



GERmate Update

April, 2009

Anita Herman Retires

After more than thirty-one years at Madonna University, Dr. Anita Herman resigned from her position on December 16, 2008. She had served as chair of the Department for twelve years, and she is greatly missed! She has already made two trips to California to visit with granddaughter Lucy, and she's beginning to read some of the many books she put off until she "had time". We look forward to her remarks as guest speaker at our Spring Tea on May 9th!

Gerontology Department Developing Articulation Agreements

To make it more expeditious for students to transfer into gerontology and long term care administration from local community colleges, the Department is working with the Admissions Office to develop articulation agreements. The first one to be drafted is a 3+1 agreement with Wayne County Community College District in gerontology. Once finalized by both parties, students in the gerontology major at WCCCD will be able to complete three years of study at the community college, and finish the major in gerontology at Madonna University in as little as one year. If they follow the plan in the articulation agreement, the maximum possible number of WCCCD credits will transfer, and they will be MACRAO satisfied. Another approach is a 2+2 agreement from a community college business major to Madonna's long term care administration major. Additional community colleges we are considering include Oakland Community College, Henry Ford Community College, Schoolcraft Community College, and Lansing Community College.

Gerontology Career Fair on April 14th

April 12 – 18 is national Careers in Aging Week. To promote the field, six Madonna gerontology graduates will be exhibiting in the West Colonnade on Tuesday, April 14th from 4 to 6 pm at the Gerontology Career Fair. Students will have the opportunity to discuss with these professionals their career paths, their work roles, the nature of their organizations, and their advice for a new gerontologist entering the work world. We will also review students' resumes and cover letters, and coach them on improvements. Many thanks to Dionne Hunter, Suzy Mulka, Maggie Ouellette, Portia Ross-Morehead, Veronica Padmos, and Jill Samulski for offering their time and experience to benefit our students.

Certificate of Completion in Aging and Older Adults at Orchard Lake Campus

Starting in Winter term, 2010, the Department will be offering one of the three foundation courses in aging at the Orchard Lake campus. The other two courses will be offered in subsequent semesters. They will be taught as hybrid courses with several Saturday meetings in class and the remainder online. Taken together the three courses comprise the new Aging and Older Adult Certificate of Completion, which was designed to provide professionals in other fields with a grounding in gerontology. The three courses are Introduction to Gerontology, Physical Aspects of Aging, and Adult Development and Aging.

Proposal Writing and Grant Administration Course

Dr. Sharon Miller will be offering GER 4140, Proposal Writing and Grant Administration this Spring on five Saturdays, beginning May 30th. The course is open to any professionals who would benefit their organizations and their resumes by learning this skill. It's a two semester hour class. You can take it for academic credit or for continuing education credit, at half of the undergraduate rate. For more information contact smiller@madonna.edu.

Facebook Group for GER Alumni

We've been looking for a way to readily communicate with gerontology alumni, and thought that we would join Web 2.0 with a gerontology alumni Facebook group. It's called Madonna Gerontology Alumni, and it's a closed group. That keeps it more secure, but it means that you have to request to join and be approved. We would like you to use the site to network with colleagues, keep us informed of your activities and accomplishments, learn about Madonna Gerontology activities and events, and share information and concerns about the field and social policy and legislation.

Madonna University Is Going Green!

Each year the University has a theme for the academic year. Our theme this year is Green and Growing: Madonna University Values Responsible Stewardship for a Sustainable World. The purpose of the theme is to heighten awareness of an aspect of our Franciscan mission. Our proudest and most ambitious endeavor to promote sustainability is the new Science and Media Building, which will be ready for occupancy in the Fall. It will qualify for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. To support the construction and outfitting of the new environmentally-friendly building, the Kresge Foundation has promised Madonna University \$1.5 million, if we raise \$3.25 million by January 1, 2010. We would welcome your support in making the Science and Media Building a reality and the Kresge Challenge Grant a success. If you would be willing to "take the Kresge Challenge", visit www.madonna.edu and click on Support Madonna; or mail your check, payable to Madonna University – Kresge Challenge. All gifts of any size will be gratefully received! The building dedication will occur on October 15th, with Archbishop Allen Vigneron participating.