

Grad NEWS

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

November 2002

Public Safety and Executive Leadership: New Graduate Program

Public Safety and Executive Leadership is one of the new SCSU graduate programs approved by MnSCU this fall. This master's of science program is designed to build leadership skills in students who come from law enforcement, courts, corrections, fire, emergency services, dispatch, probation and private security. It places an emphasis on leadership in public safety and in working with the practical experiences of the students. The PSEL Master's Degree complements the traditional master's degree in Criminal Justice, which has been offered since 1986.

The initial cohort of PSEL students started Winter 2001, and with the addition of the second cohort in Fall 2002, the PSEL enrollment has grown to twenty students. The program is designed primarily for mid-career professionals who are interested in enhancing their leadership abilities in the broad area of public safety. The program studies 12 leadership traits, and builds skills with each student's self-assessment of leadership strengths and weaknesses, as well as coursework in human relations, budgeting, working with the media, and visioning for the future.

Dr. John Campbell, Director of the PSEL Master's Degree program, described the advanced leadership design of the program. "Through the program, students will develop a personal leadership plan complete with goals and objectives. The thirty-six credit program can be completed in one and one-half to two years. Core courses include leadership, human relations and futuristics. Currently the program is offered on campus, on-line, and through ITV."

Brent Baloun, Sergeant in the St. Cloud Crime Lab and a PSEL student, said, "The program is excellent for leadership positions. The round-table discussion helps us learn from experiences." He also believes that the program "rivals the FBI Academy program."

Individuals interested in the Public Safety and Leadership program should contact Dr. John Campbell by e-mail: jhcampbell@stcloudstate.edu or telephone 320.255.2985.

Hanson Joins International Center: Graduate Initiatives Expand

SCSU welcomes Nichole Hanson, the new Director of International Admissions for the Center for International Studies. Nichole brings her experience of advising international students from her previous work at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. In addition, Nichole served as a resource to the international faculty on the USD campus.



Left to right: Nichole Hanson, Chunsheng Zhang, Dennis Nunes and Annette Day.

Dr. Zhang, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs/International Studies, is committed to internationalizing SCSU and the addition of a full-time admissions professional will provide an opportunity to streamline services and recruit students. Dr. Zhang sees Ms. Hanson's knowledge and travel experiences as a plus for SCSU. He is looking forward to opportunities that will increase the international graduate population as well as expand the range of nationalities.

Working with faculty and students, Ms. Hanson will use her skills to increase the 84 country international representation. Currently, SCSU's greatest number of international students come from Southeast Asia. Ms. Hanson plans to research the progress of international students currently on campus. Learning English and securing financing for education and living expenses can be quite a challenge. Ms. Hanson's study of these issues will provide additional insight into future services or areas of student need.

Ms. Hanson is becoming acquainted with the SCSU campus and is exploring opportunities to complement existing services. Working in conjunction with the School of Graduate Studies, the departments want to increase and streamline their services. Ms. Annette Day, Director of Graduate Admissions, is excited about the possibilities for international growth at the graduate level. Ms. Day and Ms. Hanson are considering website updates that are more student friendly as well as possible links between the sites to make information more accessible. Various publications will also be coordinated between the two departments. Improved marketing of assistantships, and in-state tuition options are also under discussion.

Dr. Nunes, School of Graduate Studies Dean, clearly sees the United States as the center of graduate education with a wide variety of international students seeking their graduate education at SCSU. International students are one of the fastest growing groups of students availing themselves of the opportunity to earn graduate degrees. Dr. Nunes expects to see further increases in graduate international students as the School of Graduate Studies works closely with Dr. Zhang and the International Studies team.

Field Study, Thesis, Starred Paper, Creative Works and Portfolio

The Final Project: Step by Step

As students begin their field study, thesis, creative work, starred paper or portfolio, there are a number of very important steps to remember. Keeping on top of the process will ensure that all participants are informed and deadlines are met.

Preliminary conferences are required for all five culminating projects. This conference should be scheduled:

- after the student has been fully accepted into the program,
- after the program of study has been approved, and
- during the first nine weeks of one semester prior to the graduating semester.

This preliminary conference can be scheduled by the student, with the assistance of the advisor, or by the School of Graduate Studies. The committee will consist of the student's advisor, one graduate faculty member from the department, and one additional graduate faculty member from another department. The committee must be approved by the School of Graduate Studies. The purpose of this conference is to receive approval of the topic chosen and to consult with the advisor and other committee members regarding the project itself for the purpose of guidance and evaluation while in-process.

