LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Some might say that spring is springing but I would counter that spring has already sprung. Temperatures are rising, plants are blooming, and those of us with allergies are definitely noticing the uptick in pollen. And in any case, spring has surely sprung academically. With midterms behind us, summer course registration nearly open, and final projects and presentations now visible on the horizon, there remains no time like the present to keep on top of the changes in our surroundings and our semester. This issue of our PIE newsletter thus comes to you at a point in the semester where change is quite possibly the only constant—and with it, of course, comes opportunity. If for instance you have yet to attend a PIE workshop, then just as a flower can sprout and then blossom from a seed you too can be a welcomed first-time attendee (and then turn into a repeat customer)! If you have a question you would wish to ask us, please pass it along to PIE-info@fsu.edu so we can open a conversation. The changes and improvements we continually strive to make for ourselves as TAs can and should be a point of departure rather than a point of culmination and we invite you to enjoy this issue with an accordingly spring-like attitude of change in mind.

TA SPOTLIGHT

Rebecca Curran

Bio: Rebecca received her B.A. from FSU in Theatre and her Master’s in Dramaturgy from the ART/MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University. She has worked as a dramaturg and production assistant for the American Repertory Theater, FSU, and Harvard University and as a director and teaching artist at the high school and college levels.

Teaching quote: “I have been lucky enough to have many amazing teachers who left a lasting impression on me and my life. I want to pay debt that forward and help students see the possibilities that they may not realize are open to them.”
SLICE OF ADVICE

Q: "I'm close to finishing my graduate program and I'm feeling overwhelmed on what to do. What do I need to accomplish in my last year? How do I go about finding a job? help!"

A: First, let's take a step back and take a deep breath. Congrats on almost finishing your program! That's an amazing accomplishment and you should be proud of yourself to get to this point. Now let's talk about this last step of your graduate career. There are a few things you need to be aware of to fully plan out your last year. First, you need to know what timeline the graduate school has for you to turn in your thesis, dissertation, or treatise. The Graduate School webpage on FSU site contains all the information you need. It has all the deadlines for when your drafts, edits and presentation of defense need to be completed by AND it has information on workshops they provide to help you better prepare for these requirements. They even include the LaTeX and Microsoft Word templates to use or to help guide you on how your documents need to be formatted. Now, how do you even start writing? This is a question a lot of us struggle with. Writing your thesis/dissertation/treatise can be a very overwhelming task, especially if writing isn’t your strong suit. I highly HIGHLY recommend starting with a detailed outline of all your chapters. This would include what you plan on discussing in each chapter but also it would be a good idea to give yourself some ‘due dates’ for each section you need to write. This will help you with your time management and to help you stay on track to graduate.

So, with that, you may be asking how am I supposed to do all that AND find a job? Well, a great place to start is to start drafting up your resume and CV. FSU Career Center is a great resource for this. They will help you edit these documents and even help guide you on how to write cover letters for your applications. Cover letters are going to be an important aspect of applying because they serve as a way for employers to get a gauge of not only your experience and aptitude, but also your personality. A piece of advice that I was given recently about applying for jobs, is to start looking about a semester ahead of your planned graduation. This way you have a job lined up right after you graduate, and you won’t be stressed to find one after graduation.

Remember, breathe, and write down a timeline. Make a list of things you want to accomplish and when you want to have them accomplished by. Be sure to take care of yourself! You’re doing great and you’re almost to the finish line! Be sure to check out the links below to the Graduate School and the Career Center!

https://www.career.fsu.edu/students/undergraduate-students/plan-your-career/career-advising

COPING WITH COVID

Spring break (March 14-18) is right around the corner! If you have plans to travel outside of Tallahassee, thinking ahead with respect to COVID-19 should help ensure that your TA duties can continue as smoothly coming out of the break as heading into it. The CDC, Leon County Department of Health, FSU’s StayHealthy site, and many other online sources are of course chock full of information which we highly recommend you check out. In the meantime, here are four guiding questions to aid your planning more generally:

- What type of test is recommended or required for my travel plans?
- Where and when can I get tested in Tallahassee?
- What will I do if my travel is disrupted due to COVID-19?
- How might I perform TA duties from quarantine if necessary when I return?
TRY A TASTE OF PIE:

YOGA FOR GRAD STUDENTS

Join us Wednesdays 9-10 AM on the PIE TA Community Support Site Zoom for Yoga for Graduate Students. The class is designed specifically to counteract the stresses of graduate school. Come breathe, stretch, find calm and balance.

If you have not joined this Canvas site, you can do so here:

Enroll in TA Community Support Site

BECOME A PIE ASSOCIATE:

Are you passionate about teaching both your favorite subject and how to teach it? Would you like to serve to foster community among all graduate student teaching assistants across campus? Does interdisciplinary collaboration excite you? If you have answered yes to any or all of these questions, then you should consider applying to be a PIE Teaching Associate for the 2022-2023 academic year! From writing this very Newsletter to assisting with university-wide TA training to running workshops and so much more, being a PIE Teaching Associate is both extremely rewarding professional development experience and a great way to meet and engage deeply with people from every college, program department, and institute in our campus community of learners and educators. To learn more about this wonderful opportunity go to:

https://pie.fsu.edu/pie-teaching-associate-assistantship

Fun Fact:
You may have never thought about ingesting bee pollen, however it seems that it could be great for your health. Bee pollen contains many vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, making it incredibly healthy. Studies have linked bee pollen and its compounds to health benefits such as decreased inflammation, as well as improved immunity, menopausal symptoms, and wound healing. If you're curious and want to try it out Vale Food Co, a local Tallahassee restaurant, serves it or you can reach out to your local beekeepers!

(Important note: people with pollen or bee sting allergies, pregnant or lactating women and people taking blood thinners, such as warfarin, should avoid it.)