

Associate Dean's Message

Greetings from Monteagle Ridge!



Rachel Hauser

A lot has happened over the summer, with campus construction being the first. Site preparation for the new science building has taken place in the main parking lot on campus, and to replace those parking spaces, more were added around Dwyer Arena. The upper level of the Gallagher Center was renovated to meet Division I standards, and the lower level was remodeled to increase social spaces for student meetings and events. There was some landscaping work done around the Leary Theatre and Butler Building, making our picturesque campus even more beautiful!

This summer, our office welcomed a new graduate recruitment assistant, Rachel Hauser. Rachel earned her undergraduate degree in business at Niagara while playing hockey for the Lady Purple Eagles. Presently, she is enrolled in our MBA program, studying concentrations in strategic management and human resource management. Rachel's office responsibilities include recruiting prospective students at local graduate school fairs, maintaining the NU graduate website, and conducting campus tours for prospective graduate students. I would like to welcome Rachel Hauser to graduate admissions!

As always, if you or someone you know wants to receive a graduate application, we would be glad to accommodate that request. This semester, we are making a special offer to our readers. Mention this edition (fall 2011) of the Purple Press and we will waive your application fee for the upcoming academic year! Please feel free to contact me at **716.286.8769** or ctejada@niagara.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Carlos E. Tejada
 Associate Dean for Graduate Recruitment

I'm Back! The Prodigal Professor

By Shannon Hodges, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling

As a faculty member who had spent nine years teaching the graduate mental health and school counseling programs prior to leaving for the wilds of Vermont, I am excited to have returned home. While I enjoyed living in Vermont, I came to realize working at Niagara University meant even more to me. So, when I learned the counseling program had an opening, I eagerly applied and was fortunate enough to be hired.

What makes Niagara University special are the faculty, staff, administrators and students who put heartfelt efforts into crafting the fabric of the institution. A university is, after all, a living institution — what John “Cardinal” Newman coined “the university of scholars” charged with creating a transformative environment to improve both individuals and society at large. The profession of counseling is an excellent fit for Niagara's Vincentian mission and I am pleased to be back on Monteagle Ridge teaching in the counseling programs. In an era where there are multiple challenges to good mental and emotional health, I look forward to helping create model programs to address evolving 21st century human needs. Feel free to stop in and talk with me or, if you have questions about the counseling profession, call me at **716.286.8328** or email me at shodges@niagara.edu.

*Dr. Shannon Hodges and his wife,
 Shoshanna Cogan*



Education

New Graduate Program in Childhood and Special Ed

Niagara University's College of Education received approval to offer a new master's degree in early childhood and special education (birth – grade 2). The new M.S.Ed. program leads to initial and professional New York state teacher certification in both early childhood education and Students with Disabilities from birth through grade 2.

“We have a compelling and critical need to think differently about the engagement of our youngest children in learning and the development of their social, emotional, cognitive and physical abilities,” commented Debra Colley, Ph.D., dean of NU's College of Education. “What we do in early childhood paves the way for academic performance along the entire educational continuum. We have created this integrated curriculum to extend our Quality Improvement Program of Niagara, a project that focuses on increasing the kindergarten readiness of young children. The preparation of teachers who will specialize in early childhood education, specifically in early childhood special education, meets a challenge we have in our high-needs communities.”

The new course of study focuses on an interdisciplinary, collaborative and systems-oriented approach to the preparation of teachers who will specialize in early childhood education and in working with young children with disabilities. The program meets high academic standards, with faculty who bring a broad base of scholarship, teaching experience and national recognition to this field of study. The early childhood and special education, birth – grade 2, program aligns with the national standards of the Council for Exceptional Children and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Niagara University's College of Education currently offers programs that are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and have received national recognition through CEC and NAEYC.

To learn more about this graduate program, contact Evan Pierce, director of graduate education, at **716.286.8336** or epierce@niagara.edu.

New Ph.D. Program Begins

On Friday, Aug. 26, 2011, the first cohort commenced in the Ph.D. program in leadership and policy at Niagara University. All candidates in the program are experienced professionals who bring a wealth of leadership experiences and diversity to this multidisciplinary doctoral program.

