



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

THE GRAD CONNECTION

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11, 2012

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

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I am pleased to report that the Florida State University achieved a new milestone this past academic year (2010-2011) with the graduation of 429 new doctoral students. This represents an increase of 89 graduates compared to the previous year and a 73% increase from ten years ago. It is interesting to note that the enrollment of doctoral students has increased 36% over this same period so these results might indicate that efforts aimed at improving retention and completion rates of students are indeed working. This is exciting news.

We kicked off the fall with New Graduate Student Orientation, which was attended by over 950 students. In addition to the general session and professional development workshops, students were treated to lunch on the Union Green hosted by Seminole Dining. Each student also received a Graduate School T-shirt courtesy of President Eric Barron. Orientation not only gets students pointed in the right direction, but it provides the first opportunity to meet others outside one's immediate academic discipline and thus begin to develop a professional and personal support network. I encourage students to attend Graduate School events such as the Professional Development Workshop Series, Carnival at the Rez, and the PhD Movie (described in this newsletter) not just for the content of the activity, but to meet fellow students from other disciplines and expand one's intellectual horizons.

Funding graduate education is a universal challenge for all universities. The Graduate School offers several different fellowship and awards. I encourage students to peruse our website for more information on these programs and to review the external funding opportunities posted on the website for Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards <http://ogfa.fsu.edu/>

Have a happy holiday season.

Nancy Marcus



THE GRAD CONNECTION

2ND ANNUAL CARNIVAL AT THE REZ

By: Dr. Judith Devine

On October 4, 2011, The Graduate School hosted the Carnival @ the REZ for graduate students and their families at the FSU Reservation. The Carnival was co-sponsored by many FSU supporters—the Congress of Graduate Students (COGS), Black Graduate Student Association (BGSU), Alumni Association, Center for Global Engagement, School of Communication, Circus, Alumni Village, Alumni Village Childcare Center, Athletic Department, Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc., and Tallahassee's Eclectic Acoustic Band. With perfect autumn weather, FSU fami-



Students enjoyed hotdogs and corndogs catered by Dog et al.

lies remained until the REZ closed at 7:00 P.M

The Carnival included many family-friendly activities. In addition to the Eclectic Acoustic Band, Dean Nancy Marcus delighted young and old with her magic show. Also entertaining the almost 600 attendees were the FSU Circus jugglers and stilt walkers.

FSU athletes played ball; Theta Nu Xi sorority members provided face painting while the Alumni Village Childcare Center hosted craft tables. Refreshments included a variety of hot dogs, popcorn, snow cones, ice cream, and soft drinks served by the BGSU. Other REZ activities included swimming, ping pong, kayaking, canoeing, and beach volleyball. Transportation was provided to and from campus and the Alumni Village as well.

The 2011 Carnival was a great opportunity for networking with other graduate students who are also balancing family life, parenting,



Members of the FSU Flying High Circus performed for excited onlookers.

and academics. One of the many emails received following the event voiced similar messages as the following: “I just wanted to thank you for organizing such a nice family day at the FSU reservation. My husband I and enjoyed canoeing in the lake with our 3-year old daughter. The food and other activities were also very much enjoyed and appreciated. It can be challenging at times to raise a family while earning a graduate degree. Bringing us all together at this family day sure made me feel like we have a special place at FSU.”

Dean Nancy Marcus performed a magic show for the children of graduate students at the Carnival.



FALL 2011 DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

Hillary Conley, Classics

Candice Franco, Educational Psychology & Learning Systems

Peter Kunze, English

Scott Ortolano, English

Lindsey Phillips, English

Wallace Salkauski, Modern Languages & Linguistics

Katherine Geeseman, Music

Emily Simonavice, Nutrition, Food, & Exercise Sciences

Haiyan Maier, Nutrition, Food, & Exercise Sciences

Jungwon Park, Public Administration & Policy

Kaiju Chang, Public Administration & Policy

Sungkyu Jang, Public Administration & Policy

Andrew Polk, Religion

Patrick McGrady, Sociology

GRADUATE ONLINE FELLOWSHIP & REVIEWING SYSTEM

By Brian Barton

The Graduate School is pleased to announce the creation of a new application portal for fellowships administered by the Graduate School for the 2012-2013 academic year, the Graduate Online Fellowship & Reviewing System (GOFRS). This portal will accept applications for the Fellows Society Adelaide Wilson Fellowship, the FAMU Feeder Fellowship, the International Dissertation Semester Research Fellowship, and the Leslie N. Wilson-Delores Auzenne Assistantship for Minorities. We have posted an instructional memorandum for departments and students in GradSpace and the Graduate School Faculty/Staff sections of Blackboard. It is very important that you read all of this memorandum because it outlines the new fellowship application system which went live on November 1st. The new fellowship application system has several new deadlines, some of which are for the department (or an academic representative), and some that are applicable to students. We feel that this new system will simplify and automate the fellowship application process and we encourage departments and potential applicants to visit our website for more information: <http://gradschool.fsu.edu/Funding-Awards/Graduate-School-Fellowships-and-Grants>



ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Rusty Banks (Music Composition, M.M. 2003) was recently listed by National Public Radio's "The Mix" [WQXR] as one of the top 100 composers under 40 "shaping our contemporary musical scene and defining what it actually means to be a composer in the 21st century."

James Barry (Composition, D.M. 2003) was a winner in the Dayton Ballet's New Music for New Dance project for his orchestral work EXPANSION, which ran at the Victoria Theatre in March 2011.

Sean Beavers (Music, D.M., 2006) was promoted to Associate Professor of Guitar and Music Theory at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he also serves as Instrumental Coordinator.

Kimberly Newsome (ELPS, Ph.D. 2009), assumed the position of Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the University of North Carolina Asheville in January 2011. The University of North Asheville is a public liberal arts institution and North Carolina's only public liberal arts institution.

