



THE GRAD CONNECTION

The Graduate School Newsletter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY



Message from the Dean

Welcome to The GradConnection!

As you probably know, these past 18 months have been incredibly challenging, but our brilliant students have car-

ried on spectacularly. We hope this newsletter gives you a window into their resilience and ability to work together towards a better tomorrow for all.

GradWorld FSU, our popular interactive video library highlighting the research activities of students, faculty and post-docs, continues to evolve and expand with new content. We also hope you enjoy reading all about our winners of the Research and Creativity Awards, as well as the Three Minute Thesis and Master's in 4 competitions from the last year. These events were all held virtually, but they were still a lot of fun.

For much of the past year, we have been "zooming" here and there, and this has certainly been true of our students who have performed valiantly both in and out of the classroom. The Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) has played a critically important role in

providing instructional support to TAs university-wide with workshops, teaching conferences, Canvas site help and peer evaluations. The graduate student-led Diversity & Inclusion in Research & Teaching Organization (DIRECTO) has continued to be amazingly active. The Fellows Society was, as always, extremely busy with numerous virtual forums and research sharing events. Our students continue to have great success in securing external funding for their research projects with help from the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (OGFA). The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs has also had an eventful year with a number of events, including teaming up with OGFA on a 3-Part Grant Workshop.

As always, we have a special section dedicated to student and alumni accolades. Be sure to alert us to any noteworthy happenings, which we can include in our next newsletter. Please visit The Graduate School's webpage for the latest news and events, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Many thanks to Laura Minor for compiling this newsletter. All the best to each and every one of you! Enjoy and cherish your family, friends and Mother Earth.... we all need each other! And keep making the World a better place! GO NOLES!

Mark Riley, Ph.D.
Dean of The Graduate School

GradWorld FSU

FSU’s scholarly endeavors are now accessible around the globe through the revolutionary website **GradWorld FSU**. Similar to Google Earth, *GradWorld FSU* displays a variety of personalized videos from a number of departments and colleges on campus for the purpose of showcasing graduate student achievements and their tremendous contributions to the university and the world at large.

The database is sortable by country of origin, language, college, degree program and degree level. To increase the website’s global reach, international participants are asked to record two videos — one in English and one in their native tongue — with the hope of inspiring their countrymen and countrywomen to apply to Florida State.

The *GradWorld FSU* portfolio is still growing with a constant stream of videos, and graduate students are encouraged to create videos of their own and upload them. Students are realizing the extraordinary professional benefits to creating a video for



GradWorld FSU as it gives them an opportunity to showcase their personality, research, skills and passion to potential employers. The *GradWorld FSU* website is also closely linked with the Career Center and students have already reported its positive role while seeking employment opportunities.

For more information on creating a GradWorld video, visit [GradWorld FSU](#).

2021 Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence

The Florida State University Graduate School held their annual Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence in 2021. This is always one of our favorite events. Unfortunately, this year we were not able to celebrate the excellence in our usual joyous face-to-face gathering for The Graduate School Celebration of Excellence at the Alumni Center. **We hope you enjoy the video we have created in its place.**

After a welcome from Dean Mark Riley (0:30), names and achievements of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars are introduced by faculty and staff from The Graduate School. Dr. Lisa Liseno recognizes the Program for Instructional Excellence Teaching Associates and Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award winners (1:13). Mr. Brian Barton announces the Preparing Future Faculty (8:11) and Preparing Future Professionals (9:27) Fellows, as well as winners of the Research & Creativity Awards (11:31), Three Minute Thesis Awards (12:10), Master’s in 4 Awards (13:01), and Graduate Faculty Mentor Awards (14:18). Winners of the Graduate Student Leadership Award (10:16) and UROP Graduate Mentor Awards (13:44) are shared by Mr. James Beck. Dr. Adrienne Stephenson highlights the recipients of national & prestigious external fellowships and awards (18:19), while winners of various postdoctoral awards (20:17) are presented by Dr. Debi Fadool.

2020-2021 Research and Creativity Awards

The 2020-2021 Research and Creativity Award (RCA) winners represent the three broad disciplines: Arts & Humanities; Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics; and Social & Behavioral Sciences. Each nominee’s materials were reviewed remotely by discipline-specific judging panels.

The **Arts & Humanities** winner is **Joshua Matson**, now a doctoral graduate from the Religions of Western Antiquity (RWA) track of the FSU Religion Department. Joshua’s major professor, Dr. Matthew Goff, explained that Joshua’s dissertation “addresses what the Dead Sea Scrolls contribute to our understanding of the development of the so-called Minor Prophets, a collection of twelve small books in the Bible attributed to prophets.”



The **Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics** Research & Creativity Award Winner is **Pamela Knoll**, now a doctoral graduate in Chemistry and Biochemistry. Pamela’s major professor, Dr. Oliver Steinbock, said, “Most of Pamela’s work aims to elucidate the growth mechanism of polycrystalline aggregates (called ‘biomorphs’).”

The **Social & Behavioral Sciences** Research and Creativity Award winner is **Mary Duffy**, a Psychology doctoral student in Dr. Thomas Joiner’s laboratory. Mary is conducting “... research on the role of body experiences in suicidal thoughts and behaviors”.



Check the Graduate School’s Student Awards and Grants page later this year for details about applying for the 2022 Research and Creativity Awards.

2020 Three Minute Thesis Competition

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT™) is a research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland, Australia. Doctoral students have three minutes, using one static slide, to present a compelling presentation about their dissertation for a non-specialist audience. In Fall 2020, the competition was conducted virtually with the competitors creating, editing, and submitting three-minute videos that were viewed by 3MT Preliminary Round Judges.

