



Special points of interest:

- Committee Updates
- Increasing postdoc representation in your department
- Spring Travel Award winners

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WINNERS OF THE SPRING 2019 TRAVEL AWARDS:

Rachel Henderson (Physical Education Research), Dou Yue (Fisheries and Wildlife), and Shao Thing Teoh (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)

Committee Updates

Outreach

Biology on Tap is a monthly science pub night focused on scientific outreach for adults. Events have two speakers, and we usually get an audience of around 100 people.

Would you like to speak at Biology on Tap? Fill out the form at <https://goo.gl/forms/ML6qvh17uUrVuFKj1> and let us know!

Professional Development

MSU Postdoctoral Excellence in Research (PERA) Award application submissions will open on January 18th, 2019. More information on nominee eligibility and application requirements can be found at <https://grad.msu.edu/pda/PERAaward>.

Write a winning NIH NRSA fellowship: the do's and don'ts with Dr. Wayne Pratt. Dr. Pratt will share his experiences, knowledge and perspective as current Chair of an NIH study section that reviews fellowships for pre- and postdoctoral National Research Service Awards.

The workshop will be held from 4 – 5:30 on January 31st, 2019 at 110 Chittenden Hall.

Check out Professional Development events at grad.msu.edu/calendar

Additional events/workshops open to postdocs can be found at the COGS website: <https://cogs.msu.edu/calendar/>

...More Professional Development opportunities on Pg. 4.

Postdoctoral Accomplishments

-**Christina Reppucci** (Psychology) and **Natalia Duque-Wilckens** (Physiology), presented research talks in the minisymposium: Social Motivation Across the Lifespan, at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, CA on November 5, 2018.

-**Kelsey Graham** (Entomology) recently published a [paper](#) in *Biological Invasions* on the impact of an invasive bee on native bumble bee foraging behavior.

-**Christian Danve Castroverde** (Plant Resilience Institute), has won a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Postdoctoral Fellowship.

-**Katie Yoest** (Psychology) recently published a [paper](#) in the *British Journal of Pharmacology* on how estradiol enhances the effect of cocaine on dopamine release in the brain.

Postdoc news and activities

Achieving greater postdoc representation within your department: a case study from Entomology

By Kelsey K. Graham, Dept. of Entomology

The Postdoctoral Association has done an excellent job increasing postdoc recognition and representation on campus. But recently, Entomology postdocs have noticed that there seems to be a disconnect between postdocs and administration/faculty within our department. In other words, our department wasn't seeing a trickle-down effect of increasing representation at the University level. Discussions regarding how we might change this led to the idea of having an official voice at the department faculty meetings. Currently, department graduate students and staff each send a representative to these monthly meetings, but postdocs never have. Why not? I think postdocs often fall through the cracks because people don't know how to categorize us. We aren't students, but we aren't faculty. We therefore have our own specific needs that aren't necessarily met without a voice at the table.

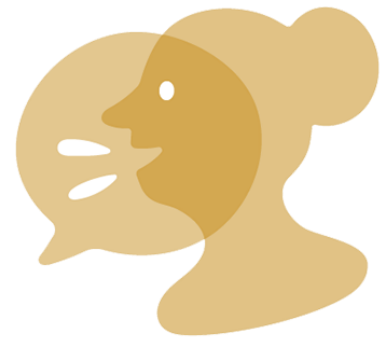
So, in Fall 2018, Phil Fanning (Entomology) and I approached our department chair about increasing representation for postdocs within the department. Our primary request was to have a representative at faculty meetings. Our chair, Bill Ravlin, was immediately supportive of the idea, and it was approved at the next faculty meeting. The specifics, however, of what it means to have a seat at the table are still being worked out. Can we vote? The department by-laws imply no, but the college by-laws imply yes. Voting rights may therefore need to be established on a case-by-case basis.

And of course, we also needed to figure out who our representative would be! Since I've been here (two years) the Entomology postdocs had never gathered together in any formal capacity. So we requested lunch funds from the department, and set a lunch date. We had eight out of our 14 department postdocs in attendance, and we elected two co-reps, Ben Jarrett and Nate Haan. They will attend faculty meetings and solicit information on issues that Entomology postdocs want brought to the attention of the department. We also gave ourselves a name – Postdocs in Entomology, or PIE.

