

SCIENTISTS &  
ENGINEERS  
EXPANDING  
DIVERSITY &  
SUCCESS

# SEEDS

Encouraging diversity & growth, one seed at a time.

FALL 2009

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

SEEDS ANNUAL  
DINNER

OCTOBER 19, 2009

4:30 PM

## SEEDS strives to...

- Promote diversity
- Orchestrate grass root support
- Address climate issues by conducting a UM-wide survey
- Develop a SEEDS Interactive Theatre
- Increase and Improve recruiting
- Bring in prominent scientists as SEEDS Distinguished Lecturers
- Host career scientists conferences
- Create networking opportunities
- Host career workshops
- Initiate mentor programs & support others by co-sponsoring mentor events
- Increase career & leadership opportunities
- Create visibility throughout UM

## What is Speed Mentoring?

What is speed mentoring? Yes, you're right, it resembles speed dating. Faculty are arrayed in a room; depending on the venue chosen, students, postdocs, or junior faculty go from faculty to faculty and offer some short document such as a CV or one-page specific aims page as a focus for discussion. Each interaction lasts five to eight minutes before a bell signals the end of the event. Mentees get a short break to write down impressions before they move on to the next

mentor. At the end of the event, the participants socialize, generally over food, to decompress and assess the event. These events provide intense interactions on a crucial career issue, and also let people judge who may best fit them as a mentor. These events are also great fun!

The next three pages celebrate mentors who have already taken part in SEEDS speed mentoring events.



Speed Mentor Event at the  
Miller School of Medicine

## A tribute to our Speed Mentors at the Miller School of Medicine



“ I really enjoyed it and thought it was immensely valuable.”

—SEEDS Mentee



**Dr. Steven Roper**

Professor, Physiology & Biophysics  
<http://chroma.med.miami.edu/physiol/>

Dr. Roper focuses on the cellular and molecular biology of chemosensory transduction in taste buds.



**Dr. Bonnie Blomberg**

Professor, Microbiology & Immunology  
<http://chroma.med.miami.edu/micro/>

Dr. Blomberg focuses on three major projects within the immune system: 1) determining the molecular & cellular basis for the decline in humoral immune response seen in aged mice; 2) generating immune tolerance to foreign grafts, specifically kidney transplants; and 3) assessing the effect of psychosocial intervention on the immune system in breast cancer patients.



**Dr. John Bixby**

Professor, Pharmacology & Neuroscience, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, Director UM Neuroscience Center  
<http://chroma.med.miami.edu/pharm/>

Dr. Bixby is focused on achieving a molecular understanding of the ways in which specific neural connections are formed and maintained.



**Dr. Vladlen Slepak**

Professor, Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology  
<http://chroma.med.miami.edu/pharm>

Dr. Slepak investigates basic molecular mechanisms of signal transduction, with the focus on heterotrimeric G proteins.



**Dr. Wasif Khan**

Professor, Microbiology & Immunology  
<http://chroma.med.miami.edu/micro/>

Dr. Khan focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms of lymphocyte survival, differentiation and function in health, autoimmunity, as well as B-cell lymphomas.



**Dr. Ken Muller**

Professor, Physiology & Biophysics  
<http://chroma.med.miami.edu/physiol/>

Dr. Muller studies how nerve cells form precise synaptic connections with one another and how these connections normally function.



**Dr. Stephen Weiss**

Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences  
<http://psychiatry.med.miami.edu>

Dr. Weiss works to understand and intervene upon the psychosocial, cultural and behavioral factors that contribute to increased risk of HIV/AIDS in the US and in the developing world.



**Dr. John Bethea**

Associate Professor  
 Neurological Surgery  
[www.miamiprojectmiami.edu](http://www.miamiprojectmiami.edu)

Dr. Bethea studies spinal cord injury and diseases of the nervous system such as Multiple Sclerosis to try to understand the cellular and molecular mechanisms that contribute to astrogliosis and secondary neuronal cell death.

“I feel like I made a difference to many people”

— SEEDS Mentor

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## A tribute to our Speed Mentors at the Miller School of Medicine



**Dr. Sharon Elliot**

Research Associate Professor, Nephrology  
[www.med.miami.edu/medicine/](http://www.med.miami.edu/medicine/)

Dr. Elliot works in the field of receptor biology with research on hormonal regulation of extracellular matrix accumulation in diseases of the eye, kidney and the skin.



**Dr. Lora Flemming**

Professor, Epidemiology & Public Health  
<http://chroma.med.miami.edu/epi/>

Dr. Fleming's research & teaching focus on Occupational and Environmental Medicine & Epidemiology. She holds the position of director for several projects in Florida, is a consultant in her field both locally and internationally, and serves on a number of taskforces & committees.

## Photos of our speed mentors in action



# A tribute to our Speed Mentors at RSMAS



**Dr. Falk Amelung**  
Associate Professor  
Active Volcanism & Tectonics  
[www.rsmas.miami.edu/div/mgg](http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/div/mgg)

Dr. Amelung uses geodetic data derived from satellite radar to study the crustal deformation processes. He also studies active volcanoes & active tectonics primarily in the Hawaiian Islands, the Galapagos Islands, and in Central America & Northern South America.



