

State

The Florida State University Faculty-Staff Bulletin

Volume 44 • Number 3

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August 24 - September 13, 2009

Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards now open

By Jeffery Seay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Anthropology student Bryan Rill is currently conducting research in Japan. Musicology student Peter Hoelsing will be traveling to Uganda to do the same in January. Both Florida State University graduate students are in the process of writing their dissertations and both have won prestigious Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad awards, which provide money for travel to other countries to conduct research.

In an effort to help many other Florida State graduate students win this and other awards in the future, the university's Graduate School has created the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (<http://ogfa.fsu.edu>). 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. This support supplements the university's robust guidance of its graduate students toward internal, on-campus resources.

In addition, as the graduate students complete their proposals and applications, the office will help them perfect these materials prior to submission, 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 educa-

tion."

Florida State alumna Anne Marie West (B.A. '98, English; Ph.D. '09, French) is the director of the office.

"My main goal is to provide graduate students with possibilities, helping them find resources to fund their research projects and studies," West said. "Not all graduate students are aware of the many opportunities that are either just within sight or slightly further down the path."

West has a first-hand appreciation for such opportunities. As a doctoral student, she received numerous research and travel awards from FSU's Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics and the university's Winthrop-King Institute for French and Francophone Studies. As a result, she was able to participate in graduate student conferences and pursue international study-abroad opportunities.

Initially, the office will focus on more than 50 awards, many of which provide support for graduate students to pursue their individual scholarly projects, including thesis and dissertation research.

"In starting up this year, I've picked a limited number," West said. "Right now, I'm matching them to certain disciplines and fields, and figuring out the best ways to promote them. However, if a student comes in who doesn't match one of the awards that I am aware of,

there are several ways we can help them search out opportunities."

The awards, divided by graduate level, are listed on the office's Blackboard Web site, which is accessible through www.campus.fsu.edu.

"For instance, if a student is finishing his master's degree and is about to become a doctoral student, he can go to our Blackboard Web site to see the pre-dissertation awards that would best fit him," West said. "The Web site will allow students to identify for themselves the kinds of resources that are available for them."

What's more, the Blackboard Web site offers tips to students on how to write proposals and search for funding. Faculty and advisers will find tips on how to support student proposals and write letters of recommendation for proposals.

This fall, the office will offer free workshops on dissertation research, dissertation completion (the final year of writing), and the humanities. The workshops, open to graduate students, faculty and staff members, will be held in the instructional classroom of Strozier Library's Scholars Commons, where the office is housed.

Faculty members are encouraged to help spread the word about the office. Graduate students can make an appointment with West by calling 644-8132, or sending an e-mail to amwest@fsu.edu.



Anne Marie West

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Editor in Chief
Jeffery Seay

Writers
Jill Elish
Libby Fairhurst
Barry Ray
Bayard Stern

Director of
News and Public Affairs
Browning Brooks

Assistant V.P. and Director of
University Communications
Franklin D. Murphy

Vice President for
University Relations and Advancement
Lee Hinkle

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The deadline for the
Sept. 14 - Oct. 4, 2009, issue is
4:30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2.



STATE is the faculty-staff bulletin of The Florida State University. It is the university's document of record, published 16 times annually by the Florida State University Communications Group — every three weeks during the fall and spring semesters (in print), and monthly during the summer (online).

Submissions should be e-mailed to jseay@fsu.edu. Underwriting is handled by the Florida State University Communications Group. For rates, call Crystal Cumbo at (850) 487-3170, ext. 352.

People with disabilities who require special accommodation for any event listed in *STATE* should call the unit sponsoring the event, or for the hearing or speech impaired, use the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD). Requests for accommodations must be received at least five working days before the event. To receive *STATE* in an alternative format, call the FSU Student Disability Resource Center at (850) 644-9566.

An open letter The Florida State 'Voice and Visual System'

The Florida State University Voice and Visual System, which supports the university's theme of "Leading for the Greater Good" and traditional values of Strength, Skill and Character have been approved by the Board of Trustees and are now university policy for use in all new publications, Web sites and other media.

As a guide for the language and appearance for all communications from the university, the system instructions and related artwork have been posted at <http://visualsystem.fsu.edu>.

The Voice and Visual System is based on a master brand strategy. This means that the university's brand takes precedence over other brands within The Florida State University family. This strategy helps to manage and maintain a consistent, unified message and visual identity. It will help to reduce the multiple seals, logos and marks that detract from a united, strong image.

