LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

This moment right after graduation is always a time to collectively catch our breath. Fall and spring semester can come and go so quickly that we sincerely hope you may take your well-earned time to appraise your year and then think about the future holds for your teaching and learning practices. Whether you consider joining the team as a PIE Teaching Associate for 2022-2023, reach out to us to schedule a free PIE consultation, engage with us through social media, or mainly keep an eye out for our future workshops and other events, we look forward to hearing from and seeing you! And from all of us on the 2021-2022 PIE Newsletter team, thank you for your readership and happy trails.

PIE SOCIAL MEDIA
Interested in what PIE has planned for the summer? Follow us on social media for updates and mobile learning opportunities!
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/fsupie/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/fsu_pie/?hl=en
Twitter: @FSU_PIE
Pinterest: https://pin.it/7hwKM4y

PIE TEACHING ASSOCIATE APPLICATION OPEN
Are you an experienced Teaching Assistant interested in an opportunity to enrich the teaching experience for colleagues in your department? Check out the PIE Teaching Associate position requirements on our website: https://pie.fsu.edu/pie-teaching-associate-assistantship
You can apply for the position here: https://bit.ly/PIEAssociateApp22-23
Infections on campus and in Leon County have dropped significantly since the beginning of the spring semester and the lessons we have learned about navigating both education and community curation in relation to COVID surely will remain with us no matter what may later come our way. In the meantime, FSU VP Kyle Clark reminds us: “Everyone is encouraged to continue to stay up to date with vaccines and boosters, stay home and get tested if you have symptoms that may be COVID, and consider wearing a mask if you have significant concerns about potentially contracting or spreading COVID or other illnesses.”

COPING WITH COVID

Fun Fact:
Venus flytraps are literally little swamp monsters! They can only survive on swamp water, rain water, or specially-designed distilled water (if you decide to bring them into your home).

Meet Legion! *Photo courtesy of PIE’s own Caity Kelly

Congratulations to our 2021-2022 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Recipients!

Sarah Mathiesen
PhD Candidate
Department of Art History

Rebekah Gordon, PhD Candidate
Department of Religion
Religion, Ethics and Philosophy

Sunshine Jacobs, PhD Candidate
Department of Sociology
Demography

Alexis Finet, PhD Candidate
Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics
French and Francophone Studies

Melissa Ludke
PhD Candidate
Department of Classics
Roman Archeology

Aaron Ridall
PhD Candidate
Department of Biological Science
Ecology and Evolution
CONGRATULATIONS TO PIE’S FALL 2021-SPRING 2022 UROP STUDENTS!
Jack Nichols, Maria Aleman, & Ana Gitli

PIE UROP Project - What’s Wrong with Being Confident?

This past April, PIE wrapped up a seventh-month research project on gender bias in academic letters of recommendation, sponsored by FSU’s annual Undergraduate Research Opportunity (UROP) Program. PIE’s undergraduate research team coded and analyzed the language of a sample of 54 redacted letters of recommendation from the 2020-2021 OTAA application cycle, and investigated the effects of systemic gender bias on the letters’ descriptive and qualitative content. Researchers Maria Aleman, Ana Gitli, and Jack Nichols, presented the team’s results at the Spring 2022 Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 7th in the Nancy H. Marcus Great Hall of HSF. PIE’s researchers discovered that although gender bias persists in the language of letters of recommendation at FSU, noteworthy strides are being made toward gender equity. The team found that female-identifying graduate students were 10% more likely to be noted as “intelligent” than male-identifying graduate students, and 17% more likely than males to be described as “confident.” Given that previous studies on gender bias have recommended that faculty and staff avoid the use of stereotypically “relational” to describe female students, the team was surprised to find that males at FSU were 10% more likely than females to be characterized as “empathetic,” “caring,” “kind,” and “warm.” Even so, male graduate students were 22% more likely than female-identifying students to be praised for their “star quality” and “voluntary” service, and 21% more likely to be described as “reliable” than their female peers. Males were also 7% more to be lauded using superlatives and 13% more likely to have their accomplishments summarized using metrics and numeral adjectives. PIE will host a workshop later this summer, in which the research team will discuss key findings and present recommendations for eliminating gender bias in letters of support for undergraduate and graduate students.
THANK YOU TO OUR 2021-2022 PIE ASSOCIATES!

Jim Waters
Department of Religion

Jack Maguschak
Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics

Emily Eubanks
College of Music

Jordan Lenchitz
College of Music

Britney Cotton
Department of Sociology

Bob Bishop
Department of Philosophy

Hannah Fazio
School of Theater

Jay Pension
Department of Art Education

Yashika Garg
Department of Biological Sciences

Darius Robinson
College of Education

Emmanuel Manhiri
College of Health and Human Sciences

Amory Orchard
Department of English

Cera Hsu
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry