Welcome to the first edition of “The Grad Connection” the newsletter of the Office of Graduate Studies. The main goals of this newsletter are to highlight the accomplishments of Florida State University’s graduate and professional students, and to inform these students, the broader FSU community, and friends of FSU of activities and opportunities that might be of interest. Getting something new like a newsletter off the ground is never a small task, therefore I want to thank all of the Office of Graduate Studies staff, as well as the graduate students who participated in our brainstorming sessions for their contributions. I particularly want to thank Dana Zapata for “closing the deal” by pulling the information together and editing the materials. The graduate student focus groups were a tremendous help in outlining the newsletter, but we will continue to take suggestions for items to include in future issues. If you have suggestions please direct them to our editor, Dana Zapata (dzapata@admin.fsu.edu).

Since becoming Dean I have learned a great deal about the tremendous breadth of graduate and professional programs offered at FSU and I have taken great pleasure in meeting many of our accomplished graduate students. To acknowledge the achievements of our graduate students we established the new Graduate Student Research and Creativity award. Sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies, Office of Research, and the FSU Computer Store this award will recognize some of FSU’s outstanding graduate students. These awards will be announced at the Celebration for Student Excellence on April 7, 2006 along with the awards to graduate students for outstanding teaching and leadership. I hope to see you at the ceremony either as a recipient or in support of your peers.

Sincerely,
Nancy Marcus

Accolades...

ChanMin Kim, an Instructional Systems doctoral student in the Educational Psychology and Learning Systems Department is the Assistant Development Editor for Educational Technology Research and Development, which is considered the number one refereed journal in the area of educational technology. She works with the Development Editor, J. Michael Spector, and is responsible for coordinating the blind peer review process for the journal.
In keeping with FSU’s diverse educational mission, its liberal arts tradition, and its commitment to graduate education in research and creative activities, a one-credit, university-wide graduate course to train graduate students in the responsible conduct of research and creativity (RCRC) was designed by the FSU Council on Research and Creativity, and the Congress of Graduate Students. With funding from the Council of Graduate Schools and the FSU offices of Graduate Studies, Research, and Academic and Professional Program Services, this new course extends beyond the behavioral and biomedical disciplines to include arts and humanities students as well (thus, RCR and Creativity).

First offered spring, 2004, the RCRC course includes all nine areas of RCR—human and animal subjects, conflicts of interest, data management, mentor/trainee, collaborative research, authorship, publication, and peer review. Each area of RCR is presented by Brooks Keel, Associate Vice President for Research, during one session, followed by small group discussions the subsequent class meeting. For the discussion sessions, the students are divided into three small discipline-based groups: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS); and Arts and Humanities (AH). Led by Florida State University’s most distinguished senior faculty these discussion groups provide students the opportunity to interact with prominent faculty from each discipline. Tuition for the course is paid with funds provided by FSU’s Council on Research and Creativity and each student receives the course text to keep at no charge.

During the intervening week between the large and small group sessions, students use Blackboard to discuss discipline-specific case studies related to the RCR topic just presented. Each week’s case studies serve as the basis for the following small group discussion. The large group portion of the course and many of the research faculty’s case study discussions were videotaped by FSU’s Academic and Professional Program Services during the summer, 2005, and are available on-line. Further, the Council of Graduate Schools has included the RCRC course materials on its web site for the member institutions.

Due to the positive teaching evaluations spring, 2005, the RCRC course will be offered each spring semester, with videotapes available on-line for students who might miss a class or simply want to review the material covered. Having senior research faculty lead the case study discussions will also continue. Senior research faculty participating spring, 2006, are Provost Lawrence Abele, Dianne Harrison (Provost), Kirby Kemper (Research), Nancy Marcus (Graduate Studies), Lawrence Dennis (Information), Jon Bailey (Psychology), Neil Charness (Psychology), Pamela Coates (Finance), Robert Contreras (Psychology), Marc Freeman (Biological Science), David Gussak (Art Therapy), David Johnson (Humanities), Leonard LaPointe (Communication Disorders), Jane Mostoller (General Counsel), Patricia Phillips (Dance), Robert Reiser (Educational Psychology & Learning Systems), Carrie Sandahl (Theatre), Jim Smith (Psychology), Sally Sommer (Dance), Jayne Standley (Music Therapy), David Stone (Classics), and Patricia Young (Dance).