To address fiscal and environmental sensitivity, please use up supplies of existing materials, stationery, business cards, etc., prior to developing new materials.

Please ask all Web, print and other media designers in your college or department to review the Voice and Visual System instructions thoroughly before beginning design of any new Florida State University document, publication, Web site, video, branded item or other medium representing The Florida State University.

Development of new seals, logos or marks — whether for colleges, departments, events, organizations or other entities — may violate the master brand relationship. To ensure compliance with the system, monitoring and approval of use has been delegated to University Communications. As we begin implementation of this new system across the campus, graphic designers are asked to submit designs for major publications and other media projects to University Communications for approval. Contact Fran Conaway, (850) 644-2913, fconaway@fsu.edu, or Pam Morris, (850) 644-6869, pjmorris@fsu.edu.

The password-protected graphic assets that accompany the system include the Florida State University seal and seal/wordmark combination and Strength, Skill, Character values thread. They also include renditions of the university seal and wordmark with college and unit names. Additional lockups are available on request. Collections of campus photography also are available at the Voice and Visual System Web site.

The graphic assets are password protected and are available only to Florida State University employees with an OMNI username and password (FSUID).

This system has been developed to serve the university's needs in communicating consistently and uniformly. It is a living document, and questions and concerns will be addressed as they are received.

If you have questions about compliance, comments or suggestions about the Voice and Visual System, please contact me. For more information, contact Fran Conaway or Pam Morris.

Sincerely,

Lee Hinkle

Vice President for University Relations

btw *by the way*

>>Seventh bus route added to Seminole

Express: With service every 20 minutes, the Village Route will carry students, faculty and staff to and from Innovation Park, free of charge. Stops along the route include Alumni Village, the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, the FSU Foundation, the College of Engineering, the Don Veller Seminole Golf Course, the Morcom Aquatics Center and WFSU.

>>New procedure for free rides on city bus

routes: Starting Sept. 8, students, faculty and staff will have to swipe their valid university identification cards (FSUCard) to ride for free on city bus routes. StarMetro, the university's transit partner, has

recently installed new smart fare boxes in the city's buses. These new fare boxes will provide accurate ridership data to StarMetro and FSU, and assist in enhancing existing routes and the development of future routes. Riders are encouraged to test swipe their FSUCards during the upcoming weeks to ensure that their cards are in working order by Sept. 8.

>>New way to register to get FSU Alert text

messages: Faculty and staff now can register to receive FSU Alert messages thru OMNI. A new Phone Type field called "TEXT ALERT" has been added to the "Personal Information Summary" screen. After logging into OMNI, proceed to the "Personal Information Summary" under HR/Payroll, scroll down to "Phone Numbers," click on "Change Phone Numbers," then select "Add a Phone Number." Don't forget to click "Save" before signing out.



Cars with Personality

By Jill Elish

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

No one needs to tell Disney, which brought the likes of Herbie the Love Bug and Lightning McQueen to the big screen, that cars have personality.

Now a study co-authored by a Florida State University researcher has confirmed through a complex statistical analysis that many people see human facial features in the front end of automobiles and ascribe various personality traits to cars — a modern experience driven by our prehistoric psyches. Researchers, product designers and, of course, filmmakers have long toyed with the idea that cars have faces, but this study is the first to investigate the phenomenon systematically. The study, which was published in the December 2008 issue of the journal *Human Nature*, has been picked up by media around the world.

“The study confirmed with some rigor what many people have already felt — that cars seem to have consistent personality traits associated with them, and that this is similar to the way people perceive facial expressions,” said Dennis Slice, an associate professor in Florida State’s Department of Scientific Computing. “The most unique aspect of the study was that we were able to quantitatively link the perception of cars to aspects of their physical

structure in a way that allows us to generate a car that would project, say, aggression, anger or masculinity or the opposite traits.”

As a guest professor at the University of Vienna, Slice collaborated with doctoral student Sonja Windhager, the study’s lead author, and several colleagues to explore the link between perception and the geometry of a car front and its parts. The researchers asked 40 people to view high-resolution, 3-D computer reconstructions and printed images of 38 actual 2004-06 car models, representing 26 manufacturers from Ford to Mercedes.