A 3MT Zoom recording and editing workshop was led by Mr. Tom Cruz, Director of GEOSET, and the Graduate School. The recording of the 3MT workshop was made available on the Graduate School's website. Twenty-one doctoral students from sixteen academic programs competed in the Preliminary Round. The Preliminary Round Judges selected nine finalists who were allowed to edit their presentations prior to the 3MT Finals Competition. The 3MT Finals Judges were:

- Dean Emeritus Marie Cowart
- Mayor John Dailey
- University Counsel Carolyn Egan
- Finance & Administration Chief of Staff and Vice President for Human Resources Renisha Gibbs
- Trustee Mark Hillis
- Professor & Senior Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences Myra Hurt

First Place and Second Place were selected by the Finals Judges and resulted in two ties this year! The People's Choice Award was selected by remote voting. Over 2,000 unique votes were cast remotely for the People's Choice Award!

Visit [The Graduate School's 3MT website](#) to view presentations and find information about the 2021 competition.



1st Place (Tie)
Matthew Martenson
Nutrition & Integrative Physiology

1st Place (Tie)
Mark Duslak
Educational Leadership & Policy Studies



2nd Place (Tie)
Kelly Graham
Earth, Ocean, & Atmospheric Science

2nd Place (Tie)
Elham Shekari
Urban & Regional Planning



People's Choice
Yin Zhang
Earth, Ocean, & Atmospheric Science

2021 Master's in Four (Min4) Competition



Florida State University held its third-annual Master's in Four (Min4) competition in Spring 2021. Master's students have four minutes to present four slides and provide a clear, simple explanation of their specialized research for a diverse audience. Judges assess the effectiveness of each presentation based on numerous criteria, such as the strength of the introduction, how evidence-based information is presented in an easily understandable format, and the overall quality of oral communication.

This year's competition was conducted virtually with the competitors' videos and embedded slides first viewed and ranked by Min4 Preliminary Round judges. Seven finalists were selected to compete in the final round of the Min4 competition. The Min4 finalist judges were Professor Debra Fadool, Dean of the Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship Susan Fiorito, Interim Vice President for Research Laurel Fulkerson, Director of the Center for Global Engagement Cindy Green, Assistant Provost Stephen McDowell, Professor Patricia Warren Hightower and Professor Mark Zeigler.

Congratulations to this year's Min4 winners and finalists!

1st Place: Guanxiong Qi, Religion



2nd Place
Corrie Ostrander
Interior Architecture and Design



3rd Place
Briana Acevedo
Communication Science and Disorders



People's Choice Award
Qiushan Liu
Psychology

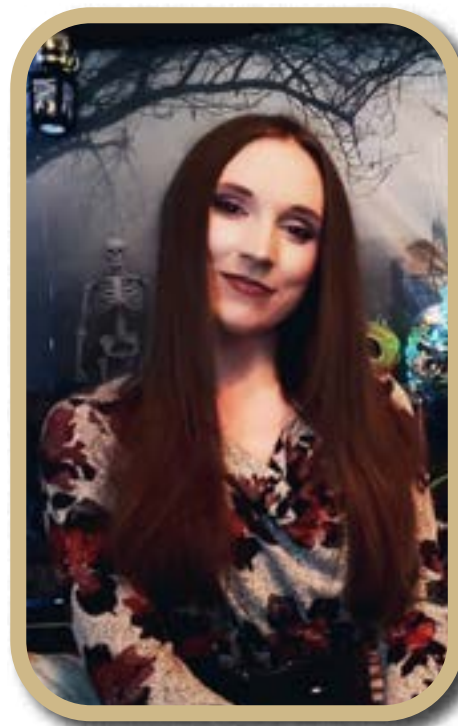
Other participants selected to compete in the Min4 Final round were **Olivia Perron** (*Interior Architecture & Design*), **Alexandra Pippin** (*English*), and **Jonathan Stern** (*Educational Psychology & Learning Systems*).

Visit [The Graduate School's Min4 website](#) to view presentations and for information about competing in the 2022 competition.

PROGRAM FOR INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE (PIE)

Welcome New Graduate School Staff: **Caity Kelly**

The Graduate School is excited to welcome Caity Kelly as the Assistant Director of the Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE), and The Fellows Society. Caity is a two-time FSU alumnus, with her bachelor's degree in Psychology and her master's degree in Instructional Systems and Learning Technologies. In these fields, she has studied various concepts of learning theory, instructional design, media/technology, and best practices in teaching. She loves teaching and cultivating professionalism/best practices in the field of education as well as designing various instructional support resources. In previous semesters, she has worked as a psychology tutor for the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) at FSU, a TA for online Theories of Learning and Cognition, and the PIE GA in Spring 2020. Since graduating with her master's degree in Spring 2020, she is very excited to be in her new role of Assistant Director for PIE and the Fellows Society.



Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) TA and Instructional Support

The **Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE)** provides year-round interdisciplinary training, community, and support for FSU Teaching Assistants (TAs), instructional staff and anyone interested in learning best practices and strategies for teaching and learning.

PIE TA Community Online Teaching Support Canvas Site

PIE's **Canvas organizational site** provides teaching assistants (TAs) and instructional staff the opportunity to find peer community and support while more courses have been offered in an online format due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Anyone can self-enroll in this Canvas site by clicking on this link:
<https://canvas.fsu.edu/enroll/JB4D8K>

PROGRAM FOR INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE (PIE)

PIE Peer Teaching Observations

PIE is now offering Peer Teaching Observations. If you would like constructive feedback from other experienced TAs on methods to use in the online or face-to-face classroom, please reach out to us.

