Welcome to the first issue of the FYCS Graduate Newsletter!

The Gator Graduate Association wanted to create a newsletter all about the Grad students in FYCS. We want it to be a place where we celebrate our achievements, share our joys, and have fun with each other and with the department. We hope to put out a newsletter each Fall and Spring semester in order to keep everyone up-to-date on the happenings down in the Grad student offices, in our personal lives, and around the world (as you’ll read later in this edition!)

Eventually, we see this not only as an internal newsletter, but something we can put online to share with potential applicants and new students. We hope this newsletter can represent who we are as graduate students and what life is like as a graduate student in FYCS.

We are excited about this endeavor, and we are actively seeking input, advice, and additions to the newsletter. It is a work in progress, so if you have an idea please share! We are open to collaborations as well. If you would like to get involved or have ideas for future issues, please contact us (contact information on the last page).

We hope you have a great semester. Please read on for an exciting trip to Norway, helpful tips on getting grants, as well as great places to study around Gainesville!

Go Gators!
Last October, our very own Master’s student, Marcus Chatfield, flew to Norway to present his undergraduate thesis research at A Critical Look at Drug Treatment – A National Conference in Oslo, Norway. He was contacted by the conference organizer herself after she read Marcus’ book. She contacted him on Facebook, organized a conference and sent him a plane ticket so that others could hear what Marcus has to say about the last 30 years of drug treatment programs. In a six-day trip, Marcus delivered two seminars, one in Copenhagen, Denmark and one in Oslo, Norway. In addition to these sessions, on October 10, 2017 Marcus delivered his conference presentation: Institutionalized Persuasion and The Technology of Totalistic Treatment to a crowd of social workers, counselors, university professors and prominent individuals from the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services.

He combined history, personal life, and a synthesis of 3 theories of coercion to describe how they apply to coercive residential treatment. In this presentation, Marcus ended with five questions posed to the audience and five curious answers that demonstrate that we still have a lot to learn about the iatrogenic effects of addiction treatment.

Marcus kept a travel journal of his trip where he discusses the food he ate, the people he met and the impact the trip had on him. Marcus describes, “The most satisfying experiences were hearing from young people that I am accurately describing programs that are prominent today... [The conference] gave me so much confidence and validation.”

When talking with current Master’s student Emily Davison, he expanded on his travel journal and said, “[The conference] gave me so much confidence and validation”.

Marcus is back in the department now, working on his Master’s thesis. He is continuing his work on the impact of totalistic teen treatment programs in adulthood, and now he encourages other students to seek out opportunities to present their research whenever possible because his trip was a “Privilege of a lifetime”.

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FAVORITE PLACES TO STUDY-
CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENTS DESCRIBE WHERE THEY LIKE TO STUDY

Mark Chatfield— Home
Mark’s home office

Jean Ribert Francois— Library
A second floor view from Library West

Sophia Salem— The basement of Marston
“The French Fries” outside of Marston Science Library

Meghan Ducharme— Barth— My kitchen table
Meghan’s cat studying with her

Noemi Reyes—
Noemi studying at Starbucks in the HUB.

Other places to study:
Ashten Mays— Curia or Third House Books and Coffee
Emily Davison— A picnic table. Any picnic table outside will do!
College Magazine on UF— The Harn Museum’s Asian Water Garden
The most likely ways for graduate students to pursue grants and research opportunities is either to work with a professor who already has a grant that involves your area of interest, or to work with a professor on an application to receive a grant in your area of interest. The added bonus of the latter is that you can show potential employers that you have experience applying for grants and completing the grant process – even if you don’t ultimately get the grant, this is a valuable experience.

To that end:

* See what grants professors have already obtained that relate to your area of interest, talk to them, and find out what kind of assistance you could provide

* Look for grants in your area of interest and talk to professors about applying together since most grants will require a Principal Investigator (PI) with either a PhD or a faculty appointment (or both)

* Many associations offer “Travel Awards” that cover costs of attending and presenting at academic conferences – often, these are tied to having a paper accepted, rather than faculty status, so graduate students can apply (some will even sponsor grad students to attend without a paper, to get experience) * Get on email lists from the UF Division of Sponsored Research, professional associations for your academic specialty area, any government agencies related to your area of interest, and any private foundations related to your area of interest that send regular notifications of grant and fellowship opportunities

Many academic and private associations have Dissertation Fellowships that sponsor graduate dissertation research (here’s a good place to start your search) – again, check your primary academic professional societies (most of which also offer discounted or free membership for graduate students), as well as social science councils (like the SSRC). Some private foundations also offer this type of award, for example, the Spencer Foundation. Government agencies, like the NSF, also offer funding for special programs involving graduate students, and summer programs like the ICPSR data analysis program often have scholarship opportunities.

Good luck in your search!

-Dr. Johns

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We thank you for reading, if you have any special announcements, tips, tricks, or advice please let Katie (kdorman@ufl.edu) or Emily (em.davison@ufl.edu) know. We are always looking for new content for the newsletter.