One-third (32.5 percent) of those participating in the experiment associated a human or an animal face with at least 90 percent of the cars. Generally, the headlights were marked as eyes; the nose tended to be the grill or emblem; the additional air intake slots, the mouth. Each participant in the experiment also was asked to rate each model on 19 traits, including dominance, maturity, gender and friendliness, and if they liked the car.

“In our study, people generally agreed in their ratings,” Slice said, noting that 96 percent agreed on whether a car was dominant or submissive. “Thus, there must be some kind of consistent message that is being perceived

in car fronts.”

For example, cars scoring high in the so-called power traits had horizontally elongated hoods, pronounced lower car bodies relative to the windshields and more angular headlights that seemed to suggest a frown. Conversely, cars on the other end of the power scale — that is, those perceived as childlike, submissive, female and friendly — had headlights with their upper edge relatively close to the midline and had an upward shift of the car’s lateral-most points.

“In this way, the car gives us a big smile,” Slice said.



Dennis Slice

The Source

News from Human Resources

TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

>>NEW SUPERVISORY PROGRAM: The Office of Training and Organizational Development now is offering the Frontline Leadership Program. The training program is designed for new supervisors, developing team leaders or frontline supervisors with a focus on team building, policies, procedures and legal and compliance issues that are specific to The Florida State University.

The objectives of the program are to help participants:

- understand the role and responsibilities of a frontline leader;
- successfully transition to a leadership role and build credibility;
- learn and apply key policies and procedures that are specific to the university;
- demonstrate an ability to adhere to legal and compliance requirements;
- build techniques for enhancing team performance and identify behaviors that build strong relationships and expand influence; and
- understand approaches to managing change and encouraging innovation.

Information: 644-8724.

>>FLORIDA ADOPTION BENEFIT PROGRAM APPLICATION: Full- and part-time employees who are paid from regular appropriations (not OPS), and who adopted a child with the final order of adoption awarded on or after Oct. 1, 2000 (inception date of the program), may be eligible to apply for adoption benefits through the Florida Department of Children and Families. The adopted child's permanent custody must have been awarded to the Department of Children and Family Services or to a Florida licensed child-placement agency.

>>2009 ADOPTION BENEFIT OPEN ENROLLMENT: Concludes on Sept. 30. The university-verified application and a certified copy of the final order of adoption must be received by the Florida Department of Children and Families by Sept. 31.

•Adoption Benefits Rules: www.dcf.state.fl.us/adoption/adoptbenefitprogram.shtml.

•Application for Adoption Benefits: www.dcf.state.fl.us/adoption/benefits/docs/applicationforbenefit.doc.

Information: Mandy Manning, mmmanning@admin.fsu.edu or 644-8732.

>>OPEN ENROLLMENT: The 2010 Open Enrollment plan year starts Monday, Sept. 14, at 8:30 a.m., and ends Friday, Oct. 9, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. EST (4:30 p.m. CST). Employees should verify that their addresses are correct in OMNI, and are updated by Aug. 25, 2009. Open enrollment packages will be mailed during the first two weeks of September. Confirmation statements will be mailed from Oct. 12 to Oct. 16, only to participants who made changes to their benefits during the open enrollment period. The correction period is from Oct. 12 to Oct. 30. Only participants who made election changes during open enrollment will be allowed to make a correction. **Information:** www.myflorida.com/mybenefits/index.htm.

>>CHANGES FOR THE 2010 PLAN YEAR:

- There will be new HMO service areas.
- Changes will be made to some dental plan rates. The new rates will be listed in the dental plans comparison chart located in the Benefits Guide.
- Health Savings Account contribution amounts will increase.

>>HELPFUL HINTS:

•Employees should know their People First password to make online open enrollment changes. Employees who have forgotten their passwords, but who have already set up their security questions and answers, can reset their passwords online at <https://PeopleFirst.MyFlorida.com>; otherwise, employees can call the service center at (866) 663-4735 to get a temporary password. If employees know their password, but have not logged in to People First in the past 90 days, they should go online and reset their passwords to be prepared for open enrollment.

•Employees should carefully review their annual benefits statement that they receive in the mail. It includes benefits options for next year and the cost of each option. Any plans an employee is enrolled in this year will automatically carry over to next year, so employees should be sure they have the plans they need.

•Employees should verify that all of their eligible dependents are enrolled in the plans in which they want them to be.

•Employees can attend the annual Benefits and Wellness Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oglesby Union (see below).

