Greetings,

This has been another great year.

The outstanding accomplishments of our graduate students in research, teaching, and leadership were once again highlighted at The Celebration for Graduate Student Excellence in April. The plenary speaker, Dr. Kevin Beaver, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, began the celebration with some very sage advice with his presentation “Navigating the Transition from Graduate Student to Faculty Member: Lessons I Have Learned.” As the students were introduced and we heard about their various accomplishments, the breadth of excellence across the university was evident. Congratulations to everyone.

One of the goals of the Graduate School is to promote interdisciplinary engagement and broaden one’s understanding of our community and the world around us. This is why I encourage graduate students to attend the various professional development workshops that we host each year, because each one represents an opportunity to meet students from outside one’s discipline. In addition, each spring the Graduate School solicits proposals from graduate students to organize and implement an interdisciplinary workshop/conference/symposium. The purpose is to encourage graduate students to think broadly and across disciplines. Requests for funding (up to $2000) are considered. Each proposal is evaluated on its merits, but priority is given to proposals whose organizing group includes participants (graduate students, postdocs) from more than one academic unit. The greater the diversity of disciplines the better, as the goal is to promote interdisciplinary dialogue and appreciation for a wide array of perspectives. The Graduate School selected the following two proposals for funding: FSU Interdisciplinary Performance Symposium and 21st Century Literacy Lecture Series. Congratulations!

As noted in previous newsletters, financial support of graduate education is a major challenge and continues to be so. The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (OGFA) helps students identify opportunities for external support. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Adrienne Stephenson will be joining the office in late June as the new Director. Dr. Stephenson received her PhD in Pharmacology from Florida A & M University and held a NASA Harriet Jenkins Pre-Doctoral Fellowship.

In addition, philanthropy plays an important role in supporting graduate education. There are numerous ways through philanthropy that you can help provide fellowship, research, and travel assistance to graduate students. Please contact me if you would like to explore opportunities.

Have a wonderful summer.

Nancy Marcus
Dean, The Graduate School

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Upcoming Events

8.18.15 New Graduate Student Orientation
8.19.15 PIE Conference
8.20.15 TA Orientation
Ensuring quality instruction by teaching assistants is one of the most central enterprises of the Graduate School. As part of the Graduate School, the Center for Intensive English Studies (CIES) is an integral part of that mission.

The International Teaching Assistant (ITA) program at CIES plays a crucial role in enhancing undergraduate instruction. International students who do not meet the language requirement to become teaching assistants can take courses offered by the ITA program to help develop their spoken English skills.

Dr. Maria Beatriz Mendoza, coordinator of the ITA program, says quite simply that “there is not only the language aspect of teaching, but also the cultural aspect. We teach graduate students how to handle the cultural situations that can and do come up in the classroom.” This component helps many students in the ITA program feel better prepared to teach undergraduate students at FSU. When students develop better language and teaching skills, they become assets to their departments.

“As language skills increase,” Mendoza mentions, “graduate students are able to teach more advanced classes and thus become even more valuable parts of our university.”

The ITA program enrolls more than seventy graduate students annually who come from all corners of the globe. Mendoza contends that “if we can get them out of student success in cies - abdol aziz ould ismail

Gathering accomplished students from all corners of the globe is one thing the Graduate School prides itself on. One such student is Abdol Aziz Ould Ismail, hailing from Nouakchott, Mauritania. He is a PhD student in FSU’s biomedical engineering program specializing in bioimaging.

Before matriculating in the engineering program, Ould Ismail spent some time in the Intensive English Program (IEP) at the Center for Intensive English Studies (CIES). Before coming to CIES, he had already completed a MD degree from the University of Aleppo in Syria. His next goal was to earn an MD/PhD, so he made his way to Tallahassee and joined FSU in January 2011. When he first came to CIES, he was placed in Group 1, which assists beginning speakers of English. His English improved, and he gives CIES credit for expanding his listening and speaking skills.

“[CIES] prepared me to know what to expect,” Ould Ismail says. “Engineering assignments are mostly based on teamwork and group projects...CIES helped me to build teamwork skills.” Even though engineering is predominately a quantitative field, he applauds the CIES focus on grammar, which helped to improve his writing skills. “Even if [someone’s] English is fine” he says, “the friendly and willing faculty at CIES plays a critical step in any student’s development.”

