fitness, Chinese philosophy, and sparring. The club meets from 10am-12:30pm on Saturdays in KHS-203. There is a $20 one-time semester membership fee and a $10 renewal fee each following semester. For more information, see www.csufkungfu.org.

Campus Clubs Update
The Graduate Council of La Semilla, featured in the Fall 2011 issue of Graduate Studies Matters, updated their contact information to gcls.csuf@gmail.com.
You make the time to do your schoolwork, write papers, and study. You make time to work and earn a living and take care of your family. With all of the responsibilities you take on as a graduate student, do you make time to care for yourself?

“The idea of finding time for self-care is really important,” said Catherine Ward, new Graduate Student Support Specialist.

Catherine Ward has recently joined the EPOCHS program to offer counseling and support services to graduate students. Ward is currently in her second year of study in the master’s program in counseling at Cal State Fullerton. She will be offering one-on-one therapy as well as group workshops. One of her primary goals is to reach out to the campus community and encourage students to invest in their sense of well-being. When they do, they can more efficiently and more effectively meet the demands of family, school, work, and community.

Dealing with stress is an issue we all face. “When we’re experiencing stress, we’re not performing our best,” she said. She adds that managing stress will help students to become more productive. Even if your time is very limited, a little time devoted to taking care of yourself is better than no time at all.

Self-care topics such as stress management, relaxation techniques, creating a school-work-life balance, and cultivating a sense of belonging will be the focus of discussion at Ward’s monthly wellness workshops. The first two wellness workshops, which provide an opportunity for networking and relationship-building, will be offered on Wednesday, March 21st and Wednesday, April 18th from 4-5pm in MH 287. Ward encourages all interested students to attend.

If you would like to meet with Catherine Ward for individual counseling, she offers services through the Women’s Center by appointment during business hours Monday-Friday and on Friday evenings. She offers special hours from 5pm-6:45pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the Office of Graduate Studies. To make an appointment, contact Catherine Ward at cward@fullerton.edu.

Each year, the Graduate Equity Program provides multiple fellowships of up to $2500 to graduate students of various departments and disciplines. The funds are intended to assist students who exhibit financial need and who have overcome educational disadvantages or hardships. The goal of the program is to ease students’ debt burden so that they can pursue further study. In 2011, 14 students were granted program fellowships.

One such recipient was Walter Santizo, a current graduate student in the American Studies department. When asked what effect the fellowship had on his studies, he replied, “For me, it was the symbolism. It was like the school saying, ‘We’re here to support graduate students.’”

Walter put the money to use supporting his family. He has two sons, ages three and one, that he provides for. He used some of the fellowship money to buy a stockpile of diapers.

“[The fellowship money] does help. I would encourage anyone who needs it to apply.”

The deadline to apply for the Graduate Equity Program is May 4. You can find the application online at www.fullerton.edu/graduate.
Finding a place to live in Orange County can present quite a problem. The high cost of rent prohibits many from living on their own, especially single full-time graduate students. Students with partners and families face a host of additional complications as well. Should you find a roommate? Rent a room in someone’s house? Live with mom and dad? This article offers a glimpse into the living situations of CSUF graduate students.

Option 1: Live at Home
“I felt it was economically logical to move back home,” said one graduate student. She has a point—if you have the option to live with parents or relatives, this is the most financially reasonable option. It has other benefits as well. “I define home as being with people that you care about. I look forward to coming home to a home. It would be hard to come home to nothing,” the student added. Living with parents, however, does have its share of drawbacks. “You never really have your independence fully. Even people with the most understanding and progressive parents still have to answer to them. You live in their home.” Overall, however, this student is happy to live at home. “I feel like I have less rights, but I accept that. The benefits outweigh the pitfalls.”

Option 2: Find a Roommate
“I live with a roommate because it offers me a high degree of autonomy. I don’t have to answer to anyone or be overly concerned about bringing guests over. I can do what I want,” said another graduate student who shares a two-bedroom apartment with a non-student. Despite the independence, living in an apartment with a roommate does have its drawbacks. The first hurdle is actually finding a roommate you can live with. “I found my roommate on craigslist. It was pretty scary. I met one or two creepy individuals before finally meeting my current roommate.” Students looking for a roommate online should exercise extreme caution and stay away from situations in which they feel unsafe. Living in an apartment can also be a little expensive. In order to cut costs, some choose to share a bedroom with a roommate. While this makes apartment living more affordable, it also makes it less private. Our student said that he would rather pay more for privacy. “For me, my privacy and my freedom are the most important things.”

Option 3: Rent a Room in a House
Some homeowners rent out rooms to students. The living conditions can vary greatly, from sharing living areas with the family to having a secluded room with a private entrance. Before renting a room, make sure that the family’s rules and expectations line up with your needs.

