Greetings,

With another academic year coming to an end it is time to once again reflect on some of the highlights and accomplishments of our students. Fresh in my mind is the Celebration for Graduate Student Excellence at which we recognized the achievements of our graduate and professional students as teachers, scholars, and leaders. This is my favorite event as it showcases the excellence of our graduate students and gives us an opportunity to say thank you for their hard work and dedication. It was also an opportunity to recognize a number of students who have received national fellowships and recognitions. More information on all of the recipients is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

In addition to acknowledging the excellence of current students, I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with some of our graduates as I travel around the country or to interact with them via email. It is a pleasure to learn about their success and the various careers paths that they have pursued since graduating from FSU. One of these alumni, Matt Bondurant, is highlighted in this newsletter and we will bring you more in depth stories in the future.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marcus
Dean, The Graduate School
On April 13, 2011, the achievements of FSU’s graduate students were recognized by FSU President, Eric Barron and Dean, Nancy Marcus, at the annual Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence. Awards for outstanding teaching, research & creativity, and leadership, funded by The Graduate School and the Office of Research, were presented. Fifteen Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) Associates were recognized for dedication to their department’s TA training and for contributing to instructional excellence and student learning across the FSU campus: Timothy Bengford, Interdisciplinary Humanities; Thomas Croom, Political Science; Tiara Diamond, Physics; Urska Dobersek, Educational Psychology & Learning Systems; Christopher Griffin, History; John Harris, Urban & Regional Planning; Johnson Hunt, Art; Patrick McGrady, Sociology; Jeff Paden, Theater; Jennifer Phillips, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies; Natalie Senatore, Family & Child Sciences; Artrease Spann, Chemistry & Biochemistry; Jennifer Toole, Communication; Mary Ward, Dance; John Williams, Biological Science.

For the second year, The Graduate School partnered with the Sony Corporation to randomly select five graduate student and two junior faculty award winners to receive technology packages. Steve Zimmer, Business Development Manager from Sony Direct presented the graduate student packages, each worth $1,200, which included a Sony VAIO Notebook, Sony Headphones, and Sony Webbie HD Camera; and faculty packages worth $2,300, which included the same items plus a Sony Internet Television. The lucky graduate students were David Albright, Justin Capes, Heather Gamper, Giuseppina Valle, and Bradley VanMiddlesworth; and the two faculty members were Stephen Tripodi and Ming Cui.

The awards ceremony culminated in the performance of a collaborative piece by Dance student, Tiffany Mellard, and Fellows Society member and Music Composition MA student, Roger Foreman. The Celebration continued with a reception sponsored by the Congress of Graduate Students. During the reception members of the FSU Fellows Society participated in a poster session that showcased their current research and creativity. Presenters included, Preston Brown, Laurie A. Callihan, Cindy Duong, Roger Foreman, Sergio Iniguez, and Jaime Kassler.
The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards recognizes FSU graduate students who have received a national fellowship, grant, scholarship, or award. Please let us know if you have received an award from an off-campus organization by completing a brief online survey: http://www.survey.coe.fsu.edu/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=mlKH6o65


CLIR MELLON FELLOWSHIP FOR RESEARCH IN ORIGINAL SOURCES
Meaghan Brown, English

DEPARTMENT OF STATE CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
Elizabeth Clendinning, Musicology

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EISENHOWER FELLOWSHIP
Alexander Garcia
Marie Scheetz

IHR MELLON PRE-DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP IN THE HUMANITIES
Karlyn Griffith, Art History

NSF DISSERTATION RESEARCH IMPROVEMENT GRANT
Kaiser Shekha, Sociology

NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Akinobu Watanabe, Biological Science

PEO SCHOLAR AWARD
Jennifer Misuraca, Physics
April Smith, Psychology

PHILIP J. LOCKHART FELLOWSHIP AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES IN ATHENS
Debra Trusty, Classics

PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT FELLOWS PROGRAM
David Albright, Social Work
Matthew Allman, Law

WOODROW WILSON FOUNDATION CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP
Shannon Dunn, Religion

Graduate School Student Awards

GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD
David Albright, Social Work

RESEARCH & CREATIVITY AWARD
Justin Capes, Philosophy
Heather Gamper, Geography
Sergio Iniguez, Neuroscience
Saul Miller, Psychology
Crystal Peebles, Music Theory

OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD
Elise Gornish, Biological Science
Charles Harper, Classics
Bradley VanMiddlesworth, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Stephanie Lawson, Marketing
William Doerner, Economics
Giuseppina Valle, Sociology
THE GRAD CONNECTION

