

# Truman State University

## Graduate Studies Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2008

### Program Highlight: Communication Disorders

#### From the Graduate Office:

- *Any Graduate student planning to receive their degree in August 2008 has the option to walk during either the May 2008 or the December 2008 commencement ceremony. Contact Doris Snyder for more details.*

#### Inside this issue:

Geo Conference	2
Theses Honors	2
Accounting Honors	2
Fulbright Program	3
Publication Info.	4

The Communication Disorders Graduate Program at Truman State University is an American Speech and Language Hearing Association accredited program that takes a generalist approach to study while offering an eight week internship in both a school and a hospital setting. The M.A. in Communication Disorders requires four hundred hours of clinical work and generally takes one and a half to two years to complete, assuming students shoulder the average load of thirteen or fourteen hours a semester.

The Truman Speech and Hearing Clinic is also run by the Communication Disorders Department, and graduate students fill a vital role there, providing leadership and giving therapy under the supervision of faculty. This clinic serves clients ranging from infants to geriatrics from all over Northern Missouri. Graduate students are not only assigned individual clients with whom to work with in the clinic, but are also charged with the task of going out into the community to give care. They visit local schools and participate in organizations like Head Start and First Steps.

In addition to their individual work with clients in the Truman Speech and Hearing Clinic and their community service, graduate students also participate in the academic and researching sides of their discipline. Every one of Truman's Communication Disorders' graduate students must complete a research project, with roughly eighty percent of these who go on to present their research at the Missouri Speech and Hearing Association's annual meeting. According to Dr. Janet Gooch, Communication Disorders' Program Director, one of her graduate students has won the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Missouri Speech and

Hearing Association three out of the last five years.

Dr. Gooch also comments about the effectiveness of Truman's program as a stepping stone to recognized Ph.D. programs across the country. During her thirteen years as Program Director, Dr. Gooch has seen Truman graduate students enjoy an almost one hundred percent pass rate on their first attempt on the national exam required for the completion of their study. It is no surprise, then, that the students who have received their M.A. in Communication Disorders from Truman State University have gone on to programs at places like Penn State and Vanderbilt. One notable alumna that Dr. Gooch would like to draw attention to is Dr. Jennifer Garrett, who left Truman to attend the University of Cincinnati where she has recently been awarded her Ph.D. and is now teaching at the University of Northern Iowa.

The Communications Disorders Graduate Program at Truman State University has achieved a level of excellence that is extremely noteworthy. Between their dedication to training highly-skilled professionals and their remarkable presence stretching from the local Kirksville community across Northern Missouri and finally working through their graduates on a national level, the students who receive their M.A. from Truman State University in Communications Disorders are placed in the very fortunate situation to have an important cultural impact on American society.

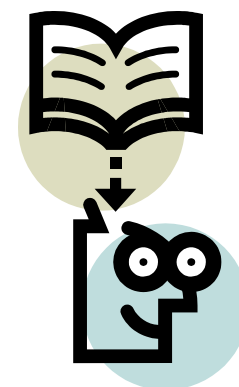
## G.E.O. and Folklore Conference: April 4-5, 2008

This year's Graduate English Organization's (G.E.O.) conference is titled "From Homer to Simpson: A Symposium of Critical, Creative, and Cultural Writings" and will be held on April 4th and 5th. Formally, the conference will have presentations from 9am-5pm on both Friday, April 4th, and Saturday, April 5th, with keynote readings by Gladys Cogswell, a nationally recognized story-teller, and Debra Di Blasi, a multimedia artist and author of *The Jiri*, "Drought and Say," award-winning novellas, and much more. A little more informally, there will be a poetry slam held on Friday,

April 4th, and a BBQ on Saturday, April 5th. For more information, contact Lauren Helbig or Meredith Heist.

In addition to the presentations and speakers, there will also be a writing workshop presented by keynote speaker Debra Di Blasi entitled "The Art of Innovative Writing: A Writing Workshop on Multimedia and Multimodal text," which will be followed by a panel discussion of publishing in the 21st century. This will be held in Baldwin Hall 351 from 11am until 2:30pm on Saturday, April 5th, and is open to everyone, so all majors

are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Joe Baumann.



