



# THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY THE GRAD CONNECTION

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I want to extend my greetings to all and my congratulations to our 2009 graduates. The Graduate School is excited to share with you the fall 2009 edition of The



Grad Connection newsletter, which is available in PDF Format and online at: <http://gradschool.fsu.edu/News-Recognitions/The-Grad-Connection>.

On behalf of The Graduate School we hope you enjoy the selection of stories in this edition. Given the diversity and excellence of graduate programs at Florida State University and the success of our alumni it is difficult to capture all of the highlights in a brief newsletter.

The Graduate School wishes everyone a Happy Holiday season and welcomes you to be a part of our newsletter. Stories for submission and ideas should be sent to Jack Tyndall at [Clearance@mailers.fsu.edu](mailto:Clearance@mailers.fsu.edu).

Sincerely,

Nancy Marcus

## OFFICE OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS OPENED FALL 2009

The university's Graduate School has created the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (<http://ogfa.fsu.edu>) in an effort to help Florida State graduate students secure fellowships, scholarships and other awards. The office will assist graduate students in searching for and obtaining everything from fellowships to awards for research and travel; all from external, off-campus foundations, libraries or institutes.

### The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards

Anne Marie West, Director

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Tallahassee, FL 32306-2047

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(850) 644-1231 fax  
<http://ogfa.fsu.edu>  
[amwest@fsu.edu](mailto:amwest@fsu.edu)

The office will help graduate students complete and perfect these materials prior to submission of proposals and application, to increase their chances of success. "The new Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards is a way we can ensure that

our graduate students become aware of the resources that are available for their areas of study," said Nancy Marcus, Dean of The Graduate School. "The establishment of this office ties into one of Florida State University's top objectives, the support of graduate education." Dean Marcus is pleased to announce that the director of this office is a Florida State alumna, Anne Marie West (B.A. '98, English; Ph.D. '09, French). During the fall semester, Dr. West focused on more than 50 awards, many of which provide support for graduate students to pursue their individual scholarly projects, including thesis and dissertation research. Graduate students can see the awards on the office's Blackboard web site. In addition to identifying possible resources on the Blackboard site, students can also find advice on how to search for funding possibilities as well as how to write proposals. There is also information for faculty

members on how to support their students' proposals and write letters of recommendation. "The web site will allow students to identify for themselves the kinds of resources that are available for them."

### STAFF SPOTLIGHT: ANNE MARIE WEST

Dr. Anne Marie West has been appointed as the Director of the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards. In this position, Dr. West mentors graduate students and guides them through the award application process.

A recent graduate of FSU's Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, she received numerous research and travel awards from the department as well as the Winthrop-King Institute for French and Francophone Studies.

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Through her studies, Dr. West participated in graduate student conferences and pursued international study abroad opportunities, including interdisciplinary medieval studies at the University of Poitiers.

Her dissertation focused on the writing techniques of Christine de Pizan, a comparative study directed by Dr. Lori Walters.

At FSU, she taught a variety of introductory French classes. This teaching experience

prepared her for a yearlong teaching exchange at the Sorbonne, where she taught English language and literature classes.

Dr. West received a master's degree in French from the University of South Florida. However, she began her college career as a Seminole, receiving a B.A. in English at FSU.

As an undergraduate student, Dr. West served as an editor in the Student Publications Department, volunteered at the FSU Museum of Fine Arts, and participated in FSU's London Summer Program through an Honors Travel Scholarship.

You can contact Dr. West at (850) 644-8132 or [amwest@fsu.edu](mailto:amwest@fsu.edu).

## EIGHT STUDENTS TO TEACH, STUDY OVERSEAS AFTER WINNING FULBRIGHT GRANTS

Barry Ray  
News and Public Affairs Office  
May 2009

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** -- From Argentina to Russia, eight Florida State students will be traveling to locations all over the world after winning prized and highly

competitive **Fulbright Grants** this year. These eight young people are just a small sample of the extraordinarily talented student body that we have here at Florida State," said T.K. Wetherell, president of the university. "While their success is mainly due to their own hard work, credit must also be given to the dedicated faculty and staff who have mentored and supported them."

Four of the students received Fulbright Full Grants, which will allow them to study and/or conduct research in a foreign country for an academic year. They are:

**Michael Douma** -- A doctoral student in history, Douma, of Grandville, Mich., will be going to the Netherlands to study Dutch immigration patterns and mindset.