GRADUATE SCHOOL FACULTY AWARDS

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FACULTY

MENTOR AWARD

Richard Feiock, Public Admin. & Public Policy
Joseph Beckham, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies
Nina Efimov, Modern Languages & Logistics

Qing-Xiang “Amy” Sang, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Phillip Steinberg, Geography

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH & CREATIVITY

Jen Koslow, History

GRADUATE SCHOOL GRANTS

DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT (FALL 2010)

Priscila Alfaro-Barrantes, Sports Management
Michael Bair, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Nicole Carrier, Biomedical Sciences
Jennifer Coor, Earth, Ocean & Atmos. Science
Yu-Chun Chih, Comm. Science & Disorders
Stephanie Dunkel, Psychology
Xiao-Qian Fang, Biomedical Sciences
Augustine Felix, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Jonathan Grandage, History
Christopher Griffin, History
David P. Hedlund, Sport Management
Moonki Hong, Criminology & Criminal Justice
Jenise Hudson, English
Sung-on Hwang, Teacher Education
Tami Im, Ed. Psychology & Learning Systems
Ari Kassardjian, Molecular Biophysics
Min-Jun Kim, Comm. Science & Disorders
Lawrence Keniley, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Joung Hwa Koo, Library & Info. Studies
Stephen Lanivich, Management
Sang-rok Lee, Nutrition, Food & Ex. Sciences
Erin Lundblom, Communication Science & Disorders
Thomas Mast, Biological Sciences
Geophrey Mbatta, Civil & Eniv. Engineering
Sherry Piezon, Communication
Barton Price, Religion

Rosario Ramirez-Matabuena, Mod. Languages
Carole Saade, Neuroscience
Samiparna Samanta, History
Hongbo Wang, Mechanical Engineering

DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT (SPRING 2011)

Jungah Bae, Public Administration & Policy
Danielle Brimo, Communication Science & Disorders
Matthew Davis, English
Karla Dhungana, Criminology & Crim. Justice
Debbie Figueroa, Biological Science
Orit Fisher, Sociology
Sergio Iniguez, Psychology
Jae Yun Jun, Mechanical Engineering
Zahraa Khamis, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Kevin Kokomoor, History
Sarah Riman, Biomedical Science
Daniel Milton, Political Science
Chungshik Moon, Political Science
Melissa Pfluenger, Neuroscience
Norbert Salagala, Molecular Biophysics
Omar Thomas, Civil Engineering
Corey Thompson, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Megan Wampler, Psychology
Melinda Whetstone, Library & Info. Studies
Wang-Yong Yang, Chemistry & Biochemistry
GRADUATE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIPS & ASSISTANTSHIPS

LEGACY FELLOWSHIP (2011-12)
Torsha Bhattacharya, Urban & Reg. Planning
Joseph Davenport, Communications
Matthew Devine, Law
Andrew Hazelton, Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Science
Dylan Jackson, Criminology
Jeremy Jarrett, Chemistry
Stephanie Kennedy, Social Work
Joon-II Kim, Physics
Taeck Hyung Kim, Ed. Leadership & Policy Studies
Katherine Kleimeyer, Psychology
Seunghoo Lim, Public Administration
Carmen Marcous, Philosophy
John Peterson, Music
Sangbum Ro, Business
Austin Schwartz, Molecular Biophysics
Karen Sherrill, Business
Caroline Silva, Psychology
Emily Simonavice, Family & Child Sciences
Sunny Spillane, Art Education
Ana Vidal, Political Science

INTERNATIONAL DISSERTATION SEMESTER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (2011)
Dianna Bell, Religion
Jason McCoy, Music
Meaghan Brown, English
Christopher Gunn, History

FAMU FEEDER FELLOWSHIP (2011-12)
Samantha Martin, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies

MCKNIGHT FELLOWSHIP (2011-12)
Marcus Elam, Human Sciences
Alexander Jennings, English
Timothy Jones, Business
George Lankford, Mathematics
Sharde McNeil, Human Sciences
Ashley Sanders, Mathematics
Melissa Smith, Neuroscience
Ira Wheaton, Mathematics

HENDERSON FAMILY FELLOWSHIP (2011-12)
Kelli Creamer, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies

WILSON-AUZENNE ASSISTANTSHIP (2011-12)
Jordan Cuevas, Statistics
Karla Dhungana, Criminology
Alexander Garcia, Urban & Regional Planning
Jennifer Myers, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Janel Rodriguez, Biomedical Sciences
Jennifer Sexton, Business Management
Corey Thompson, Chemistry
Preeti Vaghlea, Sociology
Alex Vega, Classics
Trent Williams, Dance
Christine Ye, Marketing
Katherine Zielaskowski, Psychology

Information on fellowships, grants & awards administered through The Graduate School is available online:
http://gradschool.fsu.edu/Funding-Awards
In November 2010, the Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE), once again joined The Graduate School. As our unit designed to support graduate student teaching assistants, PIE provides a two-day teaching conference each fall; the PIE Teaching Associate Assistantship program; a “Basics of Teaching @ FSU” online TA training series and semester workshops; the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards; departmental and individual consultations on TA development and teaching enhancement.

