



THE GRAD CONNECTION

The Graduate School Newsletter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Message from the Dean



Dean Nancy Marcus

Greetings,

This year I have the privilege of serving as Chair of the Board of Directors of 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. Current CGS projects include: understanding PhD career pathways for program improvement, the importance of international research experiences for graduate students, the future of the doctoral dissertation, and holistic graduate admissions practices. I encourage you to peruse the CGS website (www.cgsnet.org) to learn more about these efforts.

The FSU Three Minute Thesis Competition was held in November 2016 and was once again exciting and informative. I am so pleased that our winner Madhuparna Roy, a doctoral student in Industrial Engineering and Manufacturing will be representing the university at the regional competition, which will be held at the annual meeting of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools in March 2017 in Annapolis, MD. Ms. Roy's research focuses on improving the safety of planes, especially when flying in stormy weather.

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 at 3:30 pm on April 18, 2017. Please join us at the Alumni Center to support our graduate students.

Sincerely,
Nancy Marcus

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 18, 2017
3:30-5 p.m.
Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence

PIE TA Training for Spring 2017

By: Dr. Lisa Liseno

150 FSU graduate students, staff and post docs attended the Spring PIE Teaching Training Workshop and TA Orientation held on Friday, January 13th, 2017 in the Great Hall of the Honors, Scholars, and Fellows House. The annual Spring PIE TA Training, which is hosted by the Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) and the Graduate School, is held the first Friday of classes each spring. It is a hybrid training, with a portion of the training completed in Blackboard prior to the face-to-face training.

This event is essential to providing graduate students and other participants with tools needed to become effective teaching assistants. Topics include classroom management, communicating effectively and professionally with students, using technology, grading procedures and strategies, and university-wide policies and procedures.

PIE Associates, who are seasoned FSU graduate student teaching assistants, provided presentations on enhancing instructional effectiveness. Ashley Artese (Nutrition, Food, and Exercise Sciences) and Michelle Cates (Educational Psychology & Learning Systems) facilitated a discussion about early semester best practices, including ways to create a positive learning environment. Danisha Baker (Statistics) and Briana Carroll (Psychology & Neuroscience) discussed



Attendees at the Spring 2017 PIE Teaching Training Workshop and TA Orientation

pointers and pitfalls concerning communicating with your students. Kate Hill (Biological Science) illustrated methods to assist with grading concerns. Jeffrey Conley (Economics) walked attendees through many of the vital uses of 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

Aimee Leturmy, Senior Associate Registrar, Office of the Registrar

Dr. Shelley Ducatt, Assistant Dean/Director, Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC)

Amber M. Wagner, Associate Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance

Thank you to all of the panelists, presenters, faculty, and staff who contributed to this important training.



PIE Associates Michelle Cates (left) and Ashley Artese (right) at the Spring TA Training

Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

By: Dr. Debra Fadool

We celebrated Postdoctoral Awareness Week with our 4th Annual Postdoctoral Symposium and Poster Competition at the FSU College of Medicine.

The theme of the event was "How to be your own boss: Establishing a startup or your own research lab."

Postdoctoral scholars heard from our own Dr. Michael Blaber as the keynote speaker, who has experience in both these domains.

New this year was a panel discussion composed of faculty in the College of Communication and Information, Innovatech Engineering, the Center for Student Engagement, and the University of Las Vegas Physics and Astronomy Department.

Postdoctoral scholars also participated in two poster sessions and were judged in 3 different divisions including a People's Choice Award. We extend our congratulations to the following award winners!

Payal Ghosh - 1st Place for Life Sciences. "Potential Effects of Deep Space Radiation on Vascular Function and Impact on Astronaut Health"

Tiglet Besara - 1st Place for Physical Sciences. "Hardest Known Biocompatible Intermetallic Compounds: β -Ti3Al"

Katherine Dale - 1st Place for Interdisciplinary Research. "Mapping the Anatomy of Inspiration: Identifying and Analyzing Elicitors of Self-transcendent Emotions in Media"

Veronique Richard - People's Choice Award. "Effects of a Creativity Supportive Environment on Divergent Thinking and Performance in Athletics"