>>BENEFITS AND WELLNESS FAIR: Insurance, retirement, community and campus organizations will participate in the 9th annual fair to be held on Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Oglesby Union Ballroom. Postcard invitations will be sent through campus mail. Employees should bring the postcard with them to the fair in order to register for door prizes.

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RECOGNITIONS

Janet G. Lenz, Ph.D. (The Career Center), received the Merit Award from the National Career Development Association, the oldest and largest career development association in the nation. The award is given in recognition of significant contributions to the career development field; Lenz co-wrote the article "Training Career Practitioners," with Spencer Niles and Dennis Engels, published in *The Career Development Quarterly*, June.

I. Michael Navon, Ph.D. (Computational Science), received a 2008 Editors' Citation for excellence in refereeing, as cited by editors of American Geophysical Union journals. Navon and his fellow reviewers "were commended for consistently providing constructive and thoughtful reviews," and were recognized in the journal *Eos*, Vol. 90, No. 28, July.

Paul Outka, Ph.D. (English), wrote the book "Race and Nature from Transcendentalism to the Harlem Renaissance," published by Palgrave Macmillan, 2008. The book won a Scholarly Book Award in the area of eco-criticism, given by the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment at its 2009 conference at the University of Victoria, B.C., Canada.

Frank Stephenson (Research) was named to a two-

CAMPUS IN ACTION

year term as president of the University Research Magazine Association at its annual conference held at Texas A&M University, May.

Elaine Treharne, Ph.D. (English), has been elected as a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, one of the oldest and most prestigious royal societies in the world. The fellows are an international body whose charter dates back to 1751. To be elected, persons shall be "excelling in the knowledge of the antiquities and history of this and other nations" and be "desirous to promote the honor, business and emoluments of the society." The society maintains one of the leading archaeological libraries in the United Kingdom, publishes books and learned journals, conducts a weekly lecture series in London, and operates a number of annual grant programs.

BYLINES

Neil Abell, Ph.D. (Social Work), co-wrote the book, "De-

veloping and Validating Rapid Assessment Instruments," with D.W. Springer and A. Kamata, published by Oxford University Press; Abell co-wrote the article "Developing Functional International Collaborations: Awareness, Acceptance and Action in HIV/AIDS Research and Service," with S.E. Rutledge, published in the *British Journal of Social Work*, May; co-wrote the article "Factors Affecting Life-Sustaining Treatment Decisions by Health Care Surrogates and Proxies: Assessing Benefits and Barriers," with J. Buckey, published in the journal *Social Work in Health Care*, Vol. 48, No. 4; Abell co-wrote the article "AIDS Stigma in Health Services in the Eastern Caribbean," with S.E. Rutledge, J. Padmore and T. McCann, published in the journal *Sociology of Health Care and Illness*, Vol. 31, No. 1.

Kenneth Brummel-Smith, M.D. (Charlotte Edwards Maguire Professor of Medicine, Geriatrics), co-wrote "Commentary: Aging America: Meeting the Needs of Older Americans and

the Crisis in Geriatrics," with G. Paul Eleazer, M.D., published in *Academic Medicine*, Vol. 84, No. 5, May; Brummel-Smith co-wrote the article "Strength and Influence of Geriatrics Departments in Academic Health Centers," with Marie A. Bernard, M.D., and Patricia L. Blanchette, M.D., published in *Academic Medicine*, Vol. 84, No. 5, May.

Greg Erickson, Ph.D. (Biological Science), co-wrote the paper "A Jurassic Ceratosaur from China Helps Clarify Avian Digital Homologies," published in the journal *Nature*, June.

James E. Hinterlong, Ph.D., M.S.W. (Social Work), co-wrote the article "Engaging Older Adults in Volunteering: Conceptualizing and Measuring Institutional Capacity," with S.-I. Lee, N. Morrow-Howell and F. Tang, published in the journal *Nonprofit and Volunteer Sector Quarterly*, No. 38; Hinterlong presented "Aging, Diversity and the Renewal of Civic Life" at the annual conference of the Aging Services of California, Monterey, Calif., May; Hinterlong presented "Encore Ideas: Planning for Living, Giving and Meaning" at a retirement seminar at The Florida State University, March; Hinterlong presented "A National Perspective: Is Civic Engagement a Movement?" at the annual conference of the National Council on the Aging — American Society on Aging, Las Vegas, March; Hinterlong co-presented

Dalton earns 'Sustainable Business Practices' certificate



Lauren A. Dalton, director of Internship Programs for the Florida State University College of Business, recently earned a Professional Certificate in Sustainable Business Practices from the University of Vermont. The intensive leadership program was offered through the university's Institute for Global Sustainability. Dalton holds a master's degree in global product development and is interested in sustainability practices both personally and professionally. The program, "Sustainable Business - Practices in Support of People, Profits and Principles," was attended by business professionals from education, finance, manufacturing, public relations and retail products and services.

