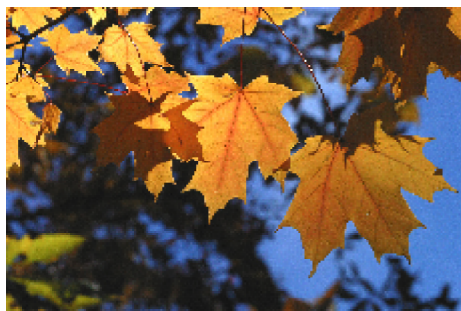


GRADUATE STUDIES

2008-09 Fall Semester, Issue 4



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES:

Fall 2008	
September 2	Classes Begin
September 12	Deadline to file application to take the written comprehensive exam on November 7.
September 12	Deadline to apply for graduation for Fall Semester. An approved Degree Program Plan must be on file before applications for graduation can be processed.
October 9	UW-Eau Claire's Graduate School Fair, Davies Center, 10:00am - 2:00pm
Friday, November 7	Written Comprehensive Examination, 8:00a.m.-12:00noon
December 5	Deadline to hold fall semester oral examination
December 8	Deadline for submission of two unbound copies of the final thesis to the graduate dean's office. Please allow at least two days from time of submission for approval and pick up.
December 20	Commencement
January 7	Deadline for submission of two BOUND copies of thesis to the graduate dean's office.

CHANGES IN THE GRADUATE OFFICE

If you stopped by the Office of Graduate Studies over the summer, you probably met Lindsay Heiser, who has been working since mid-June in Nancy Amdahl's position as Dean Assistant. Lindsay, a UW-Eau Claire Graduate School alum, joins us from the English Department, where she continues to teach part-time.

So where is Nancy? We are pleased to announce that Nancy and her husband Jim have adopted a beautiful baby boy, so Nancy was on leave all summer and she just returned to the office on a part-time basis. Nancy and Lindsay will be sharing office duties during the fall semester, until Nancy returns full-time in the spring. During the fall semester the office will be open 7:30am-4:30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays with Nancy, and 9:00am-5:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Lindsay, and closed on Friday. Please feel welcome to stop by and see us, give us a call at 836-2721, or email graduate@uwec.edu with questions, comments, or concerns.

In other good news, Dr. Andrew Phillips, who had been serving as Interim Graduate Dean since 2004, has been named the permanent Graduate Dean at UW-Eau Claire, as well as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

GRAD STUDIES WELCOMES DR. PATRICIA QUINN!

This fall Patricia Quinn joins Graduate Studies part-time as Special Assistant to the Dean. In her "other role" as Director of the Ronald McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, Dr. Quinn has successfully guided talented UW-Eau Claire students towards pursuit of research doctorates since 1999-2000. With McNair Scholars now attending upwards of 50 graduate schools in the U. S. and abroad, Dr. Quinn has witnessed many recruitment and programmatic models, as well as important trends in funding, dual degrees, intellectual property rights and other issues that shape 21st century graduate education.

A Binghamton University (SUNY) faculty member before coming to Eau Claire, Dr. Quinn took part in developing two graduate programs there--the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies that targeted working adults' educational needs, and the Returning Women to Science program that recruited women with STEM baccalaureates for advanced degrees in science.

She has served as a member of the Educational Testing

Spring 2009	
January 26	Classes Begin
January 30	Deadline to file application to take the written comprehensive exam on March 27.
January 30	Deadline to apply for graduation for Spring Semester. An approved Degree Program Plan must be on file before applications for graduation can be processed.
March 1	Deadline to submit graduate assistantship and/or fellowship application (including AOP's)
Friday, March 27	Written comprehensive examination, 8:00a.m.–12:00 noon (must be registered for the exam by the first week of classes)
May 1	Deadline to hold spring semester oral examination
May 4	Deadline for submission of two unbound copies of the final thesis to the graduate dean's office. Please allow at least two days from time of submission for approval and pick up.
May 16	Commencement
May 28	Deadline for submission of two BOUND copies of thesis to the graduate dean's office.

Service's Advisory on the STEM Disciplines, as a judge for the American Association of University Women's American Fellows and International Fellows Programs, and as a reader on UW-Eau Claire's internal awards committees for faculty/academic staff research and professional development. Besides reading grants, Dr. Quinn has authored and co-authored over \$11 million in successful proposals from sources that include the U. S. Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, Learn and Serve America, the American Library Association, the Wisconsin Humanities Committee, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

With a doctorate in European Medieval History, Dr. Quinn has enjoyed teaching and team-teaching courses at UW-Eau Claire in History, Art History, Geography, Economics and the Honors Program. Her book, ***Better Than the Sons of Kings: Boys and Monks in the Middle Ages***, traces the recruitment and training of Benedictine monks during the 600 year period when the order held a near monopoly on literacy in Western Europe.

