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Message From the Dean



Nancy Marcus

Congratulations and welcome to all new graduate and professional students. Moreover, welcome back to all of our returning students. The mission of the Office of Graduate Studies is to advance the quality and integrity of graduate education.

The Office of Graduate Studies:

- Assists Florida State University graduate students by providing advice on general academic matters, university-wide degree requirements, and information on the availability of financial assistance, including assistantships, fellowships, and scholarships; by granting approval for theses and dissertations; and by fostering the development of their skills and knowledge to succeed as leaders in a global community;
- Interacts with the Office of the Dean of the Faculties and the Graduate Policy Committee to establish and provide oversight of policies affecting graduate education at the University;
- Collaborates with Florida State University units such as the International Center, Career Center, and Health Center to address graduate student needs; and
- Works with national organizations such as the Council of Graduate Schools, the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, and the National Research Council to promote the importance of graduate education.

The enrollment of post-baccalaureate students continues to grow at Florida State University, which I think is an indication of the quality of the programs we offer and the importance of advanced degree work to your career aspirations.

With the start of the 2006-2007 academic year we are initiating two new efforts to foster the professional development of all FSU graduate and professional students. New Graduate Student Orientation was expanded to a 2-day format to allow for the presentation of four workshops: *Selecting and Working Successfully with Your Major Professor and Committee*; *Funding Your Graduate Degree*; *Using Blackboard © (Bb) at FSU*, a Tutorial; and *Conducting Research and Creative Endeavors Responsibly*. All of the sessions were well attended suggesting a need for these types of workshops. The Professional Development Workshop Series (see www.gradstudies.fsu.edu/workshops), which is being coordinated by Associate Dean Judy Devine, will continue this effort throughout the academic year. Presenters at the workshops will be faculty and graduate students from across campus, as well as staff from key units such as the Career Center and Libraries.

Office of Graduate Studies Staff Spotlight

Students writing a thesis or dissertation will want to meet Dana Zapata. This is because she is responsible for the manuscript clearance process for the Office of Graduate Studies. Arranging “Manuscript Q&A Sessions,” announcing weekly colloquia and defenses in *The Week Of*, and offering various workshops to assist students with this process are part of her daily routine.



Dana Zapata

It is fairly apparent that Ms. Zapata’s focus is on helping students throughout their graduate careers. She is what Malcolm Gladwell would call a “Maven” – one who likes to gather and disseminate the best and essential information to others; Ms. Zapata enjoys informing and helping graduate students of the most important information in the best possible ways. For example, she has digitized commonly used forms for graduate students and all of her publications are available online, easily accessed by most students. In fact, she was instrumental in the conversion of hard copies of theses/dissertations to electronic versions.

In addition to her role as Manuscript Clearance Advisor, Ms. Zapata developed and maintains the *Graduate & Professional Student Handbook*, which provides a comprehensive overview of university policies and is a useful resource for current graduate students. And most recently, drawing from her experiences as a public relations representative and newspaper reporter, she serves as editor of *The Grad Connection*.

Not only does she help graduate students, but Ms. Zapata is a graduate student herself. She was recently admitted to the master’s program in Integrated Marketing Communication. Because she is an active participant in the organization of GradQuest, the FSU Graduate School Open House, aimed at recruiting and assisting graduate students, she will be able to lend her professional touch to this event. She also helps coordinate the Doctoral Reception, an event that honors the accomplishments of graduating doctoral students each semester.

The Wescott Building is not the only place on campus that Ms. Zapata can be spotted. In addition to taking classes, she is an avid football and sports fan. A Nole at heart, she did her undergraduate studies here at Florida State University as well. Also, congratulations are in order for her recent engagement to Mr. Carlos Urrutia, a program assistant in the Office of Admissions and Records.

Ms. Zapata can be most easily reached via e-mail at dzapata@admin.fsu.edu or telephone at (850) 644-0045. She will be able to help graduate students with questions concerning supervisory committees or the manuscript process. Next time you see Ms. Zapata on campus, feel free to tell her thanks, because she’s working for you.

