



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

# THE GRAD CONNECTION

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### August 23, 2011

New Graduate  
Student Orientation

### August 24-25, 2011

PIE Conference

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Greetings,

With another academic year coming to an end it is time to once again reflect on some of the highlights and accomplishments of our students. Fresh in my mind is the Celebration for Graduate Student Excellence at which we recognized the achievements of our graduate and professional students as teachers, scholars, and leaders. This is my favorite event as it showcases the excellence of our graduate students and gives us an opportunity to say thank you for their hard work and dedication. It was also an opportunity to recognize a number of students who have received national fellowships and recognitions. More information on all of the recipients is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

In addition to acknowledging the excellence of current students, I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with some of our graduates as I travel around the country or to interact with them via email. It is a pleasure to learn about their success and the various careers paths that they have pursued since graduating from FSU. One of these alumni, Matt Bondurant, is highlighted in this newsletter and we will bring you more in depth stories in the future.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marcus  
Dean, The Graduate School



## 2011 CELEBRATION OF GRADUATE STUDENT EXCELLENCE

On April 13, 2011, the achievements of FSU's graduate students were recognized by FSU President, Eric Barron and Dean, Nancy Marcus, at the annual Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence. Awards for outstanding teaching, research & creativity, and leadership, funded by The Graduate School and the Office of Research, were presented. Fifteen Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) Associates were recognized for dedication to their department's TA training and for contributing to instructional excellence and student learning across the FSU campus: Timothy Bengford, Interdisciplinary Humanities; Thomas Croom, Political Science; Tiara Diamond, Physics; Urska Dobersek, Educational Psychology & Learning Systems; Christopher Griffin, History; John Harris, Urban & Regional Planning; Johnson Hunt, Art; Patrick McGrady, Sociology; Jeff Paden, Theater; Jennifer Phillips, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies; Natalie Senatore, Family & Child Sciences; Artrease Spann, Chemistry & Biochemistry; Jennifer Toole, Communication; Mary Ward, Dance; John Williams, Biological Science.



**Sony technology package winners pose with their prizes. From left: Bradley VanMiddlesworth, Heather Gamper, Steve Zimmer (Sony), Dr. Stephen Tripodi,**

For the second year, The Graduate School partnered with the Sony Corporation to randomly select five graduate student and two junior faculty award winners to receive technology packages. Steve Zimmer, Business Development Manager from Sony Direct presented the graduate student packages, each worth \$1,200, which included a Sony VAIO Notebook, Sony Headphones, and Sony Webbie HD Camera; and faculty packages worth \$2,300, which included the same items plus a Sony Internet Television. The lucky graduate students were David Albright, Justin Capes, Heather Gamper,



**Fellows Society Member, Jaime Kassler (Film School) discusses his current film projects during the poster session.**

Giuseppina Valle, and Bradley VanMiddlesworth; and the two faculty members were Stephen Tripodi and Ming Cui. The awards ceremony culminated in the performance of a collaborative piece by Dance student, Tiffany Melard, and Fellows Society member and Music Composition MA student, Roger Foreman. The Celebration continued with a reception sponsored by the Congress of Graduate Students. During the reception members of the FSU Fellows Society participated in a poster session that showcased their current research and creativity. Presenters included, Preston Brown, Laurie A. Callihan, Cindy Duong, Roger Foreman, Sergio Iniguez, and Jaime Kassler.

# THE GRAD CONNECTION

## EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

### **CLIR MELLON FELLOWSHIP FOR RESEARCH IN ORIGINAL SOURCES**

Meaghan Brown, English

### **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

### **CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Elizabeth Clendinning, Musicology

### **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **EISENHOWER FELLOWSHIP**

Alexander Garcia

Marie Scheetz

### **IHR MELLON PRE-DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP IN THE HUMANITIES**

Karlyn Griffith, Art History

### **NSF DISSERTATION RESEARCH IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

Kaiser Shekha, Sociology

### **NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

Akinobu Watanabe, Biological Science

### **PEO SCHOLAR AWARD**

Jennifer Misuraca, Physics

April Smith, Psychology

### **PHILIP J. LOCKHART FELLOWSHIP AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES IN ATHENS**

Debra Trusty, Classics

### **PRESIDENTIAL MANAGMENT FELLOWS PROGRAM**

David Albright, Social Work

Matthew Allman, Law

### **WOODROW WILSON FOUNDATION CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP**

Shannon Dunn, Religion

*The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards recognizes FSU graduate students who have received a national fellowship, grant, scholarship, or award. Please let us know if you have received an award from an off-campus organization by completing a breif online survey:*

