



# THE GRAD CONNECTION

The Graduate School Newsletter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY



## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Greetings,

The start of every academic year is a whirlwind and this year was no exception. Ruby Diamond Concert Hall was an inspirational setting for welcoming more than 800 of our

new graduate students to Florida State University. The opening session was followed this year by a dialogue with faculty and current graduate students offering their thoughts on how to best prepare for a successful and fulfilling career. Lunch was provided in the Union Ballrooms by Aramark, and over 30 organizations staffed a table fair in the breezeway of HCB offering information to help them get acquainted with the campus and community. Afternoon sessions on funding ones graduate education and a Help Desk with representatives from the Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, and the Graduate School rounded out an exciting day.

Orientation was followed by the two-day Program for Instructional Excellence Conference at which over 600 graduate students were introduced to policies and practices pertinent to the instructional mission of FSU.

The week ended with the Induction Ceremony for new members of the Fellows Society. These are graduate students who hold univer-

sity-wide or nationally competitive fellowships. The fall ceremony provides an opportunity for the fellows to begin brainstorming ideas for the spring Interdisciplinary Fellows Forum. Dr. Roy Baumeister, Francis Eppes Eminent Scholar and Professor of Psychology set the stage for this brainstorming with a lecture titled, "Interdisciplinary Research and what it means to be a Generalist".

Dr. Adrienne Stephenson, the new Director of the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (OGFA) and Sarah Cox, the Assistant Director visited numerous program-specific orientations to highlight external fellowship and funding opportunities for graduate students. In the last few years this office has helped students garner several million dollars in external fellowship and awards to support their graduate education. Please contact them for assistance.

Dr. Debi Fadool, the new Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs hosted an orientation for postdocs attended by 45 postdocs and advisors.

The Graduate School has planned a full range of professional development workshops, seminars, and special events for graduate students and postdocs during the fall semester. Please check the Graduate School website calendar for notice of these activities.

Have a great semester, Nancy Marcus

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### *Upcoming Events*

- 9.25.15 Postdoc Symposium
- 11.17.15 Three Minute Thesis Finals

*\*All dates are subject to change.*

# CIES RECRUITMENT MISSIONS TO LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA

BY: ANDREW WILSON

One of the primary goals of the Graduate School in upcoming years is to increase graduate student enrollment at Florida State University. As part of this initiative, the Center for Intensive English has taken great strides in reaching out to new populations far and wide and truly establishing an FSU brand in many parts of the world.

In Spring 2015, CIES joined a multilateral recruitment effort in the Central American nations of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition to collaborating with other educational institutions, this trip allowed interaction with officials from the U.S. Department of Commerce as well U.S. ambassadors and members of an international trade commission. CIES helped market FSU to many unfamiliar with the university and helped to make connections with this burgeoning region of the world.

Continuing with outreach to Latin America, CIES



Recruitment Table

will be actively recruiting in nearly a dozen South American countries in September 2015. These information fairs are attended by tens of thousands and often have lines that are blocks long. Universities in the Sunshine State are often a very popular destination. Promoting the many parts of FSU - medicine, law, business, and education - to international students will continue to strengthen the university. The CIES provides a pathway into FSU for many academically motivated students.

Another recruitment push was made by CIES director Dr. Patrick Kennell in 2014. Dr. Kennell took a trip to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso to establish a local connection and to interact with students interested in coming to FSU. There are a limited number of American universities with connections in West Africa, and CIES is very excited to be on the ground there. "There is no doubt about our commitment to this re-



Students in classroom in Burkina Faso

gion," Dr. Kennell says, "we have big plans [there]."

During his time in Burkina Faso, Dr. Kennell met with the Minister of Education and was able to tour several secondary and post-secondary institutions. Although most of the focus was on recruiting undergraduate students for CIES, the Ministry of Education helped to spread information which will allow for graduate



school recruitment hopefully within this upcoming academic year.

## MEET THE NEW GRADUATE SCHOOL FACULTY MEMBERS



Dr. Debra Fadool  
*Professor,  
Associate Dean &  
Director of the  
Office of Postdoctoral  
Affairs*

Dr. Debi Fadool joined the Graduate School in the summer of 2015 as the Director of Postdoctoral Affairs. She is a professor in Biological Science, Program in Neuroscience, and a member of the Institute of Molecular Biophysics, coming to FSU in 1999. She earned her Bachelor's of Art from Albion College in Biology and English, her Master's degree in Zoology with a concentration in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Rhode Island, and her Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Florida and the Whitney Marine Laboratory.