## Distinguished Master's Thesis Awards: Past and Present

Receiving the Distinguished Master's Thesis Award is an incredible achievement, so we would like to recognize the current recipient and those that were honored over the last five years.

### **2007 - 2008**

Maggie Mayhan—English:

*Isabella Bird: Liminal Performances*

### **2006 - 2007**

Daniel Coate—English:

*Lexical Borrowing in Swahili from Arabic*

### **2005 - 2006**

Amy Gates—English:

*Two Nations in Thy Womb: Jacob and Esau in Williams Blake's America: A Prophecy*

### **2004 - 2005**

Theresa Sonderman—CommDis:

*The Influence of First Language Phonology on Second Language Spelling*

Eric Tumminia—English:

*Rivers, Hills, and Punk Rock*

### **2003 - 2004**

Susan Nelson—English:

*Chaos Theory and the Navigation of Salman Rushdie's "Midnight's Children"*

### **2002 - 2003**

Andrew Heitmann—English:

*'This Little Span of Life': The Reader's Sentimental Journey*

Bin Zhang—Biology:

*The Effects of Nicotine on a 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> Receptor-Mediated Behavioral Model of Tourette's Syndrome*

Congratulations to all these outstanding students!

## Truman Accounting Students Win LEAP Challenge!

Several graduate students were among the contestants from Truman who participated in and were recognized at the Missouri Society of CPAs' Central Region LEAP Challenge at Culver-Stockton College on February 12. The LEAP Challenge, a Jeopardy-style competition, quizzes

students on areas from the four sections of the CPA exam, in addition to general knowledge pertinent to their discipline.

Graduate students on the winning team, who will now compete at the state LEAP challenge in late Mary, are Chris Mattax and Ryan

Hudnall. Another Truman team finished in second place with members including Jan Feilner and Stacy Peter, both of whom are graduate students.

Congratulations to our outstanding Truman Accounting students!

## Fellowship Information: Fulbright U.S. Student Program

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The Fulbright program, established in 1946 under legislation proposed by Senator J. William Fulbright, is an international educational exchange program that is designed to provide a mutual understanding between people of the United States and other countries. The program gives its participants the opportunity to observe and exchange ideas through the lens of other political, social, cultural, and economic environments throughout the world. Since its inception, the program has provided almost 300,000 people with this privilege and currently operates in over 155 countries

worldwide.

This program is open to, according to the J. William Foreign Scholarship Board, “the best qualified students regardless of degree level.” It is noted, however, that preference is given to those that have recently received their baccalaureate degree. Also, Master’s level and Ph.D. students are expected to have fully developed plans of study or research that can be completed during their grant period. Furthermore, it is usually the case that all participants in this program are allowed to plan their own programs and specifically direct their

coursework and activities to accomplish the personal and academic goals they have set. Grants are also available for teaching English in selected countries.

Truman graduate students are encouraged to consider this wonderful opportunity. The application process for the 2008-2009 academic year begins on May 1, 2007. For more detailed information about the opportunities given through the Fulbright program, visit their website at [www.iie.org](http://www.iie.org). For those interested in applying, contact Doris Snyder in the Truman Graduate Office.



## Graduate Studies Newsletter

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### **Graduate Events**

Be aware that an announcement is forthcoming concerning the schedule of events in celebration of Graduate Education Week, April 14-18.

For information, contact Doris Snyder at [dsnyder@truman.edu](mailto:dsnyder@truman.edu).

It is the hope of the Graduate Office to provide our graduate students and faculty with this newsletter twice a semester. We are actively looking for issues the graduate community feels should be addressed, students that should be recognized, and events that can be brought to the attention of our graduate students and faculty.

If you believe that you have any of the items mentioned, or would like more information about the Graduate Newsletter, please contact either Paul Sileo at [pas436@truman.edu](mailto:pas436@truman.edu) or Dr. Maria Di Stefano at [mdistefa@truman.edu](mailto:mdistefa@truman.edu).

Thanks for your support!

