The Rook
An e-Newsletter for Master of Professional Studies Students

July 10, 2008

Master of Professional Studies News

East Tennessee State University is transitioning to a new student registration system. This means if you have bookmarked the old goldlink system to check your grades, register, view your transcripts, etc; you will need to change that bookmark. You can link to the new system here. The first time you log in you will need to use your social security number as your student ID and your pin number is initially set to your six digit birthdate. Some students are having problems using this new system so if you encounter any difficulties, please contact the Cross-Disciplinary Studies office immediately. 423-439-4223 johnsoad@etsu.edu

Art, Music, and Professional Studies

In June, the Master of Professional Studies program sponsored a booth at Johnson City’s annual art and music festival, called the Blue Plum. The weather was scorching but program staff distributed ice cold water and program materials to prospective students and community members. Next year, we plan to ask students to participate. If you are looking for a few hours of summer fun, you may want to help us out.

Important Dates (Fall 2008)

August 22nd
• Fees are due
• Last day to register for classes

August 25th
• Classes begin

September 5th
• Last day to drop a course without a grade of “W”

September 8th
• Last day to file Intent to Graduate, application for candidacy, and program of study forms for December 2008 graduation

2008-2009 Culminating Projects

As you near the end of your program of study, you may be wondering about the nature of the culminating project. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions about PRST 5998:

Q: Do I have to take PRST 5998 as my last course?
A: Yes. PRST 5998 is the last course in which you should enroll. We hope students will be able to complete their projects in a single semester. We prefer that students do not enroll in other courses while completing the project. Taking this course while enrolled in other classes may be overwhelming.

Q: How is a culminating project different from a thesis?
A: While the project is academically rigorous, because it is not a thesis, the project will not be reviewed by graduate school staff. Your project will be evaluated by MPS faculty members only. Thesis research also often requires the approval of the Institutional Review Board. You will not have to seek IRB approval for your project.

Q: How do I choose a topic for my project?
R: You will choose a project topic in conjunction with your PRST 5998 instructor. Currently, the Division Chair, Dr. Jo Lobertini, supervises all PRST 5998 students. You should make an appointment to meet with Dr. Lobertini to discuss project topics before the course begins. Most students generate ideas for projects from research they have done in other courses or from community groups or organizations that may benefit from leadership/organizational development.

Many of you will be ready to embark upon your culminating project this year. If you are planning to graduate in the 2008-2009 academic year, please contact Amy Johnson.