After his experience at CIES, Ould Ismail took a few undergraduate courses to prepare himself for graduate school and began his PhD studies in 2014. Furthermore, he is currently a part of the Grant Laboratory in the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (NHMFL). In addition to all of his graduate student accomplishments, Ould Ismail has returned to mentor new international students at CIES. At a recent panel discussion, he mentored dozens of new international students, helping to prepare them for the challenges and rewards that lie ahead at FSU.
The 2015 Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence is an annual event to commemorate the personal and scholastic achievements of our graduate students at Florida State University.

The Celebration took place on April 8, in the Grand Ballroom of the Alumni Center. The event commenced with a welcome address and words of encouragement by Dean Marcus. She introduced plenary speaker Dr. Kevin Beaver, Professor in the College of Criminology & Criminal Justice. His presentation, “Navigating the Transition from Graduate Student to Faculty Member: Lessons I Have Learned,” included a blend of humor, practical advice, and motivational anecdotes.

Dr. Beaver challenged students to overcome personal obstacles and to maintain their core values. He concluded the speech by reading from the famous poem, “The Man in the Glass” by Peter Dale Wimbrow. “For it isn’t your father, or mother or wife whose judgment upon you must pass,” he read. “The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life is the one staring back from the glass.”

The Graduate School recognized graduate students in the following categories: Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) Teaching Associates, Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) Fellows, Preparing Future Professionals (PFP) Fellows, FSU Three Minute Thesis (3MT™) Winners, and recipients of external funding.

This year’s event included a category to recognize the FSU Fall 3MT™ winners. Kimberly Smith, the first place winner of the FSU event, advanced to the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) 3MT™ Regional Competition and won first place.

Congratulations to all of our graduate students for their remarkable achievements. Thank you to the Graduate School, Congress of Graduate Students and the Office of Research for sponsoring this event.

Dr. Kevin Beaver

Research and Creativity Award winners with Dean Nancy Marcus and Senior Associate Dean Judy Devine

Research and Creativity Awards
Marcaline Boyd, Classics
Takudzwa Madzima, Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences
Lindsey Scott, Modern Languages and Linguistics
Kimberly Smith, Psychology
Xiaoyan Tan, Chemistry and Biochemistry
Zhengwu Zhang, Statistics

Attendees of the 2015 Celebration

The Graduate School provided awards for the following categories: Outstanding Teaching Assistant, Graduate Student Leadership, and Research & Creativity. Faculty members were recognized with the Graduate Faculty Mentor Award.

Leadership Award winners with Dean Marcus
WINNERS OF EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2014 FSU McKnight Doctoral Fellowship

Inger Daniels
Finance
Kidane Dashew
Neuroscience
Joshua Degraff
Industrial Engineering
Felicia Griffin
Statistics
Sherelle Harmon
Psychology
Sherrina Lofton
Sport Management
Heather Maranges
Psychology
Alyssa Rose
Chemistry and Biochemistry
Connie Tenorio
Biomedical Science

McKnight Dissertation Fellowship

Amber Kinsey
Nutrition, Food and Exercise Science
Jessica Martinez
Biological Science
Caroline Silva
Psychology
Lenzi Williams
Chemistry and Biochemistry

Research Scholarships and Awards

Jordon Adams
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory LPC Guests and Visitors Award and Universities Research Association Visiting Scholars Award
Adewale Akinfaderin
Golden Key International Honour Society 2014 Research Grant

