Greetings,

Ten years ago we started this newsletter to highlight the accomplishments of FSU’s many graduate and professional students, and to inform these students, the broader FSU community, and friends of FSU of activities and opportunities that might be of interest. With the establishment of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, we now include postdocs under our umbrella.

As Dean of the Graduate School I have the privilege to meet students and postdocs from all across this campus, and the breadth of excellence is truly impressive. The 3 Minute Thesis Competition was once again exciting and I am so pleased that our winner Aniket Ingrole will be representing the university at the regional competition held by the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools.

As Dean, I am active in the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), an organization of over 500 graduate schools in the U.S. and Canada, with affiliates from all over the world. CGS is a strong advocate for many issues that impact graduate education and works to identify best practices that are shared with all member institutions. My goal is to ensure that FSU remains at the forefront of these best practices, so that it provides the best possible educational experience for its graduate students and postdocs, and prepares them to be successful in a wide range of career options upon graduation.

In closing, I want to remind everyone that we will be celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of graduate students at the Celebration for Graduate Student Excellence on April 13, 2016. Please join us on that date to support our students.

Sincerely,
Nancy Marcus
Florida State University held the Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Finalist Competition on Tuesday, November 17 at the College of Medicine Auditorium and Atrium.

The Three Minute Thesis began at the University of Queensland in 2008, and has spread to over 200 universities worldwide. During the popular competition, doctoral students are challenged to communicate their research to a lay audience in only three minutes. Students may present a single slide and may not use animations, sound effects, or props of any kind. The finalists are judged on comprehension and content, as well as engagement and communication.

The Judges at the FSU Three Minute Thesis Finalist Competition were Carolyn Egan, Esq.; Gerald Ensley, a retired senior writer from the Tallahassee Democrat; Lynn Hatter, WFSU News Director; and Dr. Myra Hurt from the FSU College of Medicine. The Timer was Dr. Jeff Norcini with the Graduate School.

Dean Nancy Marcus of the Graduate School served as the Master of Ceremonies, introduced each finalist, and announced the winners. Dr. Judith Devine, Senior Associate Dean, and Ms. Melissa Hardison, Event Planner for the Graduate School, helped each finalist to prepare in the weeks preceding the event.

The ten finalists were narrowed down from a field of over thirty candidates who competed in the Preliminary Rounds in October. The finalists’ research covered a broad range of topics, including the creation of mathematical models to study disease, the impact of college debt on family formation, the role of property tax limitation in Florida, the use of triboluminescence to monitor structural integrity, the role of olfaction in metabolism, the 3D printing of custom helmets, the use of hybrid multiferroics to enhance data storage capacity, the value of non-disclosure in questionnaires, the role of cognitive “laziness” on mental performance, and the effects of dioxin exposure on a small community.

The judges had high praise for the finalists. “They all had a great grasp on their research and they’re all doing things that will benefit humankind,” said Gerald Ensley. “It shows the hard work of FSU students. They’re really doing groundbreaking research for the nation.”

The Graduate School would like to thank our judges, finalists, and volunteers who helped to make this event a success. We would also like to thank the Center for Global Engagement; the College of Medicine; GEOSET Studios; University Communications; WFSU; the Tallahassee Democrat; and the University of Queensland, Australia.

Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Winners:

First place and second place winners were selected by the judges:

Aniket Ingrole with the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering was awarded first place ($500) for his presentation, “Bio-Inspired Structures for Custom Manufacturing of Safer Helmets.” He will have an opportunity to represent FSU at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) 3MT® Regional Competition.

Frank Annie with the Department of Geography was awarded second place ($350) for his presentation, “The Effects of Dioxin-Based Exposure on Nitro, West Virginia.”

The People’s Choice winner was selected by the audience’s votes:

Austin Schwartz with the Institute of Molecular Biophysics was awarded the People’s Choice Award ($250) for his presentation, “Nanoparticles and Neurons, Olfaction and Metabolism.”

In addition to the monetary prizes listed above, the three winners received a certificate. Each finalist also received a prize of $50.

Continued on page 3
Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Finalists:

**Nandita Abhyankar** (Chemistry & Biochemistry) “Rapid Synthesis of Hybrid Multiferroics”

**Frank Annie** (Geography) “The Effects of Dioxin-Based Exposure on Nitro, West Virginia”

**Stephanie Bradley** (Sociology) “Save Our Homes: An Analysis of Property Tax Limitation in Florida”

**Atanaska Dobreva** (Mathematics) “Using Mathematical Modeling and Analysis to Study Alopecia Areata and Treatment Options”

**Aniket Ingrole** (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering) “Bio-Inspired Structures for Custom Manufacturing of Safer Helmets”

**Stella Min** (Sociology) “Parenthood Delayed or Forgone: Student Loan Debt and Family Formation”

**Matt Podlogar** (Psychology) “The Choice of Non-Disclosure in Suicide Risk Screening Questionnaires”

**Margaret Scheiner** (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering) “Light, Innovation, and Safety: Triboluminescence, Structural Health Monitoring, and You”