Check out the following link for more information:
<http://bit.ly/Peer-Teaching-Observe>

Upcoming Virtual PIE Teaching Workshops

PIE will continue offering its year-round series of workshops virtually. Workshops are open to instructional staff and any graduate student interested in creating the optimal learning environment for students. More PIE Coffee Hour & Teaching Workshop Topics Coming Soon! For now, please save the dates & times found on the **PIE website**.

2020-2021 PIE ASSOCIATES



PIE's Annual Spring 2021 Teaching Conference

PIE's annual University-wide Spring 2021 Teaching Conference was held fully online due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns. A portion of the training was delivered asynchronously via Canvas, and there were also several synchronous Zoom training sessions spread over two days.

This annual teaching conference included sessions that provided FSU graduate students and postdoctoral scholars with teaching policy training requirements as stated in the current **University-wide TA Standards**, although all FSU students, faculty, postdoctoral scholars, and staff are welcome to attend.

PROGRAM FOR INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE (PIE)

2020-2021 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards

The Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE), a unit of the Graduate School, oversees an annual teaching award program that recognizes outstanding graduate student teaching assistants (TAs) for their distinguished contributions to student learning.

See this year's six Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award recipients below. Congratulations to all award recipients, and thank you for all you do for our students!



J.T. Bandzuh
Geography



Morgan Luttig
Music Education



Jessi Thomsen
English



James Waters
Religion



Porché Whitby
Criminology



Hye Ryung Won
Early Childhood Education

DIRECTO: THE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN RESEARCH & TEACHING ORGANIZATION

3rd Annual Spring Conversation Series



DIRECTO held its 3rd Annual Spring Conversation Series monthly from February to May 2021. These conversations provide a "brave-space" for members of FSU and the surrounding community to discuss issues of diversity, inclusion, and equity. Presentations are designed in formats conducive to encouraging conversation and participation. Specific attention is given to how these concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion relate to topics in teaching and research, as well as tangible ways to incorporate them into research projects and teaching methods. Below is a look at the variety of engaging topics discussed this year, and please remember to check the **DIRECTO website** for future series and events!

- College of Communication & Information (CCI) faculty, **Drs. Michelle Kazmer, Dawn Betts-Green, Melissa Gross, Don Latham, Stephen McDowell, Jessica Wendorf Muhamad,** and **Professor Malia Bruker** analyzed antiracism within course contexts.
- **Jacob Garcia**, a CCI undergraduate student, explored motivation, identity, and representation through a discussion about the lack of Black and Brown representation in media and subsequent imposter syndrome.
- **Dr. Adeola Fayemi**, Diversity and Inclusion Manager at Auburn University, presented about positioning acculturation strategies for transformational learning and academic success.
- Professional mediator **Tye Bourdony** (JD, CFR) discussed mediation skills and tackling bias by expanding inclusivity and reframing communication.
- College of Education faculty, **Drs. Laura Reid Marks, Deborah Ebener, Deb Osborn,** and **Taylor Thompson** examined organizational/program diversity statements and the process of integrating a statement's values into faculty and student culture.

Dr. Lisa Liseno Appointed to National Diversity and Inclusiveness Advisory Committee



Dr. Lisa Liseno, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, has been appointed by the President of the **Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)** to its **Diversity and Inclusiveness Advisory Committee (DIAC)**. CGS is the only national organization in the United States dedicated exclusively to the advancement of graduate education and research. DIAC serves the mission of advising CGS, its members, and

others wanting the CGS perspective on issues related to underrepresented and minority populations. DIAC is comprised of CGS members appointed for their work in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and members meet regularly to discuss strategies to enhance DEI in graduate programs.

THE FELLOWS SOCIETY

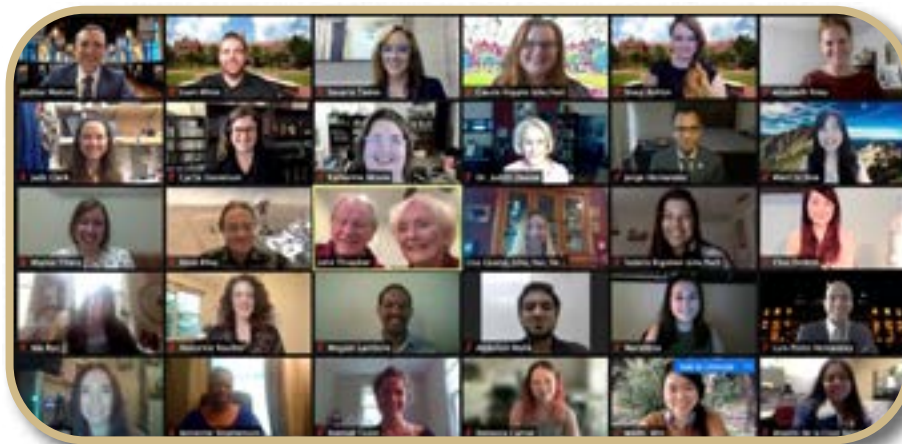
Fellows Society Spring 2021 Annual Fellows Forum



The Fellows Forum is an opportunity for members of the Fellows Society to put into action the interdisciplinary ideals of the Fellows Society by organizing a symposium that brings together scholars and professionals from a variety of viewpoints to address a problem of broad humanistic significance. Each spring members of the Fellows Society organize this annual event, including choosing a unique theme, and inviting speakers from a variety of disciplines to engage in discussions on challenging and timely topics. The Fellows engagement in the planning and development of each Forum provides valuable professional development experience. Spring 2021's two-day Fellows Forum's theme was "Surviving & Thriving through Chaos: Resilience, Community, & Creativity in the Face of Crisis." Speakers from a variety of disciplines spoke on panels, graduate students provided poster presentations, and keynote addresses were given by Dr. Ebrahim Ahmadisharaf from FSU's Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Dr. Antonio C. Cuyler and Gabi Shutt from FSU's Arts Administration.

