

Featured Program: Environmental and Technological Studies



Kurt Helgeson

Graduate Coordinator Dr. Kurt Helgeson describes a challenging and flexible program for students interested in environmental and technological studies.

The Master of Science in Environmental and Technological Studies is a fusion of technological integration to environmental problem solving. The ETS program began six years ago and is still one of the few programs of its kind in the

country. As a result, Helgeson explains the solid employment prospects after graduation, "There is a big demand out there for environmental studies graduates."

Mark Bruemmer represents about a third of all ETS graduate students who are licensed teachers returning to school, and he has found a mentorship with Helgeson.

"It's really student oriented and I'm able to create a program that fits my needs," Bruemmer said.

Bruemmer is enrolled in the teacher development track, but the majority of ETS students opt for the other field studies track. As such, the department helps develop instructional strategies for teaching courses in areas like woods, metals and CAD design for students like Bruemmer.

"My degree when I'm done is going to show that I have more of an emphasis in concentrated technology education," he said. "I'm focusing on this area to maybe develop curriculum for this field."

Many students have been in industry and would like to begin teaching. These students concentrate in the technology education track and take the traditional teacher licensure courses

concurrently with ETS courses.

ETS students in either track receive technical training whether or not they have a technical background. "Typically a graduate does more focused research. As this program's designed, it's flexible enough that we can bring in a great variety of backgrounds," Helgeson said. "It's great in classes because you have discussions coming from all these different perspectives."

According to Helgeson, students most enjoy "being able to focus on a topic of interest and being able to run with that as a theme throughout a variety of classes."

The program may be individualized, but Helgeson adds that students also thrive on the camaraderie associated with core coursework. This is part of the learning environment that quality faculty encourage. "Most of our students are shocked at how open our faculty members are," he explained.

ETS has historically had course offerings in the summer and now offers five online courses as well as a few classes in the Twin Cities.

Current research in the department includes: secondary school curriculum research, recycling, issues dealing with land fills, and public perceptions of fuel cell technology.

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GradNEWS

School of Graduate Studies
121 Administrative Services Building
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498

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SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

April 2004

Thesis Writing Takes Time and Initiative

Peter Kinyua, a student in the applied economics graduate program, is facing the determinative challenge of writing his thesis. It is a structured process that ends in an educational milestone.

"Getting a graduate degree is a major thing," Peter explains.

Peter's graduate curriculum has taught him how to use specific data for his research, a big change from when he was studying at the University of Nairobi in his native Kenya, where data was hard to come by. Graduate study at St. Cloud State University has also trained him to use relevant software for economic analysis. As Peter writes his thesis, these new research and technological skills are complementary.

Before Peter began the writing process, he had to formulate a topic in the form of a thesis proposal that was appropriate to present to a three-member committee during a preliminary thesis conference.

Graduate students choosing a thesis option work with a thesis committee from the beginning. This starts when the committee approves a thesis proposal at a preliminary conference and ultimately accepts the completed thesis during a final conference at least one semester later.

"First of all I had to get one professor who would be willing to chair my committee," Peter said.

Graduate students are responsible for finding appropriate committee members for their thesis. Most start by talking with an advisor or other professors in their department. Peter found Dr. Eungmin Kang to chair his committee.

The two had similar research interests and Dr. Kang helped narrow Peter's thesis topic. "I would present a topic to him and we would discuss it and he could tell me if it was doable," Peter said. "Finally we came to the topic of credit supply and recessions." Dr. Kang explains that topic selection is a challenging task but only a part of the literature review process for a thesis. "How much (students) read and grasp the focus of the topic, that is the major issue," he said.

Peter consults with each committee member for a different aspect of his research and writing in preparation for his final conference. While Dr. Kang serves as an advisor on data collection and analysis, Dr. Douglas Polly with the management department helps out with general format and flow of the thesis. Back in the Department of Economics, Dr. Mary Edwards is helping maintain the consistency of the economic logic in the paper. Peter's final conference is scheduled for April.

After the final evaluation with committee members, students still need to prepare a final copy of the thesis consistent with the guidelines of form and style in the Manual for the Preparation of Field Studies and Theses and pay a binding and microfilm fee to the School of Graduate Studies before the semester deadline.

A copy of the Manual for the Preparation of Field Studies and Theses can be purchased in the campus bookstore for a nominal charge. The School of Graduate Studies provides further assistance for graduate students preparing their culminating projects.



Graduate Scholarships

The Elaine L. Leach Scholarship for Women in Educational Leadership awards graduate scholarships to students with three years of classroom teaching experience who plan educational leadership careers in rural Minnesota and may have special needs for financial resources. The Elaine L. Leach Scholarship awards one \$1,000 annual award and two \$750 endowed awards. Application packets are available in the Women's Center. The application deadline is April 8.

Watch for the new website!

The School of Graduate Studies website will get a new look this semester. The latest changes will include: new student orientation information, consolidated graduate assistantship openings, an online form for faculty to submit GA position openings and easy form downloads for current and prospective students and faculty.

**"Education's purpose is to
replace an empty mind
with an open one."**

-Malcom S. Forbes



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Noteworthy Student



Victoria Jadwinski is a success on and off campus as a writer, an intern and an award-winning honor society member. A student in the Master of Science in Industrial-Organizational Psychology graduate program offered by the psychology department, Jadwinski has seldom turned down an opportunity for greater personal and professional development.

“By taking opportunities, life can go in different directions and why not investigate and see where the road (goes),” she explained.

That investigative inclination brought Jadwinski to SCSU when she was considering a career as a writer. She still networks with writers and next fall she will take time to visit the Midwest Fiction Writers Conference.

