As this will be my final posting of experiences, I thought it would be nice to share some of my completed work. So, please find attached PDF versions of our expo program, newsletter, and graduate student survey. Also, please see the link below to our new, live Graduate Studies website.

**Experience 1: Expo Program & Expo**

I completed our expo program and it was a nice addition to our expo event. We hosted the Graduate Studies Expo on March 31st and the program was very helpful to the students who attended. Please find the expo program PDF attached.

**Standards:** Standard 4: Community and Stakeholder Partnerships and Standard 7: Technology

Standard 4 is reflected in this activity because I believe it is in our best interest to provide the community and prospective students with the best information possible about our programs in an organized way. This expo program allows us to look professional while working with the community to provide them the most information about our graduate programs.

Standard 7 is reflected in this activity because I used InDesign to create the expo program. I also used Illustrator to create the star and line graphics.

**Experience 2: Website Redesign**

We officially launched our website last week and we are all thrilled! It has been a long time coming, and it is finally complete. Before the launch, I used a test site to show our staff during our staff meeting. After that meeting, it was decided that the website was ready to launch. Everyone went through the website and sent me small changes they would like to see and I went through and made the changes. The website launch was just in time for our expo event, so we put a copy of our newsletter, which highlights the website launch, in each prospective students’ portfolio they get when they sign in at our registration table. I have already had staff thanking me for the new website because now they can easily direct students through it and it is no longer confusing. You may view our new website at [www.fgcu.edu/graduate](http://www.fgcu.edu/graduate). The redesign included the entire website: home page, prospective page, and secondary pages with left navigation bar.

**Standards:** Standard 1: Vision & Standard 7: Technology

Standard 1 is reflected in this activity because we took the vision we had for the website and made it happen.
Standard 7 is reflected in this activity because I used Red Dot, the web editing software, to make changes to the website.

**Experience 3: Newsletter**

Last week I also completed our newsletter, so we were able to post it onto our website as well as include it in the portfolios we gave to prospective students at our expo event. I watched a few people open the portfolio, look at the newsletter, and make comments about how nice it looked. It was great to hear those comments because I wanted it to look professional and attractive as we are using it for recruitment and retention purposes. Please see the PDF version of our newsletter attached.

*Standards: Standard 1: Vision & Standard 7: Technology*

Standard 1 is reflected in this activity because we created a resource that communicates our vision as a department and helps students see what this university can provide them.

Standard 7 is reflected in this activity because I used InDesign to create the newsletter and Illustrator to design and integrate background graphics to make the newsletter more compelling.

**Experience 4: Graduate Student Reception**

On Tuesday, our office hosted the graduate student reception at the Embassy Suites in Estero. We began by mingling, meeting students, and eating food, then we broke up into groups of 5 (4 students and 1 graduate studies employee). I led a discussion group of graduate students from various program. We had a list of questions ready covering all different aspects of their experience at FGCU. The purpose of this reception was to gain insight into the lives of graduate students after they leave our office and see how we may improve conditions for them. It turned out very informative and it was neat to hear various students’ perspectives on their experience at FGCU. We will be using the information we gathered to hopefully impact change. We will be hosting other events similar to this one in the future, so I strongly suggest anyone interested in having their voice be heard to attend as we truly want to make the graduate student experience better at FGCU.

*Standards: Standard 3: Managing the Learning Environment*

Standard 3 is reflected in this activity because we are trying to promote an effective learning environment for our graduate students by connecting with them and getting to know the real issues they are having.

**Experience 5: Graduate Student Survey**
In the last two weeks we tested and revised our exit survey. We found the survey takes about 5 minutes so we added a sentence at the top to tell students that it will take approximately 5 minutes. We did this in hopes that more students would fill it out because it isn’t a long survey. We are waiting to hear from Lenore on the next step in this process. We are hoping to have it ready for the Spring 2010 graduates.

This survey supports the positive psychology theory because it is important for our graduate students to feel good about their education at FGCU. This helps them reach their highest potential and live a more fulfilled and mature life. As a university, we strive for our students to have a world-class education and enjoy themselves while they are here. Students are not only affected by their teachers, it is also the duty of our department and all the other offices on campus to come together and give the students a positive experience across campus. According to Martinez (2001), “The contemporary branch of scholarship known as positive psychology is similarly concerned with advancing the theory and achievement of health, well-being, success, and happiness (Bornstein, Davidson, Keyes, & Moore, 2003)” (p.167). I have attached a PDF version of the survey to this post.

**Standards:** Standard 1: Vision, Standard 7: Technology, & Standard 8: Learning, Accountability & Assessment

Standard 1 is reflected in this activity because we are concerned with making an impact on our students and relaying a positive message to them. This survey serves as a helpful resource for our office and other administrative offices on campus to better assist our students and give them a great experience at FGCU.

Standard 7 is reflected in this activity because I used the software, Checkbox, to edit the survey.

Standard 8 is reflected in this activity because we are assessing our academic climate for graduate students to better assist them.

**References**