This course applies to all disciplines. It was good to have the opportunity to interact with students from so many fields. Participating in the break out sessions assisted me in identifying the ways the responsible conduct of research applies to my field as well as to me as both a student and a professional.

–Melita Belgrave, Music Therapy doctoral student and Program for Research Excellence Associate

see RCRC, page 5

Dissertation Support Group

What: A group counseling experience for students to discuss their dissertation. Typical topics include procrastination, time management, perfectionism, and writer's block.

Who: Doctoral students interested in learning about how writing a dissertation affects their daily life.

Where: Student Counseling Center, Student Life Building.

Goals: To increase levels of adaptation and improve social, emotional, academic, and relationship functioning as a result of better understanding how emotions and previous experience affect daily living.

Leaders: Nikki Pritchett, Ph.D. Joshua M. Gross, Ph.D.

If interested: Call the Student Counseling Center at 644-2003 to schedule an intake appointment.
Recent policy changes...

Revision to the Grade Appeals System
Effective December 19, 2005

The purpose of the grade appeals system is to afford an opportunity for an undergraduate or graduate student to appeal a final course grade under certain circumstances. Faculty judgment of students’ academic performance is inherent in the grading process and hence should not be overturned except when the student can show that the grade awarded represents a gross violation of the instructor’s own specified evaluation (grading) statement and therefore was awarded in an arbitrary, capricious, or discriminatory manner. The evaluation (grading) statement utilized during the grade appeals process is the one contained in the instructor’s syllabus at the beginning of the semester. This system does not apply to preliminary or comprehensive exams or to thesis or dissertation defenses; these issues are reviewed by the Student Academic Relations Committee via the Dean of the Faculties. To see the steps for appealing a grade visit:

http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/forms/gradeappeals.pdf

New Academic Honor Policy
Effective August 22, 2005

The statement on Values and Moral Standards at FSU says: “The moral norm which guides conduct and informs policy at Florida State University is responsible freedom. Freedom is an important experience which the University, one of the freest of institutions, provides for all of its citizens – faculty, students, administrators, and staff. Freedom is responsibly exercised when it is directed by ethical standards.”

The statement also addresses academic integrity: “The University aspires to excellence in its core activities of teaching, research, creative expression, and public service and is committed to the integrity of the academic process. The [Academic Honor Policy] is a specific manifestation of this commitment. Truthfulness in one’s claims and representations and honesty in one’s activities are essential in life and vocation, and the realization of truthfulness and honesty is an intrinsic part of the educational process.”

Guided by these principles, the Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty throughout the process. To read the entire Academic Honor Policy visit:

http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/forms/honorpolicy.pdf

Addressing Florida’s Sinkhole Problem

The severity and frequency of sinkhole losses continue to increase in Florida. As a result, the availability and affordability of insurance coverage for the peril of sinkholes continue to be problematic for residents, regulators, insurers, and the Legislature. In response to the problem, the 2004 Florida Legislature mandated a study of the feasibility and cost benefit of a Florida sinkhole insurance facility and related matters.

The study was conducted by faculty members in the Risk Management and Insurance (RMI) Department of Florida State University. Kevin Gatzlaff, a doctoral student in the RMI Department, participated as an active member of the research team. “It was a great experience to be part of the team that worked on this project,” says Kevin. “The Risk Management and Insurance faculty members at Florida State are outstanding, and I was grateful for the opportunity to work alongside them to develop recommendations aimed at solving a serious, real-world problem.”

The $300,000 study focused on the methods employed to manage single peril exposures, including reinsurance facilities and government-sponsored insurance. The report analyzed the pertinent issues with respect to sinkholes in Florida and recommended changes to the statutory definitions of sinkhole loss and sinkhole activity; creation of uniform procedures for adjustment of claims; and establishment of a data warehouse to store sinkhole claims information. The report also suggested that if the aforementioned measures did not remedy the problem that the state consider establishing a facility to which insurers would concede all sinkhole coverage.

