Greetings,

It is an exciting time to be at Florida State University. On November 7th, President Barron delivered the 2013 State of the University address. He highlighted that many new faculty are being hired with plans for continued expansion in key areas related to materials and energy, brain research, and marine and coastal systems. Of particular importance to me as Dean of the Graduate School is that these outstanding faculty will attract outstanding graduate students and postdoctoral researchers and help ensure that FSU retains its standing as a Preeminent university in the State of Florida. In addition, the Honors, Scholars, and Fellows House (https://www.facilities.fsu.edu/FDC/webcam) is nearing completion and in Spring 2014 will be the new home for the Fellows Society, PIE program, Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards, and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. This stunning and unique facility overlooking Landis Green will also include a Great Hall and terrace area for lectures, receptions and other special events, program/seminar rooms, study rooms, and lounge spaces to foster collaborative discussions as well as quiet contemplation. The Graduate School will share this space with several programs and offices e.g., Honors, the Office of National Fellowships, and Undergraduate Research in the Division of Undergraduate Studies.

The Graduate School aims to provide opportunities for all graduate students that complement and enhance the experience they have in their home academic units. This year we are introducing a new program, the Three Minute Thesis competition (see p. 7). This program is designed to promote and recognize excellence in the oral communication skills of graduate students by requiring them to effectively explain their research in 3 minutes or less. The Graduate School is collaborating with University Communications to offer workshops that will provide guidance on being an effective communicator to a diverse audience. Another program opportunity that we introduced last year provides funds to groups of graduate students to host an interdisciplinary symposium or workshop. We will be announcing this year’s competition for these funds shortly.

The last item I want to highlight is the commitment of the Graduate School to the principles of diversity and inclusion. This fall, I established a new Graduate Assistantship position in the office to assist us in collecting and monitoring data related to diversity and inclusion, and offering programs to promote diversity and inclusion. Ashley Fryer, a new doctoral student in the Sports Psychology program was hired. Our first event was the networking dinner we held for some of the new doctoral students (see p. 2). I welcome suggestions for other programs that we could offer to expand our efforts.

Sincerely,
Nancy Marcus

In this Issue

2 Diversity & Inclusion Initiative
3 PIE Orientation and Conference
4 Student and Alumni Accolades
7 3 Minute Thesis Competition
8 Postdoc Appreciation Week

Upcoming Events

1.10.14 Spring TA Orientation
2.25.14 3MT Finals
MAR.14 Fellows Forum
4.09.14 Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence

*All dates are subject to change.
DIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDENTS’ WELCOME DINNER

BY: DR. KEISHA JOHN

As part of the Diversity and Inclusion initiative championed by Dean Marcus, the Graduate School hosted our first Diversity Doctoral Students’ Welcome Dinner for new doctoral degree matriculates on Wednesday, September 18th. This dinner provided an opportunity for the new doctoral students who are typically underrepresented in their programs, and at the university, to meet and network with new and current doctoral students as well as professors and senior administrators on campus. Dean Marcus and President Barron provided a welcome and words of wisdom to the attendees.

RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT

Recipients of the grant are awarded up to $750 to complete their research

- Elyssa Barbash, Psychology
- Lisa Barrow, Biological Sciences
- Lindsay Bodell, Psychology
- Daniel Capron, Psychology
- Jieyan Chen, Biomedical Sciences
- Jonathan Christian, Chemistry
- Amy Claridge, Family & Child Sciences
- Winfield Craig, History
- Cali Curley, Public Administration & Policy
- Emily Darrow, Biological Sciences
- Sunny Das, Biological Sciences
- Bruce Ellen III, Business Administration
- Rafaela Feresin, Nutrition, Food, & Exercise Science
- Brian Gold, Chemistry
- Michael Graziano, Religion
- Felicia Griffin, Statistics
- Charles Harper, Classics
- Sarah Johnson, Nutrition, Food, & Exercise Science
- Andy Khamou, Nutrition, Food, & Exercise Science
- Jesse Klein, Sociology
- Kristina Korte, Psychology
- Amy Kotsonis, Music
- Hyun-Woo Lee, Sports Management, Recreation & Physical Education
- Jiesun Lee, Sports Management, Recreation & Physical Education
- Mary Lescher, Art History
- Liam Longo, Molecular Biophysics
- Jeremy Mackey, Business Administration
- Mark Margres, Biological Sciences
- Jessica Martinez, Biological Sciences
- Adam McKee, English
- Jane McPherson, Social Work
- David Moody, English
- Brett Mulvey, Biomedical Sciences
- Abigail Pastore, Biological Sciences
- Hoa Phan, Chemistry
- Yingxue Ren, Biological Sciences
- Jung Ryu, School of Teacher Education
- Karen Samuel, Public Administration
- Ravi Sankar, Geology
- Plato Smith, Information Studies
- Mailin Sotolongo-Lopez, Biological Sciences
- Caroline Stahala, Biological Sciences
- Paul Stewart, Chemistry
- Kareem Usher, Urban and Regional Planning & Public Administration
- Alexei Wong, Nutrition, Food, & Exercise Science

