



Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER



OFFICE OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards advocates for graduate education by building relationships within the FSU community that foster a culture where the fellowship application process is an integral part of the FSU graduate school experience.



Director



Assistant Director

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

The 2017-2018 year is shaping up to be another banner year. FSU graduate students received **over \$3 million** in external funding last year, and this year is already off to a great start. Our mission in the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards is to assist students with articulating their interests and ambitions in support of applying for external funding opportunities that provide value added experiences to the graduate school journey. Put simply, we are here to help you develop professionally as you prepare for a career beyond the graduate degree.

As you get settled in this semester, be sure to check out our [website](#) where you will find resources to assist you during your funding search and throughout the application process.

We continue to add resources to the site and would love to hear from you about what you would find helpful. Additionally, we have a workshop series designed to benefit students throughout the fellowship application process.

If you have never been to our office, [request a meeting](#) to join one of our introductory meetings or schedule an individual consultation where you will learn the basics of searching for external funding.

Finally, we want to celebrate you! If you have received an external fellowship or award to support your research and creative activities, please [let us know](#).

FELLOWSHIP SPOTLIGHT

JOINING WITH P.E.O. TO HELP GRADUATE WOMEN

“Women helping women reach for the stars” is more than just a tagline for [P.E.O.](#) The Philanthropic Education Organization is serious about supporting the advancement of women and higher education through scholarships, grants, and awards. Through financial support and relationship building with each scholar, P.E.O. continues to motivate women to achieve their highest aspirations. This year, eight FSU graduate students experienced this first hand as recipients of the P.E.O. Scholar Award and the Continuing Education Grant.

The **Scholar Award** is a competitive, merit-based award open to women completing the last two years of their doctoral degree who are making significant contributions

to their field of study and the world around them. The **Continuing Education Grant** provides assistance to women who have had a break in education and return to school to advance their level of education and to improve their marketable skills.

The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards has built a relationship with P.E.O.’s six local Tallahassee Chapters to increase the number of women pursuing graduate degrees at FSU who apply for P.E.O. awards and to help them strengthen their applications. We are especially proud to have five recipients of the Scholar Award and three recipients of the Continuing Education Grant for 2017-2018.

OUR AWARD WINNERS



Margaret Scheiner
Industrial Engineering
Scholar Award



Sarah Terrill
Neuroscience/Psychology
Scholar Award



Stephanie Hurwitz
Biomedical Science
Scholar Award



Stephanie Urena Salas
Sociology
Scholar Award



Elizabeth Lange
Biological Science
Scholar Award



Kimberly Diaz Scott
Public Administration
Continuing Education Grant



Jennifer Hatz
Sports Nutrition
Continuing Education Grant



Danielle Sebranek
Higher Education
Continuing Education Grant

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT



RELIGION STUDENT TRAVELS TO FRANCE **TO STUDY** **ANCIENT REFUGEES**

Religion Ph.D. candidate Jacob Lollar will spend four months in France studying ancient Syriac refugees. Jacob's research is funded by the [Chateaubriand Fellowship](#) in Humanities and Social Sciences through the French Embassy in the United States and by The Graduate School's [International Semester Dissertation Research Fellowship](#).

"My research works to bring the texts, ideas, and beliefs of a forgotten branch of Christianity back into the public sphere," Lollar said. But these texts only survive in the ancient Syriac language, so he will spend his time in France translating these texts to better understand this group of Christians who lived 1600 years ago in what is now Turkey. But beyond translating

these texts, Jacob hopes to tell the story of this ancient group. "Much like refugees today, this group was forced to move to a new location and re-imagine their lives in a new place," Lollar said. To best tell this story, Jacob is incorporating what he's learned from modern refugee studies. But this learning goes both ways; modern refugee studies has something to learn from ancient refugees as well. "The single biggest factor missing from modern refugee ethnographic research is how religion affects refugees and their integration into a new society. Religion plays a very important role in how many refugees gain a sense of normalcy in their new society."

Jacob's time in France will help him finish his dissertation research and

publish a critical edition and translation of the text he's working on. While there, he has also been invited to present his work to French scholars who are working on similar texts. He attributes some of his success to his work with OGFA: "It's tedious, but the process is important for the experience of grant writing in general and for learning how to answer the question of why my work should matter to anyone else."

Jacob will be in Paris October 2017 - January 2018. The Chateaubriand Fellowship also offers a STEM program for students working in science, technology, engineering, math, and health.

