



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

THE GRAD CONNECTION

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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New Assistant Dean
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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 17, 2013

Celebration of
Graduate Student
Excellence
FSU Alumni Center
3:30-5:00 pm

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

So much has happened since our last newsletter that it is hard to know where to begin.

I was privileged to participate in two unique experiences this past summer which broadened my thinking about the globalization of graduate education. I joined other members of the GRE Advisory Board on a visit to Istanbul, Turkey where we met with members of the GRE European Advisory Council to discuss key issues affecting graduate education in the US and Europe. Financial support, transferable skills, preparation for careers outside of

the academy, and mobility are common issues. In July I met with higher education representatives from France and Switzerland as part of a group of US graduate deans, led by Dr. Karen DePauw the Dean of the Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Details of this visit are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. These visits only confirmed in my mind that we need to think more creatively about preparing our graduate students to succeed in a global setting. This topic was also highlighted in several sessions at the annual meeting of the Council of Graduate Schools which I just attended in DC.

I continue to meet with graduates as I travel around the country and learn about their marvelous careers beyond FSU. Many are mentioned in the newsletter. In closing, I am pleased to say that Dr. Keisha John has just joined the Graduate School as an Assistant Dean and Director of the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards replacing Dr. Anne Marie West who departed this past July. Dr. John will also be coordinating the new Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. More information on the mission and services of this new office will be forthcoming.

Have a happy holiday season and if you are interested check out my blog about issues in graduate education:

<http://gradschool.fsu.edu/Inside-Graduate-Education/Dean-Marcus-Blog>

Nancy Marcus



CARNIVAL AT THE REZ



Graduate students enjoyed DOG ET AL's treats at the annual Carnival event.

The third annual Carnival @ the REZ (FSU Reservation) for graduate students and their families was a huge success. Between 300-400 attended the Carnival October 2nd and were greeted by FSU Carnival 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, and the many water sports opportunities at the REZ. Free, roundtrip transportation was available from University Center C (UCC) 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 Affairs, Center for Global Engagement,

and School of Communication. Graduate student families included relatives from as far away as Nepal. The Graduate School plans to host the Carnival again next fall on the first Tuesday of October.

DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT SPRING APPLICATION OPENS

The Graduate School's Dissertation Research Grant provides up to \$750 for dissertation writers to assist with expenses associated with research necessary to prepare the dissertation. The award is meant to cover expenses associated with research activities necessary for a high quality dissertation (i.e. books, software, travel, etc.). The funds are not meant to cover common expenses all dissertation writers incur such as typing or word processing services, copying of the dissertation, editing services, basic supplies, etc. Any enrolled Florida State University graduate student who has been admitted to candidacy and is actively engaged in research or creative activity in support of their dissertation may apply. A graduate student may receive only one grant from this program. The application cycle is currently open and will close at 5pm on February 1, 2013.

For complete instructions and a link to the new online application, please visit GradSpace in Blackboard. <https://campus.fsu.edu>

THE GRAD CONNECTION

CONGRATULATIONS FALL 2012 DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

Amer Afaq, Public Administration
Myriam A. Badr, Molecular Biophysics
Leigh A. Baker, Educational Psychology & Learning Systems
Tiffany A. Brown, Psychology
Emily S. Clark, Religion
Elise C. Cope, Biomedical Sciences
Joanna L. Goplen, Psychology
Emily D. Gottfried, Psychology
Karlyn M. Griffith, Art History
Haley D. Gummelt, Psychology
Laura E. Hume, Psychology
Rachel Elizabeth Kane, Management
Ming Jo Kang, Geography
Timothy B. Kellison, Sport Management
Young Do Kim, Sport Management
Kathryn A. Lechler, English
JinxuanMa, Library & Information Studies
Alicia L. Mahler, Educational Psychology & Learning Systems
Yelena McLane, Art Education
Gina A. O'Neal-Moffit, Biomedical Sciences/Program in Neuroscience
Jonathan W. Olson, Religion
Sudhakara Rao Pattabhi, Biology
Jessica D. Ribeiro, Psychology
Debora C. Solomon, English
Sheri T. Stronach, Communication Sciences & Disorders
Mariliis Vahe, Communications
Giuseppina Valle, Sociology
Tingting Xu, Teacher Education
Khawaja Zain-ul-adbin, Communications

Eclectic Acoustic performed Bluegrass music during the 3rd Annual Carnival as the Rez (See page 2 for more).



GRADUATE STUDENT & ALUMNI ACCOLADES

Denise M. Akob (PhD 2008) started as a Research Microbiologist in the National Research Program of the US Geological Survey in Reston, VA in August 2012.