Interested in Applying?

The Dissertation Research Grant is an award of up to $750 provided by The Graduate School to assist doctoral students with expenses associated with research necessary to prepare dissertations. Applications for the 2014-2015 school year are due in September 2014.

Check out our website www.gradschool.fsu.edu for more information.
Over 400 teaching assistants attended the Program for Instructional Excellence’s TA Orientation and Teaching Conference this year. Following the conference, 155 of them chose to earn a PIE Certificate. The certificate represents a reflective exercise in which students write a statement of teaching philosophy as well as essays in which they map out a plan to integrate the university policy and best teaching practice presentations from the conference into their own teaching. Hats off to Sport Management, Mathematics, and Computer Science, whose TAs earned 22, 13 and 12 certificates respectively. Those TAs who earned a PIE Certificate served as instructors of record, graders, online mentors and more this fall. In all, their classes contained 8,900 undergraduate students. Even when allowing for overlap, that is an impressive number! In addition, 18 of the PIE Certificate earners have begun working toward earning the Advanced PIE Certificate by completing the Basics of Teaching at FSU online modules and attending the Basics of Teaching at FSU workshops. The Program for Instructional Excellence salutes our TA PIE Certificate earners and Advanced PIE Certificate enrollees for their commitment to superior undergraduate education at FSU.

The PIE Conference and Certificate are not just for incoming TAs—returning TAs are welcome to join us next August for the 2014 PIE Teaching Conference.

What are PIE Associates?

The Program for Instructional Excellence provides selected departments with a Graduate Student Teaching Associate to assist with departmental TA training and to serve as small group leaders and mentors during the campus-wide orientations and workshops organized by the program. This year’s fifteen PIE Associates come from a diverse range of departments including Biology, Economics, and Nutrition, Food and Exercise Science. Together, those PIE Associates taught over 1,000 undergraduates and supported the teaching of 617 TAs. The deadline for applications to serve as 2014-2015 PIE Associates is May 15, 2014. For more information, visit http://www.pie.fsu.edu/PIE-Teaching-Associate-Assistantship.

### Celebration Award Deadlines

**OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARDS (OTAA)**

Nomination Deadline: 1.31.2014

Sponsored annually by the Florida State University Graduate School, these awards recognize outstanding graduate student teaching assistants (TAs) for their distinguished contributions to student learning through excellence in instruction.

**GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Application Deadline: 1.31.2014

Sponsored annually by Florida State University Graduate School and the Congress of Graduate Students, this award recognizes outstanding graduate student leaders who are making a positive difference in their scholarly/creative, campus, and wider communities.

**GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH & CREATIVITY AWARDS**

Application Deadline: 2.3.2014

Sponsored annually by Florida State University Graduate School and Office of Research, this awards program is designed to recognize the superior contributions of graduate students to research and creative endeavors.

For more information, visit gradschool.fsu.edu.
RECOGNIZING STUDENT AND ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AT FSU

Damon Andrew (PhD 2004)
• Hired as the Dean of College of Human Sciences & Education at Louisiana State University.

Paul Ardoin (PhD Candidate)
• Had the article “Versions, Cut ups, and Bladerunners: Critique and Revision in Nourse and Burroughs” accepted to the journal Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction.

Brendan C. Biggs (PhD Candidate)
• Published the article “Harnessing Natural Recovery Processes to Improve Restoration Outcomes: An Experimental Assessment of Sponge-Medicated Coral Reef Restoration” in the journal PLoS ONE.
• Presented “Sponge community dynamics in the Florida Keys: disease retards recovery following prolonged, anomalous cold-water stress” at Eckerd College.

Stephanie L. Bradley (MS 2013, PhD Candidate)
• Awarded a 2013 Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council.