Instructors included leaders from innovative businesses — Ben & Jerry's and

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, among them — who have proven that business practices which support the vitality of their people and the planet give the competitive advantage to profitability today.

"The Professional Certificate in Sustainable Business Practices has given me a new perspective on how Florida State can work on lowering its overall impact on the environment while addressing budgetary needs and excelling in the business of educating students," Dalton said. "Implementing any aspect of sustainability is extremely feasible. You have to start out small to make a big impact."

This fall, Dalton plans to share what she learned with the Students In Free Enterprise organization and take on initiatives to lower Florida State's carbon footprint.

"Modeling Motivation and Fit Among Sport Event Volunteers: Toward a Better Understanding of the Volunteer Satisfaction and Commitment," with J. Hwang, at the annual conference of the North American Society for Sport Management, Columbia, S.C., May; Hinterlong co-presented "The Impact of Widowhood on Older Adults' Social Participation and Volunteerism," with E. Donnelly, at the conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, January; Hinterlong co-presented "Civic-Efficacy and Post-High School Plans of Young People with Disabilities," with C. Miller, at the conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, New Orleans, January; Hinterlong is a trustee of the OASIS Institute, St. Louis, Mo.; Hinterlong is a trustee of the Florida Council on Aging, 2009-2012; and Hinterlong received a \$14,000 grant as the principal investigator for a statewide evaluation of "AmeriCorps: Program Sustainability," awarded by Volunteer Florida, The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service.

Suzanne Kane and Donna Taylor (Office of Telecommunications) co-wrote the article "FSU Converges Support to Follow Technology," published in the *ACUTA Journal of Information Communications Technology in Higher Education*, Spring 2009.

Nicholas Mazza, Ph.D., M.S.W. (Patricia V. Vance Professor of Social Work), wrote the article "The Arts and Family Social Work: A Call for Advancing Practice, Research and Education" published in the *Journal of Family Social Work*, Vol. 12, No. 2; Mazza presented "Language, Symbol and Story: The Poetry and Narrative of Contemporary Clinical Practice" at the 29th annual conference of the National Association for Poetry Therapy, Washington, D.C., April; Mazza was named "Social Worker of the Year" by the Big Bend Unit of the National Association for Social Workers, March; and Mazza was named the "2009 Guardian of the Flame" by Florida State University's Burning Spear Society, April.

Susan Porterfield, Ph.D.,

A.R.N.P. (Nursing), co-wrote "The DNP: A Need for Standardized Educational Policies," with Y.M. Kung, published in *The American Journal for Nurse Practitioners*, Vol. 13, No. 5.

Stephen J. Tripodi, Ph.D. (Social Work), co-wrote the chapter "Promising Interventions for Students with Co-Occurring Disorders," with Johnny S. Kim of the University of Kansas and Kimberly Bender of the University of Denver, published by Oxford University Press; Tripodi co-wrote the chapter "Assessment Protocols and Rapid Assessment Instruments with Troubled Adolescents," with David W. Springer of the University of Texas at Austin, published by Oxford University Press; Tripodi presented "Transforming Criminal Justice Policy and Practice with Vulnerable Offender Populations: Using Evidence to Guide Policy and Practice" and "The Influence of Correctional-Based Programs on Mental Health Outcomes and Recidivism for Women Inmates: A Meta-Analysis" and "Determinants of Substance Abuse among Incarcerated Adolescents" and "Moving in the Right Direction: A Meta-Analysis of School Social Work Research," all at the annual conference of the Society of Social Work and Research, New Orleans, January.

Karen Randolph, Ph.D., M.S.W. (Social Work), co-wrote the article "A Framework for Engaging Families in Prevention," with Frank Fincham, D.Phil. (Eminent Scholar Chair in Human Sciences), and Melissa Radey, Ph.D., M.S.S.W. (Social Work), published in the *Journal of Family Social Work*, Vol. 12, No. 1; and Randolph co-presented "Sources Parents Use to Learn about Parenting," with Radey and Skip Forsyth, at the conference of the Society for Prevention Research, Washington, D.C., May.

