

April PDA meeting
April 24, 2017 @ 9:00AM
Graduate School, Main Conference Room

In attendance

- Doris Sande
- Greer Arthur
- Kurt Schab
- Laura Demarse
- Nicole Ditillo
- Serina Mazzoni-Putman
- Vanessa Doriott Anderson
- Karissa Wojcik
- Xinyu Zhang

Agenda Items

- **OPA Updates/items (Laura/Nicole)**
 - Research Symposium updates
 - Symposium is one month away! Registration numbers are going up but please encourage postdocs to submit posters, and PIs, admins, industry partners, and grad students to attend
 - Nicole will be the Project Coordinator for OPA starting May 1st
 - I am open to recommendations and ideas for the office! Please send suggestions my way!
 - Full announcements will go out to the postdoc community this week
 - Saturday service opportunities for postdocs will start in June. Sign ups will go out next week
 - Green Chair Project: Saturday, June 3rd (10am - 1PM)
- **Professional Development Updates**
 - Vanessa
 - New [*Teaching & Communication Certificate*](#) has started! This will replace the old CoAT and CITT programs
 - If you have recommendations for workshops please send them to Vanessa (vkdoriot@ncsu.edu)
 - Karissa
 - Development of communication and writing workshops
 - Ongoing writing sessions once a month throughout the semester
 - Postdocs may benefit from one-time writing sessions rather than committing to a semester of sessions
 - For ideas email Karissa (kwojcik@ncsu.edu)
 - Kurt

- Kurt has met with Mohan from NCSU Libraries to discuss postdoc-led workshops. These are a great opportunity for postdocs to share knowledge and get some professional development experience
 - PDA could be a good touch point for postdocs interested in leading sessions
 - We can start an internal Google Doc of sessions postdocs would be interested in teaching, and Mohan can use that to call on postdocs to lead specific sessions
 - Nicole will start a Google Sheet and send it out
- **Communications Update (Greer/Ashley)**
 - Greer is finishing up the third issue of Verve. There were contributions from across the university and many outside of NC State (even outside the US!)
 - Greer is also finishing up another video of a fellow postdoc in Arabic Studies
 - Laura is working on getting a consistent stream of revenue to support Verve
- **Diversity Committee Update (Catherine)**
 - April Diversity Lunch this Friday
 - Will either be at Irregardless Cafe or Neomonde. Catherine will send out more details
- **International Committee Update - N/A**
- **Social Committee Update**
 - Happy hours still going great!
 - Service Saturdays will be another opportunity for postdocs to connect
- **Any other business?**
 - Serina recommended an end of year potluck/barbeque. It would be fairly cheap and easy to rent a pavilion in Pullen Park and get some burgers. It would be an informal and family-friendly event
 - Some potential dates:
 - Saturday, May 28th
 - Sunday, May 29th
 - Saturday, June 3rd (afternoon)
 - Sunday, June 4th
 - Saturday, June 10th
 - Sunday, June 11th
 - Discussed the importance of having a personal connection with Faculty Mentor/PI
 - Laura saw presentation by computer science postdocs at the National Postdoc Association Meeting in San Francisco last month on the impacts of faculty connections on postdoc outcomes
 - Some postdocs seem to have this while others' PIs are located in a separate lab
 - Connections could be as simple as asking about a postdocs' weekend, knowing whether they have a family or where they are from, etc.

- Important to also teach these skills to postdocs, who mentor graduate students and undergraduates