Brooke Roberts Druliner (PhD Candidate)
• Published the article “Chromatin patterns associated with lung adenocarcinoma progression” in the journal Cell Cycle.

Greg Goelzhauser (PhD 2010)
• Published the article “State Coordinating Institutions and Agenda Setting on the U.S. Supreme Court” in the journal American Politics Research.
• Published the article “Prosecutorial Discretion Under Resource Constraints: Budget/Allocations and Local Death-Charging Decisions” in the journal Judicature.
• Published the article “Accountability and Judicial Performance: Evidence from Case/Dispositions” in American Politics Research.
• Published the article “Diversifying State Supreme Courts” in the journal Law & Society Review.

Brandon A. Jackson (PhD 2013)
• Hired for a tenure track joint appointment for the Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice and the Department of African & African American Studies at the University of Arkansas.

Mark Margres (PhD Candidate)
• Presented “Population genomics and ecological diversification in North American venomous snakes” at the 2013 Southeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (SEPARC) Annual Meeting in Hickory Knob State Park, SC.
• Presented “Genotype-phenotype mapping in the eastern diamondback rattlesnake (Crotalus adamanteus): quantifying differential gene expression in toxin genes” at the 2013 36th Annual Herpetology Conference in Gainesville, FL.
• Presented “Protein expression variation contributes to the evolution of the venom of the eastern diamondback rattlesnake (Crotalus adamanteus)” at the 2013 35th Annual Gopher Tortoise Council Meeting in Ponte Vedra, FL.
• Presented “Venoms: Ties to Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation” at the 2013 Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy in Tallahassee, FL.
• Published the article “The venom-gland transcriptome of the eastern coral snake (Micrurus fulvius) reveals high venom complexity in the intragenomic evolution of venoms” in the journal BMC Genomics.
• Awarded the 2013 Arnold Grobman Memorial Award for best student presentation at the 36th Annual Herpetology Conference.
• Awarded the 2013 J.Larry Landers Student Research Award from the Gopher Tortoise Council.
• Invited to be a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society at Florida State University in 2013.
Jane McPherson (PhD Candidate)
- Appointed to the national committee, CSWE Council on Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural Diversity as a 2013-2016 member.
- Appointed to the national Human Rights Committee as a 2013 member.
- Named one of the “25 Women You Need to Know in Tallahassee” by the Tallahassee Democrat in March 2013.
- Had the article “Measuring human rights impact in social work education: The One Million Bones example” accepted to the Journal of Social Work Education.
- Published the article “A parent’s TEARS: Primary results from the Traumatic Experiences and Resiliency Study” in Omega: Journal of Death & Dying.
- Published the article “Human rights engagement and exposure in social work: New scales to challenge social work education” in the journal Research in Social Work Practice.
- Published the article “Does narrative exposure therapy reduce PTSD in survivors of mass violence?” in the journal Research in Social Work Practice.
- Presented on a panel discussion “Applying human rights principles to U.S. social work practice through interdisciplinary collaboration” and a panel discussion “Human rights-based practice: Beyond the micro/macro binary in social work” at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting in November 2013 at Dallas, TX.
- Presented “Human rights exposure, knowledge, and engagement: What do US social work students really understand?” at the National Association of Deans and Directors (NADD)’s Annual Conference in June 2013 at New York, NY.

Ron Paul Salutsky (PhD Candidate)
- Published his first book Romeo Bones in September 2013.
- Presented on a panel discussion “Translation and its Legacy in Poetry in English” at the American Literary Translators Association’s annual conference.

Benjamin Schenkel (PhD 2012)
- Awarded a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship from the National Science Foundation.

Amy Sloan (MS Candidate)
- Presented “Genetic mapping of transgene reactivated mutant 1 (tgr1), a novel allele of the largest subunit of RNA Polymerase IV in maize” at the 55th Annual Maize Genetics Conference in March 2013 at St. Charles, IL.

Muhammad Usama Usman (MS Candidate)
- Received a two-year Fullbright Scholar grant to study Electrical Engineering.

Aimee Wilson (PhD Candidate)
- Had the article “Southern Mother, Lethal Fetus; Or, How Birth Control Makes a Modernist Out of Flannery O’Connor” accepted to the journal Genre.

Celestine Woodruff (MS 2011, PhD Candidate)
- Hired as a tenure track Assistant Professor of Mathematics at James Madison University.

Fiona McWilliam (PhD Candidate)
- Had the article “Reading Katherine Anne Porter’s ‘He’ through ‘He’” accepted to the journal Genre.