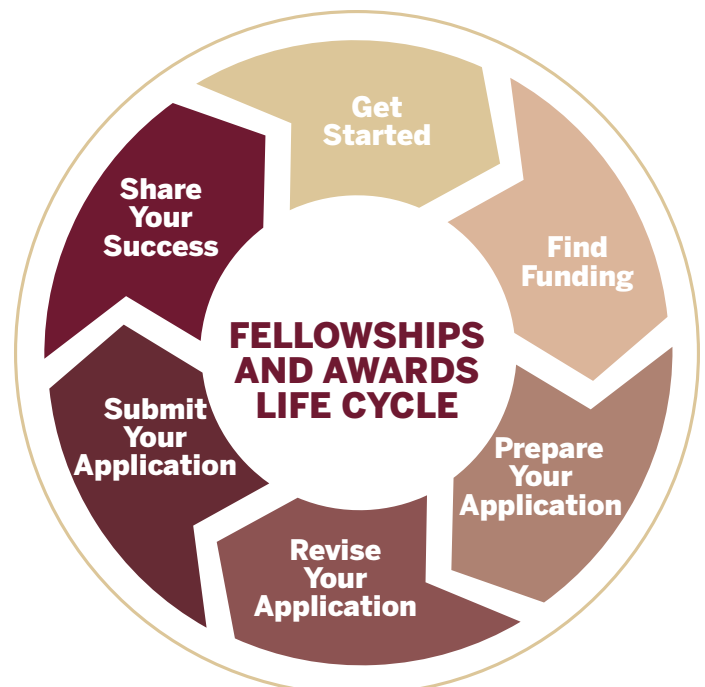
FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE



In the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards, we talk about the process of applying for national prestigious fellowships as an “experience.” By this we mean every part of the process from identifying funding opportunities to preparing application materials to winning awards. We talk about the process this way because we are committed to being more than a place where students find money to support their graduate education. We work with graduate students to articulate their interests and ambitions during their time as a graduate student and beyond. Preparing to submit an award application brings with it many unexpected benefits. Just as there is value in winning an award and enjoying its benefits, there is value in the process that leads to hitting submit on an application. For most graduate students, the process of applying for external funding is completely new and foreign. The type of writing required is not taught in most seminars and the questions asked are not those you are used to answering. Un-learning the jargon-filled writing styles we have been taught to use can be painful. But struggling through this process is a valuable part of the experience. It will make you a better writer, better communicator and may even help you hone your own research questions.

One of our favorite aspects of working with students is helping them answer the dreaded “so what” question. Why should other people care about what you do? What is your story? Learning how to talk about your work to non-specialists demands that you be able to speak to the core of

your work in an accessible manner. This skill is necessary for explaining to fellowship-granting organizations how your work helps fulfill their mission and why it is worth funding. It is also quite helpful when engaging other academics outside of your area as well as institutional and community leaders. You cannot overestimate the value of being able to clearly articulate what you do and why it matters. You have a story to tell about your work and its impact and we’re here to help you tell it. Set up a meeting with us today and start your fellowship application experience!



SAY IT IN 6



FSU graduate students share why graduate school is important to them and how funding has allowed them to pursue their goals in just six words. Our “Say It In 6” series highlights the meaningful work of FSU graduate students, connects the FSU community with fellowship recipients, and advocates for the importance of graduate education.



**“I JUST WANT TO
LEARN MORE”**

MALCOLM MCCRAY

Chemistry

NIH Research Supplements to Promote
Diversity in Health-Related Research



**“FREEDOM TO FOCUS
ON WHAT MATTERS”**

PATRICE WILLIAMS

Urban & Regional Planning

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Health Policy Research Scholarship



**“SCIENCE INFORMING
POLICY, MAKING A
DIFFERENCE”**

ROSE LUZADER

Oceanography

Florida Gubernatorial Fellowship



**“MAKE THE WORLD A
BETTER PLACE”**

ALEX SARSFIELD

Law

Florida House of Representatives
Legislative Internship Program



**“TO BE THE BEST
IN NANOSCIENCE”**

LUIS SAUCEDO

Chemistry

McKnight Doctoral Fellowship



**“BE THE PERSON
YOUNGER ME NEEDED”**

DAWN BETTS-GREEN

Information Studies

Point Foundation LGBTQ Scholars
Program

SAY IT IN 6



**"MOVING SCIENCE
FORWARD WHILE
GIVING BACK"**

ZACHARY JONES

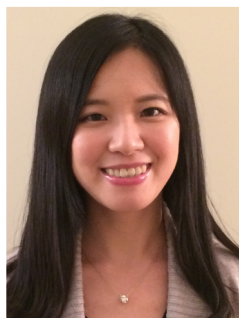
Biomedical Sciences
National Science Foundation
Graduate Research Fellowship



**"BECOMING MORE THAN
I COULD IMAGINE"**

KELSA BARTLEY

Information
Medical Library Association
Scholarship for Minority Students



**"EXPLORE HOW FAR I
WILL GO"**

YIWEN WEI

Art Education
National Art Education Foundation
Research Grant



**"DOING SOMETHING I
LOVE FOR LIFE"**

MATTHEW BIRD

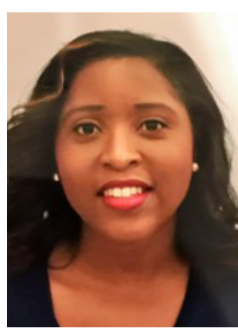
Sport Psychology
Association for Applied Sport
Psychology Seed Grant