PIE originally began as a unit in the Office of Graduate Studies when it was established in 1990 through a state funded grant. Over the years, as the PIE program evolved to provide instructional support for faculty as well as TAs, it served as a part of Instructional Development Services (2000-05) and the Center for Teaching and Learning (2005-10). Now that PIE has returned to The Graduate School, the focus has returned to supporting graduate students.

The goal of the PIE program is to prepare TAs for their instructional role at FSU as well as for their future careers. PIE operates on a comprehensive TA training model facilitated by both department-based and university-based training. University-based training, provided through PIE, guarantees that all TAs have access to professional development services, and is meant to compliment the many excellent department-based training programs. In addition to providing TAs support in their current teaching endeavors, the PIE program prepares TAs for the expectations they will face as future faculty members in teaching, conducting research, and performing service. For this reason, many of the PIE workshops are approved for credit in The Graduate School’s Preparing Future Faculty Program.

To find out more about the Program for Instructional Excellence, visit http://pie.fsu.edu
Since 1994, Florida State University, along with a group of fifteen doctoral universities and their partner institutions, was awarded a grant to initiate a Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) program graduate students for careers in academia. On a national level, PFF is a joint effort by the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the Council of Graduate Schools. Graduate students at Florida State, from 1994 – 2010, could earn a PFF certificate, but this was not noted on the transcript since the requirements did not include coursework. Beginning spring 2011, graduate students may choose to complete the new academic PFF Certificate Program, which will be noted on their transcript. Participation in the PFF Certificate Program will provide opportunities for students to increase their awareness of expectations for faculty performance and of resources available in scholarly careers, and their readiness to address research, teaching and the related demands of faculty life. All FSU doctoral students and doctoral degree graduates are eligible to participate, as are post-doctoral associates and adjunct/visiting faculty. Students in terminal master’s degree programs (e.g., MFA) who plan to seek faculty positions after graduation are also eligible.

Requirements for the PFF Graduate Certificate include 12 credit-hours approved by the Graduate School and the student’s mentor/major professor, workshop attendance, faculty interviews, and a portfolio. Courses taken as part of the student’s current degree program may also apply toward the PFF Certificate.

Individuals interested in taking part in PFF activities, regardless of whether they seek to identify as Fellows or earn the PFF Graduate Certificate, may self-register for the PFF organization site on Blackboard® (after login, select the Organizations tab, then search “Preparing Future Faculty”). Dr. Judith Devine, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, is the PFF advisor at FSU and will be happy to meet either one-on-one with students or with student groups/organizations to discuss this new graduate certificate program.
BEST-SELLING AUTHOR MATT BONDURANT ON WRITING; GRAD STUDY
By: Jennifer Feltman

Since completing his graduate degree in 2003, Matt Bondurant has had many successes: his first novel, *The Third Translation* (Hyperion 2005), became an international bestseller and is printed in 14 languages and his second novel, *The Wettest County in the World* (Scribner 2008), is currently being made into a film by Director John Hillcoat (*The Road*) starring Shia Labeouf, Tom Hardy, Jessica Chastain, Mia Wasikowska, Gary Oldman, and Guy Pearce, to be released in 2012. His most recent novel, *The Night Swimmer* (Scribner 2012), will come out in January 2012. Recently, I interviewed Matt about writing, the film contract, and his time at FSU:

**JF:** What was the writing process like for *The Wettest County in the World*?

**MB:** The Wettest County in the World is tale based on a true story, involving my grandfather and his two brothers, known in the 1920’s and 30’s as “The Bondurant Brothers”, a notorious moonshine gang in Franklin County, Virginia, the acknowledged “Moonshine Capital of the World.” I didn’t know of my grandfathers true past and involvement in the events of the early 1930’s until much later, just a few years before his death. We found out when my father came across a series of newspaper article documenting the events at Maggodee Creek in December of 1930. When asked about the shooting my grandfather merely said: oh yeah, shot me through here, and raised his shirt to show my father the entry wound under his arm. Not much more was said about it after that, which is the way my father’s family communicated about such things.