Dolly Al Koborssy
Lyon Saint-Etienne Investment for the Future Program PALSE Grant
Carolina Alarcon
Fulbright Full Grant - Spain
Michael Alfano
Tallahassee Inaugural Mayoral Fellowship
Mohammed Aljahdali
NSF IODP Expedition
Aaron Avery
NSF IODP Expedition
Paige Blair
PEO Continuing Education Grant
Aaron Brooks
Golden Key International Honour Society Graduate Scholar Award
Ashley Carter
Maximizing Access to Research Careers Travel Award
Mary Katherine Crouch
American Society of Interior Designers Legacy Scholarship for Graduate Students and Interior Design Educators; Council South Region Graduate Student Travel Award
Jarrett Cruz
NSF IODP Expedition
Janet DeVries
Society of Florida Archivists Award of Excellence; Florida Library Association Scholarship
Emily Diehm
ASH Foundation Graduate Student Scholarship
Rachael Dziechciarz
Florida Gubernatorial Fellow
B. Parker Ellen III
Meredith P. Crawford Fellowship in I/O Psychology
Daniel Fenn
Department of Defense SMART
Glenna Gordon
Florida Chapter of the American Statistical Association Chapter Award and Women in Statistics Travel Award
Sam Greer
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
Lidong He
2015 US Young Investigator Travel Grant
Jennifer Holmes
NIJ Research Assistantship Program
Bradley Hostetler
Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection Junior Fellowship
Ebony Iheanacho
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Minority Fellowship Program
Allison Jirout
AmeriCorps Education Award
Emily Lee
American Heart Association GSA Winter 2014 Predoctoral Fellowship
Tingxuan (Tina) Li
ETS/NAEP Predoctoral Fellow
Seunghoo Lim
2014 NASPAA Emerging Scholars Award
Melissa Martin
STEM Chateaubriand Fellowship
Jane McPherson
PEO Scholar Award
Annelise Mennicke
Avon Foundation for Women Campus Grant
Natali Miller
2015 Garden Club of America Catherine H. Beattie Scholarship and Florida Native Plant Society Student Panhandle Research Grant

Continued on page 5
The Fellows Forum is an annual symposium designed to promote scholarship and interdisciplinary learning. Fellows Society members play an important role in the creation of the Forum. They select the topic, coordinate the guest speakers, and assist with the design of the booklet.

The 2015 Fellows Forum took place on March 27th in the Great Hall of the Honors, Scholars, and Fellows House. This year’s topic, “Exploring Wellness: What It Is and Why It Matters,” covered the idea of well-being and addressed the many social, physical, emotional, environmental, philosophical, and socioeconomic factors that affect personal health.

“The goal of the Forum,” said Fellows Society member Aaron Brooks, “is to provide us with some strong theory about wellness, some ideas about the impact wellness or illness can have on the various dimensions of our lives, and ways we might pursue wellness as individuals, as a community of academics at FSU, and as a society.”

Dean Marcus of the Graduate School welcomed the guests and introduced keynote speaker Dr. Michael Bishop, a Professor in the Department of Philosophy. Dr. Bishop discussed the network theory, psychological research, and historical theories about well-being. Two panels on wellness followed the keynote speech.

The first panel was called “Psychological/Social Aspects of Health & Wellness” and included Dr. Eileen Cormier from the College of Nursing, Dr. Christopher Coutts from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, and Ms. Erica Wiborg from the Center for Leadership and Social Change.

Dr. Cormier provided information on promoting lifelong health and counteracting risk factors for mental illness. Dr. Coutts described the restorative effect of natural environments and the impact of related research on urban planning. Ms. Wiborg discussed the role of spirituality in an individual’s search for meaning and purpose.

Continued on page 9

EXTERNAL AWARD WINNERS

Naon Min
American Society for Public Administration Junior Asian Scholar Award

Donald R. Morgan
Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship

Christopher Myers
Office of Naval Research Grant

Elias Nakouzi
2015 Ludo Frevel Crystallography Scholarship and Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund

Abigail Novak
Florida Gubernatorial Fellow

Raquel Oliveira
Fulbright Foreign Student Doctoral Grant

Emmanuel Osemota
Florida Gubernatorial Fellow

Joanna Pepple
DAAD Language Course Grant

Bianca Prohaska
2014 Guy Harvey Scholarship

Spence Purnell
Florida House of Representatives Legislative Intern Program

Claire Routledge
NSF IODP Expedition

Will Ryan
Ecological Society of America Student Section and NSF EAPSI - Japan

Taylor Sachs
Florida Gubernatorial Fellow

Susan Segura
2015 Urban Planning Design Award/Leadership Award

Andrea Stathopoulos
International Neuroendocrine Federation Travel Grant

David Struhs
Florida Gubernatorial Fellow

David Ward
Florida Gubernatorial Fellow

William Weihe
Federation of German-American Clubs Universitaet Kassel Summer Semester Grant

