

Future Faculty Focus

THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE VCU PREPARING FUTURE FACULTY (PFF) PROGRAM

SPECIAL EDITION:
END OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2009-2010

Congratulations to Recipients of PFF Program Certificates of Achievement, 2009-2010

On April 20, 2010, nine graduate students and two postdoctoral scholars were recognized at the 13th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium and Exhibit for the accomplishment of earning PFF Program Certificates of Achievement during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Dr. Sherry T. Sandkam, director of the PFF Program and Associate Dean, VCU Graduate School, awarded the Certificates of Achievement during the Symposium program. In addition to recognizing the certificate recipients, Dr. Sandkam also recognized the faculty members who served as faculty mentors to these students during their GRAD 606 capstone experiences.



A group of PFF Program Certificate of Achievement recipients and PFF Program faculty mentors gather at the Graduate Student Research Symposium.

From left to right: Dr. Sara Wilson McKay, Samatha Nolte, Dr. Patricia Slattum, Osama Shoair, and Dr. Aiye Liang [Missing: Sherry Pinkstaff, Dr. Ross Arena, and Dr. Umesh R. Desai]

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Congratulations to the PFF Program Certificate of Achievement Recipients for 2009-2010!

Maitham Al Hawaj

Maitham is currently a Ph.D. student in the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcome Science, VCU School of Pharmacy. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences from King Saud University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His faculty mentor for the GRAD 606 capstone experience was **Cynthia Kirkwood, Pharm.D., BCPP**, Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Education, Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcome Science, VCU School of Pharmacy.

Dawn Cummings-Webb

Dawn is a graduate of the Master of Science program in Criminal Justice and the Post-Baccalaureate Graduate Certificate program in Criminal Justice, Forensic Science Crime Scene Investigation concentration, both programs in the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences. Dawn graduated magna cum laude from VCU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. She is currently teaching CRJS 260: Criminal Law at VCU, and is planning to pursue a doctoral degree. Her faculty mentor for the GRAD 606 capstone experience was **John Reitzel, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator for Criminal Justice, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, VCU College of Humanities and Sciences.

Dr. Katherine Falenski

Katie is a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, VCU School of Medicine. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the Eberly College of Science, The Pennsylvania State University; and a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, VCU School of Medicine. Her faculty mentor for the GRAD 606 experience was **Robert J. DeLorenzo, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.**, George Bliley Professor of Neurology, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, VCU School of Medicine.

Dr. Aiye Liang

Aiye is currently a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, VCU School of Pharmacy. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry Education from Henan Normal University, Xinxiang, China; a Master of Science in Geochemistry from Chengdu University of Technology, Chengdu, China; and a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Dalian, China. Aiye engaged in a GRAD 606 capstone experience that spanned two semesters. Her first semester was an internship in which she was mentored by **Umesh R. Desai, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry, VCU School of Pharmacy. Aiye's second semester experience was an externship at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College where her faculty mentor was **Ann M. Sullivan, Ph.D.**, Professor of Chemistry, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.

Samantha Nolte

Samantha will graduate in May 2010 with a Master of Art Education, Department of Art Education, VCU School of the Arts. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance and Art Education from Mercyhurst College. Her faculty mentor for the GRAD 606 capstone experience was **Sara Wilson McKay, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Department of Art Education, VCU School of the Arts.

Sherry Pinkstaff

Sherry is currently a graduate student in the Ph.D. Program in Physiology, VCU School of Medicine. She is a graduate of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, VCU School of Allied Health Professions. Sherry also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies from George Mason University. Her faculty mentor for the GRAD 606 capstone experience was **Ross Arena, Ph.D., PT**, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Physical Therapy, VCU School of Allied Health Professions.

Ruth Srednicki-Burk

Ruth is a current graduate student in the VCU School of Nursing Ph.D. Program. Ruth holds a Master of Science degree in Nursing and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, both from VCU School of Nursing. Ruth's faculty mentor for the GRAD 606 capstone experience was **Carolyn Driscoll, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems, VCU School of Nursing.

