DEAN’S NOTE

Graduate education is thriving at OSU! Welcome to the first issue of the OSU Graduate School newsletter, in which we showcase the people and programs making news. This newsletter aims wide, to give you a sense of what’s happening in graduate education campus-wide, to inspire the exchange of ideas among programs, and to identify exceptional graduate students.

In this first issue, I introduce the Graduate School and the services we provide. Students probably know us best as the people who mind the details of their graduate experience. Thesis formatted properly? Coursework on track? Credits adequate and up-to-date? Did approved graduate faculty members teach your courses? We make sure every advanced degree we award measures up to the highest quality standards of any graduate institution in the country.

Also known as the people who help make graduate school affordable, we manage tuition remissions, scholarships, sports lottery funds, and other fellowships and awards for graduate students throughout the university.

But beyond good management, the Grad School plays a pivotal role in defining the graduate experience at OSU through statewide and national leadership. As dean, I represent OSU nationally at meetings of Council of Graduate Schools (CGS); this year, I was elected to the Executive Committee of the Western Association of Graduate Schools. We benefit and grow from the continuous flow of information, new ideas, and experience channeled back from association with leaders in graduate education around the country.

Positioned at the hub of all OSU graduate programs, the Graduate School is responsible for considering exceptions to Graduate Council policies and rules, and sometimes we see patterns in the issues students and faculty bring up for appeal. For example, until two years ago, all the members of a student’s committee were required to be physically present at all required meetings and examinations. This often created needless problems given today’s technology. After considering practice at our peer institutions, we took the lead in asking the Graduate Council to change the policy by allowing one committee member to participate from a remote location.

As a central resource for all OSU graduate programs, we’re working to create an environment where graduate education thrives: where departments can develop innovative and relevant programs, and world-class faculty can mentor their students toward becoming the next generation of leaders. With this newsletter, we’ll show you some of the many exciting manifestations of that vision. Please let us know what you think, and what you’d like to see in future issues. You can write to us at: Graduate.School@oregonstate.edu

Thank you for your support and your interest in graduate education at OSU.

Sally Francis, PhD
Dean, OSU Graduate School
OSU graduate programs are welcoming close to 800 new students this year. For many, Graduate School Orientation is a first step in getting to know the campus and the community. About 300 students participated in this year’s Orientation, September 15, in and around Milam Hall. The half-day program offered a view into some of the resources that exist to make an OSU grad student’s experience satisfying and trouble-free.

The afternoon started with warm greetings from key administrators and the leaders of graduate student organizations. New president Edward Ray conveyed the university’s commitment to graduate education, and in particular to its rising stature as a research institution. Mrs. Ray extended an enthusiastic welcome and offered to be available for assistance to students. Provost Tim White told the new students “you will debate issues that are not yet resolved.” Chairs of the Graduate Student Affairs Task Force and the Graduate Student Senate, and the vice president of the Coalition of Graduate Employees explained their individual roles.

After some unstructured time for networking, students moved into special topic sessions to learn about university resources, policies, and financing opportunities. A tour of research facilities and the new facilities in the Valley Library were additional options.

The day ended with a new addition to the orientation lineup: recreational affinity groups. Five experienced grad students facilitated workshops on what Corvallis has to offer for those all-too-rare leisure times. They talked about gardening conditions, where to find the best places and equipment for rock climbing, mountain biking, running and hiking, where to go for dinner and a movie, and what’s available for families with young children. The groups worked not only for sharing information, but for connecting like-minded students across department lines.

OSU strives to attract the brightest, most promising graduate students anywhere. Graduate School Orientation gets newcomers off on the right track, knowing what the university and the community have to offer, and where to find the people who make the experience the best it can be.

“What OSU is 20 to 30 years from now will not depend on the President; it will not depend on the Deans. But it will depend on you, the student.”