**Austin Schwartz** (Institute of Molecular Biophysics) “Nanoparticles and Neurons, Olfaction and Metabolism”

**Andrew Vonasch** (Psychology) “Why Are People Lazy Thinkers?”

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**NATIONAL POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING**

The 2016 National Postdoctoral Association Meeting will be held March 4-6 in Grand Rapids, MI. Paula Chambers, Founder and CEO of Versatile PhD, will be the keynote speaker. This event will include several other plenary speakers and workshops. Additionally, one of FSU's postdoctoral scholars, Thierry Dubroca from the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, will be leading a professional development workshop during the conference. If you would like more information on the event, please see: www.nationalpostdoc.org/?2016AnnualMeeting.

Please be on the lookout for other upcoming events for postdoctoral scholars at FSU. If you would like more information concerning the Postdoctoral Association at FSU, please contact The Graduate School.
FALL 2015 DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT (DRG) RECIPIENTS

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

Amelia Anderson
Information

Ashley Carter
Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences

Jesus Chavarria
Psychology

Sepideh Ebadi
Mathematics

Jacob Hicks
Religion

Julia Inglis
Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences

Burcu Izci
Teacher Education

Kyle Jazwa
Classics

Gook Jin Kim
Public Administration and Public Policy

Brian Knop
Sociology

Jungup Lee
Social Work

Meredith McMackin
Art Education

Aaron Norr
Psychology

Abigail Phillips
Information

Stephanie Prost
Social Work

Haozhou Pu
Sport Management

Madhuparna Roy
Industrial Engineering

Alison von Eberstein
Information

Brenda Wawire
Teacher Education

Yiwen Wei
Art Education

Lynnsey Weissenberger
Information

Jennifer Luetkemeyer
Information

Guang Xing
Geography

Zexuan Xu
Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Science

Zhihui Zhang
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 expenses associated with research necessary to prepare dissertations.

For more information, check out our website at www.gradschool.fsu.edu

GRANTS WORKSHOP SERIES: THE INS AND OUTS

February 16
March 31
July 15

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPDA) and the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (OGFA) are teaming up to sponsor a three-part grants workshop series for postdoctoral scholars and doctoral students.

Both scholars and students will be provided: 1) an overview of potential grant mechanisms that would be suitable for their research area of interest, 2) a critique of their specific aims and guidance through all the form pages and supplemental material, 3) a forum to participate in a mock study section led by experts in their field, and 4) an opportunity to engage in a peer-to-peer discussion about the strengths and pitfalls of applying for grants with FSU doctoral and postdoctoral scholars that have been successful in the process.

Funding Mechanisms

- American Heart Association (AHA)
- Department of Defense (DOD)
- L’Oréal Women in Science
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- National Institutes of Justice (NIJ)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Scholars (doctoral and postdoctoral) with the top proposals selected as a result of the mock study section will receive an intramural award following submission of their grant proposal to a federal agency or private foundation. Doctoral submissions can receive up to $750 of support. Postdoctoral submissions can receive up to $1500 of support.

For additional questions, please contact Adrienne Stephenson at ogfa-info@fsu.edu or Debra Ann Fadool at opda-info@fsu.edu.

To register, visit https://fsu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cFTE118c00UyK0Z. The registration deadline for this series is February 12, 2016.

For more information, please visit the OPDA or OGFA websites under Upcoming Events.
RECOGNIZING STUDENT AND ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AT FSU

George E. Abaunza  
(MA 1996, PhD 2005)  
- Promoted to Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Felician College in Lodi & Rutherford, NJ.

Sean Beavers  
(MM 2001, DM 2006)  
- Promoted to Associate Dean of the Center for Music and the Performing Arts in the Liberty University School of Music. Promoted to full professor.

Keith W. Berry  
(MA 1991, PhD 2005)  
- Appointed Dean of Academic Affairs at the Ybor City Campus of Hillsborough Community College.

Donna Betts  
(PhD 2005)  
- Serving as President of the American Art Therapy Association Board of Directors, for a two-year term, through November 2017.

Bradley Blair  
(MFA 2014)  
- Won “best of show” award for artwork at the Victor F. Keen gallery in Las Vegas, NV in October 2015. The exhibition title was, “What Goes Bump in the Night.”

Tameka Bradley Hobbs  
(MA 2000, PhD 2004)  

Zerric Clinton  
(PhD 2010)  
- Awarded Secondary Art Educator of the Year by GAEA.

Paul Gignac  
(PhD 2010)  
- Supported by NSF for symposium at the annual meeting for the Society of Integrative & Comparative Biology with $15,000 award.