Depending on the type of project chosen, **the student will need to:**

- consult with the chairperson of the committee to determine the proposal design and have it approved prior to scheduling the conference
- prepare the required number of proposal copies
 - Thesis or Field Study: four copies
 - Creative Works: four copies of creative projects, playwriting, performance or production, etc.
 - Starred Paper: four copies
 - Portfolio: four copies of a summary describing the project(s)

Final conferences should be scheduled during the first nine weeks of the graduating semester. The committee will consist of the same three faculty members who served on the preliminary committee. Contact the School of Graduate Studies to schedule the final conference. The final project requirements are determined by the type of culminating experience selected.

- **Thesis, Field Study or a Starred Paper** requires that four copies be submitted to the School of Graduate Studies Office during the first nine weeks of the final semester. These copies can be submitted on regular paper. After the approval of the committee, at least three weeks prior to graduation, the final copy should be submitted for format approval. By the last day of the semester, the final copies (approved by the committee and for form and style) must be submitted on 100% cotton paper for binding along with the binding fee. Four copies are required if the student wishes to have a personal bound copy.

Two additional copies of the thesis and field study abstract, not more than 400 words, are submitted to the School of Graduate Studies Office. This abstract, signed by the chairperson, must follow the designated format of St. Cloud State University and will be submitted for publication.

- **Creative Works** must include a written statement of artistic intent. After approval, four copies must be filed with the School of Graduate Studies during the first nine weeks of the final semester. The form and style of the text should follow the requirements listed in the Creative Works Manual and the binding must be in accordance with the standard thesis requirements.
- **Portfolios** require a written summary of the materials to be included in the project/portfolio. A single project summary would be written in the form of an abstract. If the portfolio is a series of smaller projects, the summary should be written as a brief synopsis of each of the projects.

Ann Anderson, Office Manager of the School of Graduate Studies, is able to answer additional questions as well as schedule these conferences as needed. Students and faculty can contact her in the Administrative Services Building, Room 121, call 320.255.2114, or e-mail aeanderson@stcloudstate.edu.

The Semester Before Graduation

The student must:

- Be fully accepted into his/her program
- Have his/her program of study approved

THEN

Schedule the **preliminary** conference during the first nine weeks of the semester.

The Semester of Graduation

Schedule the final conference during the first nine weeks of the semester and submit required copies

Depending on the type of project

The student will need to:

- Consult with the chairperson of the committee to determine the proposal design and have it approved prior to scheduling the conference
- Prepare the required number of copies

Mechanical Engineering: New Graduate Program



Dr. Ken Miller, ME Graduate Program Coordinator

Mechanical Engineering is one of the new graduate programs at SCSU this fall. The program is designed for 10 to 15 students and enrollment should be close to that by Fall 2003. SCSU is the only Minnesota state university, other than the University of Minnesota, to offer this program.

Dr. Ken Miller, Assistant Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator, indicated that the Mechanical Engineering program will be of interest to area engineers as well as

international students of engineering who already have their B. S. degree. The program will provide a deeper knowledge of engineering and bring engineers up-to-date or help them stay current within the field.

Classes are offered in the evening to accommodate individuals who are currently employed. A full-time student could complete the program in one and one-half to two years. A part-time student, taking two classes per semester, could complete the program in approximately three years. Classes are offered on campus, and will be offered at a convenient off-campus location in

the future. The courses can also be accessed through ITV (interactive television) at area community colleges. Dr. Miller indicated that future plans include offering the program at remote sites.

Ms. Iyabo Lawal, one of the inaugural students, shared her perspective of the program. "There is a low student to faculty ratio and a flexible curriculum design. We can choose from our interests and have options for our electives."

The core focus is on manufacturing, including CAD and materials processing. Other areas of interest include controls, dynamics, robotics, fluids and heat transfer.

"The professors keep an eye out for summer internships, fellowship grants, and projects in the St. Cloud area that will be of interest to their students." Ms. Lawal added. "The program is rigorous but the faculty is very supportive and they watch out for us."