**Jason Hobratschk** -- A doctoral student in musicology, Hobratschk, of Portland, Ore., be going to Germany to conduct research on Werner Egk, a German composer during the Nazi era.

**Victoria Penziner** -- A doctoral student in Middle East history, Penziner, of Boca Raton, Fla., will be going to the United Arab Emirates to research environmental policy and attitudes over the past 200 years.

**Heather Wakefield** -- A master's student in information studies, Wakefield, of Daytona Beach, Fla., will be going to the nation of Georgia and working with that country's National Library to implement activities and more access for children.

Another four Florida State students received **Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships**, which will allow them to be placed in schools or universities in foreign countries and work to improve their students' language abilities and knowledge of the United States. They are:

**Jennifer Ervin** -- A graduate student

in English education, Ervin, of Tallahassee, Fla., plans to travel to Vietnam.

**Carly Nasehi** -- A recent graduate in international affairs and religion, Nasehi, of Orlando, Fla., is going to Germany. (In addition to the Fulbright, she has received two other major academic awards this year.

**Travis Smith** -- A recent graduate in international affairs and Russian, Smith, of Tallahassee, intends to travel to Russia.

**Julio Vargas-Cohen** -- A recent graduate in international affairs, Vargas-Cohen, of Delray Beach, Fla., is going to Spain.



In addition, two Florida State students were selected as alternates:

**Matthew Brown** -- A recent graduate in literature and Spanish, Brown, of Lakeland, Fla., was selected as an alternate to Argentina.

**Caroline Connolly** -- A recent graduate in mass media studies, Connolly, of Newburyport, Mass., was selected as an alternate to Spain.

"Fulbrights are life-changing opportunities," said Meredith Simpson, the interim director of Florida State's Office of National Fellowships, which helps students pursue nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships. "These eight students will represent both Florida State and the United States in the best possible light. We are very proud of them." The Fulbright recipients are only the latest Florida State students to have earned major scholarships and fellowships with assistance from the Office of National Fellowships.

Other students over the past academic year have received Rhodes, Goldwater, Truman and Udall scholarships, as well as a Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship.

# THE GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

## 2009 – 2010 FELLOWSHIP, ASSISTANTSHIP AND GRANT AWARD WINNERS

### Dissertation Research Grant

The Dissertation Research Grant is a \$750 award given to outstanding PhD students to ease the financial constraints inherent with dissertation research. These awards are made once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester each year. This fall the Dissertation Research Grant Selection Committee chose 33 students to receive the award. The committee is composed of professors representing many of the doctoral degree programs at FSU. A list of the students and their degree programs can be found below.

**Brian Boutwell** -- Criminology and Criminal Justice

**Amanda Brewer** -- Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Robin Lewis** -- Sociology

**Cheon Geun Choi** - Public Administration and Policy

**Kelly Cowart** -- Marketing

**Paul Di Gangi** -- Management

**Xiang Fu** -- Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering

**Paul Henning** -- Nutrition, Food, and Exercise Science

**Stephen Hills** -- Sports and Recreation Management

**Hong-Cheol Kim** -- Political Science

**John Hutchinson** -- History

**Jaeyeon Hwang** -- Sports and Recreation Management

**Kyungwon Koh** -- School of Library and Information Studies

**Dun Liang** -- Biomedical Sciences

**King Pan Campion Loong** -- Physics

**Adam Luebke** -- Sociology

**Kyoungsik Na** -- School of Library and Information Studies

**Kathryn O'Donnell** -- Anthropology

**Gina Platts** -- School of Teacher Education

**Matthew Price** -- English

**Rinat Rosenberg-Kima** -- Educational Psychology and Learning Systems

**Christine Sanchez** -- Educational Psychology and Learning Systems

**Kelsey Scheitlin** -- Geography

**Brooke Sherrard** -- Religion

**Laurel Tomko Wentz** -- Nutrition, Food, and Exercise Science

**Kristal Tucker** -- Biology

**Ida Walker** -- Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Rachel Whittington Saffo** -- School of Communication Science & Disorders