Osama Shoair

Osama is currently a Ph.D. student in the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcome Science, VCU School of Pharmacy, as well as the Certificate in Aging Studies, Department of Gerontology, VCU School of Allied Health Professions. Osama holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy from Misr International University (MIU), Cairo, Egypt. His faculty mentor for the GRAD 606 capstone experience was **Patricia W. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D.**, Director, Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Program, Associate Professor of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcome Science, VCU School of Pharmacy.

Zafer Ugur

Zafer is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Chemistry, VCU College of Humanities and Sciences. His faculty of mentor for the GRAD 606 capstone experience was **Suzanne M. Ruder, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, VCU College of Humanities and Sciences.

PFF Program Alumni Spotlight - Dr. Aiye Liang



Aiye is currently a Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, School of Pharmacy and the Institute for Structural Biology and Drug Discovery. She started her Postdoctoral Training in June 2006 at VCU. She was awarded her PFF Program Certificate of Achievement during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Aiye received her Ph.D degree in Analytical Chemistry from Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2006.

What does “Preparing Future Faculty Program” mean to you?

When I heard the “Preparing Future Faculty Program” my immediate thought was: This program is dedicated to preparing future teachers, which is what I want to be in the future. That is why I enrolled in the program.

How did your experiences in the PFF Program enhance your understanding of what it means to be faculty and impact your plans for a career in academia?

Before I took the PFF Program, I thought being faculty meant to be a teacher who teaches courses in the classroom, a researcher who does or guides students to do research in the lab (at least for a chemistry major), and writes proposals to support his or her research. Now I understand that faculty not only do teaching and scholarship (research and grants), but also have to do service. They need to contribute to departmental and university governance, and provide service to the department, community, university and to his or her profession. My PFF Program experience makes me aware of how I can find a faculty position and what I should do when I am a faculty. I am more confident I will choose a career in academia.

How did experiences with the PFF Program and receipt of the PFF Program Certificate of Achievement give you an ‘edge’ in your career?

I am in the process of applying for a faculty position. I think the experiences with the PFF Program and PFF Program Certificate of Achievement will enhance my opportunity of getting a faculty position. I have a lot to say about my teaching experience in my CV or during interviews because I had a lot of teaching experiences during the GRAD606 Internship/Externship in Professional Teaching. And if by chance I am one of the few applicants to have had an experience like this, I will have set myself apart from the crowd because universities want to hire a faculty with teaching experiences.

The capstone experience of the PFF Program is the internship/externship in which the student is mentored by a senior faculty member. Tell us a little bit about your internship/externship experience, and share with us the impact that the project and the mentoring relationship had on you.

For the Internship in Professional Teaching, I took one credit by teaching a team-taught professional level large course (130 students) MEDC 527 Enzyme Action and Inhibition for the Basic Principles of Pharmaceutical Sciences at VCU under the guidance of Professor Umesh R. Desai. With the remaining two credits I taught a smaller college level class (24 students): CHM 111 College Chemistry I at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, under the guidance of Dr. Ann Sullivan. The two different projects and two mentors made my teaching experience complete. I had experience in lecturing diverse populations of students, and supervising and organizing labs. Both Drs. Desai and Sullivan are excellent teachers, though their teaching styles are different. I found out that both really love to teach, and they devote themselves to teaching. I think that must be one of the reasons why they are good teachers! They have taught me how to teach and how to be a good teacher. They also shared their teaching experiences with me.

I love to spend time with my students, and I love to teach more than ever. Most importantly, I obtained practical experience by planning for and participating in the team-taught professional level course and college level course. I learned how to prepare for the lab, how to prepare for and deliver the lectures, how to test students, and how internet can help my teaching. By finishing these projects, I feel confident that I can find a faculty position and I can be a good teacher.

What is the most crucial piece of advice that you would give to students currently enrolled in the PFF Program coursework?

You should take the GRAD606 Internship/Externship in Professional Teaching. Though it will take a lot of effort to finish the 150 hours of college teaching, it is worth the effort. The reward is more than what you can imagine.

Fall Course Offerings and Registration Information for PFF Program Courses

Fall course registration for graduate students is underway! In addition to the PFF Program capstone experience (GRAD 606, see below), the PFF Program will offer two courses in the fall semester. Register early – seats are limited!