Dr. Quinn will be working in Graduate Studies on several important initiatives. Her two major areas of emphasis will be to develop and implement a new program on the responsible conduct of research, and to identify and develop grant proposals for external funding to support new and existing graduate programs and initiatives. She will also help us to identify ways to improve our graduate policies and processes by comparing them against national norms, and she will begin a new effort to promote opportunities for our students to compete successfully in national scholarship and fellowship programs, like the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Fellowship, NSF Graduate Fellowships, and many more.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

After over a year of work spanning all areas of the university, our new eight year institutional strategic plan, called the Centennial Plan, was adopted in May. The plan provides both a vision and a set of focused directions designed to guide our work for the next eight years. The plan includes seven goals, and among them is one that says the university will "focus programmatic resources." So, what does that mean? Among the several action items supporting this goal is one that says the university will conduct a comprehensive program and services review to strengthen liberal education and concentrate resources on our priorities, and strategically expand select graduate and other self-supported programs that meet regional needs. While it is still too early to be sure of the details, it does seem clear that there will be an emphasis on expanding existing strong graduate programs, and on developing new graduate programs that can serve our region well. If you have

THESIS TIP: WRITING AN ACCESSIBLE ABSTRACT

The abstract, which is required in the front matter of the bound thesis and research paper, is an important component of your complete document. Even though the abstract must be 300 words or less, it should serve as a complete road map for the rest of the work and should give readers a good idea of whether the document will be useful in their own research (remember to think of your work not as an isolated document but as part of an ongoing conversation in your field).

The abstract expresses the main ideas and argument of the paper; it gives an overview of the main points covered, along with the content and scope of the research completed. Importantly, the abstract should be written in the same chronology as the paper, to avoid confusion, and the abstract should be accessible to a general audience. Avoiding bibliographic citations and abbreviations are good ways to ensure accessibility, but

thoughts or advice related to these ideas, please feel free to share them with us!

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR
UW-EAU CLAIRE'S 2009
DISTINGUISHED MASTER'S THESIS
AWARD**

Graduate faculty members are invited to submit nominations of exceptional quality theses for the annual UW-Eau Claire Distinguished Master's Thesis Competition. A nominee must have been awarded the master's degree within the calendar year from October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008. Categories used to critique the thesis include clarity, scholarship, methodology, and contribution to field. Only one thesis will be selected.

Nominations are due to the Office of Graduate Studies by October 30, 2008. Nomination materials must include: 1. two copies of the thesis (which will be returned); 2. a one-page resume of the nominee; 3. two copies of an abstract, not to exceed 300 words, which describes the research and its significance (the abstract must contain the title of the thesis and the name of the author but should not mention "UW-Eau Claire"); and 4. a letter of nomination addressed to Graduate Dean Andrew Phillips by the faculty nominator.

The winner of the competition will receive a \$200 cash award and will be recognized, along with the faculty mentor, at the November meeting of the Graduate Council and during Honors Week in the spring. In addition, the student's thesis will be nominated to the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) thesis competition by the Graduate Dean.

make sure to also briefly translate jargon so that someone outside the field can still understand your points. As an added bonus, writing the abstract can be a useful tool to ensure you have a clear grasp of your argument. If you can state your main ideas clearly in a few paragraphs—and in such a way that someone who is not familiar with the subject will still be able to understand the main idea—then you confirm your solid grasp of the ideas presented.

Adapted from a list published by the University of California-Berkeley Writing Lab, these are the basic components of an abstract in any discipline:

1. Motivation/problem statement: Why should we care about the problem, and the research you have completed? What practical, scientific, theoretical or artistic gap is your research filling?

2. Methods/procedure/approach: What did you actually do to get your results? (e.g. analyzed 3 novels, completed a series of 5 paintings, interviewed 25 students)

3. Results/findings/product: As a result of completing the above procedure, what did you learn/invent/create?

4. Conclusion/implications: What are the larger implications of your findings, especially for the problem/gap identified at the beginning of the abstract?

In preparation for writing your abstract, you may find it helpful to read examples of abstracts in your discipline to see what is expected. Go to the library and look through the journals, or look at electronic journals through the library's databases on the web. Find an article, read the abstract first, and then read the article; this way, you can see how the two components correspond. The best examples are abstracts that make the article easier to read. Remember, not everyone writes good abstracts, even in peer-reviewed journals, but the more abstracts you read, the easier it is to spot the good examples and write an excellent abstract for your own work.