Message From the Dean

As we move toward our strategic goals of increased enrollments and degree pro-
duction, 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 syner-
gistically. They are guided by our dynamic leadership team on a daily basis.
I would like to use this e-newsletter 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 Commit-
tee, and College Associate Deans; UGS approval of International Offsite Agree-
ments; Annual Program Assessments; UGS/DoR Graduate Research Center; Fel-
lowships and Graduate Assistantships.

Dr. Kevin O'Shea, Associate Dean of UGS – Special Projects: Annual Doc-
toral Student Evaluations; Evaluation of DAS/GF applications and renewals; Co-
ordination 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 mi-
nority programs; Liaison with graduate student bodies.

Mr. Louis Farnsworth, Director – Academic Support Services: UGS Opera-
tions including graduate admissions; Budget; Project management and staff coor-
dination; UGS data and computer systems.

Thank You,

![Image]

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 mas-
ters 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 – 109 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 de-
veloped 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 possi-
bly 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 Spirgel. A full de-
scription 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 assign-
ments. 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 re-
search 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 per-
manently resident students 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 de-
signed 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 appli-
cation process can be directed to Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter (sonjash@fiu.edu).
Students apply online at www.fefonline.org/mdfund/ and all application materi-
als 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 col-
laborative research travel grants
application -
December 1, 2011

Deadline to submit McKnight Doc-
toral 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
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
GL 154

(For further details regarding the TA Fundamentals Workshops, Best Prac-
tices 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.

Graduate Fellowship application
- December 1, 2011

For further details regarding the TA Fundamentals Workshops, Best Pract-
tices Workshops or TA Certification, please visit the CAT website.)

Please visit the CAT website.)

Please register here.