2016 Poster Session Award Winners

Due to the generosity of the Provost's Office, the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPDA) administers 10 Professional Development Travel Awards of \$1,000 each to our scholars traveling to a variety of conference and research opportunities. This winter, the following trips will be supported for the following researchers:

Allyson Gonzalez, Religion - Research & International Cinema and Literature in the 21st Century; Madrid, Spain; Aline Kalbian, Advisor

Anne Kellerman, Education - ASLO 2017 Aquatic Sciences Meeting; Honolulu, HI; Robert Spencer, Advisor

Erminia Fardone, Neuroscience - A Chemoreception Sciences (AChemS) Conference; Bonita Springs, FL; Debi Fadool, Advisor

Florina Erbeli, Florida Center for Reading, Psychology - Scientific Studies of Reading Annual Meeting; Nova Scotia, Canada; Jeanette Taylor, Advisor

Lindley Graham, Scientific Computing - SIAM CSE17 - Computational Science Engineering; Atlanta, GA; Max Gunzburger, Advisor

Martina Luchetti, Behavioral Science & Social Medicine - Association for Research in Personality Conference; Sacramento, CA; Angelina Sutin, Advisor

Shipra Gupta, Chemistry and Biochemistry - American Chemical Society; San Francisco, CA; Jack Saltiel, Advisor

If you want to check out our ongoing, slide sets are available for all of our professional development opportunities at - <http://opda.fsu.edu/Upcoming-Events-Workshops/Workshop-Slides-and-Video-Archive>

Looking Ahead

Spring Event will be May 19th at the AME Building, Engineering Campus.

Travel Award Applications for Fall travel will be accepted through July 1st.

For details, see - <http://opda.fsu.edu/>

Graduate Student and Alumni Success

DUSTIN ANDERSON

PhD 2009

Awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in the Department of Literature and Philosophy at Georgia Southern University

WENDIMERE REILLY

MS CANDIDATE

Published paper on Vitamin B12 Deficiency and Metformin Use in June 2016 edition of Vitamins & Minerals

PETER J. DUROW

PhD 2007

Commissioned by the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota to compose a new work for the 2018 ACDA-MN State 4-5-6 Girls' Honor Choir

CARLA MARIA THOMAS

MA 2008

Received PhD from the Department of English at New York University in May 2016 and is serving as a Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in the program

ALESSANDRA FERIS

DM 2009

Appointed Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of South Dakota in the Fall of 2016

MATTHEW J. THOMAS

MM, 2008, PhD 2010

Awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Western Illinois University

DANIEL LEIGHTON HOLLAR

PhD 2010

Appointed Assistant Professor at Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, FL

KIARA TIMPANO

PhD 2010

Awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the University of Miami

JOSHUA KOGOT

PhD 2008

Received Commanding Officer/Technical Director Award for Outstanding Innovation for successfully introducing innovative biotechnology research into Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division

TO SUBMIT ACCOLADES

We want to hear about Graduate Student and Alumni accomplishments! If you are a current graduate student or alumni who had a recent publication, grant, promotion, or other noteworthy achievement, please submit your information to the GradConnection at the link below.

https://fsu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_245t0ETXT325Gf3

PIE Coffee Hour & Teaching Workshop Series



Come join fellow TAs and instructors discuss strategies and techniques that promote excellence in teaching and learning – bring your questions, concerns, and ideas – the coffee and pie will be provided!

Tue **JAN 24**

Maintaining Professional Classroom Relations

Presenters: PIE Associates: *Gokila Dorai, Computer Science, & Jeffrey Conley, Economics*

Being a teaching assistant is more than course content and assessments. How do you handle situations that may make you or the student uncomfortable when the student-teacher line is blurred through non-academic contact or communication? This session will discuss setting the tone in your class and establishing boundaries. In a nutshell: Maintaining professional classroom relations."

3:30—5:00 PM

Thur **FEB 9**

How to Create a Teaching Portfolio

Presenters: PIE Associate and 2016 OTAA Recipient, *Lacey Ritter, Sociology, & Dr. Lisa Liseno, Assistant Dean of The Graduate School & Director of PIE*

Creating a teaching portfolio is an important way to illustrate the strategies and techniques you use to help support and encourage student learning. This exercise also gives you the opportunity to reflect on your teaching and ways to improve for the future, and may be required when applying for jobs. This workshop will show you how to assemble an electronic teaching portfolio. Requirements for the submission of teaching portfolios for FSU's Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award will also be addressed.

