



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

THE GRAD CONNECTION

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 20, 2013

New Graduate Student Orientation

August 21-22, 2013

PIE Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Conference

October 1, 2013

Carnival @ the Rez

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Greetings,

I have just reviewed the stories for this issue of the newsletter and there is much to be proud about graduate education at the Florida State University. The Celebration for Graduate Student Excellence which recognizes the achievements of our graduate students in teaching, research, and leadership was a wonderful event. I am also pleased that so many of our students and alumni are sending us information about their successes in publishing, conferences attended, fellowships, awards, and jobs. The Vietnam Education Conference that we hosted in January 2013 brought national and international attention to FSU.



As noted in previous newsletters financial support of graduate education has been a major challenge and continues to be so. The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards helps students identify opportunities for external support and I encourage students to contact Dr. Keisha John (kajohn@fsu.edu) for assistance. In addition, today nationally philanthropy plays an important role in supporting graduate education. The Honors, Scholars, and Fellows House is slated for completion by December 2013 and will be the new home to the Fellows Society, the Program for Instructional Excellence, and the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards. I recently took a tour of the facility and it will truly be a spectacular home for this community of scholars. There are numerous ways through philanthropy to help us with this project and to provide fellowship, research, and travel assistance to graduate students. Please contact Katherine Cline (kccline@foundation.fsu.edu) if you would like to explore opportunities.

Have a wonderful summer,

Nancy Marcus
Dean, The Graduate School

2013 CELEBRATION OF GRADUATE STUDENT EXCELLENCE

The Florida State University honored the achievements of its graduate students at the annual Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence on April 17th at the Florida State Alumni Center. This event recognizes the accomplishments of FSU's graduate students in teaching, research and creativity, and leadership.

The keynote was delivered by Dr. Richard Hyson, Professor of Psychology and Director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience, who reflected on why he loves research and working with graduate students. Dr. Hyson encouraged students to continue their intellectual curiosity and he praised them for their dedication and contributions to the university community.



Dean Nancy Marcus (center) with Leadership Award Winners, Jane McPherson (left) and Abrahám Peña-Talamantes (Sociology)

Joining Dr. Hyson for the ceremony was Dr. Nancy Marcus, Dean of The Graduate School; Dr. Jennifer Feltman, Fellows Society Coordinator; and Judy Hefren, doctoral student in the College of Social Work.

“It was an honor to meet these exceptional graduate students,” Marcus said. “On behalf of The Graduate School, we offer congratulations to all of them for their outstanding achievements.”

During the reception, the Graduate School hosted a poster session, which showcased the current research of graduate students from various disciplines: Jhoana Antiquino (Interior Design); Nikki M. Caruso (Dance); Sarah Leonard (Chemical Engineering); Zarko Manojlovic (Biomedical Sciences); and Jane McPherson (Social Work).



The Graduate School, the Office of Research, and the Congress of Graduate Students co-sponsored the event.

See the following pages for a list of all award recipients.

Graduate students who received university-wide, national, and international awards were recognized at the annual Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence.

THE GRAD CONNECTION

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL STUDENT AWARDS

GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Abraham Peña-Talamantes (Sociology)

Jane McPherson (Social Work)

RESEARCH & CREATIVITY AWARD

Debra Trusty (Classics)

Paul Ardoin (English)

Timothy Kellison (Sport Management)

Jane McPherson (Social Work)

Jingyong Su (Statistics)

Jeremy Weiss (Materials Science & Engineering).



Pictured above (L-R): Dean Marcus, Melissa Bamford, Brittany Craft, Travis Smith, Debra Trusty, Robyn Braun, and Connie Eudy



Pictured above (L-R): Dean Marcus, Debra Trusty, Jane McPherson, Timothy Kellison, Jingyong Su, Jeremy Weiss, Assoc. Dean Devine

OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD

Brittany Kraft (Biological Science)

Carly Ryan (Biological Science)

Debra Trusty (Classics)

Travis Smith (Modern Languages & Linguistics); Robyn Braun (Educational Psychology & Learning Systems); and Melissa Bamford (Sociology).