Anthony Arguez (PhD 2005) was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers and was congratulated by President Obama in the White House in July 2012. He is currently a Physical Scientist at the National Climatic Data Center.

Rachel Armstrong (PhD candidate) won the American Chemical Society Poster Award in Philadelphia for her poster, “Measuring biophysical constants with an NSET torque wrench.”

The Association for Applied Sport Psychology’s Student Diversity Award was granted to **Itay Basevitch** (PhD candidate) and **Edson Medeiros Filho** (PhD 2012) for their project, Exercise and Psychological Well-Being Among Older Adults.

James A. Bell (PhD 2006) received tenure and promotion at Grand Valley State University where he is now Associate Professor of Theatre in the School of Communications.

Jennifer Young Blalock (MS 2010) has accepted a position as Director of Programs and Member Engagement with Leadership Florida.

Matt Bondurant’s (PhD 2003) novel *The Wettest County in the World* was made into the feature film *Lawless*, starring Shia LaBouef, Jessica Chastain, Tom Hardy, and Gary Oldman, released nationwide in August 2012. Bondurant is currently Assistant Professor of Arts & Humanities at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Gaelynn P. Wolf Bordonaro (PhD 2003) was awarded the 2012 Ruth Schillinger Award for outstanding service to women. She is the Director of the Art Therapy Program and Assistant Professor in the Department of Counselor Education at Emporia State University, and the Clinical Director of Communities Healing through Art (CHART).

During the 2012 National Art Association convention in New York City, **Zerric Clinton** (PhD 2010) was elected as chair of the Committee on Multi-Ethnic Concerns. This is a two year appointment that ends in 2014.

Michael Culligan (PhD 2009) accepted a full time faculty position in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at St. Petersburg College.

Omar Carmenates (DM 2009) has released his debut solo CD, *The Gaia Theory*, through Rattle Records. The CD is comprised of eight environmentally-focused solo percussion works and, in addition to being recorded at the Florida State University Percussion Studio, also features members of the Florida State University Percussion Ensemble.

conversations that this

Michelle M. Chandrasekhar (PhD 2012) has accepted a position as Director of Planning, Assessment, & Research at Olympic College in Bremerton, WA.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION: A STEP TOWARD THE GLOBAL CLASSROOM

In Summer 2012, The Program for Instructional Excellence and the FSU Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies co-sponsored an internship program developed by Hiroshima University's Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC). Tomokazu Oba and Hiromi Nakashima were awarded this internship and they chose to attend Florida State University to learn about the higher education system in the USA and how universities prepare graduate students for teaching at the college level. As part of the program they attended the two-day Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) Teaching Conference, participated in graduate student workshops, observed classes taught by FSU graduate student teaching assistants in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, and conducted research. They also visited TCC to learn about the community college system in the USA. This international collaboration provided the interns with a wide range of perspectives on teaching and learning and represents a step toward the global classroom.



Oba and Nakashimi (Hiroshima University) spent four weeks at FSU to learn about higher education in the U.S.

GRADUATE DEANS GAIN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

In 2005 the Dr. Karen DePauw, Dean of the Graduate School at Virginia Tech started the PFP Global Perspectives program. The program aims to prepare future faculty members with a global perspective of higher education. The graduate students visit with administrators, faculty, and students in France, Switzerland, and Italy to consider differences in academic practices worldwide and to develop innovative and effective approaches that foster international awareness and education.



Graduate deans met at the University of Pierre and Marie Curie in Paris to discuss higher education in Europe and the U.S.

The graduate students visit with administrators, faculty, and students in France, Switzerland, and Italy to consider differences in academic practices worldwide and to develop innovative and effective approaches that foster international awareness and education. This past summer, Dr. DePauw provided a group of graduate deans with a similar experience. I joined the group to broaden my knowledge of higher education in these countries and to think about ways to implement a similar program at FSU. We are now exploring opportunities that could draw on our facilities and contacts in London, Valencia, Paris, and Brussels. If you are a faculty member or graduate student interested in this effort please contact Dr. Nancy Marcus (nmarcus@fsu.edu).

GRADUATE STUDENT & ALUMNI ACCOLADES

Rafael Vasquez Lombardo (MS 2012) is now a Catalyst Elements Engineer for Cummins Emissions Solutions, a diesel engine after treatment systems business part of Cummins, Inc., a global diesel engine manufacturer. In his new role, Rafael will support product and technology development to meet future European Union diesel engine emission standards (Euro VI).

Christopher Martin (MA 2003) is now part of the business development unit for K4 Solutions, Inc.

