Welcome

Starting the semester off in Graduate Studies brings a familiar face back to the office. Shamayel Patton, MED/Counseling student, is in her fourth semester working with graduate admissions at DSU. There is one minor change to this semester, she has a new partner to help her with the admissions paperwork. Upnik Patel is a new Graduate Assistant in our office, who previously worked in Admissions at Ole Miss. She is a Masters student in Professional Accountancy and plans to take the CPA exam in the future. The two of these GA’s along with Sarah DeAngelo, MED/English student, make up the graduate admissions office, which is directed under the hands of Sarah Boyles—a 21 year employee of DSU. Each of the students obtained a Bachelors degree from different institutions. This provides added diversity in recruiting students to DSU for Graduate Studies. “When we talk to potential students about DSU, it is a very rewarding experience,” Patton added.

Registration

January 21st marked the end of registration for the Spring 2010 semester at DSU. Applications are now being processed for the Summer and Fall 2010 terms. The Graduate Office will review the total number of applications processed and the total number of students who were admitted and registered for classes this Spring. Over the last several years the total number of graduate students has continued to increase at DSU. This will continue to be the trend for this semester as the final numbers are still being calculated. Some of the areas that continue to see improvements are the online programs that are offered. These programs are Master of Elementary Education, Master of Science in Nursing, Master of Business Administration, Master of Commercial Aviation, Education Specialist in Elementary Education, and Master of Science in Social Justice and Criminology.
A Master of Education degree in Secondary Education with an emphasis in History is available at Delta State University. The program of study involves a total of 33 hours of course credit in history and education. Dr. John Green is the graduate coordinator for the program. An undergraduate GPA of 3.25 for all history classes is needed for full admission. This department is composed of professors who have degrees that reflect a wide variety of colleges and universities. Dr. Miriam Davis (B.A. Emory University and M.A., Ph.D. University of California and University of York respectively) is a professor who is teaching European History this semester. Also, Dr. Benjamin Sperry (B.A. University of Connecticut, M.A. Wesleyan University, Ph.D. Case Western Reserve University) is teaching Civil Rights in the Mississippi Delta this term.

**Student Spotlight**

The December 2009 commencement brought a DSU graduate of an online program to campus. Craig Petersen is an employee with the Gulfport Police Department. He currently is a full time detective lieutenant with this division. “DSU came very highly recommended by others in my field and by professors at other universities,” Peterson said via email. He had to find the time to balance his work schedule which can be demanding, to a graduate program with flexibility. This was a perfect match through the online format that is under the direction of Dr. Tiffiny Guidry, Graduate Coordinator for the MSJC degree at DSU. “The entire program was thought provoking and challenging,” added Peterson. One of the areas that seemed to be of great interest to him was doing a research paper in an Ethics class. “This paper allowed me to learn more about differing views on the topic (capital punishment in the US) and helped me understand my position on the topic.” Someone thinking about earning a graduate degree will feel a great sense of “accomplishment” in this degree program.

**Coming Up**

Over the next few weeks, our office will travel to Arkansas, across Mississippi and throughout the MS Delta to recruit graduate students to Delta State. The campuses of Mississippi College, University of Southern Mississippi, University of Central Arkansas, and Rust College will all see Delta State University looking for students to pursue a graduate degree. Furthermore, the Dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies will visit schools in Greenwood, Greenville, and other delta towns in the coming weeks. Dr. Nylander had positive visits last semester as he traveled to elementary, middle and high schools around the area surrounding the Cleveland campus. “Our message is simple, Delta State is here to provide you an excellent graduate education,” stated Nylander at Indianola Gentry.