The new Ph.D. program is designed to provide an interdisciplinary forum for doctoral study and research, allowing candidates to generate new knowledge related to critical leadership issues



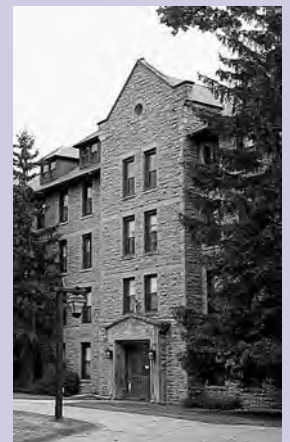
that directly relate to matters of those who are underserved. The program will prepare candidates to implement systemic change in an effort to further community goals and aspirations.

For more information about Niagara University's graduate programs, visit www.niagara.edu/education or call **716.286.8560**.

Did You Know?

Get a Room

The nightly housing program is back! Graduate students have the option of residing on campus in a residence hall on a nightly basis. Rooms are available on the fourth floor (co-ed) of Lynch Hall. All rooms are singles with private baths in the hallway. Please submit your reservation as early as possible, because space is limited. You can contact the Residence Life Office at **716.286.8100** or residencelife@niagara.edu.



Luck is when preparation meets opportunity.

— Branch Rickey

Upcoming Events

Niagara University Theatre

Fall 2011 Season

Purchase tickets by visiting the box office in the lobby of the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall: Monday through Friday 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. or call **716.286.8685**.

The Women of Lockerbie
Oct. 20 – 24

Damn Yankees
Nov. 10 – 20

The Boy Who Could Sing Pictures
Dec. 8 – 18

For more information, visit <http://theatre.niagara.edu/theatre/>

MBA

Economics Professor Appointed Prime Minister



Dr. Abdiweli Ali

When Dr. Abdiweli Ali, an associate professor of economics, was appointed to be Somalia's Minister of Planning and International Cooperation last fall, he took a sabbatical from NU for the spring 2011 semester. It is now confirmed that Dr. Ali's stay in the African nation will extend into a yearlong leave of absence as he was named Somalia's prime minister on June 23, 2011, following the removal of Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed.

Somalian President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed has charged Dr. Ali, a Somali-American, with governing a country wrecked by war that has been virtually lawless for 20 years. Adding to that challenge is the fact that the mandates of Somalia's transitional institutions expire in 14 months, at which time a new administration will be elected.

"He has the personality and the kind of knowledge that makes him fit to become the prime minister," Ahmed told the Associated Press in announcing Dr. Ali's appointment. "I'm quite confident that he will be up to the challenge of the hard conditions our country is encountering."

Dr. Ali holds a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University, a certificate of taxation from Harvard Law School, and a master's degree in economics from Vanderbilt University. He completed his Ph.D. in economics at George Mason University and, in 1998 and 1999, was a Joel Leff Fellow of Political Economy at Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University. Before coming to Niagara, Dr. Ali was a research and forecast manager for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Family Business Center Begins Ninth Year

The Niagara University Family Business Center will begin its ninth year of serving the family and privately owned business of Western New York and Southern Ontario. The center's mission is to develop and exchange relevant information on business issues in order to strengthen the stability and long-term viability of family and privately owned businesses through education, research and service. The center's activities are member-driven and the center is run for and by its business members.

Vincent Agnello, professor of accounting, is the director of the center. Additional information about upcoming "breakfast forums" and dates can be found at www.niagara.edu/fbc.

MA-IS

MA-IS Program Update

Among the seven new students joining the M.A. in interdisciplinary studies program this year is Michael Daloia, who works at Heart, Love and Soul, Inc., a food pantry and community services agency in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Michael graduated from Niagara University in 2009 and has been working with the underserved and poor ever since. Dedicated to improving his community and serving those in need, Michael wants to "use skills learned in the classroom" to continue "fighting injustices" in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul. The range of courses in nonprofit leadership will allow Michael to build his skill set and give back to the community. Best of all, he can continue working while pursuing his degree.

For additional information on how to self-design a 33-credit-hour master's degree, go to www.niagara.edu/interdisciplinary/index.htm.



Carlos E. Tejada
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**Have you or
a parent served
in the
U.S. Military?**

**Are you
presently serving
in the Guard
or Reserves?**

If so, you may be eligible for additional tuition assistance.

Contact Niagara University's Veteran Services Coordinator
Robert Healy at 716.286.8341 or rhealy@niagara.edu.

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY
Education That Makes a Difference

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