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL SPRING 2013 DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANTS

Charles Blume (Classics)

Kristin Brown, Social Work

Kyle Bunds, Sports Management

Theodora Coffman, Educational Psychology & Learning Systems

Elizabeth Clendinning, Music

Thomas Croom, Political Science

Melissa Gordon, Family & Child Sciences

Kirsten Hawkins, Psychology

Derek Headley, Communication Disorders

Megan Jones, Biological Science

Yoon Jeon Kim, Educational Psychology & Learning Systems

Agustin León-Moreta, Public Administration

Scott Liebertz, Political Science

Fiona McWilliam, English

Chris Mojock, Nutrition, Food, and Exercise

Deborah Morris, Biomedical Sciences

Yunyi Shen, Mathematics

Crystal Taylor, Urban and Regional Planning

Christopher Timm, Art History

Debra Trusty, Classics

Peter Wood, Geography

Sherry Yelland, Educational Psychology & Learning Systems

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FACULTY AWARDS

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

Vanessa Dennen, Educational Psychology and Learning Systems

Debra Fadool, Biological Science

Robert Hart, Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science

Geoffrey Strouse, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Zuoxin Wang, Psychology

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH & CREATIVITY

Michael Nair-Collins, Medical Humanities and Social Sciences

Joseph Pierce, Geography

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS RECOGNIZED AT CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

Recipients of national and international fellowships, grants, and awards were recognized at the 2013 Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence. This year our students received prestigious honors, including fellowships and awards from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Medieval Academy of America, Fulbright, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the National Institute of Health (NIH), and many more. For a list of 2012-13 external fellowship and award recipients, visit:

<http://gradschool.fsu.edu/Events/2013-Celebration-of-Graduate-Student-Excellence>



Pictured above: (L-R) Dean Marcus; Janna Rosenthal (Urban & Regional Planning) ; Bradley Hostetler (Art History); Joungh Hwa Koo (Information Studies); Haddie Njie (Education); Deirdre Carter (Art History); David Brown (Psychology); Benjamin Pope (Biological Science); Gina O'Neal-Moffit (Biomedical Sciences); Amy Griffin (Interior Design); Danika Bellamy (Urban & Regional Planning)

The Office of Graduate Fellowship and Awards assists current graduate students with identifying and applying for external funding to support their research and creative projects.

Please visit the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards website:

<http://ogfa.fsu.edu/>
to learn more about national awards. If you have received an external award, please notify us so that we can recognize you in the future.

Email: ogfa-info@fsu.edu

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ALUMNI AND STUDENT ACCOLADES

Jennifer K. Mann Austin (PhD 2007) was awarded a College of Natural Sciences 2013 Teaching Excellence Award. She is currently Lecturer of Mathematics and Undergraduate Mathematics Faculty Advisor at The University of Texas at Austin.

Martin Blessinger (DM 2006) was awarded tenure at Texas Christian University and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

Lindsey Churchill (PhD 2010) has written a forthcoming book entitled, *Becoming the Tupamaros: Solidarity and Transnational Revolutionaries in Uruguay and the United States* (Vanderbilt University Press, January 2014). She is currently an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Elizabeth Clendinning (MM 2009, PhD candidate) will be a visiting instructor at Emory University for the 2013-2014 academic year where she will be teaching undergraduate courses in ethnomusicology, leading the Emory gamelan ensemble, and overseeing the Emory world music program.

Jennifer M. Feltman (PhD 2011) will begin a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Art History in the Department of Art at Young Harris College in August 2013.

On September 27, 2012, **Richard C. Gentry** (PhD, Religion) received proclamations from the San Diego City Council, California State Legislature, and U.S. Congress honoring him for his 40 years as an advocate for affordable housing, community redevelopment and assistance to the homeless. Gentry serves as the president and chief executive of the San Diego Housing Commission.

Sarah L. Franklin (PhD 2006) is the author of *Women and Slavery in Nineteenth-Century Colonial Cuba* (University of Rochester Press, 2012). She is currently Assistant Professor of History at the University of North Alabama.

Rima J. Hatoum (PhD 2010) was elected to the Board of Directors of TASH for a three-year term (2013-2015). She was previously awarded the UNESCO/Emir Jaber al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah Prize to Promote Quality Education for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in December, 2009. She is currently a consultant for international development agencies working in the field of disabilities.

Myung H. Jin (PhD 2009) was awarded \$100,000 in research grant by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's New Connections program given to top junior investigators in 2013. He is currently Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Policy at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Vikram Mehta (MS 1986, PhD 1990) was one of 30 non-resident Indians in the world to be awarded the 2012 Mahatma Gandhi Gold Medal for contributions in meteorology. The ceremony was held in the House of Lords in London on 12 October 2012. Mehta is founder, president, and executive director of The Center for Research on the Changing Earth System in Baltimore, MD.