Professor Patrick Maroney, the principal investigator on the project, said “A great deal of data on subsidence facilities in other states as well as federal single peril insurance mechanisms were compiled by Kevin. His attention to detail and the thoroughness of his research was very impressive. He was a valuable member of the team that compiled the 600-page report.”

Did you know...

The Office of Academic & Professional Program Services (APPS) offers workshops for Graduate Students in the areas of Electronic Campus, PIE/PFF and Teaching Conference?

Topics include: "Use TurnItIn to Deter Plagiarism," "Fair Use of Media and the TEACH Act," "Mentor Training," "Conversations on Teaching: Stimulate Interest in Your Course," and intro and advanced PowerPoint classes. For a complete list of APPS Workshops visit:

http://forms.oddl.fsu.edu/online/workshops.
Awards

Chad Everett Allen (M.S. candidate, Geography), was awarded a 2005 U.S. Community Forestry Research Fellowship from the Ford Foundation and U.C. Berkeley.

Ginger Assadi (Ph.D. candidate, Humanities), won the 2005 Graduate Award in Creative Writing at FSU.

Deann Atchley (Ph.D. Candidate, Neuroscience) was awarded a 2005 American Psychological Foundation Scholarship.

Reagan Ellis (M.S. candidate, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies), and her partner won first place in the case study competition at the Ohio College Personnel Association’s (OCPA) annual conference in Columbus, OH.

Michael R. Hines (Ph.D. candidate, Computer Science), was awarded a three year AT&T Fellowship beginning summer 2005. It includes monthly stipend, summer internship and collaboration with researchers at AT&T Research Labs, Florham Park, NJ.

Jill M. Holm-Denoma (Ph.D. Candidate, Clinical Psychology), was awarded the Joseph and Ruth Matarazzo Scholarship and a dissertation scholarship from the American Psychological Foundation.

Prasad Kulkarni (Ph.D. candidate, Computer Science), was paid a Ph.D. Fellowship. It includes paid tuition and fees, a summer internship, IBM ThinkPad and a $17,500 stipend for one academic year.

Jing Li (Ph.D. candidate, Industrial Engineering), won the 2005 Florida Advanced Center for Composite Technologies Research Excellence Award, for the publication of “Statistical Characterization and Robust Design of RTM Processes” in Composites Part A: Applied Science and Manufacturing.

Victor F. Muchuruzu (Ph.D. Candidate, Civil Engineering), was awarded the “Book Scholarship Award” by the Big Bend Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, December.

John Richardson (M.S. candidate, Urban and Regional Planning), was awarded the Edward McClure Award for the Best Master’s Student Paper.

Doden Rukmana (Ph.D. candidate, Urban and Regional Planning), was awarded a Gill-Chin Lim Travel Award from the Global Planning Educators Interest Group (GPEIG) for presenting a paper at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning 2005 Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO, October.

Elizabeth Winslow (Ph.D. candidate, Public Administration and Policy), was awarded the first annual Ruth “Sweetie” Cox Dissertation Scholarship at the Askew School Awards Ceremony, January.

Tracy Witte (Ph.D. Candidate, Clinical Psychology) was awarded a 2005-2006 Injury Prevention Student Research Fellowship, which is a joint initiative of the Society for Public Health Education and the Center for Disease Control’s Injury Center.

Grants

Ted Bender (Ph.D. Candidate, Clinical Psychology) was awarded an FSU CRC LEAD grant.

Grants (cont.)

Tamara C. Bertrand (Ph.D. Candidate, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) was awarded a Travel Grant to attend the 2005 SACS-COC annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, December.

Ginni Blackhart (Ph.D. Candidate, Social Psychology) was awarded a National Institutes of Health National Student Service Award grant to support her research, “Depression, Cortisol, and Interpersonal Interaction.”

