

e-newsletter

Message From the Dean

As we move toward our strategic goals of increased enrollments and degree production, I expect UGS operations to grow in all aspects of our services. We have a dedicated group of staff members who are very committed to working synergistically. They are guided by our dynamic leadership team on a daily basis. I would like to use this *e-news* edition to outline the roles of our leadership team so you know whom to contact on any given issue. These roles listed below, are somewhat artificial boundaries, and in reality, more than one of us deal with a given situation. But it would be helpful for you to know who the designated lead is on a certain matter and make sure that person is in the loop when you contact UGS.

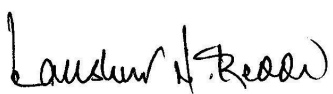
Dr. Victoria Castellanos, Associate Dean of UGS – Academic Affairs: Policies and Procedures; Liaison with Graduate Council, University Curriculum Committee, and College Associate Deans; UGS approval of International/Off-site Agreements; Annual Program Assessments; UGS/DoR Graduate Research Center; Fellowships and Graduate Assistantships.

Dr. Kevin O’Shea, Associate Dean of UGS – Special Projects: Annual Doctoral Student Evaluations; Evaluation of DAS/GF applications and renewals; Coordination of DASEC; Assessment and external reviews of doctoral programs.

Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter, Assistant Dean of UGS – Student Affairs: Petitions for exceptions to graduate policies and procedures; Grievances and Academic Misconduct; Graduate student professional development; Recruitment and minority programs; Liaison with graduate student bodies.

Mr. Louis Farnsworth, Director – Academic Support Services: UGS Operations including graduate admissions; Budget; Project management and staff coordination; UGS data and computer systems.

Thank You,



News

A Brief Note About Numbers and Comparisons

Total graduate enrollment at FIU increased by 4.5% between Fall 2010 and Fall 2011. Enrollments in Masters programs increased by 5.8% and those in research doctoral programs increased by only 1%. Although our increase in total graduate enrollment is above the national average of 3.3%, the relative increases in masters and doctoral enrollments do not follow the national trend. The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) reports that enrollments at doctoral level are increasing faster than at the masters level during recent years – 3.3% vs. 0.5%.

Doctoral degree production at FIU increased from 115 in 2009 – ’10 to 148 in 2010 – ’11, an increase of about 29%. Masters degrees awarded have seen an increase from 2341 in ’09-’10 to 2550 in ’10-’11, an increase of about 9%. In both of these categories, FIU exceeded national averages.

UGS Benefits for Students Awarded External Fellowships

In order to encourage students to compete for external fellowships, UGS has developed a policy to grant partial or full tuition waivers in grant proposals that do not allow budget for full tuition, provide full health insurance benefits, and possibly award supplemental funds to bring total stipends on par with departmental teaching assistantships. These benefits must be negotiated in the pre-award phase through the UGS/DoR Graduate Grants Coordinator, Arie Spigel. A full description of this policy will be posted shortly at UGS website.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund for Collaborative Research Travel Grants

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund's Collaborative Research Travel Grants program provides up to \$15,000 in support for Ph.D. candidates, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty researchers to travel domestically or internationally on research assignments.

Applicants must hold a Ph.D. (or be pursuing a Ph.D.) in mathematics, physics, chemistry, computer science, statistics, or engineering and be interested in research opportunities in the biological sciences. Biologists interested in working with physical scientists, mathematicians, engineers, chemists, statisticians, or computer scientists are also eligible to apply. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. at the time of application.

Grants cannot be used for travel to domestic or international meetings or to cover salary support.

Deadline: **December 1, 2011**

<http://www.bwfund.org/pages/481/Collaborative-Research-Travel-Grants/>

2012 McKnight Doctoral Fellowship

The Florida Education Fund’s McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program is designed to increase the pool of candidates qualified with Ph.D. degrees to teach at the college and university levels.

It is a great funding opportunity for talented undergraduate seniors and master’s degree students who plan to pursue a Ph.D. This five year fellowship includes a \$12,500 stipend plus a \$10,000 UGS enhancement per year for the first three years, followed by a graduate assistantship for years 4 and 5. Recipients also receive a tuition waiver and health insurance. Any questions regarding the application process can be directed to Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter (smontash@fiu.edu). Students apply online at www.fefonline.org/mdfapply and all application materials must be submitted/postmarked no later than **January 15, 2012**. Applicants must be admitted to their academic program before the annual selection meeting in early March.

Graduate Events

Important Deadlines

Graduate Open House

Saturday, October 29, 2011
10:00 a.m.—Noon
GC Ballrooms, MMC

Burroughs Wellcome Fund for collaborative research travel grants application -

December 1, 2011

Deadline to submit McKnight Doctoral application materials -

January 15, 2012

Deadline to submit UGS McNair Graduate Fellowship applications -

March 1, 2012

Professional Development Opportunities for Graduate Students

Best Practices - Teaching English-Language Learners

Tuesday, October 25, 2011
2:00 p.m.
GL 154

TA Fundamentals -

Working with Groups

Wednesday, November 2, 2011
9:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 3, 2011

3:30 p.m.

Friday, November 4, 2011

11:30 a.m.

Each session will be held in GL 154.

Best Practices - Course Design

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

GL 154

(For further details regarding the TA Fundamentals Workshops, Best Practices Workshops or TA Certification, please visit the [CAT website](#).)

Graduate Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) Workshops -

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

-or-

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

-or-

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Each session will be held in PC 416.

Please register [here](#).