1:30—3:00 & 3:30—5:00 PM
(*This is the same session given at 2 times)

Mon **FEB 27**

Go Big or Go Home: Activities for Large Classrooms

Presenters: PIE Associates, *Mary Marcous, Philosophy, & Ashley Artese, Nutrition, Food & Exercise Sciences*

Do you ever wonder how to get those 70 students in your lecture to wake up and participate? Teaching a large number of students can be difficult because of space limits, the layout of the room, etc. This workshop will present a number of strategies and activities to facilitate engagement in classes with a large number of students, regardless of subject area.

3:30—5:00 PM

Thur **MAR 23**

Formative Assessment and Review Strategies

Presenters: PIE Associates, *Kate Hill, Biology, & Ana Ndimu, Information Science*

Formative assessment strategies are effective ways of gauging ongoing student learning to provide feedback for both the student and teacher. In this session, participants will discover ways of monitoring student learning and improving content mastery through timely feedback and purposeful review activities. The presenters will provide tips for large and small classes in a variety of content areas.

3:30—5:00 PM

Mon **APR 3**

Engaging Students with Social Media, Apps, & More!

Presenter: *Kendra Scholz, School of Communication*

Learn about and practice using social media, apps, and more to help you engage your students both in and out of the classroom. You need not be a tech expert - all levels of experience are welcome! Come join us, and bring your laptop if you can (we will also have some laptops available for you to use)!

3:30—5:00 PM

Wed **APR 19**

Creating Student-Centered Learning Environments

Presenters: PIE Associates, *Vincent Lakey, Physics, & David Jeffcoat, Chemistry*

Student-centered learning environments shift the focus of classroom activity from teacher to students. Instead of treating students as passive receptacles, this workshop will teach you how to stimulate, engage and help them become active participants in their own education.

3:30—5:00 PM

*To Register for these workshops, please go to PIE.FSU.EDU

*All workshops qualify for PFF, PFP and PIE credit.

*All workshops will take place at the Great Hall (4th floor) Honors, Scholars and Fellows House

ACES - A Program for New International Graduate Students

By: Andrew Wilson

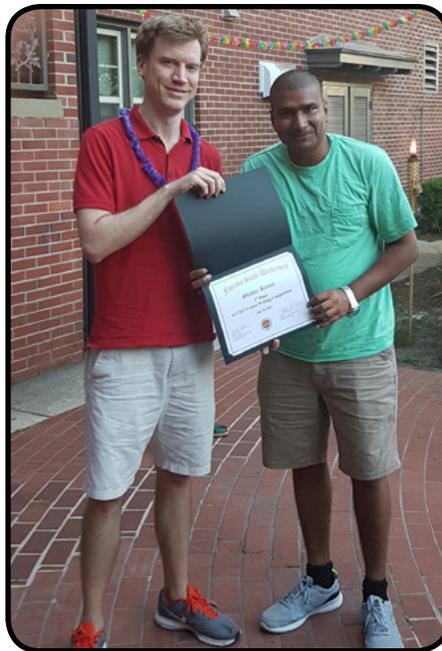
In 2014, the Center for Intensive English Studies (CIES) established a program for newly admitted FSU graduate students. The Accelerated Courses for Enrolled Students (ACES) Program allows these newly admitted international students to arrive a couple months early and take seven weeks of intensive English classes and university preparatory classes to maximize their transition to graduate school. Students in ACES have come from places such as Israel, South Korea, China, India and Taiwan.

Program creator Olivia James has seen the program double in size every year. Serving as the graduate liaison for CIES, she is someone who councils international students before they arrive, is their main contact person for their arrival, and, most importantly, stays with the students as they continue their studies. Ms. James is currently working on her PhD in International and Comparative Education, and her own research is focusing on successfully transitioning international students into graduate school.

The curriculum for ACES students is multifaceted. In addition to brushing up students' grammatical and academic reading and writing skills, it also focuses on fostering awareness of the American classroom culture. Concepts such as plagiarism, citations, networking, and the ethics of academia are discussed. This focus on the various facets of academic life has been a big part of the program's success and has ensured a smoother transition for these Florida State graduate students.