Erin Workman
Conference of College Composition and Communication Research Initiative Grant

Philip Worts
2014 NSCA Foundation Scholarships and Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic Grant

Timothy Wright
University Transportation Centers Outstanding Student of the Year Award

Zhihui Zhang
Applied Mathematics SIAM Conference Travel Award

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RECOGNIZING STUDENT AND ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AT FSU

Silvia Sollai, Jamile Forcelini and Alan Parma (PhD Candidates)

Jordon R. Adams
(MS 2012, PhD Candidate)
- Contributed to publication of “Search for stealth supersymmetry in events with jets, either photons or leptons, and low missing transverse momentum in pp collisions at 8 TeV” November, 2014.

James Barry
(DM 2003)
- James Barry’s opera, SMASHED: The Carrie Nation Story was selected for the 2014 FringeNYC Festival and met with considerable critical acclaim. The opera was one of 16 shows selected from more than 200 companies to be featured on the Fringe Encore Series, the festival’s “Best Of” showcase at the SoHo Playhouse.

Rebecca A. Bernert
(PhD 2009)
- Published the first report (JAMA Psychiatry) to show that sleep disturbances confer an independent risk for death by suicide in late life among a representative, population-based community sample. Paper featured by podcast interview, press releases by the JAMA Network and Stanford Medicine, and various print and broadcast media outlets, such as the Washington Post, Huffington Post, Boston Globe, and CBS Radio.

Keith Berry
(MA 1991, PhD 2005)

Dan Capron
(MS 2011, PhD Candidate)
- Hired as an assistant professor in Clinical Psychology at University of Southern Mississippi.

Paul M. Gignac
(PhD 2010)
- Received a grant from the NSF, Division of Environmental Biology (2015) “Unraveling the deep history of avian neurological complexity.”
- Received a grant from the NSF, EAGER Competition (2015) for “Iodine-enhanced micro-CT imaging.”

Jacob Hicks
(PhD Candidate)
- Awarded an Edward H. and Marie C. Kingsbury Award for 2015-16. Mr. Hicks is one of three award recipients.

Rebekah Landbeck
(PhD Candidate)
- Awarded a grant to develop a driving simulator skills training program for older adults, and to study the effects of this training on improving data validity and on reducing the incidence or severity of simulator sickness among older participants in driving simulator studies. This research is being funded by the US Department of Transportation, through the University Transportation Center and the Center for Accessibility and Safety for an Aging Population.

Joseph Long
(PhD 2014)
- Promoted from a visiting assistant professor (non-tenure track) to an assistant professor (tenure track) within the Philosophy Department at SUNY Brockport.

Alexander Mikaveridze
(PhD 2003)
- Held the Hubert Humphreys Endowed Professorship for excellence in research in 2013-2014 and received the Sybil T. and J. Frederick Patten Endowed Professorship for excellency in teaching.
- Published “Napoleon’s Trial by Fire: The Burning of Moscow” (London: Pen & Sword, 2014)
- Published “Russian Eyewitness Accounts of the 1807 Campaign” (London: Frontline Books, 2015)
STUDENT AND ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AT FSU CONTINUED

Roger Peace (PhD 2007)

Jennifer Perrine (PhD 2006)
• Won the 2014 Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry for No Confession, No Mass; the book will be published by University of Nebraska Press in 2015.

James G. Quigley (PhD Candidate)

Andrea Sartori (MA Candidate)
• Published two scholarly articles, one entitled “Capitalismo, religione, follia. La società del debito”, in the Italian Quarterly Review, 2014, issued by Rutgers University, and one entitled “Sguardo di madre. Ordine simbolico, colpa e liberazione in Una bambina e basta di Lia Levi,” published in Altrelettere and issued by University of Zürich.

Della A. Scott-Ireton (PhD 2005)
• Received the 2015 Senator Bob Williams Award for Historic Preservation in Florida.

The award will be presented during the 2015 Florida Heritage Awards ceremony.

Angel Swindell (MA Candidate)
• Awarded a lifetime membership in the Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society at FSU.