Alexander Mikaberidze (PhD 2003) received Hubert H. Humphreys Endowed Professorship at Louisiana State University-Shreveport. This year he published several books, including, “Eyewitness Accounts of the Campaign of 1812,” the first English anthology of Russian eyewitness accounts of Napoleon’s invasion of Russia in 1812. He continues to serve as general editor of Selected Papers of the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era.

Felicia Moore Mensah (PhD 2003) is the recipient of 2012 American Educational Research Association (AERA), Division K, Teaching and Teacher Education, Early Career Award, given to a scholar within 10 years of receiving a doctorate and has made significant contributions to research. She is currently an associate professor and program coordinator in science education at Teachers College Columbia University, New York City.

Matthew D. Morton (PhD 2004) was selected for promotion to colonel in the United States Army. He is currently serving as a professor at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies.

Thomas J. Neal (PhD 2009) accepted in August of 2012 a position as Professor of Spiritual Theology at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans and Director of the Seminary’s lay leadership formation program, Co-Workers Leadership Institute.

In June, **Carol W. Payne** (PhD 2010) became the Director of the Music Preparatory School at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia.

Roger Peace (PhD 2007) is the author of a newly published book, *A Call to Conscience: The Anti-Contra War Campaign* (University of Massachusetts Press, June 2012). He is currently an adjunct instructor at Tallahassee Community College.

Evan J. Peterson’s (MFA 2009) first chapbook, *Skin Job*, was published by Minor Arcana Press in September.

Sean Phelps (PhD 2006) was named Northwest College’s (Powell, WY) 2012 Distinguished Alumnus. He is presently a Senior Lecturer in Sport and Recreation Management at the Auckland University of Technology in Auckland, New Zealand.

Eric G. Sikorski (PhD 2009) was recently promoted to Senior Program Analyst. Eric is a SETA support contractor to the Combating Terrorism Technical Support Office in Alexandria, VA.

GRADUATE STUDENT & ALUMNI ACCOLADES

Hassan H. Rmaile (PhD 2004) has joined H.B. Fuller as chief technology and innovation officer on October 29. He will lead global research and development and product management activities of the company.

Marta D. Simidtchieva (DMA 2005) was promoted to Associate Professor of Cello at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Jason Kemmitt Smith (PhD 2007) is currently the Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Arts at Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia.

Melvin Sterne (PhD 2008) published his dissertation novel, *Zara*, with Ink Brush Press. He has two other books forthcoming. He is currently Associate Professor of English at Shantou University in Shantou, People's Republic of China.

Carla Maria Thomas (MA 2008) was awarded the Vercelli Book and Anglo Saxon Studies Grant. She is currently a doctoral candidate at New York University.

Madhavi Vadlamudi (PhD 2010) was awarded the prestigious international thermal analysis society's best poster award for 2012 at North America Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (NATAS) Conference. She is currently advanced research scientist leading the advanced thermal analysis laboratory in Exxon Mobil Research and Engineering Company, NJ.

Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy (PhD 2010) was appointed Director of Choral Activities at James Madison University in June, 2011. This fall 2012, Dr. van der Vat-Chromy was also appointed Interim Director of the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir.

Richard J. Verdi (MS 2007) has been promoted to the position of Chief of Hydrologic Surveillance at the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Water Science Center of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Justin P. White (PhD 2004) is the Director of The Spanish Basic Language Program at FAU and Assistant Professor of Linguistics and Spanish.

Michael J. Widener (MS 2009, PhD SUNY-Buffalo 2012) accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at the University of Cincinnati's Department of Geography.

Cynthia Wilson (PhD 2010) began a new position this fall as Assistant Professor at the University of Montevallo in Alabama in the Department of Family & Consumer Sciences.

ADELAIDE WILSON FELLOWS SOCIETY FELLOWSHIP

In Fall 2012, FSU welcomed our first class of Adelaide Wilson Fellows. The Fellows Society Adelaide Wilson Fellowship is The Florida State University's most generous and prestigious university-wide graduate fellowship designed to attract highly competitive Ph.D., J.D., D.N.P., and M.F.A. students. This fellowship provides support for up to 5 continuous years for newly-admitted Ph.D. students, and support for up to 3 continuous years for newly-admitted qualifying JD, D.N.P., and masters students. The Fellowship is \$30,000 per calendar year, and provides the university health insurance plan for the individual. Ideal candidates demonstrate academic merit, leadership, broad intellectual curiosity, and an interest in interdisciplinary approaches to problem solving. Recipients of this fellowship serve as leaders of the Fellows Society, The Florida State University's interdisciplinary community of graduate scholars.



