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GradMag Welcome Back Spring Luncheon Recap!

by Gina Landtwing, Digital Manager

On Friday, February 2nd, The Graduate Magazine hosted its first Spring semester event with a Welcome Luncheon in SAC Ballroom A. Over 70 students attended for an afternoon of talks, live music, and Jeopardy!.

The event began with a lineup of guest speakers, the first of whom was GradMag advisor and adjunct professor in electrical and computer engineering, Professor Vibha Mane. She spoke about her research work in Machine Learning and AI. She also spoke about the classes she teaches, including this semester: Practical Machine Learning and AI, Deep Learning, and Understanding Machine Learning. The subsequent speakers were Kathleen Flint Ehm, Assistant Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Initiatives and Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, and Molly Lotz, Director of Research Training Initiatives. They spoke about the upcoming events hosted by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Professional Development. Including Professional skills workshops and the like. The Office also offers one-on-one or group mentorship opportunities when applying for external fellowships. This information can all be found on grad.stonybrook.edu. The last guest speaker was Jessica Roman, Assistant Director of Graduate Career Services. She advertised the university's career services as an expert in the field as a graduate career adviser.

The afternoon continued in a busy vein; everyone was excited for the pizza and coffee that was served. The students had to work for their free lunch, as the performances were far from over. Saving best for last, Octávio Deluchi, a graduate student in the department of Music, finished off the speakers with a musical performance. His mini-concert featured (1) Marco Pereira's *Bate-Coxa*, (2) Dilermando Reis' *Conversa da Bainha* and (3) the same artists' *Xodó da Bainha*.

To close off an afternoon full of intellect, fun, and tasty food, graduate students grouped in small groups to play Jeopardy!. The competition game consisted of SBU-related trivia, including the categories "Campus Landmarks," "Academic Departments," "University History," "Student Life," and "Random Facts." The game was tight, with group 3 snagging the win with 2,100 points. The four winners from that team received prizes that included stuffed animals, tumblers, and fuzzy socks.

The GradMag would like to thank GSO for sponsoring the event.



Photo credit to Jennifer O'Connor, Managing Editor.

Professor of the Month

Kathleen Flint Ehm, PhD

Assistant Dean, Professional Development and Postdoctoral Affairs
Director, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs



Kathleen Flint Ehm has twenty years' experience in postdoctoral policy and professional development for PhDs at both the national and institutional level, specializing in graduate career planning, postdoctoral benefits, and responsible conduct of research training.

She has led the Graduate School's Graduate and Postdoctoral Professional Development since 2013, where she oversees professional development and educational initiatives for graduate students and postdocs and provides advocacy and support for the SBU postdoctoral community. She serves as director of the PhD Career Ladder Program, a peer-to-peer career exploration program originally created by SBU PhD students that has become a national model with the support of a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). She also teaches science communication as an affiliate of the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science. Starting in March 2024, she will take a temporary break from Stony Brook to serve as a Rotator in NSF's Division of Graduate Education.

Before coming to Stony Brook, Dr. Ehm spent six years at the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA), serving as project manager for grant-funded initiatives. She was lead author on the NPA's Responsible Conduct of Research Toolkit and From Ph.D. to Professoriate: The Role of the Institution in Fostering the Advancement of Postdoc Women. In 2004, she spent a year in residence at NSF where she was a Science and Technology Policy Fellow sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Ehm is an active member of the National Postdoctoral Association and the Graduate Career Consortium. An astronomer by training, Dr. Ehm did her postdoctoral training at Gemini Observatory North and the Carnegie Institution of Science's Department of Terrestrial Magnetism. She holds a Ph.D. in Astronomy and Astrophysics from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a B.S. in Math and Astronomy from the University of Arizona.