PRESIDENT ED RAY

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**Graduate Degrees Awarded in 2003**

Last year, 862 graduates finished OSU advanced degree programs to move on toward their professions or further education. For the most part, they left their programs with very positive reviews. The 2003 Graduate Degree Recipients Exit Survey found that the overwhelming majority of graduates would repeat their decisions about coming to OSU for graduate study and felt prepared for their next step when their degrees were completed. Of master’s graduates who planned to continue their education, 83% of those who had not originally planned to pursue a PhD or EdD degree were now inspired to do so. Here’s how the degrees were distributed:

- **Total of 862 advanced degrees**
- **170 doctorates**
  - 162 Doctors of Philosophy
  - 7 Doctors of Education
  - 1 Honorary Doctorate of Engineering
- **692 master’s degrees**
  - 413 Masters of Science
  - 82 Masters of Arts in Teaching
  - 58 Masters of Business Administration
  - 56 Masters of Education
  - 25 Masters of Public Health
  - 23 Masters of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies
  - 19 Masters of Arts in Fine Arts
  - 7 Masters of Agriculture
  - 4 Masters of Forestry
New Fund Honors Irma Delson

Irma Delson is one OSU staff member whose service will continue long after her retirement. Irma left OSU last spring after a career that spanned 23 years. To honor her exceptional commitment to the university and the students she served, friends and colleagues have established the Irma Delson Bridge to the Future Fund for graduate students.

During her OSU tenure, Irma had a key role in programs in a variety of areas, including the Graduate School, International Education, and the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences. As Director of European Exchange Programs and as an International Student Advisor, she worked passionately on behalf of students from all over the world. In 1994, she received the Beaver Champion Award for assisting in the rescue of an OSU student and his five-year-old son from the violence of the Rwandan civil war.

The Bridge to the Future Fund will help students in the final phase of their graduate education. In Irma’s work with students throughout the years, she noticed that all too often, their financial backing did not cover the crucial last months of thesis or dissertation writing. If they could receive even a small amount of support during the final phase of their degree programs to help with research, book-buying, publication costs, graduation fees, or other incidentals, many students could avoid a derailment of their studies.

“The fund is an idea that grew out of conversations with other people at OSU who had the same kind of experience,” Irma explains. “We’d find ourselves bringing in food, hiring students to do little jobs around our houses, patching together any funds we could to help them through those last months.”

With more people coming to graduate school later in their lives, bringing families and other responsibilities, financial challenges can be even more urgent. “There’s so much pressure toward the end of a student’s program,” says Irma.

“This fund may not be as flashy as the wonderful kinds of support available to students earlier in their programs, but it should help respond to a great unmet need.”

Contributions to the Bridge to the Future Fund can be made through the OSU Foundation website at https://www.cesystems.com/orst/giving/giving.htm.

Flexible funds like this one, as well as more targeted grants and fellowships, are critical to attracting and keeping the kind of graduate students who will become tomorrow’s leaders in every field. For information on establishing a fund or endowment, or to contribute to an existing fund, please contact our development department at (541) 737-3972.

Mission

The Graduate School at Oregon State University will contribute to the creation and discovery of knowledge and other forms of scholarship by facilitating graduate student scholarly activity, providing leadership in defining excellence in the graduate experience, promoting an environment that nurtures exploring and learning, and advocating the benefits of the graduate enterprise on local and global levels.

To accomplish its mission, the Graduate School will ensure excellence, consistency, and continuity in graduate programs, establish and monitor institutional standards, and stimulate improvement and change in the curricular and creative settings. The Graduate School will work with all relevant parties toward maintaining the centrality of graduate education to the mission of Oregon State University and to invigorating the graduate environment.

Vision

Graduate education at OSU will be recognized for excellence in producing the highest qualified graduates who are prepared to make positive social impacts as the next generation of leaders.
Our students make us so proud!

They devise cutting-edge research, get published in the most prestigious journals of their fields, teach their sections with amazing insight, win academic accolades, then go out into the world and do excellent work. For the most part, their rewards are strictly intrinsic. But occasionally, we’re able to celebrate their success with an exclusive fellowship or award.