The basics of this story are drawn from various family stories and anecdotes, newspaper headlines and articles, and court transcripts. The central players in the story are now deceased and very little record exists. My task in writing this book was to fill in the blank spaces of the known record. There are the family stories, and for this we must rely on the recollection of relatives, like my father, who was alive during the trial though as a very young boy, as well as other local people and friends who knew my grandfather and these other men. These memories and stories are vague and often specious at best, mixed with several decades of rumor, gossip, and myth. In order to get at the truth I created characters based on these people, some who are combinations of the original figures, some quite close to the historical record as we know it, and others who are almost wholly fabricated.
JF: How did you go about getting your book made into a movie?

MB: My literary agency in NYC, Trident Media Group, partners up with LA-based literary film agencies, in my case Liza Wachter of RWSC, and they shop the book around to producers and studios. Columbia Pictures and Red Wagon wanted it, bought it, and then it moved through a few producers until it ended up as a Sony Red Wagon picture.

JF: Do you work with the screen writer in any capacity? Director? Actors?

MB: Unless you are already a very famous writer, like Stephen King or John Irving, you won’t have much to do with the film version of your book. That being said, I have had long conversations with John Hillcoat, the Director, as well as the producers and some of the actors, all of whom were genuinely interested in my opinion on various matters. They have occasionally come to me with specific questions, usually on the historical accuracy of some item, action, or character’s line. I did visit the set recently and spent a lot of time watching scenes being filmed and viewing the scenes already shot, and again the producers were interested in my take on things.

JF: Are there lessons you learned as a student at FSU that you still use in your writing?

MB: I learned nearly everything I know about writing at FSU during my five years in the PhD program. I came in a total novice and when I left I had a mostly finished manuscript that turned into my first published novel, an international bestseller printed in 14 languages. The skill and wisdom of the creative writing faculty at FSU cannot be overestimated, and I learned many things from writers like Mark Winegardner, Bob Shacochis, Elizabeth Stuckey-French, David Kirby, Janet Burroway, and Jimmy Kimbrell in the classroom and in the many outside of class interactions I had. The dedication to careful and relentless revision, a rigorous and cynical examination of your own writing is the primary tool that I still hold dear, paired with a certain kind of recklessness and willingness to risk anything in your prose. Early on Winegardner told me that I just needed to keep going and never give up, as this is often what separates a writer from someone who wants to be a writer. He was right about that, and many other things.

JF: What advice would you give to students who would like to pursue a career in creative writing?

MB: The most important advice I can give is to READ. Then read more. You should read all the fiction that anyone you respect thinks is important. Then read everything else. If you are under the age of twenty-five this is even more essential. I feel it is tantamount to fill your early adulthood with a deep immersion in reading great writing, as this will be the conscious and subconscious template you will work from the rest of your life. I believe by the time you are thirty-five or so your literary impressions are quite solid. I would also suggest that you take a class with any of the writers listed above, sit close to them whenever possible, and listen very carefully to everything they say.

Bondurant’s newest novel will be available in January 2012.
Connie Eudy, Program Director for FSU’s Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE), has coordinated the PIE program since 2004 and is responsible for university-based instructional training and support to the over 1,700 graduate student teaching assistants at FSU.

Connie is looking forward to continuing her work to support graduate student TA development at FSU. Outside of work she enjoys camping, fishing, biking, yoga, dancing, traveling, art, and music. The activity she enjoys the most is spending time with her family.

**Alumni in the News**

**Athina Fytika** (DM 2004, Piano) was appointed Lecturer of Piano Pedagogy (tenure-track) in the Department of Music Studies of Ionio University in Corfu, Greece.

**Ryan Speedo Green** (MM 2010, Voice) was elected as one of five winners in the 2011 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions held on March 13 at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.

**Prashant Jain** (PhD 2010, Physical Chemistry) was awarded the Director’s fellowship at the Los Alamos National Laboratory where he will conduct independent research at the Lujan Neutron Scattering Center. He also has been awarded a post-doc position at MIT.

**Kyle Freedman** (MS 2007, Educational Psychology & Learning Systems) was appointed the Training Director at Enercon, a nuclear engineering consulting firm, in Atlanta, where he will be building their soft skill training university, manager development program, and leadership development program.

**Jane Springer** (PhD 2008, Creative Writing) was awarded one of ten $50,000 Whiting Awards for emerging writers. Her first poetry collection, *Dear Blackbird*, was published by University of Utah Press in 2007.