Information about publications, Q&A sessions, and events can be found online at the Office of Graduate Studies website at www.gradstudies.fsu.edu.

Submissions of ideas and articles, as well as noteworthy publications, presentations, awards or grants are welcome and should be sent to dzapata@admin.fsu.edu

The Deadline for inclusion in the Spring 2007 edition is Thursday, November 30, 2006.

DEAN, from page 1

The other effort is being spearheaded by Dr. Bruce Stiffler, a Professor of Urban and Regional Planning and our new Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. The Preparing Future Faculty program, formerly associated with the Program for Instructional Excellence will now be coordinated by the Office of Graduate Studies. The goal of the PFF program is to educate and better prepare graduate students who aspire to an academic career about the differing missions and

responsibilities of faculty at institutions ranging from Research Extensive universities to community colleges. More information about both of these programs can be found on the OGS website (gradstudies.fsu.edu).

We wish you a successful year and as always welcome your feedback on how we can better your educational experience.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marcus

2006-2007 Professional Development Workshop Series

During the 2006-07 academic year, the Office of Graduate Studies, faculty, administrators, and the Career Center will conduct monthly professional development workshops in the Askew Student Life Building, Room 101A, from noon until 1:30 p.m. Students are encouraged to bring their lunches to the workshops. Dessert will be provided.

OCTOBER 11, 2006:

WRITING RESEARCH ARTICLES

FSU faculty will discuss planning and organizing research articles, using and crediting sources, and will provide discipline-specific examples and suggestions. Editing and the use of grammar will also be included in the discussion.

Faculty facilitators: Bruce Bickley, Anne Thistle

OCTOBER 18, 2006:

RESEARCH RESOURCES and THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

This workshop will focus on essential resources for scholarly research, including electronic databases, citation management software, and primary source materials, as well as research consultations, digital content creation, and other services designed to support graduate student research and projects.

Facilitators: Gloria Colvin, Ted Chaffin

NOVEMBER 8, 2006:

MAKING ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Faculty from the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS), and Arts and Humanities (AH) disciplines will discuss the preparation, organization and delivery of successful presentations. The discussion will also include developing effective visual aids and coping with stage fright.

Faculty facilitators: Paul Cottle, Pamela Carroll, Cadence Kidwell

JANUARY 17, 2007:

SELECTING A THESIS/DISSERTATION TOPIC

Faculty from the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Social and

Behavioral Sciences (SBS), and Arts and Humanities (AH) disciplines will offer tips for determining a topic for the dissertation/thesis that will keep one's interest through several years of research, writing and the final defense.

Faculty facilitators: Nancy Marcus, Seth Beckman, Mary Ann Moore

FEBRUARY 14, 2007:

GRANT WRITING

Faculty from the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS), and Arts and Humanities (AH) will discuss the steps in proposal writing, funding sources, the major steps that should occur prior to writing the proposal, the narrative and budget sections, effective writing techniques, and the FSU Office of Contracts and Grants and Office of Sponsored Research.

Faculty facilitators: Joe McElrath, Rob Contreras, Laurie Molina

MARCH 14, 2007:

RESUMES, CURRICULUM VITAE and LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

The FSU Career Center will discuss how to prepare resumes and curriculum vitae that are tailored to a prospective position. To whom one requests a letter of recommendation and how to make those requests will be included in the session.

APRIL 4, 2007:

INTERVIEWING SKILLS

The FSU Career Center will discuss preparing and dressing for an interview, and will describe what types of questions to expect during the interview as well.

Register for one or more of the 2006-07 professional development workshops at the Office of Graduate Studies web site: www.gradstudies.fsu.edu/workshops.html.

Accolades...