Daniel L. Hollar  
(MS 2006, PhD 2010)  

Dogossou Houroumtcho  
(PhD 2004)  
- Nominated as interpreter and translator of the Prime Minister of Chad.

Jesse Krebs  
(DM 2006)  
- Performed a guest recital and gave a clarinet master class at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin, Ireland in October 2015.

Alberto Lopez  
(PhD Candidate)  
- Attended a two-week, intensive summer institute on “Emotions in Late Modern Societies: Persons, Politics, and Social Practices,” at the European University Viadrina-Frankfurt, in collaboration with the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis.

Edward Michael McDonald, III  
(MS 2007)  
- Promoted to Associate in Research in FSU’s Department of Scientific Computing and Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies (COAPS).

Calvin J. McFadden  
(PhD 2010)  
- Named the Chief Student Affairs Officer/Dean of Student Services at Norwalk Community College in Norwalk, CT in October 2015.
Frances Emily Owusu-Ansah (PhD 2002)
- Appointed to Vice Dean of Students for the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

Daniel C. Phelps (MS 1998, PhD 2005)
- Promoted to Associate Teaching Professor of Information Systems at Carnegie Mellon University.
- Returned from a year deployment to Afghanistan and was selected for promotion to Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserves.

Carla Maria Thomas (MA 2008)
- Awarded a Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2015-16 to finish PhD in English at New York University.

Keri Watson (PhD 2010)
- Received $15,000 grant, in conjunction with the University of Central Florida and Seminole County Public Libraries and the Public History Center, to host The Big Read in Orlando, FL.

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 here to tell us of the achievement.

On January 8, 2016, the Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) and the Graduate School hosted the Annual Spring PIE Teaching Training Workshop / TA Orientation in the Great Hall of the Honors, Scholars, and Fellows House.

The purpose of this event is to equip graduate students with the tools they need to become effective teaching assistants. Topics include classroom management, using technology, and university-wide policies and procedures.

Dean Nancy Marcus of the Graduate School and PIE director Dr. Lisa Liseno gave the introduction, which emphasized the importance of teaching assistants on campus.

PIE Associates delivered presentations on enhancing classroom effectiveness. Stephanie Bradley (Sociology) discussed the importance of setting a positive tone for the semester. Ashley Artese (Nutrition, Food, and Exercise Sciences) and Kate Carnevale (Chemistry & Biochemistry) underscored the value of encouraging communication with students. Kate Hill (Biological Science) described handling common grading concerns. Brandon Brice (Economics) instructed attendees on how to utilize Blackboard technology.

The training concluded with a University Teaching Policy Panel on the FSU Academic Honor Policy, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and sexual harassment policies.

The following administrators provided their expertise on the panel:
- Ann DelRossi, Academic Affairs Administrator, Faculty Development & Advancement;
- Dr. Kim Barber, University Registrar, Office of the Registrar;
- Dr. Mary Coburn, Vice President for Student Affairs;
- Michelle Douglas, Director, Organizational Development and Equal Opportunity Compliance.

Thank you to the panelists, presenters, faculty, and staff who contributed to this foundational training.
**STEPHANIE BRADLEY RECEIVES NEW GRADUATE AWARD**

Stephanie Bradley, a PhD Student and PIE Associate from the Department of Sociology at Florida State University, is the inaugural recipient of the John F. Liseno Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) Graduate Award.

As the recipient of this award, Stephanie will give a presentation in April at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting: Mini-Conference on Teaching Multiple Publics in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference gives scholars from the southeast a chance to network and to share their research with one another.

The John F. Liseno Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) Graduate Award is given annually.

This award supports graduate students by providing a one-time travel stipend for a PIE Associate to present their research on best practices in teaching at a regional, national, or international conference.

PIE Associates are graduate students and experienced teaching assistants who are nominated by their department. Associates work closely with PIE for at least one year to gain valuable experience in leadership, training, and collaboration.

Congratulations to Stephanie Bradley and to all of our PIE Associates for a job well-done.

This new award is named in memory of John Liseno, who was known for his philanthropy and support of graduate education. In 2005, John started a commercial paint contracting business, John the Painter Inc., which continues to serve Florida State University and the Tallahassee community. John was a natural-born teacher and educated not only those who worked for him, but those who knew him through business, friendship, or the art of giving. He was dedicated to helping others, and he would have been honored to provide a means for graduate students to share their research and innovative ideas.

For more information on the Program for Instructional Excellence or the John F. Liseno PIE Graduate Award, visit pie.fsu.edu.

**OGFA FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS SATELLITE ADVISING**

Are you a current graduate student interested in learning about external fellowships and awards?

The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards will offer drop-in fellowship advising hours to all matriculating graduate students this Spring semester in the Scholars Commons in Strozier Library. Drop in and explore how applying for an external fellowship or award might be a viable option for you. Remember, it's never too early to get started! For more information about graduate fellowships and awards, upcoming workshops, and more, visit the following link http://ogfa.fsu.edu.