The Graduate Student Spotlight

This month the GSA would like to recognize Gayle Garcia. Ms. Garcia is in her 3rd year at WMU in the Clinical Mental Health Master’s degree program. She has a passion for counseling and research to further the counseling profession. Gayle is currently a volunteer graduate research assistant for two professors in her program. She is the Secretary/Treasurer for the Mu Beta Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota honor society for the counseling profession on WMU’s campus. She also holds a seat on the community engagement committee, which promotes Chi Sigma Iota’s members to get involved with the communities of Kalamazoo and Western Michigan University. Gayle has begun training at the Gryphon Place to be a volunteer crisis worker. Gayle hopes to continue her studies with a PhD in Counseling Education and Supervision. Gayle’s professional focus is towards adolescents and young adults; she believes that these two populations experience many changes during these stages of their lives. Gayle would love to foster/encourage teenagers and young adults to embrace and feel safe being themselves. Eventually she wants to become a professor to promote the wellness and knowledge of up and coming counselor’s much like her professors have done for her.

Congratulations Gayle for your outstanding commitment to your fellow graduate students and the greater Kalamazoo community. Take a bow the “spotlight” is on you!

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GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWS

Learn more about workshops offered through the grad college:

* Strategies for Navigating Dissertation: February 4
* WMU Career Fair: February 12
* The Government & Nonprofit Fair: February 13
* Securing Your Data: February 25

LEGISLATIVE NEWS UPDATE

Welcome new and returning students to the 2015 spring semester. There are several events that are set to take place this academic semester; National Message Congress Day, Legislative Action Days (LAD), and National Call Congress Day. Each of these events are in conjunction with the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS).

National Message Congress Day will take place on Wednesday February 25, 2015. Changes in the federal government can directly affect graduate students education and rights. Please take 5 minutes out of your day to post, tweet, or message your congressmen/congresswomen to express your concerns. To learn more please check out the following links:
Senate: http://govsm.com/w/Senate
House: http://govsm.com/w/House

LADs will take place March 20-23, 2015. Six (6) graduate students will travel to Washington, DC and advocate for graduate student needs. They will have the chance to meet with legislators and legislators’ staff to voice concerns about graduate student loans and debt, open access to federally funded research, higher education funding, and student visas.

Look out for future updates pertaining to National Call Congress Day that will take place on April 8, 2015. If you want to get involved with graduate student advocacy efforts at Western Michigan University, please contact Denisha Griffey of the Graduate Student Association.
CAREER FAIR AND GOVT & NONPROFIT FAIR

The Career Fair will be Thurs Feb. 12 from 10 a.m to 1 p.m in the Bernhard Center Ballrooms.

The Government and Non-profit Fair: Friday, Feb. 13 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Bernhard Center North Ballroom.

For more information, click here: http://tinyurl.com/WMUCF2015

GRADUATE STUDENT DISSERTATION DEFENSES

Lets congratulate our fellow graduate students on all of their hard work and defending.

Ochas Kashinge Pupwe—Ph.D Department of Economics
Hussain Jaber Aliaifi — Ph.D Department of Geosciences
Lauren A. Frye—Ph.D Department of Psychology
Sophia K. Rath—Ph.D Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology
Theresa Lynn—Ph.D Department of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
Chaiphat Plybour—Mallison Institute for Science Education

Congratulations Broncos!!!

GRADUATE STUDENT UPCOMING EVENTS

Graduate Financial Allocations Committee Meeting: Jan. 23 and Feb. 20
GSA General Body Meeting: Jan. 30 and Feb. 27
Hilltop Review Submission: Feb. 2
Reboot Your Profile: Using Social Media Tools for Graduate Research and Professional Branding: Feb. 2
Hacking the Stacks: The Inside Scoop on Library Resources for Graduate Level Research: Feb. 17

Using Social Media Tools for Graduate Research and Professional Branding

On Tuesday, February 2 from 3 to 5:15 pm in Room 2720, Sangren Hall Graduate students will use social media tools to enhance their graduate education and professional development. Participants should bring a laptop or other web-enabled device. All experience levels are welcome.

Sessions will feature the following topics:
- Connect: Promoting Research and Collaborating
- Engage: Blogging Best Practices for Research and Professional Communication
- Stand Out: Develop Your Profile on Academic Social Media Sites

Attendees can register at www.wmich.edu/grad/events and are encouraged to review the Graduate College’s online modules, “Social Media and the University Symposium,” available on YouTube and at http://wmugradcollege.wordpress.com/social-media-symposium/.

The Inside Scoop on Library Resources for Graduate-Level Research

On Tuesday, February 17 from 2 to 4:45 pm in the Education Library, Room 2800, Sangren Hall this free workshop will feature WMU research experts from University Libraries.

Participants must bring a laptop or other web-enabled device for these hands-on sessions. No prior knowledge of sessions topics is needed for participation. Students of all experience levels may attend one or more of the sessions.

The following concurrent sessions feature leading-edge topics for graduate research in digital age:
- Create Your Digital Portfolio
- The Ethics of Writing & Citation Management
- Preparing to Publish
- Hidden Gems of the Library,
- Thinking Ahead: Dissertations and Theses

Attendees can register at www.wmich.edu/grad/events.

Graduate Student Spotlight

Recognizes outstanding graduate students who make a difference in the lives of others. If you would like to be featured or know an outstanding graduate student, please nominate them for the GSA Spotlight.

Email: denisha.c.griffey@wmich.edu for more information.

The Hilltop Review

Submission for the Spring 2015 issue are due February 2, 2015. Please contact the Editor with questions at gsa_hilltop@wmich.edu

Theme: Changes in Culture and Technology