Option 4: Live on Campus
Single graduate students are able to live alongside undergraduates in student housing. Cal State Fullerton offers new dorms and a new cafeteria to accommodate the blossoming on-campus student community. Though there areas specifically set aside for graduate students, the housing office may consider graduate student-only areas in the near future. Many students choose to live in student housing because it is a convenient option. Those living on-campus are required to purchase a cafeteria meal plan, which could be a plus or a minus depending on your individual needs.

BY JED KUHN
This is a new segment in Graduate Studies Matters in which a professor will answer general student questions about various aspects of graduate school.

This issue, Dr. Ray Rast from the Department of History answers.

What are the most frequent mistakes new graduate students make in their first year of study?

One thing that most new graduate students could do better is to appreciate the differences in rigor and workload between a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree. Graduates at Cal State Fullerton often excel as undergraduates, but even those students need to understand that graduate coursework takes some adjustment. The workload is more challenging, discussions and assignments are more demanding, and the professors’ expectations are higher. All of this means that maintaining a balance between responsibilities at school, work, and home might be more difficult—but also more important.

Another thing that many new graduate students could do better is get to know the faculty, starting with the professors whose classes they are taking and those who they anticipate working with. I always want to get to know the graduate students in my classes, but I am also surprised whenever a student who wants to work with me hasn’t introduced himself or herself until a couple of semesters have gone by. I also enjoy getting to know graduate students who are in different fields and different departments. Some of the most valuable support I received in graduate school came from professors in other departments, and I’m always happy to provide the same kind of support, even to students who are not my own advisees.

Do you have a question that you would like a professor to answer? Submit them to Jed Kuhn at jed.kuhn@csu.fullerton.edu.

COMING SOON!

SPRING 2012 EVENTS

Welcome Day
Saturday, April 14th, 2012

Welcome Day is an opportunity for newly admitted graduate students and their families to explore Cal State Fullerton. The event features workshops, campus tours, and a resource fair. Last year’s event featured presentations on policies and financial resources, a panel of faculty discussing how students can be successful, and a panel of graduate students discussing why they chose Cal State Fullerton. Newly admitted graduate students should look for a registration email for this event in early April.

Commencement
Saturday, May 19th & Sunday, May 20th, 2012

You’ve done it! You’ve finished your classes, completed your thesis or final projects, submitted your grad check and are ready to graduate. Commencement consists of a University Ceremony for all graduates on the lawn north of the Titan Gymnasium immediately followed by a College Ceremony. Each college will hold their respective ceremonies at different locations around campus. For more information about Commencement, see fullerton.edu/commencement.
OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

WHAT WE DO
The Office of Graduate Studies provides leadership in graduate student affairs and policies, administering the EPOCHS federal grant as well as several scholarship programs: Graduate Equity Fellowship, CSU Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Giles T. Brown Thesis Award, Chancellor's Office Doctoral Incentive Program, and EPOCHS Research Fund. All master’s theses and doctoral dissertations are reviewed in the Office of Graduate Studies, an important final step before graduation for many students. The Office of Graduate Studies serves as a source on state regulations and campus policies overseeing procedures, including enrollment, classification, leave of absence, academic standards, and assisting department graduate program advisers. Central to the Office’s service is the evaluation of each graduate student’s study plan for classification status, as well as review for graduation check and posting the awarding of the graduate degree.

WHO WE ARE
Dorota Huizinga, Associate Vice President
Katherine Powers, Director
Ray Rast, EPOCHS Project Director
Lynn Winter & Cathy Hess, Evaluators
Yessica Peñate, Administrative Support Coordinator
Debra Stewart, Thesis/Dissertation Reader
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NEWSLETTER
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DEADLINES & FAQs

04/20/2012
Last day to submit your thesis or dissertation to Thesis/Dissertation Reader for May 2012 graduation.

05/01/2012
Deadline for late enrollment in Grad 700 through extended education with $25 late fee.

05/18/2012
Deadline for submitting a deposit to the CSUF Bookstore.

QUESTION: What if I have finished all my classes, but I am still working on my project. Do I have to be enrolled?
ANSWER: Yes. During Fall and Spring semester, you must be enrolled. If you have no other classes to take, you enroll in GRAD 700. You might be able to enroll in GRAD 700 via University Extended Education. Come to the Office of Graduate Studies at the start of the semester to pick up the paperwork.

QUESTION: How do I apply for a graduation check?
ANSWER: In Titan Online, choose “Apply for Graduation” from the “other academic” dropdown box under the “Academics” heading. Next, pay the $115 fee to the campus cashier. You must do this within five days of applying for graduation through Titan Online.

QUESTION: What if I need to take a semester off?
ANSWER: To take a semester off, file a Leave of Absence form. All graduate students need to be enrolled every semester or they will be discontinued. Form is available at www.fullerton.edu/graduate.

QUESTION: I thought I would graduate this May, but now I realize I won’t be finished. What should I do?
ANSWER: Come into the Office of Graduate Studies and ask to update your grad date to Fall 2012 or later.