Anyone interested in the Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering should contact Dr. Ken Miller at 320.654.5522 or by e-mail at msme@stcloudstate.edu. The department website is <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/~mme>. Additional information about SCSU graduate programs can be found on the SCSU graduate website <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/~grads/>

DATES to remember

Friday, Dec. 13	Last day of instruction
	Graduate Students: Field study, thesis, creative work, starred paper, or portfolio due
Monday-Friday, Dec. 16-20	Final Examinations
Friday, Dec. 20	Residence Halls close at 5:00 p.m.
	Reception from 6-7 p.m. in Ritsche Auditorium and Lobby
	Graduate Commencement and Hooding Ceremony at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday-Friday, Dec. 26-27	Grading days for faculty. Grades due to Records and Registration by 4:00 p.m. Friday

Grad F.Y.I. Did You Know?

- There was a 24% increase in the number of master's degrees earned at SCSU between 1990 and 2000.
- About 21% of the international students at SCSU are graduate students.
- The Academic and Cultural Sharing Scholarship is available to all international students. It entitles the student to pay resident tuition, currently a saving of over \$3000 per year, if they maintain a 3.0 GPA and volunteer 45 hours a semester. Few public universities offer such a financial and cultural bonus to qualified international students who might otherwise not be able to afford a U.S. education. An additional benefit from this scholarship is an opportunity for SCSU and the larger community to learn more about a variety of cultures. International students share their culture by speaking to groups, participating in Cultural Night, and experiencing opportunities to serve the community.

Fall Graduation

The Fall Graduate Commencement and Hooding Ceremony will be Friday, December 20. A dessert reception will be held before the ceremony from 6-7 p.m.. The ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Ritsche Auditorium.

DR. NUNES' Grad Times ... Good Times



Dr Dennis Nunes
School of Graduate Studies

A substantial amount of discussion at SCSU this fall has been focused around retention issues. While most of this conversation has been directed at undergraduate indicators such as graduation rates and the percentage of students who return to SCSU after completing their freshman year, graduate student retention should also be considered.

I found a recent book by Barbara Lovitts, *Leaving the Ivory Tower: The Causes and Consequences of Departure from Doctoral Study*, to be very enlightening. Although her research on graduate student retention focused on doctoral students, it is clear to me that many of her findings can be generalized to a master's program environment.

Because of limited space, I can do little more than briefly summarize what she found. The author has identified why graduate students leave without completing their graduate programs. Central to her findings is graduate students leave far less because of what they bring to the university than because of what happens to them after they arrive.

It is a myth that most graduate students drop out because they are less talented and qualified, thus it is believed they are not successfully meeting the academic demands of their programs. Instead, why they leave is related to a variety of factors including the information we provide them as they are considering applying to a program; the level in which we integrate students into a department's social and professional life; the kind of financial support, if any, the students receive; and most importantly, the relationship with their faculty advisor.

Lovitts concludes, "Many students who depart are conducting a referendum on the departmental culture; they are voting with their feet." The good news is graduate student attrition is a problem we can address and to some extent fix. My goal is to help our graduate community identify problem areas, then we can work together to improve our performance in these areas with the ultimate outcome of strengthening our programs and graduating more of those talented and qualified students who should successfully complete our programs.

K U D O S

By Frankie Condon

SCSU graduate assistants Kayla Wahl, Harry Davis, Pu Chang, Chu Fen, Liz Lahmann and Sister Atukuzwe presented a panel discussion at the Midwest Writing Centers Association, hosted by the University of Kansas, in October. The panel presentation, entitled "We Are Not All the Same: Diversity in the Writing Center," articulated the benefits and opportunities that accrue when tutors in the writing center come from a wide range of home cultures, home languages, and ethnicities. They explored the challenges such diversity can present to student-writers, faculty, and writing center staff. The graduate assistants facilitated an animated discussion among student-writers and faculty on strategies for deepening writing center engagement in strengthening the commitment of institutions to meaningful and productive multiculturalism.

"It is no longer correct to regard higher education solely as a privilege, it is a basic right in today's world"

-Norman Cousins

(former Editor of the Saturday Review)

A college sponsor of the National Merit Scholarship Program. St. Cloud State University values diversity of all kinds, including but not limited to race, religion and ethnicity (full statement at bulletin.StCloudState.edu/ugb/generalinfo/nondiscrimination.html). TTY: 1-800-627-3529 SCSU is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer. This material can be made available in an alternative format. Contact the department/agency listed above. Member of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Send items for **Grad NEWS** to:

aeday@StCloudState.edu or by campus mail to:

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

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