**Dr. Shuyi Chen**  
Professor  
coupled atmosphere-ocean modeling  
[www.rsmas.miami.edu/divs/mpo](http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/divs/mpo)

Dr. Chen's work includes mesoscale & tropical meteorology, atmospheric convection, air-sea interactions, coupled atmosphere-wave-ocean modeling of tropical cyclones, coastal meteorology, & numerical weather prediction.



**Dr. Will Drennan**  
Associate Professor, Applied Marine  
Physics  
<http://cesp.miami.edu/>

Dr. Drennan's current research focuses on processes at the air-sea interface and includes aspects of both climate change and hurricanes. He also has interest in development issues.



**Dr. Rana Fine**  
Professor, Marine & Atmospheric  
Chemistry  
<http://peas.rsmas.miami.edu/divs/mac>

Dr. Fine's research is to understand the role of the oceans in climate change occurring on time scales of up to decades. She studies the physical processes that determine the capacity of the oceans to take up atmospheric constituents, such as carbon dioxide.



**Dr. Bruce Albrecht**  
Professor, Cloud-Climate interactions  
boundary layer structure & processes  
<http://artemis.rsmas.miami.edu/>

Dr. Albrecht's work includes atmospheric convection, boundary layer structure & clouds, air craft turbulence & microphysics measurements, cloud-climate interactions, tropical meteorology, remote sensing of clouds & precipitation.



**Dr. Jackie Dixon**  
Interim Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

Dr. Dixon has served on the University of Miami faculty since 1992. She was named Interim Dean in May 2009 and is a professor of geological sciences and geophysics. She received an Early Career Development award from the National Science Foundation for excellence in research and education and is internationally recognized for her research on the Earth's deep carbon dioxide and water budgets.



**Dr. Joe Serafy**  
Professor of Marine Biology & Fisheries  
[www.rsmas.miami.edu/divs/mbf](http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/divs/mbf)

Dr. Serafy's research focuses on two things: 1) examining the role of the seagrass-mangrove-reef complex in the ontogeny of economically-valuable coral reef fish and 2) furthering knowledge of the early life history of pelagic gamefish and their relationship with the environment.



**Dr. Michael Schmale**  
Professor of Marine Biology & Fisheries  
[www.rsmas.miami.edu/divs/mbf](http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/divs/mbf)

Dr. Schmale's research lies in the development of marine animal models of disease process, with particular emphasis on cancer. He is investigating the causative agents, distribution and mechanisms of carcinogenesis of naturally occurring, transmissible tumors in one species of fish on South Florida reefs.

SCIENTISTS &  
ENGINEERS  
EXPANDING DIVERSITY  
& SUCCESS  
(SEEDS)

# SEEDS

Encouraging diversity & growth, one seed at a time.

## Principal Investigator



**Dr. Kathryn Tosney**  
Director of SEEDS  
College of Arts & Sciences

## Co— Investigators



**Dr. Roni Avissar**  
Dean, RSMAS



**Dr. Pascal Goldschmidt**  
Dean, Miller Medical School



**Dr. Jacqueline Dixon**  
Interim Dean, College of Arts &  
Sciences



**Dr. James Tien**  
Dean, College of Engineering

## Steering Committee



**Dr. Rana Fine**  
RSMAS



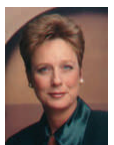
**Dr. Susan Sponaugle**  
RSMAS



**Dr. Barbara Whitlock**  
College of Arts & Science



**Dr. Sheri Keitz**  
Miller School of Medicine



**Dr. Mary Lou King**  
Miller School of Medicine



**Dr. Helena Solo-Gabriele**  
College of Engineering

## Other SEEDS Personnel



**Dr. Robert Johnson**  
Director of Assessment



**Jennifer Burke**  
Interactive Theatre Director



**Natasha Jobbagy**  
SEEDS Program Manager



## Scientists & Engineers Expanding Diversity & Success

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**SEEDS Director: Dr. Kathryn Tosney**  
**SEEDS Program Manager: Natasha Jobbagy**

**The SEEDS Office** covers all four University of Miami science colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences, Rosentiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, College of Engineering, and the Miller School of Medicine. SEEDS is funded by an NSF ADVANCE for Women in Science grant, with significant cost-share from Provost Tom LeBlanc. SEEDS orchestrates programs, maintains a website to assure dissemination of SEEDS and other diversity information, works with chairs and search committees to address implicit bias issues and to aid recruitment and retention of women and underrepresented minorities, and forms a UM-wide entity that is visibly focused on science and engineering careers and diversity.

We're on the web:  
[www.as.miami.edu/seeds/](http://www.as.miami.edu/seeds/)

# Calendar Highlights

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- Planning for Speed Mentoring Events for all UM Campuses

## OCTOBER

- What:** SEEDS Annual Networking Dinner & Interactive Theatre Debut .
- Who:** SEEDS special invited guest to this event is President Shalala
- When:** October 19th at 4:30 pm

## NOVEMBER

- Dr. Judith Swan hosts a Scientific Writing Workshop
- 1st SEEDS Forum on navigating the NIH system (1 of 5 forums scheduled)

For descriptions, times and places of scheduled events, view the SEEDS calendar at <http://www.as.miami.edu/seeds/calendar> . If you'd like to get involved with SEEDS, host an event, have us sponsor a mentor, or have questions, please contact the SEEDS Office at (305) 284-3988 or [seeds@miami.edu](mailto:seeds@miami.edu) and we will be happy to assist you.