We want to hear about your accomplishments!
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 the quick form at the following link to tell us of the achievement.

MEET THE NEW STAFF AT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Students often wonder where they can get help for the various issues that arise during their graduate school years. Whether the issue is paperwork, financing, or finishing your manuscript, the Graduate School has someone who can help you. This year, the Graduate School has many new faces for students to meet.

Cortnie Baity, Administrative Assistant

Cortnie is a Tallahassee native and FSU alum. She received her A.A. from Tallahassee Community College in 2011 and her B.S. in Psychology from Florida State University this past May. Previous to joining The Graduate School at Florida State University, she worked for a local podiatrist for almost five years, during her time as an undergrad. She highly values education and enjoys working in academia. As the Administrative Assistant of The Graduate School, it is her goal to readily assist all students, making the bureaucracies of graduate school as easy as possible.

Pamela Brown, Manuscript Clearance Advisor

In August, Pamela joined the Graduate School staff. She earned a B.A. in English literature at Berry College in Rome, GA and an M.A. in journalism from The University of Alabama, specializing in objectivity of community newspapers. She has worked with the Alabama Scholastic Press Association and taught journalism clubs in elementary schools in Tuscaloosa. She served as a teaching assistant at UA in introductory journalism and has enjoyed working with the written word as an editor for many years. Her interests include reading and editing of all kinds and encouraging students as they finish the most important document of their academic career.

Robyn Cope, Director of PIE and the Fellows Society

As the Director of the Program for Instructional Excellence and the Fellows Society, Cope joined the staff in July of this year. She earned a B.A. in French at Miami University of Ohio and an M.Ed. at Xavier University. Her years in Ohio included several years as a teacher of high school, community college, and university students. She served as a TA at FSU from 2008 to 2013 and was a 2010 University Fellow. Cope earned a PhD in French with a specialization in Francophone Caribbean literature from Florida State in May of this year. Her interests and goals include encouraging and nurturing interdisciplinary research at all levels and equipping teaching assistants to welcome and integrate new undergraduates into FSU’s scholarly community.

Sarah Cox, Assistant Coordinator of OGFA

Sarah joined the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards this July. She earned a B.S. in Elementary Education from Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois and an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from the University of South Carolina. She has taught in elementary schools, middle schools, and at the collegiate level. She was also an undergraduate academic advisor at Pennsylvania State University where she was able to work with students individually, in groups, and with their families at orientation. Sarah recognizes the importance and value of a graduate education, but she is also familiar with the costs. Her goal is to help students locate and apply for external funding opportunities to help them reach their educational goals while decreasing their out of pocket costs.

Callie Funderburk, Event Coordinator

Beginning in July, Callie became part of The Graduate School team as the Event Coordinator. She earned a B.A in Art Education and a B.A in Studio Art from Florida State University and continued her education at the graduate level in Event Management. Previously, Callie worked with the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), a unit of the Division of Undergraduate Studies. At ACE, she performed various duties such as hiring, training, and supervising a team of work study employees, designing collateral materials, and managing social media efforts. Callie enjoys working with The Graduate School team to design and deliver many events throughout the year.
3 MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

Introducing FSU’s newest research award

BY: DR. JUDY DEVINE

In Spring 2014, the Graduate School will unveil an award competition that will be new to FSU, the Three Minute Thesis (3MT™). The Three Minute Thesis (3MT™) is a research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland, Australia. The exercise develops academic, presentation, and research communication skills and supports the development of students’ capacities to effectively explain their research in language appropriate for a non-specialist audience.

Doctoral students will have three minutes to present a compelling description on their dissertation topic and its significance. 3MT™ is not an exercise in trivializing or ‘dumbing-down’ research but forces students to consolidate their ideas and crystalize their research discoveries.

Doctoral students intending to participate in the 2014 3MT™ competition may register for a “Communication Skills” workshop conducted on Monday, December 2nd, 2014 at 3:30pm, in Strozier library.

The 2014 3MT™ finalists selected February 3 - 7, 2014, may register for either of the “Preparing for the 2014 3MT™ Finals” workshops to be conducted February 17th and 20th at 3:00 PM (location TBA). Workshop registration will open February 7, 2014.