The Fellows Society First Annual Spring Celebration Event

On April 16th, the **FSU Fellows Society** held their 1st annual Spring Celebration Event. This new event, held virtually this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, provided time to celebrate the achievements of graduating members of the Fellows Society. The event also served as a time to recognize those Fellows who served on the 2020-2021 Fellows Society Advisory Board. **The Fellows Society Advisory Board** exists to provide members of the Society an opportunity to hold elected leadership positions and assist in producing collaborative, interdisciplinary, and service events throughout the academic year.



Fall 2020's **Fellows Society President's Social**, which typically takes place at the FSU President's House, was canceled because of COVID-19 restrictions. Therefore, this Celebration also served as a venue for to thank President & Mrs. Thrasher for their years of support and generosity. The annual group photo was taken with them via Zoom this year! A Kudoboard "Thank You and Happy Retirement" card, digitally signed by Society members, was also shared with President & Mrs. Thrasher. The event ended with a preview of the new Fellows Society Mentoring Program, planned to launch in 2021.

Three-Part Grants Workshop

The **Office of Postdoctoral Affairs** partnered with the **Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards** and the **Office of Research** to host three interconnected workshops to assist postdoctoral scholars and graduate trainees with the preparation of extramural applications or independent research grants. Scholars and trainees who participated in all three sessions and submitted their proposals to an extramural agency were eligible to receive an intramural grant award for training-related expenses of their research project (\$750 graduate trainees, \$1,000 postdoctoral scholars). These funds were graciously contributed by the Office of Research.

Part I of the workshop was held March 19 & 22, 2021. Experienced faculty who have served on grant review panels presented the latest criteria and strategies for a number of different agencies in a variety of fields and disciplines including US Department of Agriculture, Women in Science L'Oreal, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, American Heart Association, Brain & Behavior Research Foundation, National Association for Education, and US Department of Education. After this, a Canvas page was developed to house resources associated with construction of a competitive proposal.

Part II of the workshop, held June 16 & 23, 2021, enabled post-docs and graduate students to work in peer writing groups to perfect their Specific Aims Page for their applications.

Finally, participants in **Part III**, held September 29 & October 6, 2021, engaged in a Mock Study Section with a panel of self-selected faculty who provided constructive advice regarding the full proposal, prior to submission to an extramural agency. Twenty-five postdoctoral scholars and graduate students at FSU participated in the full series and are enthusiastically working towards high caliber submissions in 2021. Fingers crossed!

3 Part Grants Workshop

Series Hosted by: Debra D. Fadool, Ph.D. (OGFA) & Adrienne Stephenson Ph.D. (OGFA)
Grant Awards Provided by: The FSU Office of Research

Presented by: The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs & The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards

Are you contemplating submitting a grant application? What is the proposal transmittal form? How do you create a budget? This interactive series will provide an overview of the various grant mechanisms and help you kick start the application process. Agencies covered:

- ✓ NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
- ✓ NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
- ✓ US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
- ✓ NALD SPENCER
- ✓ US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
- ✓ L'OREAL FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE
- ✓ US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
- ✓ AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
- ✓ AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Intramural Grant Award! \$750 for Doctoral and \$1000 for Postdoctoral
*Must attend all 3 workshop components and submit extramural application.

Mark your calendars!

Part I	Part II	Part III
March 19 & 22 <small>1-3:30 PM Via Zoom</small>	June 16 & 23 <small>11AM Via Zoom</small>	September 29 & October 6 <small>11AM Via Zoom</small>
Learn more about eligibility and mechanisms for different grant applications.	Professional critiques will be available for the specific aims critique.	Engage in the review process. Applications will be reviewed, critiqued, and scored by reviewers in a simulated mock study section.

To Register Visit: https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5r19yftkGjyA1b8

OFFICE OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (OGFA)

In addition to departmental and university awards, graduate students are eligible to apply for various highly competitive, state, national, and international funded fellowships, scholarships, and grants to support their work and research during their graduate school journey at FSU. OGFA facilitates FSU's graduate students during their nomination and application for awards by providing information through the lens of ongoing professional development, portfolio building, development of communication and writing skills, and engaging scholarly development from a holistic approach.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, graduate students received over three million dollars in nationally competitive fellowships and awards. This is a huge accomplishment and testament to the hard work and high level of scholarship and graduate education at Florida State University.

If you would like assistance identifying external fellowships and awards, crafting and drafting competitive application materials, and/or navigating fellowship and awards databases, **schedule a virtual meeting with OGFA.**



Upcoming OGFA Workshops

OGFA is ramping up for another academic year of virtual and in-person workshops. Workshops are open to the entire campus community. More workshop topics are coming soon! **Stay connected to the OGFA website for dates, times, and location/Zoom links.**

OFFICE OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (OGFA)

Graduate Student Recognition Database

To celebrate the accomplishments of graduate student award recipients and provide a space for the entire campus community to learn about their extraordinary accomplishments, OGFA created the **Graduate Student Recognition Database**. The database dates back to 2011. We hope that this space will facilitate peer to peer connections and help the community at large recognize the invaluable research and work in action that often take place behind the scenes in the "graduate world".

Keeping the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards up to date about your awards helps the University recognize and publicize your accomplishments. Please email OGFA at ogfa-info@fsu.edu when you receive an award notification so that we can continue to celebrate you!