**"PUSHING THE
BOUNDARIES OF
MANKIND'S KNOWLEDGE"**

GABRIEL DOS PASSOS
GOMES

Chemistry
IBM PhD Scholarship



**"THE INTRIGUE
OF UNEARTHING
SILENCED VOICES"**

LATOYA LEARY

Religion
McKnight Doctoral Fellowship



**"GET DEGREE; WORK
HARD FOR FLORIDIANS"**

KIMBERLY DIAZ
SCOTT

Public Administration and Policy
PEO Program for Continuing Education



**"FAVORED, OPEN-MINDED,
TENACIOUS, INSPIRED,
PERSISTENT, RESILIENT"**

DUNWOODY MIRVIL

Brass Performance
McKnight Doctoral Fellowship



**"USE SCIENCE TO MAKE
WORLD BETTER"**

HUA HUANG

Mathematics
National Science Foundation
Mathematical Sciences Graduate
Internship



**"FOR MY PERSONAL
AND PROFESSIONAL
GROWTH"**

MALLORY NEUMANN

Law
Florida Gubernatorial Fellowship

FALL 2017 WORKSHOPS



Funding Your Graduate Education/Funding Database Search

September 6 | 1pm-2:30pm | William Johnston 2004

Identifying prospective external fellowships and awards is the first step in the fellowship application process. In this interactive session, learn how to navigate the comprehensive funding database, Pivot. The goal is to conduct a funding search and create a fellowship action plan with your research, interest, needs, and a reasonable timeline in mind. Please bring your laptop or tablet.

The Basics of Proposal Writing

September 19 | 2pm-3:30pm | HSF Great Hall

Mike Mitchell (Office of Proposal Development) will facilitate a workshop focused on persuasive writing techniques for proposals. Topics include: introduction to proposal writing, essential points to address in the application, look fors in a winning proposal, and tips and strategies to support clear, concise, interesting and persuasive writing.

Florida Gubernatorial Fellowship Campus Visit

September 28 | 2pm-3pm | HSF 3009

November 7 | 2pm-3pm | HSF 3009

Kimberly Bane, Executive Director of the Florida Gubernatorial Fellowship, will host an information session about this unique opportunity to intern in various areas of state government. This is an excellent opportunity for you to learn about the program, meet current fellows, and ask questions.

P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Info Session

October 10 | 1:30pm-2:30pm | HSF 3009

The International Peace Scholarship Program provides scholarships up to \$12,500 for selected international women pursuing graduate study in the United States and Canada. This info session will provide valuable information about the application process. Past recipients and members of the local P.E.O. Chapters will be present to answer questions.

Preparing Your Fellowship Application Series:

Writing the Curriculum Vitae (CV)/Resume

September 20 | 2pm-3pm | HSF Great Hall

Learn what to include and what not to include on your fellowship application resume or CV. Think of your audience and consider the mission and vision of the sponsoring agency. Leah Sibbitt (the Career Center) will offer valuable advice, tips, and strategies for writing an effective resume or CV. This workshop will be accompanied by two labs where discipline specific Career Center Liaisons will be on site to review your CV and provide feedback (see scheduled dates below).

Crafting a Competitive Personal Statement

September 22 | Noon-1pm | HSF 3009

Writing about yourself can be difficult; however, the Personal Statement is a very critical component in a fellowship application. In this session, Leah Sibbitt (the Career Center) will give tips and suggestions on how to craft and draft a competitive personal statement.

Workshop Your CV Lab

October 5 | 2:30pm-4pm | HSF 3009

October 6 | 3:30pm-5pm | HSF 3009

Letters of Recommendation and Cover Letters

October 3 | 2pm-3pm | HSF 3009

Two key components of any fellowship or award are the letters of recommendation and the cover letter. Your cover letter is often your first impression. Letters of recommendation help paint a fuller picture of who you are as an applicant. Learn how to craft your cover letter and how to request letters of recommendation, what should go into these critical documents, and tips to help facilitate the request and follow-up for submission of strong letters.

***All workshops qualify for PFF and PFP credit**

GETTING STARTED

Interested in external funding but don't know where to begin? Check out our monthly **Upcoming Fellowship Deadlines** announcements to see a curated list of opportunities that might be a good fit for you. You can also schedule a meeting with us to learn more about conducting a funding search and to get your fellowship questions answered. Once you have identified awards you want to apply for, we will help you to prepare your application.

Request a meeting today and start your funding search!

CELEBRATING YOU!



Have you won an external fellowship, award, or grant? Please **let us know** so that we can celebrate you and share your success with other students and the FSU community!

CONTACT US TODAY

 @ogfafsu

 /ogfafsu

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