**Shauna Wilson** -- Psychology

**Natalie Wlodarczyk** -- Music

**Alan Zabriskie** -- Music

**Ying Zhang** -- Educational Psychology and Learning Systems

**Libin Zhou** -- Geography

### McKnight Doctoral Fellowship:

**Cicely Brantley** -- Marriage & Family

**Dominique Gehy** -- Business (Finance)

**Yvette Holmes** -- Business (Marketing)

**Lacy Olson** -- Clinical Psychology

**Janeen Price** -- English

**Luis Rivera** -- Music

**Marcia Saintil** -- Counseling Psychology

### Wilson-Auzenne Assistantship for Minorities:

**Cristina Bakhoun** -- Music

**Jeremy Bassetti** -- Humanities

**Kristin Brown** -- Social Work

**Caroline Cheung** -- Classics

**Cindy Duong** -- Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Laymon Hicks** -- Educational Psychology and Learning Systems

**Stephanie Lawson** -- Business

**Carol Porter** -- Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Kate Temoney** -- Religion

**Corey Thompson** -- Chemistry and Biochemistry

### International Dissertation Research Semester Fellowship:

**Michael Douma** -- History

**Victoria Penziner** -- History

### Adelaide Wilson Doctoral Fellowship reception:

**Gary Brodeur** -- Chemical and Biomedical Engineering

**Quyet Do** -- Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering

**Steve Henke** -- Scientific Computing

**Papatya Kaner** -- Chemical and Biomedical Engineering

**Jian Luo** -- Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering

**Jennifer Murray** -- Scientific Computing

**Rohit Ugle** -- Mechanical Engineering

**Meocha Whaley** -- Chemical and Biomedical Engineering

## FSU HONORS ITS GRADUATE STUDENTS AT ANNUAL EVENT



Apr. 20 - May 10, 2009

**April 20 - May 10, 2009  
STATE**

The Florida State University honored the achievements of its best graduate students at the university's annual Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence on April 8. The students who were recognized for excellence in teaching, research and creativity, and leadership each received a certificate and \$500. The students who received Dialogues Interdisciplinary Research Grants were given \$1,000 to attend an international conference to present their work.

All of the graduate student awards were supported by Academic and Professional

Program Services, the Graduate School, the Office of Research, and the Congress of Graduate Students.

Twenty-five **Program for Instructional Excellence Teaching Associates** were recognized for contributions to their de-

# THE GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

College of Arts and Sciences: Joshua Englehardt, Anthropology; McKenzie Lewis, Classics; Timothy Bengford, *Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities*; David Andrew Murray, Meteorology; Jaclyn Plona, *Modern Languages and Linguistics-Spanish*; Galiya Tabulda, *Modern Languages and Linguistics-Slavic*; Benjamin M Mwashote, *Oceanography*; and Shaun Horton, *Religion*.

College of Communication: Joshua Potter, *School of Communication*.

College of Criminology and Criminal Justice: Emily Ciaravolo, *Criminology and Criminal Justice*.

College of Education: Haroldo Fontaine, *Educational Leadership and Policy Studies*;

Michael John Quinn, *Educational Psychology and Learning Systems*; and Rodney Reeves, *School of Teacher Education*.

College of Human Sciences: Katherine Shaw, *Textiles and Consumer Sciences*.

College of Communication and Information: Lauren Heather Mandel, *School of Information*.

College of Music: Sarah Horick, *Music Theory and Composition*; Sarah Sarver, *Music Theory*; and Hui Xu, *Music Performance*;

College of Social Sciences and Public Policy: Sally Anderson, *Political Science*; Jordan Brown, *Sociology* and Huston Gibson, *Urban and Regional Planning*.

College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance: Joohee Kang, *Art Education*; Tracie Kelly, *Interior Design*; Brittini Wegmann, *Studio Art* and Timothy Saunders, *Theatre*.

David Grimes, representing the Congress of Graduate Students, recognized the three **Dialogues Interdisciplinary Research Grant** recipients: Claudia Lieberwirth (*Neuroscience Psychology*) from the Natural and Physical Sciences; Jessica Hill (*Psychology*) from the Social and Be-

havioral Sciences; and Daniel Hutchinson (*History*) from the Arts and Humanities.

Two graduate students received **Preparing Future Faculty Fellows Awards**: Christopher Griffin from the *Department of History*; and DeAnna Gore from the *Department of Sociology*.