Inaugural Adelaide Wilson Fellow, Rachel Sheilds is pursuing a doctorate in Sports Psychology at FSU.

The 2014 Fellowship application cycle is now open. See below for more information.

2013-14 FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION CYCLE OPENS

The application cycle is now open for the 2013-14 University-wide fellowships administered through The Graduate School. Fellowships for newly admitted students include the Adelaide Wilson Fellows Society Fellowship, Legacy Fellowship, McNair Scholars Fellowship, FAMU Feeder Fellowship, and the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship. There are also a number of fellowships open to both current and newly admitted students, including the Wilson-Auzenne Fellowship for Minorities, the International Dissertation Research Semester Fellowship, the Henderson Family Fellowship, and the Florida Gubernatorial Fellowship. Recipients of these Fellowships are inducted into the Fellows Society at the beginning of the Fall semester. For information on these fellowships and the application process, please visit: <http://gradschool.fsu.edu/Funding-Awards/Graduate-School-Fellowships-and-Grants>

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS

One of the ways that The Graduate School supports interdisciplinary interactions at Florida State University is through the Fellows Society. Established in 2008, the Fellows Society brings together our university-wide fellowship recipients for interdisciplinary learning, mentoring, and leadership training.



Fellows pose with Fellows Society coordinator at the first Fellows Coffee Hour (L-R Nathnial Ramos, Joy Koo, Dr. Feltman, Deb Trusty).

At the annual training in August, the Fellows heard a presentation from Dr. Laura Osteen, “Creating Interdisciplinary Spaces,” which encouraged them to consider how they might gain insight about the broader implications of their research by interacting with graduate students from other disciplines. The talk inspired a lively discussion about potential topics for the 2013 Fellows Forum. The winning proposal, “Reintegrating Veterans into Civilian Life: An Interdisciplinary Discussion,” will consider the history of veterans affairs as well as current research on the sociological, psychological, and physical issues experienced by returning veterans. The Forum will be held in conjunction with the FSU Student Veteran’s Center Expo.

FSU is currently building a new facility, the Honors, Scholars, and Fellows House, which will support the development of an interdisciplinary scholarly community by creating opportunities for dialogue and collaboration among undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty and staff. The Honors, Scholars, and Fellows House, located across from Landis Green on Honors Way, will house the Fellows Society, Office of Graduate Fellowships & Awards, Program for Instructional Excellence, Office of National Fellowships, Office of Undergraduate Research, and Honors Program. The building is scheduled to be complete in Fall 2013. If you would like to support this effort, please contact Katherine Cline, Director of Development for the Division of Undergraduate Studies and The Graduate School at kcline@fsu.edu or 850-645-9357.

Visit this site for a live video of the construction site: <https://www.facilities.fsu.edu/FDC/webcam>



The Fellows Society gathered in October for the annual President’s Social.



The staircases and elevator shafts of the HSF House are beginning to emerge.

NEW ASSISTANT DEAN AND DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS



Dr. John received her Ph.D. from the Watson School of Biological Science at Cold Harbor Spring Laboratory

On December 3, Keisha John, Ph.D., joined The Graduate School as the new Assistant Dean and Director of the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (OGFA). She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County where she was a Meyerhoff Scholar. A Ford Foundation Fellow, Dr. John received her Ph.D. from the Watson School of Biological Sciences at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, then became a postdoctoral fellow at Rockefeller University. She is coming to FSU from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory where she served as the Associate Director of Recruitment and Undergraduate Research. As the Director of OGFA, Dr. John will work in coordination with the Dean of the Graduate School to administer the office's services to help students meet the many financial challenges they may face while pursuing a graduate degree. OGFA hosts presentations and workshops highlighting available fellowships, provides individual fellowship and award recommendations to students based on their field of study and stage of graduate work, and assists and mentors students through the application process.

Dr. John will also coordinate the newly established Office of Post-Doctoral Affairs. The Provost is in the process of completing appointments to an Advisory Board that will include faculty and postdocs who will advise Dr. John on issues, programs, and activities related to holding a postdoctoral position at the Florida State University. The office will coordinate and complement postdoctoral activities already underway e.g., in the College of Medicine and the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. The office will be the main point of contact for information pertaining to postdocs at FSU. A website is in the process of being developed. Dr. John says, "I am thrilled to join the Graduate School at FSU and look forward to working with FSU's community of outstanding graduate and professional students, faculty, and staff."

Fall 2012

**Volume 8
Issue 1**

Nancy Marcus, Ph.D.
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**Jennifer M. Feltman,
Ph.D.**

Editor