During our first meeting, we also discussed issues relevant to us (and likely postdocs in other departments as well). These included things such as the need for more office space, a more consistent relationship between postdocs and the department, gaining more teaching experience, and better integration of new postdocs. Additionally, we talked about how PIE could better serve the department, such as increasing communication between labs and between departments, distributing information about departmental resources and opportunities, and lessening the burden on PIs in orienting new postdocs to the department.

We are excited to see how the next faculty meeting goes with our new reps, and we look forward to additional meetings of PIE. Postdoc'ing can be isolating. Establishing a support network within your department can provide an important sense of comradery. If your department also lacks official departmental representation for postdocs, I encourage you to approach your leadership about it, and we're happy to provide you the support in doing so. So please reach out if you have any questions about how it went for us!

Contact: Kelsey Graham – graha252@msu.edu, Phil Fanning - fanning9@msu.edu.



Alumni news

Andrew J. Gall, Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Psychology at Hope College, and former co-chair of the MSU PDA, was recently honored with the Towsley Research Scholars Award. This award provides summer funding for 4 years, along with a pre-tenure sabbatical.

President's Reception and announcement of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs



Interim President John Engler and Provost June Youatt held a reception for Postdoctoral Fellows, Research Associates and Senior Research Associates at the Cowles House on November 5th, 2018. There was excellent attendance by postdocs (see picture above) and plentiful food and drink. Provost Youatt also officially announced the creation of the new **MSU Office of Postdoctoral Affairs**. Dr. Antonio Nunez will serve as the office's inaugural faculty advisor and interim director while the University conducts a search for the director in 2019. Expect more news on the Office in the coming months!



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MSU-PDA Steering Committee—Nov. 2018

The MSU PDA is an association of postdoctoral fellows from all disciplines across the Michigan State University campus.

Special Opportunities

Workshops/Training

The Institute for Scientist & Engineer Educators is pleased to announce the registration period is now open for the **2019 Professional Development Program (PDP)**. The PDP provides early-career scientists and engineers training in effective science and engineering education techniques as well as other professional skills, such as teamwork and leadership.

Important Program Dates:

- Registration is open – if you are interested in PDP please complete our [short registration form](#). This form is a preliminary step to the full application.
- New Participant Application opens Wed January 9, 2019. **Deadline to apply:** Wed February 6, 2019.
- Inquiry Institute - March 31 - April 3, 2019: Monterey, CA
- Design Institutes (participants attend one Design Institute, location dependent upon teaching team placement):
 - April 26-28, 2019: Boulder, Colorado
 - May 3-5, 2019: Santa Cruz, California

[Learn more about the program and how to apply.](#)

Questions? submit your question [HERE](#)

The Summer Course on Grantwriting in the Social, Economic, and Behavioral Sciences (SCG). The NSF sponsors a week-long course where experts teach the fundamentals of robust grantwriting. For more information, please go to scginfo.org. **Application deadline is Feb. 15th.**

Conferences

Apply to the 18th Annual New England Science Symposium (NESS): Abstract submission deadline: January 11th, 2019

Held by the Harvard Medical School Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership and the Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP).

Registration is free!

To submit abstracts or to register: <http://www.NewEnglandScienceSymposium.org>

For more information, please contact Rodolfo Ramos at rodolfo_ramos@hms.harvard.edu or [617.432.5580](tel:617.432.5580).

Funding

NIH Application Deadlines:

- R01 - new research grants - **Feb. 5**
- R01 - renewal, resubmission, revision - **Mar. 5**
- R03 & R21 - new research grants - **Feb. 16**
- R03 & R21 - renewal, resubmission, revision - **Mar. 16**

From the Newsletter Committee

We are soliciting short commentary pieces for the newsletter. Topics can include anything deemed relevant to postdocs at MSU. Including: professional development opportunities and/or advice, “a day in the life” blog-type pieces, book reviews, etc.

Please send an article pitch to: grad.newsletter.pda@msu.edu