The 10 students described below were selected for special honors from among many exceptional applicants. We congratulate them and wish them all the best for their work at OSU and beyond.

MEGAN DAILEY

Have you ever heard a whole class cheer when the professor announced the graduate teaching assistant for the term? It happened in Dr. Fred Ramsey’s spring Statistics 513 class, and he wasn’t the least bit surprised. Megan Dailey is the most highly rated TA the Statistics Department has ever known.

The Herbert F. Frolander Award for the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant recognizes a TA who has demonstrated outstanding teaching skills combined with excellent professional relations with faculty and students. The award is offered in honor of Dr. Herbert F. Frolander, retired professor of the former College of Oceanography. As the winner, Megan received an engraved plaque and a check for $1,000.

Megan discovered her love for teaching statistics as an indirect result of her graduate work in other sciences. She began her master’s degree in biomechanics at the University of Nevada and finished at the University of Oregon. But throughout, she felt her weak understanding of statistics was holding her back.

The reputation of OSU’s applied statistics program brought her here to work on a second master’s degree. Her first teaching assignment, Introduction to Statistics for Engineers, roused her to the challenge of making statistics accessible to a variety of students. “Teaching was particularly rewarding when it focused on helping other graduate students to accomplish the work they were doing.”

From that Statistics 314 class, Megan went on to coordinate, teach, and tutor a half-dozen other courses and labs, receiving rave reviews in every one. Statistics Department chair Dr. Robert Smythe said he had to “referee” requests from several instructors, all of whom wanted Megan as a GTA in their courses. She used her science background to create examples that made the material real for graduate students in a wide range of fields.

Megan finished her MS last spring and will begin a statistics doctoral program at the University of Colorado. She plans to make a career of teaching statistics. “My advice to other TAs is to try to be sympathetic to your students,” she says. “Think about where they’re coming from and what you can do to build a bridge from what they already know to what you’re trying to teach them.”
Charles Criscione looks at conservation issues from a microscopic level. He studies parasites and the ecological and evolutionary effects they have on their hosts and ecosystems. This work has implications for a wide range of ecological, medical and veterinary research, and has earned him many honors, including a 2003-04 Yerex Graduate Fellowship.

Charles received his master’s degree from Southeastern Louisiana University, where he developed interests in ecology and parasitology. He came to OSU to study population genetics with Dr. Michael Blouin in the molecular and cellular biology program. His PhD research centers on parasites of native salmon species, testing the hypothesis that host movement is a key determinant of gene flow in parasites that cycle through salmon and various intermediate hosts. His data show how parasite life cycles can be used to make predictions in epidemiological studies and
to understand the evolution of drug resistance—an important concern in the conservation of economically important and threatened species.

Parasite population genetics is a relatively new field, and it can be hard to explain the long-range implications of his research to the field biologists who provide his samples. “People are generally interested, but a lot of them think I’m crazy. I’m looking at parasites that don’t necessarily harm the fish—organisms you can’t even see without a microscope—and it’s a big leap to imagine they could help us unlock a lot of key questions.”

Charles is highly regarded in his department for his persistence from research to publication. During his first year here, Charles finished and published three manuscripts from his master’s work, and one manuscript based on work he completed during one of his MCB lab rotations. He will graduate with his name on at least four more co-authored publications. “He is highly motivated, focused, and very productive for a scientist at this stage of his career,” writes Dr. Blouin. “His project should be a landmark study in the field of parasite population genetics, and I am delighted that it was done in my lab.”

ADAM TAYLOR

Adam Taylor has a practical bent to his love of trees. Starting out in forestry “for the pleasure of working in the woods,” he now spends most of his days in the lab or the library—and thoroughly enjoys it. With a strong academic record, publications in the most important journals of his field, and a knack for teaching, Adam was a clear choice for this year’s Yerex Graduate Fellowship.