“I’m trying to keep my hand in writing,” she affirms. Victoria sees no tradeoff between her passion for fiction writing and her

graduate education. “I’m not giving up anything by doing this. I’ve given myself more education, enriched myself and opened myself to more things, and writing is about psychology. So I have the opportunity to do both.”

‘Life’s experience really helps you through.’

Her work on campus has won her a research award from the Midwest Psychological Association in association with the Psi Chi honor society. Jadwinski will present her research in April on “Working Memory Capacity and the Use of Mnemonics” at the MPAs annual conference in Chicago.

Jadwinski’s 200-mile, round-trip commute to campus has a stop in St. Paul. An internship with the St. Paul Fire Department allows her to work on the city’s emergency operations plan to help coordinate different agencies in the event of disaster.

Her internship was created after networking with contacts in the department and matching her new skills to the city’s needs. “I like to think of (industrial organization) as psychology for (an organization), doing what’s good for the employees and for the organization and getting things to work more smoothly and effectively,” she said. “Even though (an I-O) graduate is employed by a company, they’re trying to look out for both interests, because what’s good for employees is good for the company.”

Graduate Student Research Grants

The School of Graduate Studies congratulates the six recipients receiving Graduate Student Research Grants. These grants were awarded to fund or reimburse costs incurred while conducting research for the students’ culminating projects.

- Paul Reyerson will travel to Philadelphia for the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers to present research findings with his work with ancient soil samples from Washington State. Paul has studied the soil of eastern Washington to examine a connection between modern and prehistoric grasslands.
- At Lake Alexander Preserve in central Minnesota, Samir Man Patti has surveyed forest vegetation, specifically tree species composition. The Minnesota chapter of the Nature Conservancy owns the preserve and Samir’s research will support Lake Alexander and the central Minnesota ecosystem.
- In her work with new international students at St. Cloud State University, Sangita Bogati will help the university learn about our growing cultural exchange. Sangita’s research will study the social adjustment, personal emotional adjustment, academic and institutional adjustment of international students from south Asian countries.
- Yunhee Sung and I-Chun Lin are also working with international students but from the perspective of the Write Place. Yunhee and I-Chun will both travel to the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing in

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to present their research. Yunhee will present findings on the pedagogical difficulties of teaching writing from a process versus product approach. I-Chun will discuss how a university writing center can help non-native speakers with the English language.

- Humphrey Zebulun will research the abilities of a particular type of fungus to biodegrade hazardous substances like refined petroleum products. His work will support a natural method of decontaminating polluted soils.

The Graduate Student Research Grant awards up to \$500 for admitted graduate students in support of a final thesis, starred paper, portfolio or creative work. Applications are available in the School of Graduate Studies, room 121, Administrative Service Building or on the web at www.stcloudstate.edu/~grads/forms.html#cs.





HUSKYNET


If you’re not on HuskyNet, you could be missing out on benefits that can make your life as a graduate student easier. The best part: It won’t cost you anything, because HuskyNet services have already been paid for through your student technology fee.


What is HUSKYNET?


HuskyNet, short for Husky Network, is our brand for all of the technology resources available to students, faculty and staff at SCSU. Once you have a HuskyNetID, you have access to a great deal of technology, both on and off campus. Some HuskyNet highlights:


 **E-mail:** Having a campus e-mail account provides you easy access to instructors and other students, and vice versa. It also helps ensure you will get important campus announcements.


 **Campus Desktop:** When you use a campus computer that has Campus Desktop, all of your personal settings are saved and recalled at the next computer you use, saving you time and work.


 **File Space:** You can store files on our network drives. They are accessible both on and off campus, and even in many classrooms. All you need is Internet access, and all of your files will be at your fingertips.


 **Web Space:** Want to publish a personal web site while at SCSU? Space is available, and many campus labs offer software to assist you in developing your site.

 **HuskyPrint:** Every campus lab has a printer available. You are provided with eight dollars of printing each semester and can add more from your personal funds if needed.

 **Open Data Jacks:** Have a laptop? You can hook up to HuskyNet through one of the many open data jacks around campus, including the Miller Center study tables.

 **Wireless Networking:** You can use your laptop or PDA without being tied down, thanks to our ever-expanding wireless network.

 **Dialup Access:** Got a computer, but no Internet access? As a student at SCSU, you have free dialup access available to you. Several phone numbers are provided for St. Cloud, Twin Cities and other communities.

 **Computer/lab access:** You need your HuskyNetID to log into and use many of the computers on campus. SCSU has more than 50 general access labs containing 568 computers, with an additional 675 computers in curriculum labs.

For more information on any HuskyNet features or to activate your HuskyNetID, see the official web site at <http://husky.net.stcloudstate.edu/>.

DATES to remember

Monday, April 5	Fall schedule available to students
Monday, April 5	Graduate students: Deadline for submission of field study, thesis, creative work, starred paper, or portfolio to have preliminary or final conference scheduled.
Monday, April 12	Fall registration begins
Monday, April 19	Graduate students: Deadline for submission of graduate student research grants request
Friday, April 30	Graduate students: Field study, thesis, creative work, starred paper, or portfolio due.
Monday, May 3	Graduate students: Notification of graduate student research funds award
Sunday, May 9	Graduate students: Commencement and Hooding Ceremony (Ceremony is at 10:00 a.m. in the Ritsche Auditorium)

“It is the mark of an educated mind to entertain a thought without accepting it.”

-Aristotle

Grad F.Y.I.

Graduate students participating in the Hooding and Commencement Ceremony should return their commencement reservation form by April 9. This semester’s graduate commencement reception will be held after the ceremony rather than before. Caps, gowns and hoods can be picked up in the Husky Bookstore beginning April 26.

