

Associate Dean's Message

New Grad Assistant Welcomed to Team

These have been the best of times at Niagara University! The university just finished celebrating its 150th birthday and recently opened the new Bisgrove Hall/academic complex for classes this fall semester. The academic complex will house the colleges of Business Administration and Education. Should any of you like to tour our new facilities, we would be glad to accommodate that request.

I would like to welcome Rafael E. Venturini to the graduate admissions staff. Rafael, an MBA student here at Niagara, was hired in August 2007 as a graduate recruitment assistant and he has been responsible for conducting class presentations to graduating seniors, keeping statistics of our prospective student contacts, recruiting at graduate school fairs, and maintaining our Web site. Rafael is originally from Vitoria City, Brazil, and received his undergraduate degree in business from Niagara University. He also lettered in men's soccer and was recognized during the NCAA National Award Day as the most involved student athlete in the MAAC conference. Rafael has been a great asset to our office and I am delighted to have him as part of the graduate recruitment team. Bem vindo Rafael! That means welcome for all of you non-Portuguese speakers!



Carlos Tejada with grad assistant Rafael Venturini.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Michelle Augustyniak, my graduate assistant from last year, who accepted a position in June 2007 as a general ledger accountant with Praxair Inc. in Tonawanda. We will certainly miss her, but wish her well as she moves forward with her professional career.

Carlos E. Tejada
 Associate Dean for Graduate Recruitment
 800-462-2111

Kiernan Center

Rec Center Available for Grad Students' Use

For a nominal fee (\$3 per visit or \$85 per semester) graduate students may use the facilities at the Kiernan Center. The complex has a six-lane swimming and diving pool, two racquetball courts, four basketball courts, a weight room, two fitness areas that include cardiovascular equipment and strength training equipment, and an aerobic and dance area. The university also maintains a number of outdoor recreational areas, including tennis courts, baseball and softball fields, soccer fields, and large areas available for outdoor sports.

The center is open seven days a week while school is in session, and children and spouses of graduate students who pay the user fee may use the center at no cost during the center's family hours on Friday and Saturday from 5-9 p.m.

Graduate students are also invited and encouraged to participate in the wide variety of intramural and recreational activities offered in the Kiernan Center, and can enter a team without purchasing a membership.

Campus Update

NU Opens Academic Complex

The new academic complex at Niagara University is open for business and education! On Oct. 2, the university officially dedicated the \$18.65 million facility that houses the colleges of Business Administration and Education. "It is a wonderful facility," said the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Niagara University president. "It's really blended the old and the new."

The section of the new 55,000-square-foot complex, occupied by the College of Business Administration, is called Bisgrove Hall in honor of Jerry Bisgrove, a 1968 graduate of the college who donated \$5 million to the university in 2006.

The new academic complex has many state-of-the-art features including "SMART boards," or high-tech interactive writing boards, and Pod casting and video-recording capabilities, which allow faculty to broadcast their classes over the Internet. There is also a financial services lab located in Bisgrove Hall that features a real-time stock ticker.

The complex is the first new classroom construction since Dunleavy Hall was built in 1972.



Criminal Justice

Dr. Harmon Returns



Dr. Talia Harmon, associate professor and director of graduate studies in criminal justice administration, was granted a sabbatical leave for the spring semester of 2007 to complete two research projects that focus on the topic of capital punishment, Harmon's special interest.

For the first project, Harmon worked with Bill Lofquist, an associate professor of sociology from SUNY-Geneseo, on a manuscript that focused on recent erroneous executions. The goal of this research was to assist in defining the issue of executions of the innocent. The completed manuscript was accepted for publication. The second project, an extension of the first, involved identifying significant patterns/themes among the wrongful executions. She presented her findings at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual meeting held in Seattle last March. She has submitted this research project for publication as well.

Lastly, Harmon was able to make substantial progress on a project involving the study of commutations in New York state. The collaborated effort with a colleague at NU and another from SUNY Albany will enable the results of this study to have a significant impact on the death penalty in New York state.

Upcoming Events

Niagara University Theater

Fall 2007 Season

Purchase tickets at the NU Theater box office in Dwyer Arena Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or call 716-286-8622.

"Our Town"

Oct. 4-14
at the Leary Theater

"Company"

Nov. 8-18
at the Leary Theater

"Birth and After-Birth"

Dec. 6-16
at the Leary Theater

For more information, visit www.niagara.edu/theater.

On the Road Again!