The Center for International Disaster Information awarded first place, and \$7,500, in its "Lights, Camera, Action" Public Service Announcement contest to Evan McNary, master's student in the College of Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts. Evan's entry, "Cans," depicts the world if cans were the main source of currency and demonstrates the difficulties of transporting and using cans in a variety of situations including paying for groceries. The PSA emphasized the importance of cash donations over in-kind gifts, as canned goods may not be what disaster victims actually need or want. The PSA premiered on mtvU and broadband channel mtvU Über at mtvU.com in June (FSU News, June).

Humanities Student Digs Tuscany

Under the supervision of Dr. Nancy de Grummond, graduate student Manuela Dal Borgo, Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities, had the privilege to participate as a Graduate Research Assistant on the excavation of Cetamura in Tuscan Italy, from May 10 to June 20. Cetamura is an Etruscan site located in the Northern region of Etruria, between the cities of Florence and Siena.



Manuela Dal Borgo at a Dig Site in Tuscan Italy

“In the final days of this year’s program, de Grummond and her students unearthed what she calls ‘the most thrilling’ find she has seen in 23 years at Cetamura.” [FSU News, June 2006] The most significant find was that of a votive pit which contained approximately 10

vessels - which were ritually broken as gifts for the gods - two drinking cups, a miniature votive offering, and 10 iron nails, probably used to symbolize the sealing of fate. “It is a bit eerie to have excavated something so central to my own lifelong interest in the myth, religion and rituals of the Etruscans,” de Grummond said. “Without a doubt, this is one of the most exciting of the discoveries I have experienced.” (FSU News, June)

Follow the Money...

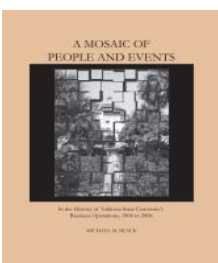
School Finance Seminar

In 2004, over \$826 billion or 7.5% of the gross domestic product (GDP) was spent on education in the U.S. Other countries, both developed and developing, spend an even higher share of their GDP on education. So, to follow the money... where do these resources come from? Where do they go? How are they used? Who decides? Who pays? Who benefits? What is the 65% solution? In the Spring 2006 semester the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies introduces a special topics course to help students answer those questions and more as they learn to “Follow the Money.”

Professor Patrice Iatarola, Ph.D. leads this graduate seminar for doctoral and advanced master’s students designed to provide the theoretical and empirical grounding for students to conduct research related to school finance and resource allocation and use. Topics covered include – general and education specific public finance theory and practice; global perspectives on school finance; equity and adequacy; K-12 finance; capital funding; returns on investments in education; alternative revenues; and, budgeting and financial decision making.

For more information contact Dr. Patrice Iatarola via e-mail, Iatarola@coe.fsu.edu, or by calling (850) 644-8162.

Writing a Mosaic



Through the combination of diverse written elements, Michael M. Black, has composed a mosaic. A doctoral student in Higher Education, Michael’s reference work, *A Mosaic of People and Events in the History of Valdosta State University’s Business Operations, 1906 to*

2006, provides a brief account of the business operations of Valdosta State University (VSU).

Emphasizing the past and present employees in the Division of Finance and Administration, the release of the book coincides with the VSU Centennial celebration. Through 270 pages, and more than 300 pictures, the work concentrates on staff and departmental history as well as

employee recollections about their experiences, their departments, and their coworkers. “These individuals have not only contributed technical and professional expertise, they have given of themselves in ways which have enriched and left lasting impressions on fellow employees, students and faculty,” said Michael.

A native of Valdosta, Georgia, Michael earned a bachelor degree and two master’s degrees at VSU before entering FSU’s Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies last August. Michael’s academic interests include higher education finance, higher education history, multiculturalism, and auxiliary services. He plans to apply his experience with higher education finance to his future career as a higher education administrator.



Michael Black shelving his book at the VSU Library.