*<http://www.survey.coe.fsu.edu/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=mlKH6o65>*

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## GRADUATE SCHOOL STUDENT AWARDS

### **GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD**

David Albright, Social Work

### **RESEARCH & CREATIVITY AWARD**

Justin Capes, Philosophy

Heather Gamper, Geography

Sergio Iniguez, Neuroscience

Saul Miller, Psychology

Crystal Peebles, Music Theory

### **OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD**

Elise Gornish, Biological Science

Charles Harper, Classics

Bradley VanMiddlesworth, Chemistry & Bio-chemistry

Stephanie Lawson, Marketing

William Doerner, Economics

Giuseppina Valle, Sociology



## GRADUATE SCHOOL FACULTY AWARDS

### OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FACULTY

#### MENTOR AWARD

Richard Feiock, Public Admin. & Public Policy

Joseph Beckham, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies

Nina Efimov, Modern Languages & Logistics

Qing-Xiang “Amy” Sang, Chemistry & Biochemistry

Phillip Steinberg, Geography

### RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF

#### RESEARCH & CREATIVITY

Jen Koslow, History

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## GRADUATE SCHOOL GRANTS

### DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT (FALL 2010)

Priscila Alfaro-Barrantes, Sports Management

Michael Bair, Chemistry & Biochemistry

Nicole Carrier, Biomedical Sciences

Jennifer Coor, Earth, Ocean & Atmos. Science

Yu-Chun Chih, Comm. Science & Disorders

Stephanie Dunkel, Psychology

Xiao-Qian Fang, Biomedical Sciences

Augustine Felix, Chemistry & Biochemistry

Jonanthan Grandage, History

Christopher Griffin, History

David P. Hedlund, Sport Management

Moonki Hong, Criminology & Criminal Justice

Jenise Hudson, English

Sung-on Hwang, Teacher Education

Tami Im, Ed. Psychology & Learning Systems

Ari Kassardjian, Molecular Biophysics

Min-Jun Kim, Comm. Science & Disorders

Lawrence Keniley, Chemistry & Biochemistry

Joung Hwa Koo, Library & Info. Studies

Stephen Lanivich, Management

Sang-rok Lee, Nutrition, Food & Ex. Sciences

Erin Lundblom, Communication Science & Disorders

Thomas Mast, Biological Sciences

Geophrey Mbatia, Civil & Eniv. Engineering

Sherry Piezon, Communication

Barton Price, Religion

Rosario Ramirez-Matabuena, Mod. Languages

Carole Saade, Neuroscience

Samiparna Samanta, History

Hongbo Wang, Mechanical Engineering

### DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT (SPRING 2011)

Jungah Bae, Public Administration & Policy

Danielle Brimo, Communication Science & Disorders

Matthew Davis, English

Karla Dhungana, Criminology & Crim. Justice

Debbie Figueroa, Biological Science

Orit Fisher, Sociology

Sergio Iniguez, Psychology

Jae Yun Jun, Mechanical Engineering

Zahraa Khamis, Chemistry & Biochemistry

Kevin Kokomoor, History

Sarah Riman, Biomedical Science

Daniel Milton, Political Science

Chungshik Moon, Political Science

Melissa Pfluenger, Neuroscience

Norbert Salagala, Molecular Biophysics

Omar Thomas, Civil Engineering

Corey Thompson, Chemistry & Biochemistry

Megan Wampler, Psychology

Melinda Whetstone, Library & Info. Studies

Wang-Yong Yang, Chemistry & Biochemistry

# THE GRAD CONNECTION

## GRADUATE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIPS & ASSISTANTSHIPS

### **LEGACY FELLOWSHIP (2011-12)**

Torsha Bhattacharya, Urban & Reg. Planning

Joseph Davenport, Communications

Matthew Devine, Law

Andrew Hazelton, Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Science

Dylan Jackson, Criminology

Jeremy Jarrett, Chemistry

Stephanie Kennedy, Social Work

Joon-Il Kim, Physics

Taek Hyung Kim, Ed. Leadership & Policy Studies

Katherine Kleimeyer, Psychology

Seunghoo Lim, Public Administration

Carmen Marcous, Philosophy

John Peterson, Music

Sangbum Ro, Business

Austin Schwartz, Molecular Biophysics

Karen Sherrill, Business

Caroline Silva, Psychology

Emily Simonavice, Family & Child Sciences

Sunny Spillane, Art Education

Ana Vidal, Political Science

### **INTERNATIONAL DISSERTATION SEMESTER RE-SEARCH FELLOWSHIP (2011)**

Dianna Bell, Religion

Jason McCoy, Music

Meaghan Brown, English

Christopher Gunn, History

### **FAMU FEEDER FELLOWSHIP (2011-12)**

Samanthia Martin, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies

### **McKNIGHT FELLOWSHIP (2011-12)**

Marcus Elam, Human Sciences

Alexander Jennings, English

Timothy Jones, Business

George Lankford, Mathematics

Sharde McNeil, Human Sciences

Ashley Sanders, Mathematics

Melissa Smith, Neuroscience

Ira Wheaton, Mathematics