MORE ALUMNI AND STUDENT ACCOLADES

Calvin J. McFadden, Sr. (PhD 2010) was recently appointed as Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Bristol Community College in Fall River, MA.

Richard C. Page (PhD 2008) accepted a position as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Miami University. He is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Cleveland Clinic and will begin research at Miami University in August 2013.

Yaacov Petscher (PhD 2009) recently published his book, *Applied Quantitative Analysis in Education and Social Sciences*. He is currently the Director of Research at the Florida Center for Reading Research at Florida State University.

Roger C. Richards (PhD 2008) recently published his book, *History of Southern Baptists* (Bloomington, IN: Cross Books).

Julia Skinner (PhD student) of the FSU School of Library & Information Studies was selected to participate in a featured presentation, "Questions Are Never Neutral: Examining the Occupy and Tea Party Movements as Exemplars of Information Research and Everyday (Political) Life," at the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) 2013 Annual Conference in Seattle, WA.

Christopher T. Stanley (MS 2004) was promoted to Associate Professor of Psychology at Winston-Salem State University. In addition, he has recently published a new book entitled *Understanding Lifespan Development*.

Melvin Sterne (PhD 2008) Published his first novel, *Zara* in 2012 (Ink Brush Press). His first collection of stories, *The Number You Have Reached*, publishes shortly (Lamar University Press). His collection (as editor) *The Woman Behind the Wheel* (MilSpeak Press) follows. He is Associate Professor of English at Shantou University.

Micah Vandegrift (MA 2009, MLIS 2011) was recognized as one of Library Journal's 2013 Movers and Shakers. He is currently the Scholarly Communication Librarian at Florida State University.

Keri Watson (PhD 2010) has accepted an Assistant Professor of Art History and Museum Studies position in the Department of Art History at Ithaca College.

Valerie Wetlaufer (MFA 2009) graduated from The University of Utah with a PhD in English & Creative Writing. Her first book of poetry, *Mysterious Acts by My People*, is forthcoming from Sibling Rivalry Press in March 2014. She is currently Editor of *Adrienne: A Poetry Journal of Queer Women*.

CONTRIBUTE TO GRADUATE EDUCATION

<https://one.fsu.edu/community/SSLpage.aspx?pid=824&srcid=847>

FELLOWS ORGANIZE FORUM ON VETERANS



On March 22, Fellows, student Veterans, faculty and staff gathered for the 2013 Fellows Forum, “Reintegrating Veterans into Civilian Life: An Interdisciplinary Discussion,” which included presentations on the history of veterans affairs and current research into issues of veteran’s reintegration after returning from the field.

sics), planned the agenda. Panels included presentations by **Dr. Andrea U. De Giorgi** (Classics, FSU), **Dr. G. Kurt Piehler**, (FSU Institute on World War II and the Human Experience), **Dr. Tracie Mahaffey** (Philosophy), **Dr. David Albright** (Social Work, Univ. of Missouri), **Dr. Thomas Joiner** (Psychology, FSU), and **Dr. Emmanuel Collins** (Mechanical Engineering).

Presentations provided participants with a broad context for discussing issues of Veteran’s reintegration into society. Historical aspects, such as the treatment of Veterans in Ancient Rome and the history of Veteran’s Affairs in the U.S., were addressed alongside presentations on the problems faced by Veterans as a result of psychological and physical trauma. There were also presentations on new techniques and technologies to assist returning Veterans and a demo of a terrain-dependent wheelchair.



The Forum was organized by (L-R): Mary Marcous, Jonathan Bellot, Ryan Kopinsky, Debra Trusty and Jason Cassara.



The Forum was hosted in conjunction with the Capital City Veterans Consortium and co-sponsored by The Graduate School and the FSU Student Veterans Center.

Pictured (L-R): Dr. Piehler, Director of the FSU Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, and Dr. Collins, Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

ALUMNUS REFLECTS ON GRADUATE STUDY AT FSU

When I began pursuing my Master's degree at FSU's Geology Department (now part of the Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science Department) in 1970, I knew I was interested in coastal and oceanographic science, but had no idea of the diversity of scientific endeavors I would undertake in my career as a result of that graduate education. I was fortunate to have entered a department whose professors found excitement in major new breakthroughs in earth science and had established a core curriculum requiring greater understanding of the interrelationships between all of the physical sciences. My thesis committee helped me develop a project on the geologic age of coastal sand dunes extending over a 200 mile stretch of the Florida panhandle. Using new research tools, plus geological, chemical, optical physics and statistical methodologies, I learned multi-discipline environmental research methods that I would practice and expand on for the rest of my career.