Adam is a PhD candidate in wood science. His research centers on the connection between heartwood formation and the natural durability of wood. Heartwood is more decay-resistant than sapwood because of the extractives that are deposited there. Adam seeks to understand what controls the level of extractives in the living tree. His research could lead to breeding and silviculture techniques that produce wood with high natural decay resistance, needing fewer preservatives.

Last summer, Adam spent two months working at Kyoto University in Japan, studying the effects of various extractives on termite behavior. This experience was funded through a competitive National Science Foundation grant. He also enjoys teaching, and last year had the chance to prove himself in that arena when he was asked to take over, on short notice, a 70-member class, to excellent reviews by students and faculty.

Adam was attracted to OSU by the caliber of the Department of Wood Science. “OSU is one of the best places in the world for wood science,” he says. “The people are great and the facilities are so impressive. You see the value of the work that’s being done here reflected in a place like Richardson Hall, so generously funded by alumni in the field. That really matters when you’re looking for a place to work for a few years.”
2003 Award Recipients (continued)

RAM PRASANAK
A Fulbright scholar from Thailand, Ram Prasanak is studying the history of power relations between Eastern and Western nations in his master's work in OSU’s English Department. He is a recipient of the 2003-04 International Trade and Development Graduate Fellowship, selected for his potential as a leader in cross-cultural relations.

This fellowship rewards graduate students who have high potential for future leadership in international affairs. It is funded through a one million dollar endowment awarded in 1991 to the Oregon University System by the Nippon Foundation of Tokyo. Proceeds from the investment of this endowment support several fellowships of up to $12,000 each for full-time graduate work.

Ram chose literature because it offers an interdisciplinary vehicle for studying relationships among nations. His course of study blends such fields as history, psychology, and sociology, creating a variety of lenses to working with people in the field, through either the agricultural industry or Extension.

Annette is known for her passionate interest in learning. She has built expertise in online education, creating a website on animal ethics and welfare and developing the first animal sciences class to be offered through Extended Campus.

Annette appreciates the faculty support she has enjoyed throughout her OSU experience. “One of the things I really value about the Department of Animal Sciences is the faculty and staff’s high regard for each student. That helps not only in retaining students but in encouraging them to get on a track to the jobs they enjoy.”

The University Club Foundation Fellowship Award recognizes scholarship, leadership, and potential societal contributions among students pursuing graduate education in Oregon. In addition to the $5,000 fellowship, award winners receive a three-year complimentary membership in the University Club and admission to four Club events each year to help them build their professional networks.

ANNETTE BUYSERIE
Sometimes, not getting a graduate assistantship can actually be an advantage. Annette Buyserie, winner of this year’s University Club Foundation Graduate Fellowship, pulled together funding from many different sources—scholarships, part-time employment, and research grants—to support her master's studies. In the process, she has found exciting learning opportunities she may not have encountered in her own field of dairy science. Her determination and exceptional scholarship have earned respect well beyond her own department.

Annette is studying dairy science, focusing on nutrition and management. Her thesis project is aimed at improving the utilization efficiency of cool-season grass forages to increase milk yield in dairy cattle. Coming from a family that’s been farming in Oregon for five generations, she is committed to working with people in the field, through either the agricultural industry or Extension.

Annette appreciates the faculty support she has enjoyed throughout her OSU experience. “One of the things I really value about the Department of Animal Sciences is the faculty and staff’s high regard for each student. That helps not only in retaining students but in encouraging them to get on a track to the jobs they enjoy.”

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The OSU Graduate School OPEN MINDS: Fall 2003 2003 Award Recipients (continued)
Ellen MacLachlan

In addressing the devastation of HIV/AIDS in developing countries, much of the research emphasis has been on clinical and laboratory issues. Ellen MacLachlan believes that for prevention and intervention programs to succeed, it is equally important to understand the attitudes and behaviors of the local community. Her vision and experience qualified her for one of this year’s International Trade and Development Graduate Fellowship.