**The Leadership Award** recipient, Dustin Anderson, of the *Department of English*, was recognized for his leadership both on campus with the First Year Writing Program and professionally through his scholarship and editorial work for the Beckett studies.

The six **Research and Creativity Award** recipients were recognized for superior scholarship. Awards were made to students in three disciplinary categories. The recipients were:

## ARTS AND HUMANITIES:

Wonkak Kim, *Music Performance*; and Shoko Letton, *Dance*;

## SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES:

Shirin Hooshmand, *Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences* and Tracy Witte, *Clinical Psychology*.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS, OR "STEM":

Thomas Gihring, *Oceanography*; and Hui-Min Zhang, *Molecular Biophysics*.

The ten **Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award** recipients were recognized for excellence in teaching. Nominated by faculty, staff and students, the recipients submitted teaching portfolios that were evaluated by the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Committee. The recipients were: College of Arts and Sciences: Rachel Davenport, *Biological Sciences*; Zahra Alghoul

and Imad A. Haidae Ahmad *Chemistry and Biochemistry*; Tatia Jacobson Jordan, *English*; Meghan Martinez, *History*; and Leslie Kealhofer, *Modern Languages and Linguistics*;

College of Business: S. McKay Price, *Finance*;

College of Communication and Information: Erin Schmidt, *School of Communication*;

College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance: Shelley Bourgeois and Diane Cahill, *Dance*.

## GLOBAL PATHWAYS GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Your entry way is:

<http://global.fsu.edu/globalpathways>

Be recognized for your work preparing to be a global citizen, whatever your academic program. You can tailor your activities and courses to your own interests and goals to become cross-culturally and globally competent. You will receive a certificate and a notation on your official transcript. Depending on your area of study and with careful planning, the certificate components can be incorporated into the academic plan for your graduate program. Allowing a year to complete the requirements is a realistic time frame. Students who opt for the local cross-cultural experience, in lieu of an international experience, may not incur additional expenses.

**Florida State  
Newsstand:**

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Florida-State-Newsstand](http://www.fsu.com/Florida-State-Newsstand)

## FSU DOCTORAL STUDENT WINS TOP AWARD IN EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

Jill Elish  
September 2009  
News and Public Affairs Office  
The Florida State University

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** -- A Florida State University doctoral student who studies DNA sequence data has won a prestigious award in evolutionary biology, marking the first time an FSU student has received the award.

Clemens Lakner, who is pursuing a doctorate in biology, received the Ernst Mayr Award for research in which he explored the accuracy of statistical models of protein sequences, which are used for determining evolutionary relationships between species. The Ernst Mayr Award is given to the presenter of the outstanding graduate student paper at the annual meeting of the Society of Systematic Biologists. The award includes a \$1,000 prize.

“This is one of the most sought-after

student awards in the field of evolutionary biology, so it is a great honor for me to receive it,” said Lakner, who hails from Austria and hopes to earn his doctorate in 2010. “It would not have been possible without the outstanding resources of the Department of Scientific Computing. “

Statistical models are used to mimic mutational processes over time, but scientists disagree about the consequences of the large number of simplifying assumptions that the models make. Lakner’s research incorporated structural biology, computer science and evolutionary biology to show that the models perform well at a basic level and that there may be other, more serious reasons that conflicting results often occur.

“He took a complex problem and made it very accessible, while showing some compelling results,” said Gavin Naylor, who said the award recognizes both the quality and importance of Lakner’s research. Naylor, an associate professor

in the Department of Scientific Computing, is Lakner’s major professor. “While it has long been acknowledged that this would be an important direction to pursue, no one has yet had the courage to take on the task because it requires expertise in so many disciplines,” Naylor said. “Clemens has not only taken on the challenge, but he has done so with a thoroughness so compelling that people have no choice but to sit up and listen.”