4TH ANNUAL CARNIVAL AT THE REZ: FUN FOR FAMILIES

BY: DR. JUDY DEVINE

The fourth annual Carnival @ the REZ (FSU Reservation) for graduate students and their families was a great success, with approximately 300 students and family members attending. Hosted by the Graduate School in the afternoon of October 1st, entertainment included the FSU Circus jugglers and stilt walkers, face painting by members of Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, crafts and hula hoop contests by the FSU Children’s Center staff, bluegrass music performed by the Eclectic Acoustic band, ping pong contests, and the many water sports opportunities at the REZ. Free, roundtrip transportation was available from the FSU main campus and Alumni Village. Families enjoyed soft drinks, hot dogs, popcorn, snow cones, and ice cream, thanks to the generosity of the Congress of Graduate Students, Student Government Association, Alumni Association, Alumni Village, Center for Global Engagement, and School of Communication.

Many graduate students indicated they have attended the Carnival since its inception in 2009. The Graduate School will host the Carnival again next fall in early October.
FSU CELEBRATES NATIONAL POSTDOC APPRECIATION WEEK

BY: DR. KEISHA JOHN

This year as part of the National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) and in honor of our Postdocs at FSU, we hosted our first Postdoctoral Scholars Symposium. At this event we celebrated our postdoctoral scholars’ contributions to our successes. Provost Stokes provided the welcome followed by a Junior Faculty Panel, “Challenges Facing Junior Scientists in the 21st Century” in the College of Medicine Auditorium. Attendees then moved to the atrium where the postdocs shared their research in a poster presentation. The day’s activities culminated with a wine and cheese reception. We would like to say a special thank you to the FSU Postdoctoral Association for organizing the event, as well as the panelists, judges, and poster presenters.

For more information on NPAW, visit http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/meetings-and-events-4/appreciation.

Congratulations to the 2013 Postdoc Symposium Poster Presenter Winners

Physical Sciences: Liran Wang (National High Magnetic Field Laboratory) Miniature dilatometer

Life Sciences: Lauren Reynolds (College of Medicine) Metabolic pathways in long lived Drosophila

Interdisciplinary Sciences: Andrew Miklos (Institute of Molecular Biophysics) Inhibition of Protein-Ligand Binding by Competition with Macromolecular Crowders

FSU CELEBRATES NATIONAL POSTDOC APPRECIATION WEEK

By: Dr. Keisha John

This year as part of the National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) and in honor of our Postdocs at FSU, we hosted our first Postdoctoral Scholars Symposium. At this event we celebrated our postdoctoral scholars’ contributions to our successes. Provost Stokes provided the welcome followed by a Junior Faculty Panel, “Challenges Facing Junior Scientists in the 21st Century” in the College of Medicine Auditorium. Attendees then moved to the atrium where the postdocs shared their research in a poster presentation. The day’s activities culminated with a wine and cheese reception. We would like to say a special thank you to the FSU Postdoctoral Association for organizing the event, as well as the panelists, judges, and poster presenters.

For more information on NPAW, visit http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/meetings-and-events-4/appreciation.

Congratulations to the 2013 Postdoc Symposium Poster Presenter Winners

Physical Sciences: Liran Wang (National High Magnetic Field Laboratory) Miniature dilatometer

Life Sciences: Lauren Reynolds (College of Medicine) Metabolic pathways in long lived Drosophila

Interdisciplinary Sciences: Andrew Miklos (Institute of Molecular Biophysics) Inhibition of Protein-Ligand Binding by Competition with Macromolecular Crowders

2014 FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

Application cycle now open for fellowships administered through the Graduate School

Prospective Students

• Adelaide Wilson Fellows Society Fellowship
• Legacy Fellowship
• McNair Scholars
• FAMU Feeder Fellowship
• McKnight Doctoral Fellowship

All Students

• Wilson-Auzenne Fellowship
• International Dissertation Research Fellowship
• Henderson Family Fellowship
• Florida Gubernatorial Fellowship

THE GRAD CONNECTION
FALL 2013
VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

Pamela Brown, Co-editor
Callie Funderburk, Co-editor

Nancy Marcus, Ph.D.
Dean of The Graduate School

The Graduate School
Florida State University
314 Westcott Building
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1410
gradschool.fsu.edu
(850) 644-3501

THE GRAD CONNECTION
FALL 2013
VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

Pamela Brown, Co-editor
Callie Funderburk, Co-editor

Nancy Marcus, Ph.D.
Dean of The Graduate School

The Graduate School
Florida State University
314 Westcott Building
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1410
gradschool.fsu.edu
(850) 644-3501