### **HENDERSON FAMILY FELLOWSHIP (2011-12)**

Kelli Creamer, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies

### **WILSON-AUZENNE ASSISTANTSHIP (2011-12)**

Jordan Cuevas, Statistics

Karla Dhungana, Criminology

Alexander Garcia, Urban & Regional Planning

Jennifer Myers, Chemistry & Biochemistry

Janel Rodriquez, Biomedical Sciences

Jennifer Sexton, Business Management

Corey Thompson, Chemistry

Preeti Vaghlea, Sociology

Alex Vega, Classics

Trent Williams, Dance

Christine Ye, Marketing

Katherine Zielaskowski, Psychology

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Information on fellowships, grants & awards administered  
through The Graduate School is available online:  
<http://gradschool.fsu.edu/Funding-Awards>

# THE GRAD CONNECTION

## PROGRAM FOR INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE REJOINS THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

In November 2010, the Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE), once again joined The Graduate School. As our unit designed to support graduate student teaching assistants, PIE provides a two-day teaching conference each fall; the PIE Teaching Associate Assistantship program; a “Basics of Teaching @ FSU” on-line TA training series and semester workshops; the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards; departmental and individual consultations on TA development and teaching enhancement.

PIE originally began as a unit in the Office of Graduate Studies when it was established in 1990 through a state funded grant. Over the years, as the PIE program evolved to provide instructional support for faculty as well as TAs, it served as a part of Instructional Development Services (2000-05) and the Center for Teaching and Learning (2005-10). Now that PIE has returned to The Graduate School, the focus has returned to supporting graduate students.



**2010-11 PIE Associates with Dean Marcus and Connie Eudy. From left (back): Timothy Bengford, Thomas Croom, Mary Ward, Natalie Senatore, Jennifer Poole, Patrick McGrady. (front): Dean Marcus, Tiara Diamond, Jennifer Phillips, Johnson Hunt, and Connie Eudy.**



**Recipients of the 2011 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (left): Elise Gornish, Charles Harper, Bradley VanMiddlesworth, Stephanie Lawson, William Doerner, and Guiseppina Valle.**

The goal of the PIE program is to prepare TAs for their instructional role at FSU as well as for their future careers. PIE operates on a comprehensive TA training model facilitated by both department-based and university-based training. University-based training, provided through PIE, guarantees that all TAs have access to professional development services, and is meant to compliment the many excellent department-based training programs. In addition to providing TAs support in their current teaching endeavors, the PIE program prepares TAs for the expectations they will face as future faculty members in teaching, conducting research, and performing service. For this reason, many of the PIE workshops are approved for credit in The Graduate School's Preparing Future Faculty Program.

To find out more about the Program for Instructional Excellence, visit <http://pie.fsu.edu>



# THE GRAD CONNECTION

## NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATE FOR PREPARING FUTURE FACULTY

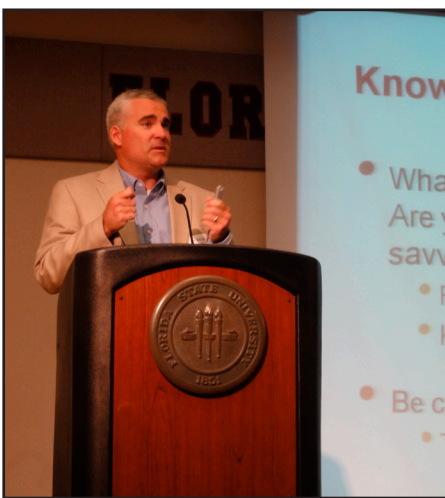


Since 1994, Florida State University, along with a group of fifteen doctoral universities and their partner institutions, was awarded a grant to initiate a Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) program graduate students for careers in academia. On a national level, PFF is a joint effort by the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the Council of Graduate Schools. Graduate students at Florida State, from 1994 – 2010, could earn a PFF certificate, but this was not noted on the

transcript since the requirements did not include coursework. Beginning spring 2011, graduate students may choose to complete the new academic PFF Certificate Program, which will be noted on their transcript. Participation in the PFF Certificate Program will provide opportunities for students to increase their awareness of expectations for faculty performance and of resources available in scholarly careers, and their readiness to address research, teaching and the related demands of faculty life. All FSU doctoral students and doctoral degree graduates are eligible to participate, as are post-doctoral associates and adjunct/visiting faculty. Students in terminal master's degree programs (e.g., MFA) who plan to seek faculty positions after graduation are also eligible.



