



DOWN TO EARTH



Newsletter of the Department of Earth Sciences, U.W.O.

Friday, July 17, 2009

NEW “THESIS DEFENSE ONLY” REGISTRATION STATUS

Graduate faculty are bound by contract to take holidays from July 15 to August 15 each year, thus examiners aren't readily available during July and August. Graduate students may need to use part of the fall term for the thesis defense and to complete corrections. Graduate students whose only remaining degree requirement is the thesis component may request to be registered in Thesis Defense Only status via the Graduate Student Web Services Portal.

This registration category **will not require payment of tuition fees**; however, students will be required to pay ancillary fees. To be eligible for this new part-time status, students must submit completed and signed Thesis Exam Board Forms and Supervisor Approval Forms to SGPS and examination copies of their thesis to SGPS (doctoral candidates) or to the graduate program (master's candidates) by August 31st, 2009. All students in the Thesis Defense Only status **must complete the thesis component by the end of the Fall 2009 term** or they will be required to pay full tuition for that term.

A communication regarding this new status and the launch of the Student Web Services Portal was sent to students on Friday, July 3. If you have any questions regarding this motion, please contact Linda Miller, Vice-Provost, SGPS (x.82101) or Stephen Sims, Associate Vice-Provost, SGPS (x.84609). For administrative questions regarding this new status, please contact Kimi Maruoka, Graduate Program Liaison (x84662).

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Congratulations...

***to **Xueyang Yu** for her successful PhD defense in Geophysics on June 29.

***to **Haley Sapers** (grad student of Neil Banerjee & Gordon Osinski), who recently won a Barringer Family Award for impact crater studies, and the Canadian Light Source synchrotron summer school prize for best student poster.

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FALL 2009 GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION

Graduate Student Orientation has been scheduled for Saturday, September 12, and will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the North Campus Building, Room 101. We will once again have breakfast refreshments available on-site and we will provide the group with lunch at the Grad Club. The day's program will cover topics relating to success in graduate school and also the student services available to graduate students at Western. Registration is up and running and the link to registration is posted on the main SGPS site (grad.uwo.ca).

All graduate students will receive an email with full details of this event, and you can register by visiting <http://grad.uwo.ca/events/index.cfm?id=2>

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International Graduate Students

Reminder: Please start the renewal of your student permit or your Social Insurance Number at least two

months, preferably three months prior to their expiry dates. If you leave it to the last minute, you run the risk of being deregistered from your program at this university.



Teaching Support Centre Graduate Student Information

New graduate students will find these two events helpful:

-International TA day, Tuesday September 8, 2009

-Graduate Student Conference on Teaching (TA Day): Wednesday September 9, 2009.

-Communication in the Canadian Classroom Course for international graduate students:

-Session 1: Sept.14-30, Mon/Wed 3.30-5.30 pm

-Session 2: Sept.15-Oct.1: Tues/Thurs. 3.30-5.30 pm

All international TAs in the Department of Earth Sciences are expected to complete this course as soon as they can after starting their graduate program.

The TA Training Program (TATP) will be offered on the following dates starting at noon on the first day and running all day on the second and third days. *All graduate students in the Department of Earth Sciences are expected to complete this course at the outset of their graduate program:*

August 21-23, 2009

August 28-30, 2009

September 1-3, 2009

September 4-6, 2009

September 18-20, 2009

September 25-27, 2009

Information about other programs developed for graduate students may be obtained here:

<http://grad.uwo.ca/360/>, or

<http://www.uwo.ca/tsc/>



Hello

Kevin Jordan

As most of you know by now, I am the new Acting Graduate Coordinator, replacing Mary Rice who has retired. I am a Western graduate (B.A. Hons. History 2005), and I hold a M.A. in History from the Memorial University of Newfoundland. I have also worked previously on campus in Undergraduate Recruitment & Admissions, and at the Allyn & Betty Taylor Library.

There is a great deal to learn in any new position, and especially in attempting to fill the shoes of such an oracle of information as Mary was, however I am learning quickly and doing my best! Any administrative questions that you previously would have had for Mary can now be directed either at myself or at Dr. Jisuo Jin.

If you haven't yet stopped by HSA 110 to introduce yourself, please do so. I am very much looking forward to meeting and working with all of the graduate students and faculty in upcoming school year and beyond.