## McKNIGHT FELLOW AWARD WINNER: SERGIO IÑIGUEZ

*F.E.F.*

Sergio Iñiguez is one of Florida State’s outstanding graduate students. A son of Mexican farmers, Sergio joined FSU’s Neuroscience Doctoral Program in 2007, after completing his BA and MA in Psychology at California State University, San Bernardino. Sergio was awarded a McKnight Fellowship (Florida Education Fund) and a Neuroscience Fellowship (FSU) to pursue his dream of becoming a neuroscientist. Although he had offers from other Universities, Sergio joined FSU because of the Department of Psychology’s commitment to excellence, and his passion for developmental neuropsychopharmacology

research. Under the mentorship of Dr. Carlos Bolaños, Sergio and his colleagues in the Bolaños lab have been very productive, publishing their research findings in prestigious journals such as *Biological Psychiatry*, *Neuropsychopharmacology*, *Behavioral Neuroscience*, *Nature Neuroscience*, and *The Journal of Neuroscience*. In addition to the research opportunities that Sergio has enjoyed at FSU, through the support of his mentor and the Department of Psychology, he spent the past two summers working in the laboratory of Dr. Eric J. Nestler, a leading researcher in the molecular basis of drug abuse and depression, at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, and at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New

York. This summer he was at the Marine Biology Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, where he worked closely with Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, a renowned neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins. It is no secret that being able to secure funds to finance research endeavours are skills researchers in academia must possess. Thus, this year Sergio applied and was awarded three highly competitive Fellowships from The Ford Foundation, the American Psychological Association, and a National Research Service Award (NRSA) from NIH to study the neurobiological consequences of drug exposure using a developmental animal model. Sergio is currently working on his preliminary examination and hopes to propose his dissertation this year.

# ALUMNI NEWS AND EVENTS

## DR. KIRK S. SCHANZE, WINNER OF 2009 FLORIDA AWARD

**Jack Saltiel**  
Department of Chemistry  
saltiel@chem.fsu.edu

The winner of the 2009 Florida Award is Dr. Kirk S. Schanze, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Florida. Presented annually to a chemist in the Southeast by the ACS Florida Section, the Florida Award recognizes leadership and contributions that advance chemistry in both scientific research and education.

A native of Florida, Professor Schanze received his B.S. degree in Chemistry with highest honors from the Florida State in 1979. Research with Professor Jack Saltiel set him on the path of photochemistry and photophysics. After earning his Ph.D. in 1983 working with Professor David G. Whitten at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Professor Schanze continued there as a postdoctoral fellow with Professor Tom J. Meyer. From 1984-1986 he was a Miller Research Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, where he worked in the research groups of Professors K. Sauer and J. Clark.

Dr. Schanze joined the Department of Chemistry at The University of Florida in 1986 where he has distinguished himself in research and teaching. He has

been Professor of Chemistry and Chairman of the Organic Chemistry Division at The University of Florida since 1997.

Dr. Schanze's research contributions, over 160 publications and 9 patents, span the areas of organic, inorganic and polymer photochemistry and photophysics. Recent research has centered in the areas of organic and organometallic materials chemistry, with an emphasis on organic materials that feature tunable optical and electronic properties. Focus areas include: (1) A basic science program directed at understanding physical and chemical processes that occur when organic and organometallic-conjugated "molecular wires" interact with light (molecular wires are organic molecules that exhibit semiconductor properties). (2) Development of chemical coatings that can be used in engineering prototype testing to determine temperature, air-pressure and mechanical strain fields on objects that have complex geometries. This program is being carried out in collaboration with engineering scientists that are experts in mechanics (strain-field mapping) and in aerodynamics (wind-tunnel testing, temperature- and air-pressure mapping). (3) Development of new biosensors based on the fluorescence response of water-soluble conjugated polymers. This work has led to several

novel sensors for the activity of enzymes that catalyze specific transformations in aqueous solution. (4) Development of organic electronic materials, with specific emphasis on photonic materials that are active in near-infrared light emission (infrared organic light emitting diodes) and solar cells (organic photovoltaic cells).

In 2001 Dr. Schanze won a prestigious teaching award at the University of Florida. Schanze's imaginative applications of chemical and photophysical principles have advanced basic science and materials science. Significant recognitions by his peers include his selection as co-Chair of the 2005 Gordon Conference on Photochemistry and his election as President of the Inter-American Photochemical Society. Last year Dr. Schanze was recognized by a special creativity extension award from the National Science Foundation and a 2008 Honda-Fujishima Lectureship Award from the Japanese Photochemical Association. In addition to serving as a Panel Member for the Research Associateship Program at the National Research Council, Schanze served as a Senior Editor for the ACS publication, *Langmuir* from 1999 - 2008. His selection as Editor-in-Chief of the brand new ACS journal, *Applied Materials & Interfaces*, speaks for itself.

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