New Fellowship and Awards Canvas Sites

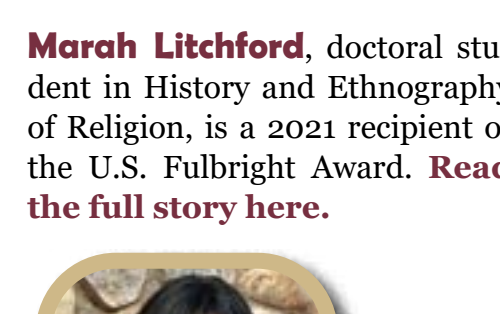
The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards has launched multiple Canvas organization sites to guide students through the process of applying for competitive fellowships, scholarships, and awards. Resources include introductions to various funding mechanisms, annotated and supplemental guides designed to assist students in various stages of the fellowship application cycle for each award, webinar links (if available), tips and links to a variety of other resources. Self-enroll links were provided via Canvas announcement.

OGFA Canvas sites include the following funding mechanisms: P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship, Three-Part Grant Writing Workshop Series, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, Boren Fellowship, Ford Pre-doctoral and Dissertation Fellowships, Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, AAUW Dissertation and International Fellowship, and the NAED/Spencer Fellowship.

Graduate Student Fellows Spotlight



Aaron Rodriguez, doctoral candidate in English, received a National Endowment of the Humanities grant to improve accessibility of graphic and visual narratives for blind and low-vision readers. **Read the full story here.**



Marah Litchford, doctoral student in History and Ethnography of Religion, is a 2021 recipient of the U.S. Fulbright Award. **Read the full story here.**



Dorianis Perez, doctoral candidate in Computational Science, has been named a 2021 Graduate Education for Minorities (GEM) Fellow.

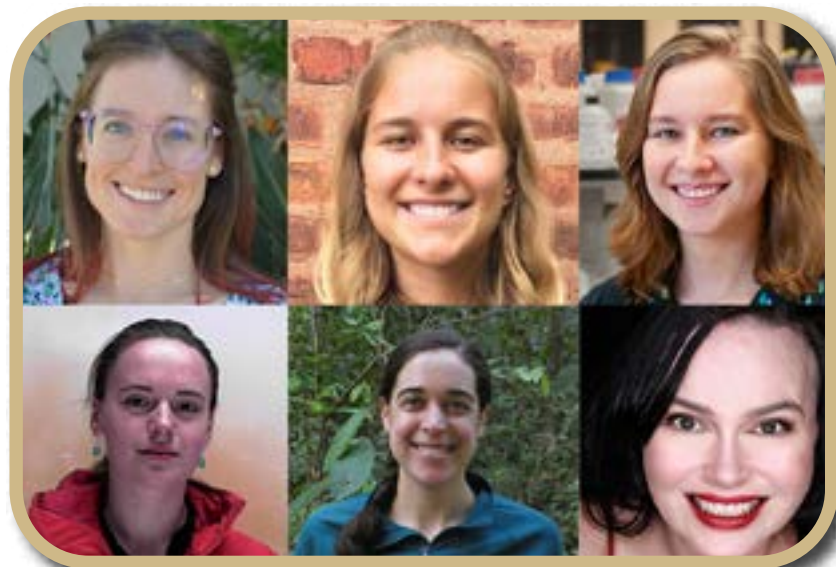


OFFICE OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (OGFA)

Graduate Student Fellows Spotlight, Continued

Six FSU doctoral students are among seven students in the state of Florida to earn the prestigious PEO Scholar Award:

- **Megan Behnke** (Oceanography)
- **Ashley Edwards** (Psychology)
- **Caitlyn Edwards** (Neuroscience)
- **Pearl Rivers** (Biological Science)
- **Elizabeth Ruff** (Geography)
- **Teresa Simone** (Theatre)



Read the full story here.

Three doctoral candidates in the College of Arts and Sciences, **Nerea Delgado** (Spanish Linguistics), **Joshua Manning** (Biological Science; [read story](#)), and **Sandugash "Sandu" Yergeshbayeva** (Chemistry), are recipients of the prestigious Chateaubriand Fellowship to conduct research to support their dissertation in France. Nerea Delgado also received the **Sigma Delta Pi Graduate Research Grant**.



Congratulations to the 2021-2022 cohort of McKnight Dissertation Fellows!



Brittany Brewster
Higher Education



Chelynn Randolph
Marriage and Family Therapy



Jeremy George
Music Education



Victor Kasper
Science Education

OFFICE OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (OGFA)

Graduate Student Fellows Spotlight, Continued

Congratulations to the 2021-2022 cohort of McKnight Doctoral Fellows!



Annais Muschett Bonilla
Biological Science



Daniel Betancourt
Biomedical Sciences



Gabriela Caviedes
Sports Psychology



Keturah Young
Educational Policy & Evaluation



Mark Buckwalter
Business/Finance



Rose Archer
Sociology



Shaylyn King
Communication Disorders



Olanrewaju Alaba Ilesanmi
Musicology

Congratulations to the Class XVII Florida Gubernatorial Fellows!



