

e-newsletter

Message From the Dean

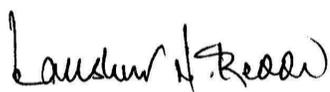
The quality of our doctoral programs benefits greatly from the monitoring of student progress, using the annual doctoral student evaluation forms, and from attention to the level of scholarly work as evident from doctoral dissertations.

A cursory survey of the doctoral student annual evaluations completed over the past two years demonstrates that many students have benefited from constructive assessments from their major professors and dissertation committee. The evaluations are also valuable for identifying those few students who need to reevaluate their academic goals and their fit with major professors and/or programs. Identifying and documenting student issues early on will save programs time and money. Almost all of our time-to-completion grievances, and complaints associated with relationships between students and their mentor or program, could have been eliminated if candid annual evaluations were completed during early stages. There is a national trend toward individual tracking of doctoral students; we are clearly ahead of our peers in terms of identifying the importance of monitoring student progress (with annual evaluations) and effective mentoring (with Carnegie assessments).

It is painfully obvious to me during the last few weeks of every semester that some dissertations are being rushed through the process without being given the scrutiny and rigor they deserve. The few dissertations I ended up sending back to the colleges during the last few semesters were embarrassingly poor in terms of their writing quality, data presentation, and scope of their scholarly work. UGS and I do not have discipline-specific knowledge to evaluate each and every dissertation, so we have to rely on the major professor and supervisory committee to ensure quality and originality of the dissertations. The few poor dissertations I ended up sending back did not demand any discipline-specific knowledge in making my judgment. In a couple of cases, I found it necessary to send the dissertation to outside experts for their review.

Our doctoral enrollments are steadily rising and we have a good track record of placing our doctoral students in faculty positions at other schools. It is very important in these growing stages that we monitor and measure our success one student at a time.

Thank You,



News

Florida Gubernatorial Fellows Program

The Executive Office of the Governor is now accepting applications for the next class of Florida Gubernatorial Fellows. This nonpartisan program provides outstanding leadership opportunities for students from all majors and disciplines to gain firsthand experience in state government. The program attracts Florida's best and brightest undergraduate and graduate students to serve the people of Florida for two semesters in Tallahassee. For more information and eligibility requirements, please visit www.floridafellows.com. Applications for the 2013-2014 Gubernatorial Fellows Class IX will be available online through **Friday, March 8, 2013.**

On **Tuesday, November 27, 2012**, the director of the program will be holding an information session at 3:00 p.m. in GC 316 for students, faculty, and staff. Any questions can be directed to Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter (smontash@fiu.edu).

UGS Member Receives FIU Sustainability Award

Due to his contributions to the development of the Electronic Theses and Dissertation (ETD) program at UGS, ETD coordinator Philip Bolton, Jr. was one of the recipients of an FIU Sustainability Award at the Service and Recognition Awards ceremony held on November 1, 2012. The ETD has become a vital aspect in the final submission of dissertations and theses, and its "green" oriented model has been key for a successful implementation. Congratulations to Philip!

Dissertation Writing Retreat

In coordination with the FIU Center for Excellence in Writing, UGS will once again host the Dissertation Writing Retreat. The dissertation writing retreat is designed to help participants make substantial progress towards completing their dissertation. The goal is to help writers who are stalled, isolated, off-track, or working towards project completion. Participants will:

- Have the opportunity to meet with a representative from FIU Statistical Consulting
- Create an individual work plan and establish daily writing goals
- Meet with a Writing Retreat representatives to discuss progress

Interested students should visit <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/downloads/UGS-CEW-Writing-Retreat-fall-12.pdf>. Completed forms must be returned to Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter (smontash@fiu.edu) by **Monday, December 3rd, 2012**. There are only 10 spots available for the retreat. Each applicant will be reviewed to establish the current stage of the dissertation writing process and readiness for writing.

Graduate Events

Florida Gubernatorial Fellows Program Information Session

Tuesday, November 27, 2012
3:00 p.m.

Graham Center 316, MMC

FIU Graduate Day with the Dolphins

Sunday, December 16, 2012

1:00 p.m.

Sun Life Stadium

For ticket information visit the [UGS Facebook Page](#).

Graduate Student Workshops

APA Guidelines for Citing Sources in References: Reference List Construction and Reference Components

Monday, November 26, 2012

4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

ZEB 330, MMC

How to Improve the Organization of Your Paper

Monday, December 3, 2012

4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

ZEB 330, MMC

For more workshops and Fall 2012 events, go to: <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/Fall-Events-2012.html>

Important Deadlines

Last Day to Admit Spring 2013 Domestic Applicants

Monday, December 10, 2012

(*For more Graduate Admissions deadlines go to: <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/downloads/2013-Deadlines.pdf>)

Final ETD Approval Form Deadline for Students Graduating Fall 2012

Friday, November 30, 2012

Deadline to Enter Spring 2013 Graduate Assistant Contracts

Friday, December 7, 2012

FEF McKnight Graduate Fellowship Deadline

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

FIU McNair Graduate Fellowship Deadline

Friday, March 1, 2013