Ellen came to her doctorate program in Public Health with a broad span of international experience. She began with three years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali, where she helped small communities develop soil and water conservation projects and build a primary school. She the earned a Master’s of Public Health from Emory University, and soon began working for the Centers for Disease Control in coordinating and developing policy for international health programs. During her work as a project officer for a large STD and HIV/AIDS prevention project in Mali, she came to understand how those diseases are affecting the stability, economic prospects, and social fabric of many developing countries.

The combination of these experiences grounded Ellen in her belief that international public health policy must be based on research into the cultural and behavioral norms of a community. “Traveling for the CDC, I got some perspective on how much can be done at the level of a nationwide program. But I could still draw on my Peace Corps experience to understand the reality of how these programs might be viewed by people at the village level.”

Ellen’s dissertation will bridge the gap between clinical research and a social science perspective. “It seems obvious that people have different social/cultural norms, and we should understand the society before we go ahead with our clinical biomedical research, but it doesn’t always happen that way,” she explains. She plans to conduct her dissertation research in one or more of the African countries currently offering HIV treatment, and return to Africa as an HIV-related research or program manager after her doctorate is completed.
KRIS HARPER

The first big breakthrough in modern weather prediction came at the end of World War II, with the development of physics-based, numerical models. Dr. Kristine Harper’s dissertation tells the story of how these models emerged—the international alliances, the high-stakes political in-fighting, and the personal rivalries that formed the backdrop of the scientific pursuit. For this scholarly yet accessible history of the rise of modern meteorological science, she is OSU’s second nominee for the Council of Graduate Schools/University Microfilms International Distinguished Dissertation Award.

Gabriela Montaño-Moctezuma came to OSU to develop tools she could take back to Mexico to solve the problems of her country’s red sea urchin fishery. But the Oregon coast proved to be a formidable setting for field research. After eight years, four of them dedicated to deep-sea diving in rough, unpredictable conditions, she is back to the gentler waters of Baja California, with a doctorate in fisheries science and a nomination for the Council of Graduate Schools/University Microfilms International Distinguished Dissertation Award.

Two awards—one in humanities/fine arts and one in biological/life sciences—will be presented at the national CGS annual meeting in December.

Gabriela’s dissertation project focused on whether marine refuges would make a difference in sustaining a sea urchin fishery and protecting the red sea urchin population. She developed a novel computer-intensive approach to analyze dynamic changes in population densities in large complex communities, using her field data to create and evaluate millions of simulated interactions within the kelp-forest community.

“Dr. Montañó-Moctezuma has molded somewhat esoteric theory into understandable, useful tools that can be applied to a wide range of systems,” says professor Selina Heppel. Dr. Heppel is using the computer algorithm in her own work on exotic species interactions in wetlands, and knows of four other major research projects around the country already using Gabriela’s model.

Gabriela, now on the faculty of the Instituto de Investigaciones Oceanológicas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California in Ensenada, continues to work on managing and protecting several marine resources that are fished along the Baja Peninsula. The longstanding practice of giving fishing permits as political favors to off-site corporate interests is very gradually being influenced by a movement toward local fishermen’s cooperatives. Gabriela is involved in building a body of research to push the country toward creating marine reserves and managing fisheries for longterm local prosperity.

Kris’s dissertation is groundbreaking in that it brings to light the contribution of European meteorologists, updating previous histories which attributed early modeling successes solely to work at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. It also uncovers the role of the U.S. Navy and Air Force in shaping scientific
practices and determining what questions were worth pursuing. Her story is built from a wide range of sources that had not previously been studied, including letters, unpublished diaries, declassified documents, and oral interviews. Dr. Mary Jo Nye describes it as “a strongly original piece of scholarship that will become a mainstay for the history of meteorology and, more broadly, the history of American science and technology.”