Lauren S. Tashman (MS 2003, PhD 2010)

Rafael Vasquez Lombardo (MS 2012)
• Recently promoted to Senior Catalyst-Ceramics Engineer by Cummins Inc. Emission Solutions. Continued support of projects aimed at developing catalyst components to curb exhaust emissions from diesel engines and to comply with leading worldwide emission regulations in the United States, Europe, and Japan.

If you or someone you know is a current graduate student or alumni, and has had a recent publication, grant, promotion, or other noteworthy achievement, we’d love to feature it in the official Graduate School newsletter, GradConnection. Please fill out our online form to tell us about their achievement: https://fsu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_24t0ETXT325Gf3

IT'S PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH FREE SOFTWARE AND MORE

Get ready for the next semester! Take advantage of free software, tools and training from Information Technology Services (ITS). From a virtual computer lab to personal computer repairs, these services will help you make the most of your time as a graduate student at FSU.

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• myFSUVLab – virtual computer lab allows you to access FSU computer software at home or on the go
• Lynda.com – free video tutorials on everything from web design to interview tips
• Qualtrics – online survey tool that helps you build and distribute surveys in minutes
• Computer Repair Center – discounted, on-campus repairs for personal computers

The list doesn’t end here. Find out more at its.fsu.edu/students.
RECIPIENTS OF THE SPRING DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT

Recipients of the grant receive up to $750 to complete their research

Mengyao Cui
Educational Psychology and Learning Systems

Emily Diehm
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Marcus Elam
Nutrition, Food and Exercise Science

Virginia Eller
Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science

Brandy Gatlin
School of Teacher Education

Dongyu Jia
Biological Science

Stephanie Kennedy
Social Work

Scott Swan
Music

Xiaoyan Tan
Chemistry and Biochemistry

Christopher Thompson
Educational Psychology and Learning Systems

Lubin Wang
Educational Psychology and Learning Systems

Alexa Warwick
Biological Science

Anna Wright
Molecular Biophysics

Interested in Applying?

The Dissertation Research Grant is an award of up to $750 provided by The Graduate School to assist doctoral students with the expenses associated with conducting the research necessary to prepare dissertations. Applications for the 2015-2016 school year are due in September 2015.

Check out our website for more information:
www.gradschool.fsu.edu

CELEBRATION OF STUDENT EXCELLENCE CONTINUED

Leadership Award

Meagan Arrastia, Educational Psychology and Learning Systems
Holly Widen, Geography

Graduate Faculty Mentor Awards

Dr. Anne Barrett, Sociology
Dr. John Geringer, Music Education
Dr. Michael Shatruk, Chemistry and Biochemistry
Dr. Valerie Shute, Educational Psychology and Learning Systems
Dr. Anuj Srivastava, Statistics

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards

Maize Arendsee, Art
Logan Bearden, English
Catherine Greenley-Bennett, School of Teacher Education
Keith Richard, Sociology
Brett Walter, School of Teacher Education
Kimberly Wiley, Public Administration

Interested in an Award?

If you are interested in more information about our awards, the application and nomination process, and the deadlines for the 2016 award cycle, please visit our website for more information:

www.gradschool.fsu.edu
The close relationship between CIES and the Graduate School ensures that international teaching assistants can receive monitoring and close observation in their classroom to further improve the academic quality of their instruction.

Thanks to many people’s efforts, the quality of incoming graduate students has increased tremendously over the last decade. The increased quality of students combined with the rigors of the ITA program have benefited countless Florida State students, and this integral partnership will continue to play a role in nurturing the Graduate School’s mission.

You can learn more about the Center for Intensive English Studies by visiting www.cies.fsu.edu.

Congratulations to the Fellows Society on another successful year. Thank you to our speakers, faculty, and staff members, as well as to the following Fellows Society members: Aaron Brooks, Alicia Craig-Rodriguez, Gabriel Williams, Brett Castellanos, Melanie Hom, Andrew Moffatt, Jamie Schindewolf, and Lesley Wolff.

The Fellows Society is an organization that brings together graduate students who have received competitive university-wide fellowships. The program encourages a tradition of service, leadership, and scholarship at Florida State University. To learn more about the Fellows Society, please visit www.gradschool.fsu.edu/Fellows-Society.

You can learn more about the Center for Intensive English Studies by visiting www.cies.fsu.edu.