She completed postdoctoral training at Brandeis University in the Biochemistry Department under Dr. Irwin Levitan. At FSU, she maintains an active laboratory exploring the electrophysiological and cellular basis of the neuropathology of diabetes and obesity - how surplus energy substrates affect energy homeostasis and brain function.

She was previously the Associate Chair of Graduate Studies in the Department of Biological Science and served as a member or chair of the NIH study section for 10 years for predoctoral/postdoctoral fellowship and training grant applications. Dr. Fadool enjoys working to enhance postdoctoral training and professional development. Her goal is to develop a postdoctoral handbook, increase institutional resources for the scholars, and enhance postdoctoral applications to extramural agencies.



Dr. Adrienne  
Stephenson  
*Assistant Dean & Director  
of the Office of Graduate  
Fellowships and Awards*

Dr. Adrienne P. Stephenson was recently named an Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, where she serves as the Director of the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (OGFA).

Prior to working at Florida State University, Dr. Stephenson served as the STEM Center Coordinator at Tallahassee Community College where she managed the FAMU-TCC Bridges to the Baccalaureate in the Biomedical Sciences, FGLSAMP and STEM Star/Council Scholars Programs. She also served as a Science Specialist/STEM Coordinator at the Florida Department of Education for several years.

She received a bachelor's degree from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, where she majored in Chemistry and was a LASER DOE/NASA Scholar. She then earned a master's degree in Pharmacology/Toxicology (2005) and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology/Toxicology (2014) from Florida A&M University. While a graduate student at Florida A&M University, she was a Harriet Jenkins NASA Fellow, McKnight Doctoral Fellow and a Delores Auzenne Fellow. She also served as an adjunct instructor in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Stephenson has a passion for service and remains active in the community by participating in several service-based organizations, volunteering regularly and mentoring K-12, undergraduate and graduate students.

# POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS TRAVEL AND MENTOR AWARDS

By: Dr. Debi Fadool

As part of FSU's ongoing efforts to improve the career development of our Postdoctoral Scholars, the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPDA) is pleased to administer a minimum of 10 Career Development Travel Awards annually. These awards are intended to assist Postdoctoral Scholars with travel to conferences, meetings, or courses to facilitate their career development, learn new techniques, present cutting edge research to potential employers, and network as they prepare to transition to careers in any field of their choosing.

The OPDA formulated an awards committee comprised of experienced postdoctoral mentors and senior postdoctoral scholars to evaluate the applications (Debi Fadool - OPDA; Akash Gunjan - College of Medicine, Biomedical; Monica Hurdal - Mathematics; Kay Jones - Biological Science, Cell/Molecular; Susan Lattuner - Chemistry; Hong Li - Chemistry, Biochemistry, Institute of Molecular Biophysics; Laura Reina - Physics; Gregg Stanwood - College of Medicine, Neuroscience; Beth Stroupe - Biological Science, Structural, Institute of Molecular Biophysics; Lindsay Schier - Psycholo-

gy, Neuroscience; Audrey Grockowiak - Magnet Lab; Mathew Johnson - Biological Science, Structural, Institute of Molecular Biophysics; Nikhil Gupta - Electrical Engineering; Komalavalli (Komu) Thirunavukkuarasu - Magnet Lab; Juan Carlos - Biological Science, Cell/Molecular. Applications will be reviewed twice a year on January 1 and July 1.

Congratulations to the 2015 Summer Travel Awardees:

Dr. Elizabeth Ellwood (Advisor: Dr. Austin Mast, Biological Science) - "Biodiversity Information Standards Workshop", Nairobi, Kenya.

Dr. Ekaterina Maksimova (Advisor: Dr. Dmitry Dukhouskoy, Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Stud-

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IN CELEBRATION OF

**National Postdoc Appreciation Week 2015**



3RD ANNUAL FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

## POSTDOC SYMPOSIUM

Friday September 25, 12:30 - 6:00pm

FSU College of Medicine - Auditorium and Atrium  
1115 West Call Street,  
Tallahassee, FL

12:30 pm	<b>Introduction and Welcome:</b> Dr. Nancy Marcus, <i>Dean of The Graduate School</i> Dr. Thierry Dubroca, <i>Postdoctoral Association Symposium Chair and Organizer</i>
12:40 pm	<b>Keynote Address:</b> "You can't get there from here, and other myths of academic leadership" Dr. Mark Q. Martindale, <i>Director of the Whitney Laboratory, University of Florida</i>
1:25 pm	<b>Workshop:</b> "Leading to create change: process and practice" Ms. Amber Hampton and Dr. Laura Osteen, <i>Center for Leadership &amp; Social Change, Florida State University</i>
3:00 pm	<b>Poster Sessions</b>
5:00 pm	<b>Reception and Bar</b> (compliments of The Office of the President)
5:30 pm	<b>Poster Awards:</b> Best poster in three categories (life science, physical science, and interdisciplinary) VISA gift cards and Office of Postdoctoral Affairs Travel Awards Dr. Debra Ann Fadool, <i>Director, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs</i>

**Please register early here** 

all research is welcome (Including prior affiliations)!