Daniel Nosnja (Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology) was awarded the research grant (as Co-PI) “Paleobiology of the Late Eneolithic and Early Bronze Age” with Vladimir Sladek (PI) and Patrik Galeta (Co-PI) of University of West Bohemia, Czech Republic. Received from the University of West Bohemia, ($7,500), January.

John Thompson (Ph.D. Candidate, Neurosciences) was awarded a 3 year National Institutes of Health National Student Service Award grant to investigate “Neural Dynamics of Vocal Recovery”.

Presentations - International

Wayne Rupp (Classics), presented the paper, “The Hero with the Plow and the Death of Remus on Etruscan Cinerary Urns,” at the annual meetings of the Archaeological Institute of America, Montreal, Canada, January.

Sheri Webber (Information), served as a panelist for “Library Success Stories.” An official side event of the World Summit on the Information Society sponsored by the International Federation of Library Associations and Organizations, Tunis, Tunisia, November.

Kathryn Wright, Erin Dicresare, Jessica Lowe, and Genevieve Brackins’ (Humanities) will present “Etruscan Cinerary Urns,” at the annual meetings of the Archaeological Institute of America, Montreal, Canada, January.

Patte Casey (Middle and Secondary Education), will present “Teach Algebra in Space,” at the T-Cubed meeting, Denver, CO, February.

Y.L. Chiari, K.L. Thompson, and R.G. Alamo (Chemical Engineering), will present “Overall Crystallization Kinetics of Polymorphic Poly (propylenes),” at the meeting of the American Physical Society, Baltimore, MA, March.

Li Feng (Economics) presented “Sample Selection for Hedonic Regression Models When Unmeasured Quality Differences is Present,” at the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, Boston, MA, January.

Li Feng (Economics), presented “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Causes and Consequences of New Teacher Attrition” and “Inter-School Teacher Turnover,” at the Southern Economic Association 75th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November.


Theres Kemper (Clinical Psychology), presented the paper “Juvenile Sex Offenders: Comparison of three victim age based subgroups and description of treatment completion and recidivism,” at the 2005 Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers conference, Salt Lake City, UT, November.


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Accolades...

Paul T. Jaeger was awarded the Jean Tague-Sutcliffe Award in recognition of winning the Doctoral Student Research Poster Competition at the 2006 Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) conference on January 17.

Jaeger is a doctoral candidate in the College of Information and the Manager for Research Development at FSU’s Information Use Management and Policy Institute. His poster was entitled “Multi-method Evaluation of U.S. Federal Electronic Government Websites in terms of Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities.” It summarized the findings of Jaeger’s dissertation, which examines issues of the accessibility and usability of federal government websites.

This year’s competition included 60 entries from doctoral students from Library and Information Science programs across the United States and Canada. This is the first time a student from Florida State University has won the ALISE Doctoral Student Research Poster Competition.
Improving Hurricane Intensity Forecasts

In a joint field experiment with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) FSU Meteorology graduate student Cerese Albers researched tropical systems during the summer of 2005. Based out of San Jose, Costa Rica, the Tropical Cloud Systems and Processes (TCSP) experiment combined technology and experience from several universities and government organizations to obtain in-depth real-time measurements of several tropical cyclones. One such storm was Hurricane Dennis, which directly impacted the Gulf Coast of Florida as it made landfall near Pensacola, FL in the afternoon hours of July 10 as a Category Three major hurricane. Costly, widespread damage to coastal communities along the Florida Panhandle was among the direct impacts of the hurricane which started as a tropical depression in the Southeastern Caribbean Sea on Monday, July 4.

The intensity of a storm is one of the most difficult facets to forecast. “An important aspect of the TCSP experiment focused on gaining in-depth measurements of hurricane microphysics,” Albers said. Under the tutelage of Dr. T. N. Krishnamurti, who runs the Florida State Superensemble model which made landmark progress in the 2004 hurricane season with its state-of-the-art track and intensity forecasts, Albers’ thesis focuses on improving how state-of-the-art hurricane models incorporate microphysics into their algorithms. The types of microphysics in hurricanes include measurements of different hydrometeors, such as rain, snow, cloud ice, cloud liquid water and hail. “By improving how to model these characteristics of a hurricane, the forecast intensity can be vastly improved. There have been many studies which have concluded a direct correlation between the quantity and type of hydrometeors present and a hurricane’s intensity,” she said.

