



OFFICE OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

The Graduate School

Newsletter

Issue 5, May 2011

OGFA Resources and Services

- One-on-one advising and assistance with national graduate awards
- Blackboard organization site with fellowship information
- Workshops, presentations, and roundtable discussions about graduate fellowships

Doctoral Students Named P.E.O. Scholars

Two Florida State University doctoral students have been recognized as outstanding scholars by a philanthropic educational organization, P.E.O. International. April Smith, a doctoral student in Psychology, and Jennifer Misuraca, a doctoral student in Physics, were selected from hundreds of international scholars for the prestigious, merit-based Scholar Award for the 2011-12 academic year. Both students were nominated by local P.E.O. members; they will each receive \$15,000.

Smith's research focuses on understanding disordered eating in minority populations and how minority status and gender may contribute to risk for suicide among people with eating disorders. Smith is advised by Dr. Thomas Joiner, a Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor, in the Clinical Psychology program within the Psychology department. The Scholar Award will enable her to support participant recruitment, present research at national conferences, and help defer the costs of an internship at the University of California, San Diego.



April Smith



Jennifer Misuraca

Misuraca's research focuses on the development of spin-based electronics as faster, more functionally stable and energy efficient technological devices. Misuraca is jointly advised by Drs. Stephan von Molnár and Peng Xiong in the Condensed Matter and Materials Physics programs within the Physics department. Misuraca plans to use her award to purchase analytical software, present her most recent results at national and international conferences, and conduct summer research with a leading semiconductor growth expert, Dr. Jianhua Zhao, at the Institute of Semiconductors, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

Founded in Iowa in 1869, P.E.O. International established the Scholar Award in 1991 to support advanced doctoral and postgraduate students who demonstrate scholarly excellence and the potential to make significant contributions to their fields.

DOD SMART Scholarship

Award: Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship

Purpose: Supports students pursuing certain STEM-related studies

Provisions: Tuition and fees, book allowance, paid summer internships, yearly health insurance reimbursement, stipend of up to \$41,000, and post-graduation employment placement

Requirements: U.S. citizens. Recipients commit to the DOD service requirement after graduation as a civilian researcher in a DOD facility. Finalists will be presented with a contractual offer to review.

Application Process: Online. The application will open on **August 1, 2011**. Check the sponsor's website for updates on award details and contact the OGFA: <http://smart.asee.org/>

Summer Preparations for Award Applications

Fall deadlines are just around the corner! Start working on your applications now to ensure a timely and stress-free submission.

1. Contact the OGFA for advising about opportunities that align with your interests.
2. Keep track of fall deadlines by making note of them on a calendar.
3. Set personal deadlines for application components that allow time for revisions.
4. Make sure your resume and/or CV is up-to-date.
5. Contact your referees about your upcoming applications.
6. Begin writing drafts of your application essays or proposal.



Competitive Qualities for National Awards

Academic Excellence: Academic excellence stems from more than a cumulative GPA or test scores. Reviewers may consider your performance in field-specific courses and the scholarly merit of your research.

Contributions to Your Field: Distinguish yourself through activities beyond the classroom! Professional experience and training, publications, conferences, volunteerism – these accomplishments demonstrate leadership, enthusiasm, and dedication to your field. Seek opportunities that are relevant to your career path, and establish yourself as a future leader in your field.

Polished Proposal: Crafting a persuasive proposal requires time for reflection and revisions. Elicit feedback from others, especially on the clarity, methodology, and overall impression of the proposal. The OGFA offers to serve as an outside reader for off-campus award applications, provides writing workshops, and has writing tips posted on the office's Blackboard site. Contact us to begin discussing your materials today!

Strong Letters of Recommendation: Reviewers seek affirmation of your strengths from these letters. Provide your referees at least 4 weeks to write letters. Present them with pertinent information such as your application materials, details about the award and the application process, and a CV with a section on your area expertise.

OGFA Policy

For assistance with applications, please contact the OGFA *at least 8 business days prior to the deadline* with your completed proposal. The OGFA can provide feedback and help coordinate information about campus procedures for external awards that are administered by the university. Without proper advance notice, the OGFA cannot guarantee assistance before a deadline.

Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards

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