Graduate students meet during a recent PFF workshop that provided the opportunity to learn from FSU faculty, staff, and administrators about faculty expectations at a research university.



Dr. Michael Brady (Business) discusses strategies for teaching the FSU undergraduate student at the PFF workshop, "Faculty in a Research University."

Requirements for the PFF Graduate Certificate include 12 credit-hours approved by the Graduate School and the student's mentor/major professor, workshop attendance, faculty interviews, and a portfolio. Courses taken as part of the student's current degree program may also apply toward the PFF Certificate.

Individuals interested in taking part in PFF activities, regardless of whether they seek to identify as Fellows or earn the PFF Graduate Certificate, may self-register for the PFF organization site on Blackboard® (after login, select the Organizations tab, then search "Preparing Future Faculty"). Dr. Judith Devine, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, is the PFF advisor at FSU and will be happy to meet either one-on-one with students or with student groups/organizations to discuss this new graduate certificate program.

# THE GRAD CONNECTION

## BEST-SELLING AUTHOR MATT BONDURANT ON WRITING; GRAD STUDY

By: Jennifer Feltman

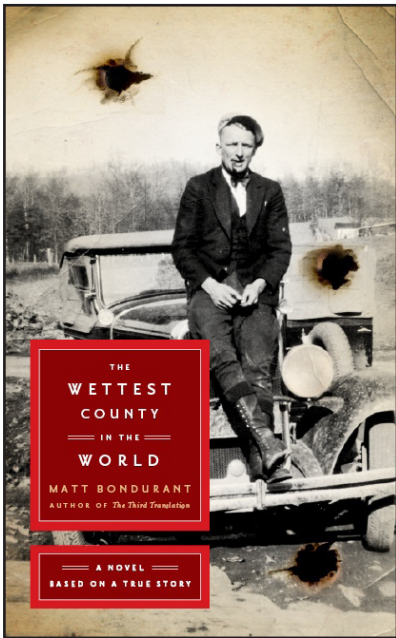
Since completing his graduate degree in 2003, Matt Bondurant has had many successes: his first novel, *The Third Translation* (Hyperion 2005), became an international bestseller and is printed in 14 languages and his second novel, *The Wettest County in the World* (Scribner 2008), is currently being made into a film by Director John Hillcoat (*The Road*) starring Shia Labeouf, Tom Hardy, Jessica Chastain, Mia Wasikowska, Gary Oldman, and Guy Pearce, to be released in 2012. His most recent novel, *The Night Swimmer* (Scribner 2012), will come out in January 2012. Recently, I interviewed Matt about writing, the film contract, and his time at FSU:



Matt Bondurant (Ph.D. 2003, Creative Writing)

**JF:** What was the writing process like for *The Wettest County in the World*?

**MB:** *The Wettest County in the World* is tale based on a true story, involving my grandfather and his two brothers, known in the 1920's and 30's as "The Bondurant Brothers", a notorious moonshine gang in Franklin County, Virginia, the acknowledged "Moonshine Capital of the World." I didn't know of my grandfathers true past and involvement in the events of the early 1930's until much later, just a few years before his death. We found out when my father came across a series of newspaper article documenting the events at Maggodee Creek in December of 1930. When asked about the shooting my grandfather merely said: oh yeah, shot me through here, and raised his shirt to show my father the entry wound under his arm. Not much more was said about it after that, which is the way my father's family communicated about such things.



A film based on *The Wettest County in the World* will debut in 2012.

The basics of this story are drawn from various family stories and anecdotes, newspaper headlines and articles, and court transcripts. The central players in the story are now deceased and very little record exists. My task in writing this book was to fill in the blank spaces of the known record. There are the family stories, and for this we must rely on the recollection of relatives, like my father, who was alive during the trial though as a very young boy, as well as other local people and friends who knew my grandfather and these other men. These memories and stories are vague and often specious at best, mixed with several decades of rumor, gossip, and myth. In order to get at the truth I created characters based on these people, some who are combinations of the original figures, some quite close to the historical record as we know it, and others who are almost wholly fabricated.