GRAD 601: The Academic Profession (2.0 credit-hour course)

Meets each Thursday, 5:00-6:40 p.m.

Room 2129, Grace Harris Hall

Instructor: [Maike Philippsen, Ph.D.](#), Professor, Foundations of Education, VCU School of Education

GRAD 603: Responsible Conduct of Research (1.0 credit-hour course)

Hybrid course, will meet primary on-line and will have two in-person meetings:

Wednesday, September 15 and Wednesday, November 17,

4:00-5:30 p.m. both dates, room to be announced.

Instructor: [Ann Nichols-Casebolt, Ph.D.](#), Associate Vice President for Research Development, VCU Office of Research; Interim Dean, VCU School of Social Work

GRAD 606: SUMMER 2010 AND FALL 2010
(INTERNSHIP / EXTERNSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL TEACHING)

The deadline for proposing a one-, two-, or three-credit hour internship/externship for the GRAD 606 course is one week prior to the first day of classes. For summer 2010 enrollment, the deadline is **Monday, May 17th**; for fall 2010 enrollment, the deadline is **Thursday, August 19th**. Proposals submitted after the deadline will be considered for the next semester. Detailed instructions for the proposal are located on the PFF Program website (<http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/programs/pff/courses.html>) and on the program's Blackboard site (click on the "Courses" tab).

INFORMATION ON THE PFF PROGRAM CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Students currently seeking the PFF Program Certificate of Achievement may wish to access the PFF Program's Blackboard site and view the checklist, which is located under the 'Resources' tab.

In order to receive the PFF Program Certificate of Achievement, students must successfully complete the nine credit hours of PFF Program coursework (detailed below) and submit the electronic portfolio for evaluation.

- Successful completion of the core PFF Program courses
 - GRAD 601 The Academic Profession
2-credit hour lecture course (offered in the fall semester, students who entered the program during or prior to Fall 2009 semester will substitute the one-credit hour GRAD 601 and one-credit hour GRAD 604 course for this requirement)
 - GRAD 602 Teaching, Learning and Technology in Higher Education
2-credit hour lecture course (offered in the spring semester)
 - GRAD 603 Responsible Conduct of Research
1-credit hour lecture course (8-week short course, offered in the fall semester)
 - GRAD 605 Professional Specialty Seminar
1-credit hour seminar course (8-week short course, offered in the spring semester)
- Successful completion of **three credit hours** (each credit hour equals 50 contact hours) of the mentored capstone experience
 - GRAD 606 Internship/Externship in Professional Teaching: Offered for variable credit (1, 2 or 3 credit hours offered in fall, spring and summer semesters). Prerequisites are GRAD 601, GRAD 602, GRAD 603, and GRAD 605. Prerequisite flexibility **ONLY** for students who enrolled in GRAD 601/604 in Fall 2009: these students may take GRAD 606 in summer 2010 or fall 2010 *prior to or concurrent with enrollment in GRAD 603*. Proposal will require statement of acknowledgement in proposal that student must take GRAD 603 in Fall 2010.
- Submission and evaluation of the electronic portfolio (see details on our website: <http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/programs/pff/courses.html>)

Upon completion of these requirements, a text comment will be recorded on the student's academic transcript. The student and his/her faculty mentor will be recognized for this accomplishment at a Graduate School event, usually held in the spring semester at the annual Graduate Research Symposium.

Please contact our office with any questions about the PFF Program!

Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) Program, VCU Graduate School

 [Web](#)  [Blog](#)  [Facebook](#) 

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Mail: 1001 Grove Avenue, P.O. Box 843051, Richmond, Virginia 23284

Visit: The Moseley House, Room 203, Monroe Park Campus

VCU Workshops and Events for Current and Future Members of the Academy

The **Qualitative Research Interest Group (QRIG)** will hold their May meeting on May 5th (Reading Day) at 3:00 p.m. in Oliver Hall Room 2116. The May meeting is sponsored by the School of Education, and the contact person is Terry Carter. If you would like to receive future updates on this group, please contact [Cornelia Ramsey](#) for more information.

