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.