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 10TH**

## 2015 THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION AND WORKSHOPS

By: Dr. Judy Devine

During fall 2015, the Graduate School will conduct its third Three Minute Thesis (3MT™) Competition for FSU doctoral students.

3MT™ is a research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland, Australia.

Doctoral students have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their dissertation topic and its significance. 3MT™ is not an exercise in trivializing or

'dumbing-down' research but forces students to consolidate their ideas and crystallize their research discoveries.

During Preliminary Rounds conducted in October, 10 to 12 finalists will be selected by FSU faculty, administrators, and graduate students to compete on November 17, 2015, for three awards: First Place (\$500), Second Place (\$350), and the People's Choice Award (\$250) selected by the audience.

The Graduate School will also provide assistance and guidance in the process through several workshops and help sessions, including two workshops on September 18, at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. This workshop will include an introduction to the process for 3MT™, as well as information on developing the slide used for the presentation. Doctoral students can register for this workshop through the Graduate School's Professional Development Workshops website.

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## NEED ASSISTANCE? MEET NEW GRADUATE SCHOOL STAFF



Brittany Rickman  
*Marketing Representative*

Brittany joined The Graduate School team as a Marketing Representative in July, working with online marketing for graduate student recruitment.

She earned both a B.S. and M.S. in Marketing from FSU's College of Business after moving to Tallahassee in 2008. She worked briefly in non-profit and social work, before returning to the university and holding a marketing position with the Office of Business Services, promoting several student-centric services.

Brittany values education and is excited to promote the quality aspects of FSU's graduate programs. In her spare time, Brittany skates with the Tallahassee RollerGirls and enjoys spending time outdoors.



Chris LaRocque  
*Web Support and  
Training Specialist*

Chris LaRocque is a Tallahassee native and FSU alum. He received his B.S. in Information Technology from Florida State University

in May of 2015.

Before joining the Graduate School at Florida State University, he worked as a web developer for Oglesby Union at Florida State and a supervisor for Einstein's Bros. Bagels.

His goal is to improve the Graduate Student Tracking system by making it easier to use and more accessible. Chris is responsible for training departments and colleges using the Graduate Student Tracking system.

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI EXCELLENCE

John W. McEwen  
(MS 2009)

• Completed a Ph.D. in geography & anthropology at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA in 2014. His dissertation was titled: Sense of Place, Place Attachment, and Rootedness in Four West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana Bars.

Julie Strauss Bettinger  
(MA 2009)

• Co-authored a book, “Blasted by Adversity: the Making of a Wounded Warrior,” which was published in May 2015. Another book, “Encounters with Rikki: From Hurricane Katrina rescue to exceptional Therapy Dog” is forthcoming in January 2016. Both are works of narrative nonfiction.

## POSTDOCS CONTINUED

ies), “American Geophysical Union Conference”, San Francisco, CA, USA.

Dr. Ambalika Sarkar (Advisor: Dr. Mohamed Kabbaj, Biomedical Sciences, College of Medicine) - “Society for Neuroscience Presentation, Workshops and Women in Science Luncheon”, Chicago, IL, USA.

The new awards committee and the OPDA will work toward the development of a new Postdoctoral Mentor Award for the Spring of 2016. Look for upcoming news on the OPDA website!

*We want to hear about your accomplishments!*

If you or someone you know is a current graduate student or alumni, and has had a recent publication, grant, promotion, or other noteworthy achievement, we'd love to feature it in the official Graduate School newsletter, GradConnection. Please fill out the quick form at the following link to tell us of the achievement.

[https://fsu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_245t0ETXT325Gf3](https://fsu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_245t0ETXT325Gf3)

## Upcoming Event Information

Fall Social for Grad Students and Postdoc Scholars **9.11.15**  
**4-6 p.m.**  
**Strozier Scholar's Commons**

**11.17.2015**  
**6 p.m.**  
**Med School Auditorium** **3MT™ Final Competition**

All event information is subject to change. For details, please contact Melissa Hardison, Event Coordinator at mhardison@fsu.edu.

## THE GRAD CONNECTION FALL 2015 VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

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**Nancy Marcus, Ph.D.**  
*Dean of The Graduate School*

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