Jennifer Perrine (English, Ph.D. 2006) won the 2010 Agha Shahid Ali Poetry Prize, and her book, *In the Human Zoo*, was published by University of Utah Press in spring 2011.

Jane Springer (Creative Writing, Ph.D. 2008) received the Beatrice Hawley Award for her 2nd book of poems *Murder Ballad* (Alice James Books, May 2012) as well as a Pushcart Prize for the title poem.

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FELLOWS SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S SOCIAL

By: Jennifer Feltman

On October 18, 2011, FSU President Eric Barron invited members of the FSU Fellows Society and special guests, including the Gates Scholars and NSF Graduate Fellows, to attend a social at his house. This annual event allows our Fellows, who are engaged in research and creative endeavors across multiple disciplines, an opportunity to discuss their academic interests with one another and with the FSU President. A slideshow is available online:

<http://gradschool.fsu.edu/Events/2011-12-Fellows-Pizza-Social>

Members of the Fellows Society are currently planning for the upcoming Fellows Forum, which will take place later in the spring semester. This spring's forum will address the topic of the food system, addressing issues such as food production, distribution, and the social networks involved in the food system. For more about the Fellows Forum and the Fellows Society, please visit <http://gradschool.fsu.edu/Fellows-Society>



Gates Scholar, Cassandra Brown, with FSU President Eric Barron and his wife, Molly.

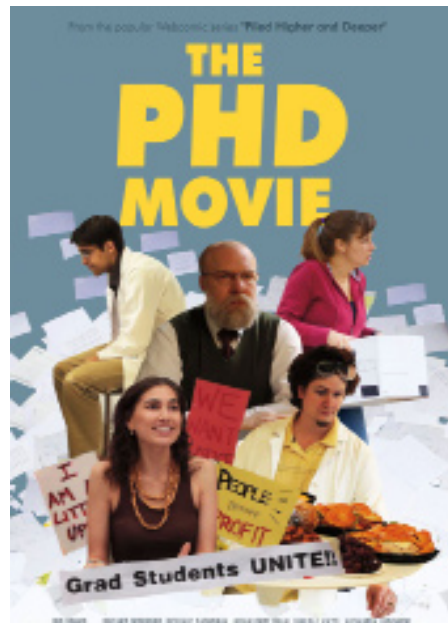


2011-12 Fellows Society President's Social

THE PH.D. MOVIE COMES TO FSU

By: Jennifer Feltman

The Ph.D. Movie (2011), a live-action adaptation of the popular online comic strip, “Piled Higher and Deeper,” (phdcomics.com) is being screened this fall at over 200 college and university campuses across America and internationally. FSU was one of only 27 campuses to host Jorge Cham, the author of the comic strip, for a Q&A session and book signing. Over 265 students, faculty, and staff attended the screening of the movie, which took place at the Askew Student Life Center. Students



enjoyed a short break from research and the stresses of graduate student life, and all laughed at the film’s humorous portrayal of life in Academia.

The Ph.D. Movie introduces audiences to the unique and funny culture of Academia and follows four graduate students (Cecilia, Mike, Tajel and the “Nameless Grad Student”) as they struggle to find balance between research, teaching and their personal lives with humor and heart. During the Q & A session we learned that each of these characters was played by a real graduate student and that graduate students played key roles in producing the film.

The movie was filmed on location at and was produced in partnership with the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). Jorge Cham received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University in 2003 and was a full-time instructor and researcher at Caltech from 2003-2005. In addition to authoring the “Piled Higher and Deeper Comic Strip,” he currently travels around the world, giving lectures on the power of procrastination and using humor to survive graduate school.

A packed house of students, faculty, and staff at the Askew Student Life Center enjoyed the screening of the *PhD Movie*, a new feature film based on phdcomics.com



Comic strip author, Jorge Cham, signed books after the Q & A.





NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATE FOR PREPARING FUTURE PROFESSIONALS

By: Dr. Judith Devine

The Graduate School is now offering a graduate certificate, Preparing Future Professionals (PFP), designed for students who plan to pursue careers outside of academia (e.g., industry, government, non-profits).

The four areas covered in the program are Subject Area Content, Ethics/Integrity, Professional Preparation, and a Portfolio. These require coursework, attendance at professional development workshops, an internship/practicum or interviews in the field, and resumé and portfolio development.

At least twelve graduate credit hours must be earned toward the PFP Graduate Certificate. All of the courses taken for the certificate must be approved by the faculty member who serves as the major professor/mentor/advisor and the Graduate School, and must be listed in the student's Professional Readiness Plan. Courses selected to meet the required twelve hours will be determined by the major professor/mentor/advisor and must be approved by the Graduate School. Six of the twelve hours must be letter-graded and a "Satisfactory" must be earned in all S/U courses. Students must achieve and must maintain a cumulative 3.0 (B) grade point average in all graduate certificate courses in order for the graduate certificate to be awarded. PFP Fellows successfully completing the PFP Graduate Certificate will have a notation included on his or her FSU transcript.

To access the PFP requirements, please self-enroll in the Preparing Future Professionals Blackboard® site. For more information, please contact the PFP Advisor, Dr. Judith Devine at jdevine@fsu.edu

FELLOW RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Doctoral student and Fellows Society member, **Aaron Thomas** (Theatre), won the 2011 Association for Theatre in Higher Education Theory and Criticism Graduate Student Paper Award award for his paper "The Erotics of Male/Male Rape? Violence and Deviance in The Romans in Britain and Beyond." This national competition is organized by the Theory and Criticism Focus Group, which is a long-established, prestigious interest group in one of the most significant national professional organizations for theatre studies. Papers are judged by a panel of scholars from major institutions of higher education.

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