# THE GRAD CONNECTION

**JF:** How did you go about getting your book made into a movie?

**MB:** My literary agency in NYC, Trident Media Group, partners up with LA-based literary film agencies, in my case Liza Wachter of RWSC, and they shop the book around to producers and studios. Columbia Pictures and Red Wagon wanted it, bought it, and then it moved through a few producers until it ended up as a Sony Red Wagon picture.

**JF:** Do you work with the screen writer in any capacity? Director? Actors?

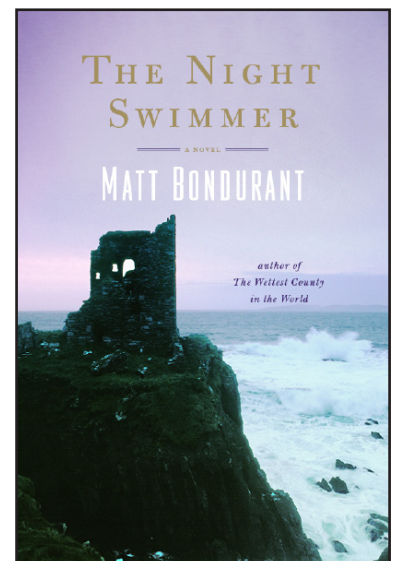
**MB:** Unless you are already a very famous writer, like Stephen King or John Irving, you won't have much to do with the film version of your book. That being said, I have had long conversations with John Hillcoat, the Director, as well as the producers and some of the actors, all of whom were genuinely interested in my opinion on various matters. They have occasionally come to me with specific questions, usually on the historical accuracy of some item, action, or character's line. I did visit the set recently and spent a lot of time watching scenes being filmed and viewing the scenes already shot, and again the producers were interested in my take on things.

**JF:** Are there lessons you learned as a student at FSU that you still use in your writing?

**MB:** I learned nearly everything I know about writing at FSU during my five years in the PhD program. I came in a total novice and when I left I had a mostly finished manuscript that turned into my first published novel, an international bestseller printed in 14 languages. The skill and wisdom of the creative writing faculty at FSU cannot be overestimated, and I learned many things from writers like Mark Winegardner, Bob Shacochis, Elizabeth Stuckey-French, David Kirby, Janet Burroway, and Jimmy Kimbrell in the classroom and in the many outside of class interactions I had. The dedication to careful and relentless revision, a rigorous and cynical examination of your own writing is the primary tool that I still hold dear, paired with a certain kind of recklessness and willingness to risk anything in your prose. Early on Winegardner told me that I just needed to keep going and never give up, as this is often what separates a writer from someone who wants to be a writer. He was right about that, and many other things.

**JF:** What advice would you give to students who would like to pursue a career in creative writing?

**MB:** The most important advice I can give is to READ. Then read more. You should read all the fiction that anyone you respect thinks is important. Then read everything else. If you are under the age of twenty-five this is even more essential. I feel it is tantamount to fill your early adulthood with a deep immersion in reading great writing, as this will be the conscious and subconscious template you will work from the rest of your life. I believe by the time you are thirty-five or so your literary impressions are quite solid. I would also suggest that you take a class with any of the writers listed above, sit close to them whenever possible, and listen very carefully to everything they say.



Bondurant's newest novel will be available in January 2012.

# THE GRAD CONNECTION

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Connie Eudy, Program Director for FSU's Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE), has coordinated the PIE program since 2004 and is responsible for university-based instructional training and support to the over 1,700 graduate student teaching assistants at FSU.

Connie is looking forward to continuing her work to support graduate student TA development at FSU. Outside of work she enjoys camping, fishing, biking, yoga, dancing, traveling, art, and music. The activity she enjoys the most is spending time with her family.

## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

**Athina Fytika** (DM 2004, Piano) was appointed Lecturer of Piano Pedagogy (tenure-track) in the Department of Music Studies of Ionio University in Corfu, Greece.

**Ryan Speedo Green** (MM 2010, Voice) was elected as one of five winners in the 2011 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions held on March 13 at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.

**Prashant Jain** (PhD 2010, Physical Chemistry) was awarded the Director's fellowship at the Los Alamos National Laboratory where he will conduct independent research at the Lujan Neutron Scattering Center. He also has been awarded a post-doc position at MIT.

**Kyle Freedman** (MS 2007, Educational Psychology & Learning Systems) was appointed the Training Director at Enercon, a nuclear engineering consulting firm, in Atlanta, where he will be building their soft skill training university, manager development program, and leadership development program.

**Jane Springer** (PhD 2008, Creative Writing) was awarded one of ten \$50,000 Whiting Awards for emerging writers. Her first poetry collection, *Dear Blackbird*, was published by University of Utah Press in 2007.

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