Upcoming workshops from the **Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE)** are listed below. These workshops are open to graduate students! For more information on the workshop topics and to **register**, click on the topic below. If the hyperlinks are not enabled on your computer, then please visit the [CTE Workshops page](#) to learn more and to **register**.

4/26/2010	10:00am	Exploring Mobile Learning
4/27/2010	1:00pm	Enhancing Blackboard: Weaving the Web Into Learning
4/29/2010	9:00am	The New Blackboard 9: New Features, New Opportunities
4/30/2010	Noon	CTE Brown Bag Lunch: What Role can Humor Play in Teaching and Learning?
5/10/2010	1:00pm	The New Blackboard 9: New Features, New Opportunities
5/17/2010	1:00pm	Getting Started with Blackboard 9
5/18/2010	9:00am	Getting Started with Blackboard 9
5/19/2010	9:00am	Getting Started with Blackboard 9
5/26/2010	1:00pm	Drop in Open Session on Blackboard 9
6/22/2010	1:00pm	Getting Started with Blackboard 9
7/7/2010	1:00pm	Getting Started with Blackboard 9
7/20/2010	1:00pm	Assignments and Grade Center in New Blackboard 9
7/27/2010	1:00pm	Online Tests with New Blackboard 9
8/3/2010	10:00am	Using the New Blackboard 9 Blog Tool: Collaboration Possibilities!
8/10/2010	9:00am	Web Conferencing Tools for Instruction
8/11/2010	1:00pm	Getting Started with Blackboard 9
8/12/2010	1:00pm	Getting Started with Blackboard 9
8/16/2010	9:00am	Getting Started with Blackboard 9
8/17/2010	1:00pm	Getting Started with Blackboard 9
8/18/2010	1:00pm	Getting Started with Blackboard 9
8/19/2010	9:00am	Getting Started with Blackboard 9
8/20/2010	9:00am	Getting Started with Blackboard 9
8/20/2010	1:00pm	Getting Started with Blackboard 9

VCU Libraries offer a variety of workshops of interest to graduate students – the upcoming workshops are listed below. For more information on the workshop topics and to **register**, click on the topic below. If you have trouble with the links, please visit the [VCU Library Events and Classes page](#) or go to the [VCU Training website](#) to search.

4/30/2010	9:00am	Library Orientation	MCV
5/3/2010	11:00am	RefWorks	MCV
5/4/2010	Noon	PubMed	MCV
5/5/2010	Noon	Film Screening: Struggling in Silence: Physician Depression and Suicide	MCV
5/6/2010	3:00pm	CINAHL Online Workshop	Online
5/7/2010	1:00pm	Q & A with a Librarian	MCV
5/17/2010	6:00pm	RefWorks Online Workshop	Online
5/19/2010	Noon	Consumer Health & Evaluating Health Websites	MCV
5/20/2010	Noon	Making GCP Your Standard Research Practice	MCV
5/26/2010	Noon	Library Orientation	MCV
6/17/2010	Noon	Strategies and Tools for Patient Recruitment	MCV

The **VCU Office of Research** offers training opportunities throughout the year. Training opportunities for the remainder of spring semester and summer 2010 are listed below. Please follow the links below for more information and to register.

4/28/2010	1:00pm	Conducting Animal Research at Virginia Commonwealth University
5/4/2010	1:00pm	GENIUS
5/5/2010	9:30am	NIH Submissions to Grants.gov using the VCUeRA
5/20/2010	10:00am	Electronic IACUC Submissions using the VCUeRA
6/1/2010	1:00pm	GENIUS
6/2/2010	1:00pm	NIH Submissions to Grants.gov using the VCUeRA
6/23/2010	1:00pm	Electronic IACUC Submissions using the VCUeRA
7/6/2010	1:00pm	GENIUS
7/7/2010	9:30am	NIH Submissions to Grants.gov using the VCUeRA
8/3/2010	1:00pm	GENIUS
8/4/2010	1:00pm	NIH Submissions to Grants.gov using the VCUeRA

VCU Student Affairs sponsors a “Things to do around VCU” website that provides links to calendars and events of potential interest to graduate students: <http://www.vcu.edu/thingstodo/>.