Kris spent 21 years as a meteorologist and oceanographer in the Navy. She retired in 1994 and moved to Oregon to get a credential for teaching secondary school math and science. In her first year at Western Oregon University, she was asked to teach meteorology and earth science to her fellow students. She found that a historical approach was the best way to overcome her students’ science phobia, but was unsatisfied with the meteorological history available. This led her to OSU, where she began the PhD work that would evolve into her exceptional research.

Currently, Kris is making revisions to a book based on her dissertation. She has a second book in the works, focusing on the American government’s little known but liberally funded efforts to move from weather prediction to weather control. She plans to find a teaching/research position. “I get a real buzz from teaching, but research is central to what I want to do,” she explains. “There are so many great stories to tell.”

JEANNETTE TUITELE-LEWIS

For Jeannette Tuitele-Lewis, earning a master’s degree in forest science is part of her tautua. A Samoan concept, tautua translates as the continual service one must pay to his or her community. Jeannette believes that she has a responsibility to return to her country, share what she has learned, and mentor other young people.

Jeannette is the 2003-04 recipient of OSU’s Thurgood Marshall Fellowship, honoring the first black American to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. This award recognizes students who have demonstrated exceptional community service in diverse communities as well as high academic achievement. It favors students like Jeannette, who are the first in their families to attend a university.

Jeannette’s research is based in American Samoa, her family’s ancestral home. This once self-sufficient country has become largely dependent on U.S. aid. Development is moving up the islands’ steep slopes, exacerbating soil erosion problems. Traditional culture and the natural resources that support it are being trampled in the pursuit of an American standard of living.

Jeannette’s goal is to identify agroforestry techniques that would contribute not only to the natural resource sustainability of American Samoa, but to its cultural and socio-economic sustainability as well. Her research bridges biology and social science. She is interviewing 40 local farmers and assessing their properties to begin the process of classifying traditional agroforestry systems. As she gathers information on what they grow and how they grow it, she interweaves the historical and cultural background of the property and the people who work it. Whether the land is communally or privately owned, how long the farmer has been working it, issues of contention that may be associated with the land—these factors can strongly influence planting practices.

Jeannette struggles against strong cultural biases as she documents the agricultural practices of the traditional community. But she is driven by her commitment to bring sustainability into priority focus in her country, and to help other young people see the value of education in natural resources.

“When you’re on a small island, it’s much easier to feel important,” she explains. “You feel like you can actually make a difference.”
New Graduate Programs

OSU graduate programs are constantly evolving to respond to the job market our students will enter. Courses are added and curricula are changed to keep them relevant. Much less often, prevailing needs and resources come together for a whole new program or certification to be developed. Since 1990, 12 new degree majors have passed through a rigorous evaluation process to be added to OSU’s offerings. In this issue, we’re pleased to introduce four new and very exciting degree opportunities.

PROFESSIONAL MASTER’S OF SCIENCE

In the constantly changing technical landscape of today’s business and industry, there is a tremendous need for leaders who have scientific training. Though universities are turning out record numbers of scholars and researchers, there is often a vast gap between their very focused knowledge and the skills they need in a business setting. To bridge this gap, OSU and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation have collaborated to develop a new degree program, giving students the practical skills they need to apply their specialized scientific knowledge in a diverse business environment.

Professional master’s of science degrees will be offered for the first time this year in three areas: applied biotechnology, applied physics, and environmental science. A fourth program in applied systematics (botany) is under development. In each of these areas, students will spend one to two years combining coursework with communication, management, and ethics training. The program is expected to attract career professionals as well as continuing students.

Instead of a research project, students will participate in a three- to six-month internship or cooperative educational experience with a business, industry, government agency, or research institute. This internship will provide experience in real-world work situations, where technical problem-solving, teamwork, communication, and decision-making all come together. Dr. Ursula Bechert, one of the program coordinators, has been talking with industry leaders about internship possibilities, and is delighted with their enthusiasm for the new degree.

