Research Participant Recruitment

My name is Jessika Guerard and I am a doctoral candidate in the combined Counseling Psychology and School Psychology program here at FSU. I invite you to take part in my research study because I am collecting data on international students attending FSU to examine the relation between English language proficiency, perceived discrimination, social connectedness on academic achievement and self-efficacy. While there is no direct benefit for participants of this study, it is important to collect data from international students in order to better assist them in their academic journey in the United States.

If you choose to participate in my research study please click on the following link: https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8qvb5DffXQSNJmB

Please feel free to contact me at jg15j@my.fsu.edu if you have any questions about my research study. Thank you so much for your time. –Jessika Guerard

PIE TA online teaching support & community Canvas site

The Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) has launched a new Canvas organizational site that aims to provide all FSU TAs the opportunity to find peer community and support while all face-to-face courses are moved to an online format.

Read announcement here.

SECURITY BRIEF - Email Scams/Phishing Attacks Continue

This is a Security Brief from College Computing Services…
We have alerted you on several occasions about an email scam that continues to be seen here, and on college campuses nationwide. There has been a recent revival, so here is another reminder…
The essential characteristic of this email scam is that you receive an email, supposedly from the Dean, your chair, or another important individual, asking, “Are you there?” or “Available?” or other similar question.
THIS IS A SCAM. The message is coming from an email account that is NOT actually the important person’s, but looks like it could be.
In these cases, the scammer hopes you will believe these emails really are from the
important person, so you will quickly respond to the apparently-urgent request. When you respond, they will reply and ask you to quickly get some sort of gift card for them. This scam has been appearing across many universities, and has been repeating from time to time over the past year. It is very hard to stop, because the culprits use different email addresses.

If you receive these spam/phishing messages, you should ignore them. Rest assured, Dean Gibson is not going to ask you to buy a gift card for him via email. It would be helpful if you would forward such emails to CCS, so we can look for patterns and/or request blocks for the specific addresses they are using.

In general, please look carefully at emails you receive, especially if they are asking you for something. Is the address the “right” one? Is the request plausible? Does this look like something the individual would write? Is the grammar and speech pattern consistent with what you would expect from the supposed sender? Most scam emails are detectable just from these characteristics.

If you are not sure, call the person, go see them, or email them at a known-good address (do not Reply to the questionable email). Or, contact CCS and let us help you analyze the message.

Should you have questions about this attack, other scams, or security in general, do not hesitate to contact CCS.

AND… Information like this is presented in the FSU Basic Cybersecurity training that is required for all FSU employees. If you have not completed that training, you have seven days left to complete it!

… Look for periodic Security Briefs, a continuing series intended to raise awareness of information security matters. Remember, information security is EVERYONE’S JOB!

Join us for a practical data science demo!

The application deadline for The Data Incubator’s Summer 2020 Fellowship cohort closes on May 2 at 11:59pm UTC. Apply here!

Additionally, we want to welcome you to join us on Monday, April 27 at 1PM ET for a practical data science demo: a live session with instructor Michael Cullan introducing the how and the why of presenting results in data science.

We’ll cover some common tools and techniques for sharing interactive reports and conducting reproducible research.

Join Us on Webex April 27

Michael will show you how to create a report in a Jupyter notebook, set up a Github repository with a few requirements, and use that repository to distribute interactive versions of that notebook using Binder.

If you would like to follow along on your own machine, there are a few steps to take care of. If you don’t already have a Github account, make sure you create one before the session begins. You should also ensure you have a Python distribution with conda and Jupyter and that you’ve installed Github’s command line tool.

In this live, 30 minute webinar, Michael will show you the steps to:
- Clean up an exploratory Jupyter notebook into a presentable report
- Set up a Github repository to share notebooks and software requirements
- Create a new git branch to update a notebook without modifying the master copy
- Distribute a report in an interactive form using Binder

Bookmark this email and save the Webex link below so you don’t miss out on this great opportunity to get coding help from The Data Incubator.

Join Us on Webex April 27!
The Data Incubator
COVID-19 Open Research Dataset Call

Earlier this week, the National Library of Medicine released the COVID-19 Open Research Dataset (CORD-19) of scholarly literature related to COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, and the Coronavirus group. The dataset is the most comprehensive machine-readable Coronavirus literature collection available for data and text mining to date, with over 29,000 articles - more than 13,000 of them full text.

To make full use of this dataset, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has issued a call for tech and AI experts to develop new text and data mining techniques that can be used to help the science community answer high-priority scientific questions related to COVID-19.

Please let Mike Mitchell, mike.mitchell@fsu.edu, with the Office of Research Development know if they can be of any assistance on these projects.

FSU researchers discover new structure for promising class of materials

Florida State University researchers have discovered a novel structure for organic-inorganic hybrid materials that shows potential for more efficient technologies.

Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Biwu Ma and his team have published a new study in the journal Science Advances that explains how they created a hollow nanostructure for metal halide perovskites that would allow the material to emit a highly efficient blue light. Metal halide perovskites are a material that have shown great potential for photon-related technologies such as light-emitting diodes and lasers, but scientists have still been working to make them more efficient and effective. ...

The first author of this work is Michael Worku, a fourth-year doctoral student from the FSU Materials Science and Engineering program. ...

Read story here.
FAMU-FSU: Mental health services for our students

Below you will find information about services offered, how to make an appointment and the Welltrack app. Our students wellbeing is vital to their success at COE and beyond. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have. I am here to help.

FAMU:
http://www.famu.edu/index.cfm?Counseling&OurServices
Phone: 850.599.3145
Email: counseling@famu.edu

FSU:
https://counseling.fsu.edu/
Crisis support: 850.644.TALK (8255)
Email not provided. Students directed to call number above.

FAMU-FSU Engineering | Who to Contact

https://www.eng.famu.fsu.edu/who-to-contact

The FAMU-FSU College of Engineering administration, academic and service unit contact information.

BEING HUMAN

The coronavirus pandemic might make buildings sick, too

Discolored water can be caused by heavy metals, such as iron or copper. Iron can also act as a nutrient for organisms to grow in the pipes. Kyungyeon Ra/Purdue University, CC BY-ND

While millions of people are under orders to stay home amid the coronavirus pandemic, water is sitting in the pipes of empty office buildings and gyms, getting old and potentially dangerous.

When water isn’t flowing, organisms and chemicals can build up in the plumbing. It can happen in underused gyms, office buildings, schools, shopping malls and other facilities. These organisms and chemicals can reach unsafe levels when water sits in water pipes for just a few days. But, what happens when water sits for weeks or months?

Read article here.

Scientists are working to protect invaluable living collections
Many are risking their personal health during the coronavirus pandemic to ensure the survival of awe-inspiring assemblages of algae, arthropods, bacteria, fungi, mammals, plants, viruses and fishes.

Staying on top of these collections is time-consuming during the best of times, and this task becomes even more complex in the age of social distancing.

Read article here.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Resources for Occupying Kids During Quarantine

- This is a cool site for setting your kids up at home to do hands-on STEM activities.
- And here’s a link to the virtual museum tours.

This week’s featured video: Tornado Tubes with Daniel!

Stay engaged from home with this tornado tubes demo from Challenger Learning Center educator Daniel Allison! Daniel walks us through several different designs, depending on what materials you have available at home. Enjoy and keep STEAM-ing!

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @ChallengerTLH for updates on when new virtual lessons are available and other engaging content.

STRESS AND COVID-19

Resources for Living: COVID-19 Resources


Employee Assistance Program Available Services

An important message from FSU Office of Human Resources
Florida State University values employees and the work that they do. Because of this, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) was created in the spring of 1995 to improve the well-being of FSU employees by providing assistance through personal and/or workplace difficulties.

To ensure the health and safety of both counselors and clients during this emergency period, all services are being offered via phone and video. Requests for in-person appointments will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. EAP's highest priority is to continue our commitment to FSU employees by providing the following services:

**Confidential Counseling Sessions**

Employees and their dependents have access to confidential and timely problem identification/assessment services. Through constructive confrontation, motivation, and short-term intervention with employee clients, these sessions address problems that affect job performance. When necessary, clients are referred for diagnosis, long-term treatment, monitoring, and follow-up services.

**Confidential Supervisor Consults**

Consultation, training, and support are available to those who manage employees seeking assistance (VP's, Deans, Directors, Department Heads, Department Chairs, managers, and all other supervisory personnel). The goal is to enhance the employee’s work environment and improve job performance and satisfaction.

**Mediation/Guided Discussion Services**

Sometimes, parties need help to resolve their differences. When employees need help in resolving conflict, they may turn to the EAP Conflict Resolution Program which includes free, confidential Mediation and Guided Discussions to help resolve disputes.

**Emergency Loan Fund (ELF) Program**

EAP administers FSU's Emergency Loan Fund (ELF) which was established to aid employees facing unexpected financial emergencies. If eligible, an individual may receive an interest-free loan of up to $1,500, which is repaid through payroll deduction. Additionally, EAP has partnered with Debt Management Credit Counseling Corporation (DMCC) to assist those in the FSU community who may be struggling with debt or wanting to increase their credit rating. DMCC has a host of resources that can assist you in regaining the road to financial solvency, including Debt Management Plans and Online Financial Literacy Programs.

**Resources**

EAP is available 24/7 to respond to any emergency. For assistance by phone, call (850) 644-2288 or toll free at (877) 246-4679. For assistance by email, please click here.

For tips on managing stress amid the COVID-19 pandemic, please read Coping with Stress and Anxiety during the Coronavirus.

*Want to add something to the next issue? Email us! Deadline is Friday for Monday publication.*

FAMU-FSU College of Engineering
2525 Potsdamer St, Tallahassee FL 32310

STAY CONNECTED