“Tomorrow’s Professor” Postings

Each month we showcase postings on four diverse topics related to faculty issues, teaching and learning, and scholarship from the multi-organization sponsored “Tomorrow’s Professor” postings program. Each posting is listed with Dr. Rick Reis’s selected quotation introduction as well as his own introduction, and the title. This introduction will provide you with background necessary to decide if you want to read the whole posting. To read the full posting, simply follow the link provided. To learn more about “Tomorrow’s Professor” in general, please visit <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/postings.php>. There are over 1,000 postings. To learn more about Dr. Reis, visit his website: <http://ctl.stanford.edu/Tomprof/reis.html>. We hope that you enjoy this month’s postings and that you find the information to be useful to you during your academic journey!

Tomorrow’s Professor Msg. #998

Writing A Statement of Teaching Philosophy for the Academic Job Search

"As these recent job ads illustrate, requests for teaching philosophies are common in the academic market. In fact, a survey of 457 search committee chairs in six disciplines (English, history, political science, psychology, biology, and chemistry) found that 57% requested a teaching statement at some point in a job search (Meizlish & Kaplan, in press)."

Folks:

The posting below is an excerpt on some key points to pay attention to in writing a teaching philosophy statement. It is by Chris O'Neal, Deborah Meizlish, and Matthew Kaplan* and is from the Occasional Paper series (#23) published by the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT) [<http://www.crlt.umich.edu/>] at the University of Michigan. THE FULL ARTICLE CAN BE FOUND AT:

http://www.crlt.umich.edu/publinks/CRLT_no23.pdf Copyright 2007 The University of Michigan. Reprinted with permission.

Regards,
Rick Reis

Link to this posting: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=998>

Tomorrow’s Professor Msg. #977

Talking Yourself Up – How to Score Points During an Interview and What to do After It’s Over

"Brown has started to be more precise in his answers, citing specific scenarios and examples that highlight his abilities. That's what employers want to hear, he says. "

Folks:

The posting below gives some excellent tips on what to do before and during a job interview. The article is by Jef Akst and is from The Scientist: Magazine of the Life Sciences, Volume 23, Issue 9, Page 68, <http://www.the-scientist.com/> © 1986-2009 The Scientist. All rights reserved, reprinted with permission.

Regards,
Rick Reis

Link to this posting: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=977>

Tomorrow's Professor Msg. # 1010
Mentors Make the Difference

"Don't focus on demonstrating your own brilliance. Focus instead on expressing genuine interest in your mentor's brilliance!"

Folks:

The posting below gives some excellent tips on forming mentoring relationships in academia. It is by Mary McKinney, Ph.D. of Successful Academic Coaching. Please visit Mary's web site at: <<http://www.successfulacademic.com>> for additional tenure track tips and dissertation writing strategies. email: >mckinney@successfulacademic.com<. Copyright © 2000-10 Mary McKinney, Ph.D. - All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission.

Regards,
Rick Reis

Link to this posting: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=1010>

Tomorrow's Professor Msg. #997
Right Your Writing: How to Sharpen Your Writing and Make Your Manuscripts More Engaging

"Most readers of scientific manuscripts don't read papers from beginning to end. "The fact that we've got an article structure is so people can know where to jump to," says Australian linguist and self-employed research communications consultant Margaret Cargill. Because the people reading your papers will likely start with the results of your research, so should you, she says. "The whole structure of a paper is built around the results," she says. "That's where you've got to start the telling of the paper." Cargill recommends getting the tables and figures perfect before writing the results section. Then move onto the discussion section and then the introduction. "You can do the methods anytime, really. "

Folks:

The posting below gives some excellent tips on improving your technical writing. The article is by by Bob Grant and is from the November, 2009 issue of The Scientist: Magazine of the Life Sciences Every Day Online, <http://www.the-scientist.com/> © 1986-2010 The Scientist. All rights reserved, reprinted with permission.

Regards,
Rick Reis

Link to this posting: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=997>