Alberto Garcia-Marrero
Juris Doctor candidate



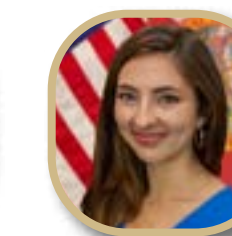
Elizabeth Pearce
Juris Doctor candidate



Shannon Duncanson
Juris Doctor candidate



Zachary Loyed
Juris Doctor candidate



Julia Canady
Juris Masters student



Zenani Johnson
Public Administration (MPA)



Benjamin Robinson
Juris Doctor candidate
Business Administration (MBA)



Stephen Marante
Applied American Politics & Policy (MS)



Shaina Ruth
Juris Doctor candidate
Applied American Politics & Policy (MS)



Courtney Francis
Higher Education (PhD)

OFFICE OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (OGFA)

McNair Scholars Campus Visit



Prior to the start of the new academic year, the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards hosted a Grad School Bootcamp for a group of McNair/TRIO Scholars from the University of Florida, the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss), Tougaloo College, Alcorn State University, and our very own Florida State University CARE SSS SCOPE and SSS STEM Programs.

Thank you to the Graduate School faculty and staff (Dr. Debi Fadool, Jermaine Williams, Katrina Williams, and Ashley Jarvis), graduate peer mentors, and CARE staff (Roxanne Simpson, Dr. Campos, and Jacourie Clark) for making this event a tremendous success. The graduate peer mentors created an inviting space for all participants to get to know each other during the Collaborating with Strangers icebreaker and talked about their program of study and graduate school experiences during the “Day in the Life of a Grad Student” panel and Speed Networking session.



OFFICE OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (OGFA)

Digital Narratives: Celebrating Graduate Education

The **GradImpact Project** continues to amplify the lived experiences of graduate students at Florida State University through video, podcast, and written narratives. These stories bring to life the research and work in action of graduate students that impacts the university, communities where we live and work, and the world around us. The GradImpact Project archives these narratives, oral and written, as rich history in the university’s digital repository, **DigiNole**.

You Innovate and Contribute; We Share and Preserve.

Building Community in Our New Normal

The global pandemic, COVID-19, shifted the way we connect but it did not stop us from building community. **Coffee and Conversation**, a virtual video series was birthed to provide graduate students a safe space to engage in discussion about life as a graduate student, ways of coping during these unprecedented times, and research and work in this new normal of remote living and learning. Since March 2021, we have interviewed more than 60 graduate students from all over campus.

If you would like to share your story or nominate a Rockstar graduate colleague to be highlighted, [please submit information here.](#)



Student and Alumni Accolades

College of Arts and Sciences



MELANIE DAMOUR
Graduated with MA in
Anthropology, 2002

Melanie co-authored the article "Deep-sea shipwrecks represent island-like ecosystems for marine microbiomes" published in *Nature's ISME Journal* in April 2021. The article reported results from research in the Gulf of Mexico focusing on how historic shipwrecks may function as islands of biodiversity for microorganisms.

ALEXA GUERRERA

Currently pursuing PhD in Biological Science

Alexa recently received funding for an outreach project from the Society for the Study of Evolution: Small Grants Program for Local and Regional Outreach Promoting the Understanding of Evolutionary Biology. FSU Biology graduate and undergraduate students will be working alongside middle and high school teachers to enhance evolutionary curricula.



BAILEY KOCH-BOJALAD
Graduated with PhD in
Biological Science, 2020

Bailey is now a post-doctoral researcher at the Perelman School of Medicine within the University of Pennsylvania. Within the first month, she received an NIH T-32 grant to fund her research. Bailey has also completed two new publications and helped a project in her new lab reach the review stage.



KERESTIN GOODMAN
Currently pursuing PhD in
Biochemistry

Kerestin's dissertation research on the effects of microplastics on human lung cells was accepted

for publication in *Chemical Research in Toxicology*. Her research was also featured on the FSU News website and in the Tallahassee Democrat. Kerestin was awarded the McKnight Dissertation Fellowship for the 2020-2021 academic year, as well as the Joseph M. Schor Fellowship by the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.



SHAEKE SALMAN
Currently pursuing PhD in
Computer Science

Shaeke published three papers as first author with the *International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN)* in 2019 and 2020. He received a travel grant from IJCNN to attend and present in 2019. Shaeke also won the "Best Poster Award" at FSU's Computer Science Expo 2019 for his research poster.



MACKENZIE BAYSINGER
Graduated with MS in
Oceanography, 2021

Mackenzie is working with Dr. Claire Treat at The Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Potsdam, Germany. She is continuing her work at AWI studying carbon cycling from a field station in boreal Finland. The research project is funded by the European Research Council Horizon 2020 Framework.



KATHRYN LEBOW
Graduated with PSM in
Aquatic Environmental Science, 2020

Kathryn has been granted the opportunity to work as a biologist within the Army Corps of Engineers focused on NEPA compliance and section 408 permits. She will also be working on the South Florida Everglades Restoration projects.



REBECCA PETERS
Currently pursuing PhD in
Religion

In 2021, Rebecca published her article, "Colorism, Casteism, and Gentrification in Bollywood," in the online journal *The Jugaad Project: Material Religion in Context*. She also received a grant from the John H. Phipps, Inc. Fund for Excellence from the College of Communication.



ANUSKA DAS
Graduated with PhD in
Molecular Biophysics, 2021

Anuska has published an article as first author in *Nature Communications* titled, "The molecular basis for recognition of 5'-NNNCC-3' PAM and its methylation state by *Acidothermus cellulolyticus* Cas9." She has also earned several other awards or grants including a travel award to the Biophysical Society Annual Meeting in 2021, best poster at International CRISPR symposium in 2020, and FSU's dissertation completion grant.



JULIA BUCKNER
Graduated with PhD in
Clinical Psychology, 2008

Julia is serving as principal investigator on a multi-year \$849k grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program. She also earned the Louisiana State University Distinguished Faculty Award (2020) and the G. Alan Marlatt Mid-Career Research Award from the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies—Addictive Behaviors Special Interest Group (2019).