Niagara University graduate admissions representatives will be participating in the graduate school fairs throughout New York, western Pennsylvania and the province of Ontario to answer any questions you might have about our graduate programs as well as the admissions process. To view a list of these locations, visit www.niagara.edu/graduate and click on "Recruitment Events."

Did You Know?

EAGLE (Experience And Growth in Leadership Education), Niagara University's leader development process, offers the EAGLE Leader Master Certificate to NU graduate students. The noncredit graduate offering is an individualized leadership development process customized to meet the particular learning goals of each student. Participants in the process receive personalized mentoring on the skills of leading and how to think as a leader. For more information about the process and how to enroll, contact the EAGLE coordinator, Mitchell Alegre, at malegre@niagara.edu. For general information about EAGLE, go to www.niagara.edu/eagleleadership.



*You can learn
a little
from victory.
You can learn
everything
from defeat.
— Christy
Mathewson*

College of Education

Niagara's College of Ed Goes Global

On July 8, 2007, Niagara University's College of Education hosted the first International Leadership Conference in the areas of learning, teaching, leading, and school development. This conference brought together 118 educators from Germany, Italy, Scotland, Canada and the United States. Presenters included representatives from each of these countries. Plans are already underway for the conference to be held in Germany in July 2008.

Thirteen graduate students from the educational leadership program had the opportunity to participate in this unique experience as part of their advanced studies in the College of Education.

One of the many highlights of the conference was the three keynote speakers.

International author Charlotte Danielson shared her work on teacher evaluation and reflective practice, and participants were able to schedule small, informal sessions with her throughout the four-day event.

Former Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Scotland Harvey Stalker presented his experiences and successes with school improvement around the world.

Buffalo City Schools Superintendent James Williams presented an inner-city school district perspective and participated on an international panel with other local and global leaders.

All sessions were based on an interactive structure that encouraged dialogue, participation and the exchange of ideas on a global level.

One of the major goals of the conference was to create opportunities for partnerships between Western New York school districts/organizations and those in Europe and Canada.

Social and cultural exchanges, including an international mixer, a ride on the Maid of the Mist, a visit to the Cave of the Winds, and a collaborative exchange brunch further strengthened the dialogue and partnership opportunities.

An international conference Blackboard site has been set up by the educational leadership students as a follow-up to the conference. The graduate students will play a key role in the facilitation of this communication system, which will enable all participants from five countries to continue the powerful education dialogue started here on campus and move forward discussions on issues that have a global presence.



NU grad students with conference keynote speaker Charlotte Danielson (third from left): Lynn Tompkins, Nick Silvaroli, Danielson, Holly Olmstead, Colleen Christmann and Denielle Ander.

Fair Warning

Canadian Teacher Career Fair

Tuesday, Dec. 4 • 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. • Kiernan Center

Representatives from Ontario school boards and teacher employment agencies will be on campus to provide information concerning employment opportunities, benefits, and application procedures. For a list of participants, go to www.niagara.edu/career/CanadianTeacherCareerFair.htm. For more information, contact the Office of Career Development at 716-286-8500 or careers@niagara.edu.

MBA

Greetings From the New MBA Director

First, let me thank the Niagara University community for the warm welcome extended to me as I start my new position. What a wonderful time to be at Niagara! Our new building and facilities are first class and sure to be a draw for students considering our MBA program. We're also at near-record enrollment for the fall 2007 semester. My goal, with support of all those in the College of Business, is to build an MBA program that is known for its quality. We want to be a program of first choice. To aid in getting there we have raised our entry standards for both the GPA and GMAT scores. We will aggressively reach out to industry and local schools as well as colleges and universities in Canada and Europe to attract students. Let me know if you have prospective students for our program. I will gladly reach out to them. Our program is made better through your input. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions and hope to hear from you.



Stephen F. Mayer, Ph.D., P.E., MBA Director
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MA-IS

First MA-IS Students Graduate From Program

Several students are completing their capstone experiences this semester and will graduate in December. Rebecca Schicker has done outstanding work with nonprofit agencies in Niagara County, June Newkirk is studying human rights discrimination cases, and Adrienne Leibowitz spent three weeks in Malawi developing strategic planning for Orphan Support Africa and its work with HIV-positive children. Each student reports that her work has been challenging and rewarding, and they serve as excellent examples of the kind of innovative research and service learning that the MA-IS program encourages.

For additional information on the 33 credit-hour program, go to www.niagara.edu/interdisciplinary/index.htm.

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