To Aid and Encourage: Dissertation Support Group

Through informal group counseling experiences the Dissertation Support Group offers FSU doctoral students the opportunity to discuss their dissertation process in a supportive and safe environment. Led by Josh Gross, Ph.D., and Nikki Pritchett, Ph.D. of The University Counseling Center participants are encouraged to share their progress (or lack thereof!) and brainstorm creative

solutions. Topics include antidotes to procrastination, letting go of perfectionism, time management and relationship issues that may be barriers to progress. Sessions are held the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 11 a.m. – 12 Noon at The University Counseling Center, Student Life Building, Suite 201. For more information contact Josh Gross or Nikki Pritchett at (850) 644-2303.

Dates to Know:

September

- 19 – ETD Q&A Session, 9 a.m.
- 20 – ETD Q&A Session, 3 p.m.
- 24 – Final date for enrollment for University-sponsored Health Insurance

October

- 11 – ETD Q&A Session, 9 a.m.
- 12 – ETD Q&A Session, 3 p.m.
- 25 – ETD PDF Conversion Workshop, 3 p.m.
- 26 – ETD PDF Conversion Workshop, 3 p.m.

November

- 6 – ETD format approval deadline
- 13 – ETD final submission deadline

December

- 15 – Fall Doctoral Reception, 3:30 p.m.

For more information on these dates, contact the Office of Graduate Studies at 850.644.3500.

Accolades...

Doctoral music student Holly Wissler has been awarded a Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Award to conduct research in Peru for one year. The \$24,000 award will enable Holly to conduct research for her dissertation about the musical tradition of the Quechuas. An Andean music expert, Holly will be conducting research in Cusco as well as the Quechua community of Q'eros recording, transcribing and translating the Q'eros' indigenous pre-Spanish Conquest music (FSU News, May).

Noteworthy

Awards

Joana Carlson (Ph.D. candidate, History) was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Terence Milstead (Ph.D. candidate, Urban and Regional Planning) was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Chris Moss (Computer Science) was awarded the National Physical Science Consortium Fellowship in the amount of \$16,000 beginning 2007.

Shani Sterling (Master's candidate, Dance) was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Presentations

Genevieve Brackins (Humanities) presented the project "Matrilineal Turned Misogynistic: Trauma as Transformation," at the 4th International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, Tunis, Tunisia, July.

Thomas Philbeck (Humanities) presented the paper "Color and Pigment in Antiquity: Phenomenological Opportunities in Studying the Relation of Pigment Sources and Cultural Meanings," at the Classical Association of the Midwest and South.

Publications

Ginger Assadi (Ph.D. candidate, Humanities) wrote the short story "The Boy Who Forgot Arabic," to be published in the Tampa Review.

Jean Burns (Ph.D. candidate, Biological Science) wrote the article "Relatedness and Environment Affect Traits Associated with Invasive and Noninvasive Introduced Commelinaceae," published in *Ecological Applications*, 16(4), August.

Susanna Diaz, Melissa Reddick, and Katheryn Wright (Humanities) produced the documentaries "The Tango," "History: Fact or Fiction?" and "The Principles of Filmi Philosophy."

Thomas Philbeck (Ph.D. candidate, Humanities) wrote the review "Aristotle East and West," published in *The British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, May.

Thomas Philbeck (Ph.D. candidate, Humanities) will publish the review "The Pursuit of Comparative Aesthetics," in *The British Journal for Aesthetics*, January 2007.

Nicholas Ruiz (Ph.D. candidate, Humanities) wrote the essay "La Conchita," to be published in the *International Journal of Baudrillard Studies*, 1(4), January.

Did you know...

There is a new graduate student computer lab in room 245 of the Student Life Building (SLB). The lab features six new Dell computers, free wireless internet, and a sitting area ideal for study sessions. For more information, including specific hours of operation, call the Congress of Graduate Students at (850) 644-7166.

The Grad Connection

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www.gradstudies.fsu.edu

Editor in Chief

Dana Zapata

The Grad Connection, a newsletter for the student body at Florida State University, is published each semester, and is available in alternate format.

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