KRISTINA KORTE
Graduated with PhD in
Clinical Psychology, 2015

Kristina was selected for a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award for

2021-22. She will conduct research on implementing evidence-based treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety disorders in primary care settings at Stellenbosch University in the Western Cape, South Africa. Kristina is currently a faculty member at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



INKOO LEE
Graduated with PhD in
Biostatistics, 2021

Inkoo earned the Hannan Graduate Student Travel Award from Institute of Mathematical Statistics, which allows international travel reimbursement to attend any IMS sponsored or co-sponsored meetings. He was also awarded the Biopharmaceutical Section Scholarship Award from the American Statistical Association, which recognizes notable research, academic achievement, and applied project work.

College of Business



YI LIU
Graduated with PhD in
Management Information Systems, 2018

Yi has had two papers accepted for publication by *Information Systems Frontiers* (2020) and *Communications of the Association for Information Systems* (first author; 2021). He has served as an Editorial Review Board Member for the *Journal of Global Business Insights (JGBI)* since 2019 and was a Scientific Board Member for Managing Tourism Across Continents Conference (MTCON) in 2020-2021.

JILL BISCO

Graduated with PhD in Risk Management/
Insurance, 2014

Jill received tenure and was promoted to associate professor in 2020. She was also named a Mid-America Conference (MAC)

JILL BISCO, CONTINUED

Academic Leadership Development Fellow. This is a year-long program to develop future leaders in academia, for which each school may only select up to four faculty a year to participate. In 2021, Jill was also nominated to serve on the Board of Directors for The National Alliance Research Academy.

College of Communication and Information



KYEONGWON KWON
Currently pursuing PhD in Communication Theory

Kyeongwon was published as first author by *Corporate Communications: An International Journal* with Dr. Jaejin Lee as second author. Her paper was developed from part of her thesis and is titled, "Corporate social responsibility advertising in social media: a content analysis of the fashion industry's CSR advertising on Instagram."

College of Criminology and Criminal Justice

MATTHEW ROBINSON

Graduated with PhD in Criminology, 1997

Matthew was recently named among the Top 25 most influential criminologists by AcademicInfluence.com. This was in recognition of the academic and real-world impact of his research on social justice, race and crime, criminological theory, the death penalty, the "war on drugs," crime mapping, and white-collar crime.

JOSEPH SCHWARTZ

Graduated with PhD in Criminology, 2014

Joseph received the 2020 Early Career Award from the BioPsychoSocial Division of the American Society of Criminology. This award recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to scholarly knowledge on BioPsychoSocial criminology within 6 years of receiving their

doctoral degree. In 2020, after receiving early promotion at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Schwartz joined the faculty of FSU's College of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

College of Education



HOLLIE DANIELS
Graduated with PhD in Education Policy and Evaluation, 2021

Hollie was published in two peer-reviewed journals (*Community College Journal of Research and Practice* and *Innovative Higher Education*) for research with the Center for Postsecondary Success on community college students in Florida. She also presented two papers at the American Educational Research Association's national conference.



RICCARDO PURITA
Currently pursuing PhD in Higher Education

Riccardo, along with fellow student Yang Li and advisor Dr. Perez-Felkner, received the 2021 Outstanding Research Grant (\$250) from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators - Socioeconomic and Class Issues in Higher Education Knowledge Community to interview international undergraduate students about their experiences with food insecurity. Riccardo, along with his faculty advisor and students Courtney Francis and Kiaira McCoy, also received another 2021 research grant (\$475) from Region III of NASPA to interview students with disabilities and limited financial resources about their college experiences during the pandemic.



SARAH COX
Graduated with PhD in Special Education, 2019

Sarah earned the Case Research Award from the Council for Exceptional Children's Division of Research for her dissertation.



GABRIELLE JACKSON
Currently pursuing MS/EdS in School Counseling

Gabrielle is a 2021 winner of a scholarship from the Florida School Counselor Association.

FAMU-FSU College of Engineering



STEPHANIE MARXSEN
Currently pursuing PhD in Chemical Engineering

Stephanie published two articles in *Polymer* (first author) and another in *Macromolecules* (second author), which was featured on the issue's cover. She also presented at the Applied Polymer Technology Extension Consortium's 8th Annual Research Symposium and the American Physical Society's March 2021 Meeting. Stephanie earned the "Best 3-Minute Presentation Award" at the Chemical & Biomedical Engineering Departmental Research Day 2021.



XIAOSHI ZHANG
Graduated with PhD in Chemical Engineering, 2018

Xiaoshi (Zhang, et al.) published a series of papers that focus on the crystallization of sustainable polymers. The latest appears as the cover article in issue 18 of *Macromolecules* (2020). The research may provide new ways of plastics manufacturing. The Department of Energy's Office of Science also acknowledged this work as a university research news headline last year.

College of Fine Arts



NICOLE CRANE
Graduated with PhD in Art Education, 2006

Nicole received the 2021 Elementary Art Educator of the

Year Award by the National Art Education Association.



SONIA DIXON
Currently pursuing PhD in Art History

Sonia has accepted the William Sanders Scarborough Fellowship at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) for the fall of 2021. Sonia is among the first cohort to receive the Scarborough Fellowship, which will support research for her dissertation on the origin and meaning of the chi-rho symbol in the Late Antique and early Byzantine period.



KAILEY CARTER
Graduated with MFA in Interior Design, 2021

Kailey was selected as one of *Metropolis Magazine's* Top 100 Future Designers for 2021. The Metropolis Future100 recognizes top graduating students from architecture and interior design programs across the United States and Canada.