Many faculty and staff of The Graduate School have no doubt witnessed the difficult cultural shock

faced by many of our international students. There is a substantial body of research attesting to these cultural difficulties, and the ACES program has aimed to mitigate some of these. Having students work with other students from various cultures might make it easier to transition into a highly diverse graduate school population where disparate viewpoints and experiences are often found. Indeed, controversial topics can and do come up in the ACES setting, but the program gives students a framework to discuss and communicate these differences.



ACES student Shishir Kumar wins the CIES writing competition for Summer 2016

Learning about the many campus resources available to FSU students has been particularly useful for many in ACES. Donghyun “Dan” Kim, from South Korea, participated in ACES in 2015. ACES helped prepare him for academic writing by connecting him with the library. According to Kim: “I am pleased that people like me who are unfamiliar with the writing style for my department and don’t know the best system for research have the support of a professional librarian to help me.”

Shishir Kumar, from India, agrees that the focus on inter-cultural communication is key. “[ACES] taught me how to behave by fitting in while still standing out in a global culture.” The program also prepared

him for the social connections needed for mastering interpersonal communication skills – everything from writing emails to professors to “hanging out with friends and going on adventures.” As the internationalization of FSU continues, the ACES program offers a lot of opportunities to maximize the potential of our richly diverse international population and give them the tools to succeed.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards

By: Dr. Lisa Liseno

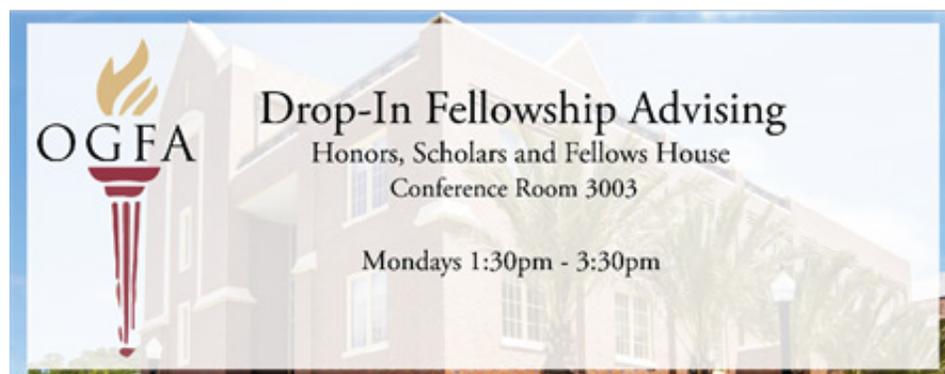
Graduate student teaching assistants (TAs) play a vital role in enhancing the teaching mission of the University. Each year the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards (OTAA), sponsored by the FSU Graduate School, gives undergraduate students, faculty, and staff (all who may nominate a TA for this award) the opportunity to encourage and reward excellence in teaching and to recognize the contributions that graduate students make to the teaching and learning mission of Florida State University. Nominations are due each January (see PIE website for details).

As a symbol of the recognition of the important part TAs play in undergraduate education, 215 nominations were received for the 2016-2017 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (OTAA). These nominations speak to the outstanding efforts of each of the 127 graduate student TA nominees, who represent 9 colleges across FSU's campus. OTAA recipients are selected based on the quality of teaching documented in a portfolio submitted by the nominee, as well as on a letter of recommendation submitted on his or her behalf. Recipients will receive a \$750 cash award and recognition at the annual University-wide Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, 3:30 p.m., at the FSU Alumni Center. All are welcome!

Not all OTAA nominees are eligible to apply for the award. However, being nominated is an honor in itself! For a list of the OTAA nominees for 2016-2017, and a list of eligibility and award submission requirements, visit <http://pie.fsu.edu/outstanding-teaching-assistant-award>.

We sincerely congratulate and thank all OTAA nominees for their hard work and dedication!

Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards



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

The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards is offering drop-in fellowship advising hours to all matriculating graduate students this Spring! 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 ogfa.fsu.edu.

Contact Us



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