PRESENTATIONS

Rebecca Bichel and Kirsten Kinsley (University Libraries), with Jill Duncan of Herman Miller Inc., co-presented "Through Their Eyes: Collecting Visual Data for Designing the Learning Environment," at the annual conference of the American Li-

Recommended Bookmark:

<http://tr.im/sFY2>

Around any university, multimillion-dollar research grants get lots of publicity — especially when they come from the National Science Foundation, the independent U.S. government agency responsible for promoting science and engineering through research programs and education projects. But what about grants in the five- to six-figure range?

Now, curious Florida State University researchers can visit <http://tr.im/sFY2> to view all National Science Foundation grants received by their FSU colleagues, listed in chronological order, starting with the most recent.

braries Association, Chicago, July.

Melissa Gross, Ph.D. (Library and Information Studies), co-presented "'Touch is Difficult. Touch is the Revolution.' HIV/AIDS in Young Adult Novels," with Annette Goldsmith and Debi Carruth, at the 36th annual conference of the Children's Literature Association, Charlotte, N.C., June.

Don Latham, Ph.D. (Library and Information Studies), presented the paper "The Reader in the Closet: Literacy and Masculinity in Walter Dean Myers' 'Bad Boy'" at the 36th annual conference of the Children's Literature Association, Charlotte, N.C., June.

Lisa Sprague (University Police) presented "Cutback Budgeting During Challenging Economic Times" at the 2009 Spring Conference of the Ontario Association of College and University Security Administrators, Kingston, Ontario, May.

SERVICE

Allison Hawkins Crume, Ph.D. (Student Affairs), was elected as chairwoman of the College Reach-Out Program (CROP) Advisory Council of Florida. CROP was established in 1983 by the Florida Legislature to motivate and prepare educationally disadvantaged, low-income students in grades six through 12 to pursue and successfully complete a post-

secondary education.

Nancy Everhart, Ph.D. (Library and Information Studies), was appointed by the Certification Council of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to the Library Media Standards Committee, June.

Victor Sampson, Ph.D. (Science Education), was appointed for a three-year term to the editorial board of the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, April. The journal is recognized as a leading publication in science education and is the official publication of the National Association for Research in Science Teaching.



Victor Sampson

Mardis receives grant to explore digital and school libraries

By Bob Branciforte & Audrey Post
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Studies have shown that digital resources — video clips, audio, simulations and images — improve student learning in science and math, and the emergence of online digital libraries has made more free resources available than ever before. Yet few make it to student classrooms or computers. A new research study at The Florida State University looks to change this.

“Digital Libraries to School Libraries (DL2SL): A Strategy for Lasting K-12 Open Content Implementation” is an investigation into how school libraries can successfully integrate digital library “open content” in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM materials) into their collections and services. The research project, headed by Marcia Mardis, an assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at Florida State’s College of Communication and Information, received a \$309,344 grant in June from the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

“‘Open content’ refers to digital materials that can be downloaded, edited and combined.



Marcia Mardis

For example, a student can download a short PBS science video and add commentary, subtitles or additional images,” Mardis said. “It is in the manipulation of ideas that real learning happens. Editing and creating content requires higher-order thinking and engages children more deeply by appealing to a diversity of learning styles.”

Most school libraries have the instructional resources, digital tools and space to support

this type of learning, but few school librarians have the skills and awareness to take the quality STEM-related material that is available free on the Internet and make it available for teachers to integrate into their curricula. The Florida State project will provide professional development to school media specialists in building collections of STEM material that teachers can use, thus increasing student use of the digital materials that aid in learning. Research findings will be shared with the digital library, school library and education communities.

“Teachers don’t have the time to spend searching Web sites for these resources and then learning how to use them in the classroom,” Mardis said. “They need a sort of ‘one-stop shop’ where they can come to find them — the type that a school library media specialist can create.”

Through her past research, Mardis has expertise in the combined areas of school libraries, digital libraries and science education.

“My research projects for the National Science Foundation, for instance, have incrementally brought me to this point by giving me the freedom to examine the intersection among school libraries, digital libraries, and science education,” she said.

State

The Florida State University
1600 Red Barber Plaza
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2890

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