Loren Setlow received his MS in Geology from FSU.

Over the course of 40 years since graduating in 1972 from FSU, I held a number of different jobs and worked on diverse projects as an oceanographer, a geologist, and environmental scientist. In my first job from 1972-1974, I was the lead geological oceanographer for a Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources' and U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's environmental study of offshore sand and gravel mining. From 1974-1983, I worked as an oceanographer and then a geologist in the U.S. Department of the Interior's onshore and offshore mineral and oil and gas programs. When I was the senior geologist from 1983-1993 at Congress' investigative agency--the then General Accounting Office--I conducted studies on subjects as diverse as dam construction in Utah, oil field management in California, and national responses to drought, and was recognized as a principal contributor in government savings of \$450 million for recommendations concerning land exchanges in Alaska. As Director of the Polar Research Board at the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council from 1993-1995, I oversaw studies on global climate change, ecology of the Bering Sea, and polar medicine. In my last job at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC (1997-2011), I served as an expert on naturally occurring radioactive materials, consultant to other countries as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, and provided assistance to Native American Tribes impacted by persistent contamination in historic uranium mining districts of the southwestern U.S. After retiring in 2011, I was honored to give an invited speech at a United Nations' symposium in New

(Continued on pg. 9)

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York City on “Nuclear Power from Cradle to Grave” marking the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster. While mostly retired these days, I still provide environmental consulting assistance to the U.S. government.

Graduate study at FSU provided me with a fascination for learning and research, and willingness to use multiple disciplinary approaches to solving scientific and environmental problems. I will always be grateful to the university for teaching me those skills.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL HOSTS 10TH ANNUAL VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION CONFERENCE



More than 230 individuals participated in the 10th Annual VEF Conference, including dignitaries from the U.S. and Vietnam, VEF fellows and faculty scholars, and FSU faculty and staff.

The FSU Graduate School hosted the 10th Annual Vietnam Education Foundation Fellows & Scholars Conference (January 3-5, 2013). The topic, “Leading the Change,” focused on leading for positive change in the world through higher education. In addition to presentations from dignitaries from the U.S. and Vietnam, keynote presentations and leadership workshops delivered by FSU faculty and staff helped to make the 10th Anniversary Conference a great success.

The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is an independent U.S. Federal Government agency created by the U.S. Congress. The mission of VEF is to strengthen the U.S.-Vietnam bilateral relationship through educational exchanges in STEM fields. FSU is one of the U.S. partner institutions for the Vietnam Education Foundation Fellowship, which brings Vietnamese nationals to the United States for graduate study. For more on the Vietnam Education Foundation, visit: <http://home.vef.gov/>

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GRADUATE STUDENT SELECTED FOR NOBEL LAUREATE MEETING



Brian Gold is a doctoral student in the FSU Department of Chemistry.

Brian Gold, a doctoral student in the FSU Department of Chemistry, was selected to participate in discussions with the Nobel Laureates, as well as other graduate students and junior researchers from around the world, at the annual Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany June 30– July 5, 2013. Since 1951, Nobel Laureates in chemistry, physics, and physiology/medicine have convened annually in Lindau to have open and informal meetings with students and young researchers. The program is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Gold is a lifelong Floridian, born in Melbourne Beach in 1987. Growing up on Florida's Space Coast, a place where natural beauty meets the (former) forefront of space exploration, he became aware of the joys of exploring the world around us, both near and far. His curiosity leads him on his way to becoming a successful scientist, which, so far, includes an undergraduate degree in Chemistry at Florida State University, and work on his doctorate in Organic Chemistry under the direction of Dr. Igor Alabugin.

His current research utilizes modern computational methods to gain a deeper understanding of chemical reactivity. The focus is to aid in the design of stable, yet reactive reagents for use in copper-free click reactions. The broad applications of "click chemistry," ranging from drug design and chemical biology to materials science, development of sensors, and polymer chemistry, give this emerging field the potential to revolutionize the molecular sciences. He was also involved in a number of national and international collaborative efforts where he contributed his expertise in computational chemistry in order to provide mechanistic insights into intriguing organic transformations.

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