

Study Abroad Opportunities for Graduate Students



Students from Dr. Gregory's 2010 spring break trip outside Edinburgh Napier University in Scotland

Many students believe that studying abroad is an opportunity only for undergraduates. However, at Old Dominion University there are a number of

opportunities for graduate students as well. This summer there will be about twelve ODU faculty-led trips, and graduate students may participate and receive credit in nine of them. Studying abroad during the summer usually lasts 2-5 weeks and students earn three credits for most classes or six credits if attending a language institute.

There are also several spring break study abroad opportunities for students. Dr. Dennis Gregory teaches Comparative Higher Education Systems every spring. As part of the class, the students travel to a foreign country to compare its

higher education system to the U.S. system. This year the class will go to Hong Kong and Macau, China. In previous years the class traveled to England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Ireland and Scotland.

For more information about studying abroad check out the Office of Study Abroad's website (odu.edu/studyabroad) or e-mail studyabroad@odu.edu. If graduate students decide they want to do research, study, or teach abroad, there are many funding opportunities for them as well. On the website click on Student Fellowships for International Study/Research.

Upcoming Events!

- **GSO workshops:** "Graduate Students Perspective on Grants & Publishing" on March 4th and "Graduate Students Perspective on Landing the Perfect Job" on March 18th both from 12-2 in the Webb Center
- **A Graduate Open House** will be held March 21st from 4-7 in the Big Blue Room and at the three Hampton Roads Higher Education Centers
- **Graduate Research Appreciation Day** will be held April 6th from 1:30-3:30 in the Webb Center

Spotlight on Graduate Education in the College of Health Sciences

The College of Health Sciences offers an array of programs ranging from Master's programs in Community Health, Nursing, and Public Health and Doctoral programs in Physical Therapy and Health Services Research.

Another program within Health Sciences is Dental Hygiene. Professor Gayle

McCombs (GPD of Dental Hygiene), Kendra Kleppe (master's student), Physicians for Peace, and a local dental team traveled to Nicaragua last March to introduce the field of dental hygiene and help establish a program at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua-Leon. Kleppe's thesis is based on developing a curriculum for the Nicaraguan university. Central America does not have dental

hygienists, so McCombs and Kleppe are faced with the challenge of implementing the program and working with the local university to train the faculty. They both said their goal is to have the program come to fruition by 2013 and be sustainable overtime.

Another Health Sciences program is Nursing. There are many concentrations within Nursing, including the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). This online program focuses on preparing advanced-level health care providers that can assist underserved populations. Patricia Schweickert is a doctoral candidate in the DNP program. She did her Capstone project on Telehealth Versus Face to Face Stroke Prevention Education in Elderly Adults in Appalachian Virginia. She traveled to rural Big Stone Gap, VA to educate people about strokes and their effects. She then used telehealth from the University of Virginia for the



Doctoral candidate
Patty Schweickert

same stroke education. She found the results comparable in patient satisfaction, knowledge, and behavioral changes. Schweickert said, "Telehealth really is the healthcare of the future."

This technology will help health care providers reach people in remote areas, and people won't have to worry about leaving their houses when they are sick.

Nurse Midwifery, a master's degree for Registered Nurses, is another concentration within the Nursing program. Students complete their first three semesters at ODU and their last three semesters at Shenandoah University. This collaboration allows ODU and SU to share resources. The program is entirely online except for one course that is held at ODU and the students' clinicals.



Kendra Kleppe with children in Nicaragua

Central America does not have dental

Is a Master's the New Bachelor's?

Today many entry-level positions require a master's degree, and this has led many people to believe that a master's is becoming the new bachelor's. However, according to Tom Wunderlich, Executive Director of ODU's Career Management Center, this is "absolutely not true."

Wunderlich says students need to really analyze when and whether going for an advanced degree is a wise choice for them. "Know what job you want and figure out what requirements are necessary for the position," says

Wunderlich. In many fields, an advanced degree can mean higher pay or minimum requirements, but in others it can mean gaining employment is more difficult. In many cases there are fewer jobs available the higher the degree one has. As Wunderlich puts it, "The pyramid gets pointy."

Wunderlich also stressed that having just a degree is not enough. Graduate students need to focus on getting their degree while further strengthening their skills and gaining valuable experience. For career advice, Wunder-

lich said that graduate students often overlook their most obvious resource for employment: their own research. When you search for literature on a topic, write down the company or agency that funded the research and contact them.

Don't forget to check out ODU's CareerLink (odu.edu/ao/cmc/employment/erecruiting). There are currently over 300 jobs available, ranging from Speech Language Pathologist to Financial Analyst.



Visit the Career Management Center located on the second floor of the Webb Center, suite 2202



Krista Harrell-Blair

Student Rep to the Board of Visitors

Doctoral candidate Krista Harrell-Blair is ODU's current Student Representative to the Board of Visitors. As Student Representative, Krista is the voice of the students to the Board of Visitors. She provides input on student concerns and on university policies and their implications. She attends quarterly board meetings and other university conferences and student events.

Harrell-Blair received her B.S. in Human Services Counseling and

her M.S.Ed. with an emphasis on Higher Education at ODU. She is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration. Harrell-Blair says that earning her undergraduate degree and Master's degree at ODU has considerably helped her in her current position. Each year only one student is chosen, and that student can be a graduate or undergraduate student. Due to her experience at ODU, Harrell-Blair is able to be a voice for both student populations.

The position of Student Representative is a year long commitment, usually from commencement to commencement. That means the application process for the next representative is coming up! The deadline for applications is March 21, and interviews will be held on March 25. If you would like to be the next Student Representative to the BOV, go to the Division of Student Affairs's website (studentaffairs.odu.edu) and click on BOV Student Member.



Share Your Input!

Do you have something to say about graduate life? Do you have any suggestions for future issues of *Graduate News*, or would you like to write an article for the newsletter? Send your thoughts, concerns, praises, criticisms, and any other information regarding graduate studies to our e-mail address listed below.

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Graduate News is online!
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ODU graduate student Kayla Burgert compiled and edited this newsletter with help from Dr. Brenda Neumon Lewis and the Office of Graduate Studies. You can contact Kayla at kburgert@odu.edu