JUAN JAVIER CARDENAS
Graduated with MFA in Acting, 2008

Juan Javier is starring in *Gordita Chronicles*, a series green-lighted by HBO Max. The series is a family comedy from Sony Pictures Television, which is executive produced by Zoe Saldana and Eva Longoria, and also stars Diana Maria Riva and Olivia Goncalves.

College of Health and Human Sciences



ASHLEY ARTESE
Graduated with PhD in Exercise Physiology, 2018

Ashley was accepted as a Post-doctoral Fellow with the Duke

ASHLEY ARTESE, CONTINUED

Aging Center Postdoctoral Research Training Program. She recently published 2 articles as first author (with her former FSU adviser, Dr. Pantone) in *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise* and *Oncology Nursing Forum*.



CHRISTOPHER SCHATTINGER
Currently pursuing PhD in Exercise Physiology

Christopher was hired as a clinical research coordinator by Tallahassee Memorial Hospital's Office of Research. He works primarily with pediatric endocrinology.

College of Law



ALESSANDRA MOUSINHO
Graduated with JD in Law, 2021

Alessandria published her book, titled *A Brief Comparison between American and Brazilian Tax Systems*, and earned a "Distinguished Pro Bono Service" award.



OLUREMI ABIODUN
Graduated with MSW in Social Work and JD in Law, 2021

Oluremi, a Preeminent Scholar, served as 2020-2021 National Mock Trial Director for the National Black Law Students Association, a law clerk at Pittman Law Group where she tracks and lobbies state legislation, and a teaching assistant for Florida Legislative Practice at the College of Law. Remi has also served as a Student Ambassador, the head of the College of Law's mentoring program at Griffin Middle School, and a Florida Gubernatorial Fellow where she works with the Department of Children & Families. She currently works as an Equal Justice Works Fellow at the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights.

College of Music



RYAN SPEEDO GREEN
Graduated with MM in Voice Performance, 2010

Ryan performed the role of Jake in The Metropolitan Opera's 2019-20 recording of *Porgy and Bess* which received the 2021 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording. Ryan is currently a soloist with the Houston Grand Opera, Salzburger Festspiele, and The Metropolitan Opera.



ADAM LUEBKE
Graduated with PhD in Music Education, 2010

Adam received a 2021 Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance for his recording of Richard Danielpour's *Passion of Yeshua*. Adam is director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus which is featured in the recording and is also an Assistant Professor at the State University of New York-Fredonia.



ELLEN TAAFFE ZWILICH
Graduated with MM in Composition, 1962

Ellen's composition, "Quintet for Alto Saxophone and String Quartet," was featured on The Pacifica Quartet's album *Contemporary Voices*. This album won a 2021 Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance. Ellen is currently the Marie Krafft Distinguished Professor of Composition in FSU's College of Music.

College of Nursing



NICOLE PARRISH
Graduated with DNP - Family Nurse Practitioner, 2021

Nicole presented her work, "Florida's Healthcare Provid-

NICOLE PARRISH, CONTINUED

ers Knowledge and Confidence of Identifying and Treating Human Trafficking Victims" at the Sigma International Honor Society of Nursing's Research Conference in March 2021.



CALLIE BURCH
Graduated with DNP - Family Nurse Practitioner, 2021

Callie was earned the FSU Academic Leadership Award for the College of Nursing in April 2021.



ANNIE REYNOLDS
Graduated with DNP in Family Nurse Practitioner, 2021

Annie published her DNP project work in *The Nurse Practitioner* this summer entitled "Influencing Controlled Substance Prescribing Behaviors Following Changes in Prescription Authority"

College of Social Sciences and Public Policy



E. JASON BARON
Graduated with PhD in Economics, 2020

Jason accepted a tenure-track offer as an Assistant Professor in Economics at Duke University. I will be starting in the fall. He also published in four top economic journals during the 2020-21 academic year (*American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *Journal of Public Economics*, and *American Economics Association Papers & Proceedings*).

TYLER FRICKER
Graduated with PhD in Geography, 2019

Tyler Fricker is now an Assistant Professor of Geography in the School of Sciences at the University of Louisiana Monroe.



TINA DESHOTELS
Graduated with PhD in Sociology, 2004

Tina is currently a Professor and Program Coordinator at Jacksonville State University. She has a forthcoming book from Routledge Press with co-author Craig Forsyth, titled *Gendered Power Dynamics and Exotic Dance: A Multi-level Analysis*. She is also serving as co-principal investigator on a \$300k multi-year (2019-22) grant from the Department of Justice - Violent Against Women Act." Additionally, Tina was named Jacksonville State University Gender Advocate of the Year for 2021-2022.



KEITH RICHARD
Graduated with PhD in Sociology, 2018

Keith was promoted to Statewide Director of Career and Technical Education Quality for the Florida Department of Education. His work is focused on helping to innovate Florida's career and technical programs, better align them to industry, and ensure for the kind of talent the state needs. Keith and the Chancellor of Career and Adult Education secured a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant for \$125,000 to support a yearlong "Credentials of Value" project, which he is co-leading with the Vice Chancellor of the Florida College System. Additionally, with Keith's leadership, the Division of Career and Adult Education was one of seven states selected for Advance CTE's Advancing Post-secondary CTE Data Quality Initiative and was awarded a \$70,000 grant.

Congratulations to the many students and alumni who took time to submit their outstanding accolades including numerous publications, promotions, grants, awards, and many other notable achievements.

You are all ROCK STARS!



**KEEP CALM
BE SAFE
AND
CARRY ON**

#GoNoles

The Graduate School



**THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**314 WESTCOTT BUILDING
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32306**

**(850) 644-3501
GRADSCHOOL.FSU.EDU**

EDITOR: LAURA MINOR