OSU is one of about 30 universities across the country that received Sloan funding to develop the Professional Master’s of Science. As the programs are launched this year, the benefits to area employers are still conceptual, but the potential is enormous. The promise of scientific experts well versed in leadership skills provides a strong new bond between the university and business communities.

For more information: http://professionalmasters.science.orsu.edu

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

Public administrators and policy specialists are constantly under pressure to do more with less, to allocate diminishing resources to meet the needs of citizens and elected officials, and to work in an environment of intense public scrutiny and skepticism. At the same time, increasing globalization of the economy requires that public managers understand the international arena which increasingly bears on regional economic, political, social and environmental issues.

This environment demands professionals capable of creative analysis, communication, and action. To meet this demand, OSU has introduced a new Master of Public Policy, bringing together the resources of the economics, political science, sociology, and agricultural and resource economics departments. Coursework is designed around concepts and skills essential to public affairs, public policy analysis, and other functions associated with public and non-profit organizations, both domestically and internationally. Students choose among three areas of concentration: Applied Public Policy, Environmental Policy, and International Policy.

The program aims to attract both inexperienced students and public sector practitioners currently working in the community. Students who have not worked in public/non-profit organizations will be placed in internships; those in the international policy track will be encouraged to enroll in a student exchange program through the Office of International Education.
New Graduate Programs

Local public policymakers will be involved not only as mentors but as advisors to the MPP. Director Dr. Brent Steel and other program faculty are building ties among this community of support to assure that the program remains practical and relevant.

For more information:
http://oregonstate.edu/dept/pol_sci/MPP/mpp.htm

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

For creative writing students, the MFA is considered a terminal degree—one that provides access to distinguished teaching positions and publishers. OSU’s English Department has been building a strong graduate fiction writing faculty over the last 12 years, and has been offering a fiction writing specialization under the department’s MA program. Now, students can earn the MFA degree, helping them define and advance their ambitions as artists and teachers.

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing immerses students in contemporary literary fiction, poetry, and non-fiction. It develops not only reading and writing experience, but also the marketing know-how needed for success in the publishing world. To complement a faculty of published authors, the program hosts an impressive slate of visiting writers, who lead graduate writing workshops and work with individual students. MFA candidates complete their programs by producing thesis-length pieces of imaginative writing.

For the time being, the program is very restricted: just six new students were admitted from a pool of over 100 applicants this year. Director Dr. Tracy Daugherty says that allows every student the kind of individual attention that’s required for a degree of this caliber.

For more information:
http://oregonstate.edu/dept/english/crw/

MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED ETHICS

From gene-slicing to dam-building, health insurance to human relations, there’s hardly a profession today that isn’t beset by ethical dilemmas. Rapid change in what is technically possible has created an environment where important societal values are constantly tested and re-evaluated. OSU’s new Master of Arts in Applied Ethics is aimed at developing leaders who understand ethical theory, and have the skills to apply this philosophical background in their professional and civic lives.

The Department of Philosophy’s new master’s program offers students the opportunity to study the ethical issues underlying a wide range of social and environmental situations. Along with core courses in ethical theory and applied ethics, each student will complete an integrated minor in an area of special interest.

The program also requires a practicum with a public agency, non-profit organization, or private business working in the student’s area of interest. This is intended to help students understand the real-life constraints and pressures that shape policy decisions. Leaders in a variety of Northwest businesses have written letters in support of the new master’s degree program, recognizing the importance of preparing tomorrow’s leaders for complex decision-making. Ethics training is becoming a highly valued job skill.

OSU’s Department of Philosophy is already the home of a nationally recognized program in ethics education. The Program for Ethics, Science and the Environment, selected by the Templeton Foundation as a model for ethics education, will be a strong resource for the MA in Applied Ethics. The Department also offers an undergraduate Applied Ethics Certificate.

The program has begun receiving inquiries from across the United States. The first two students transferred into the new program from other existing OSU graduate programs this year, so it is up and running.

For more information:
http://oregonstate.edu/Dept/philosophy/graduate/ma_a_ethics.html