When asked about their experiences in the RCRC course and as PRE Associates, Thomas Anthony, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, responded “It is enlightening and informative. You would never think that research involves being aware of all these different areas. The information is not only applicable for graduate students; it is transferable to industry as well as to academia.” Reflecting for a moment, Stacy Shumway, Communication Disorders, added “Dr. Keel brought in examples of misconduct in research, which really brought the course alive and related research ethics to current events. The small group meetings really solidified what we had discussed during lecture the previous week. It allowed us to apply the ethical principles to our own respective fields.”
Bio-Covers Reduce Methane Emissions from Landfills

For years scientists around the world have studied global warming. Results indicate that manmade greenhouse gases are influencing the heat balance of the earth’s atmosphere. Jill Fleiger, masters student in chemical oceanography, along with her major professor, Jeff Chanton, have been researching methods to reduce methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas. According to Fleiger and Chanton, this is as simple as placing a bio-cover over local landfills.

A significant portion of the methane found in our atmosphere is released by landfills as deposited items decompose. By placing a layer of crushed glass covered with a layer of compost or mulch over the refuse, Fleiger created a bio-cover for a section of the Leon County landfill. The bacteria in the compost change the methane to carbon dioxide, a less potent greenhouse gas. Twice a month, Fleiger measures the flux and takes samples at different depths to ensure the bio-cover is working. Findings show the larger the layer of compost, the more methane is reduced with a significant difference between no compost and 12 inches of compost.

Currently, most landfills cover their waste with a layer of clay that is difficult for oxygen to penetrate leading to slow decomposition. Fleiger has shown that the compost method allows more oxygen to reach refuse speeding up decomposition.

“This is an inexpensive way to reduce greenhouse gases in landfills throughout Florida and the country,” said Fleiger. “It’s so easy to replicate, everyone should be doing it.”


Kimberly Van Orden (Clinical Psychology), co-presented the papers “Marital Concordance for Major Depressive Disorder: An Exploration of the Assortative Relating and Depression Contingency Hypotheses” and “Interpersonal Beliefs and Suicidality: The Relationship Between Suicidal Desire, A Thwarted Need to Belong, and Perceived Burdensomeness,” at the annual meeting of the Association of Cognitive and Behavioral Therapists, Washington, DC, November.

Kimberly Van Orden (Clinical Psychology) co-presented the poster, “Testing the Effectiveness of a List of Suicide Warning Signs for the Public,” at the annual meeting of the Association of Cognitive and Behavioral Therapists, Washington, DC, November.

Sheri Webber (Information), presented the poster “Electronic Resources Management: Exploring the Ethical Climate,” at the Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, January.

Jessica Word (Public Administration and Policy), presented the paper “A Comparison of Collaborative Behavior Among Nonprofit Organizations and between nonprofits and other sectors,” at the Association for the Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations Annual Conference, Washington, DC, November.

Katheryn Wright (Humanities), presented the paper “Creating the Other in ‘A Clockwork Orange,’” at the National Communication Association’s 91st Annual Convention, Boston, MA, November.

For a complete list of FSU graduate student awards, grants, presentations, and publications, for the past 6 months (as of February 10, 2006), as reported by departments visit:

www.fsu.edu/gradstudies

Dates to Know:

March

16 - Delores Auzenne Fellowship for Minorties - deadline for receipt of completed applications to the student’s major department.

28 - ETD PDF Conversion Workshop.

29-ETD PDF Conversion Workshop.

April

3 - ETD format approval deadline.

10 - ETD final submission deadline.

15 - University Fellowship - deadline for all original recipients to accept/deny.

28 - Commencement - 7:30 p.m., Civic Center.

29 - Commencement - 9:00 a.m., Civic Center.

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

The Grad Connection

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Editor in Chief

Dana Zapata

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