**GSAW**

Graduate Student 20 Appreciation Week 12

**February 27 - March 2, 2012**

We are proud to announce this year’s UGS Provost Award Winners!

**Lauren Yeager**
UGS Provost Award for Outstanding Paper or Manuscript

**Dr. Jose Almirall**
UGS Provost Award for Outstanding Mentorship of Graduate Students
For his guidance and mentorship of graduate students within the fields of Forensic Science and Chemistry

**Silvana Herrera**
UGS Provost Award for Creative Product or Performance
For his design work on the Hotel School Check-In Puzzle
Red Neoliberal, and the University City Chamber

**Karen Iglesias**
UGS Provost Award for Graduate Student Engagement
For her dedication and involvement with FIU and the local community, as well as her work on the "White Rails" project, PHPFAR and other contributions within Public Health

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**NEWS**

**Announcing New Grade Option for Thesis and Dissertation Credits**

The University Graduate School would like to announce a new grading option for thesis and dissertation credits, the grade of U or Unsatisfactory. The U grade allows faculty another tool to use in the evaluation of student performance.

The U grade was added in response to the need for a grading option that conveys to a student that his/her progress toward completion of a thesis or dissertation does not meet the expectations of the faculty and/or committee but that neither would have an effect on the student’s GPA nor interfere with the student’s ability to continue working toward completion of his/her dissertation. Thus, when a student's performance is not satisfactory, the instructor of record has the choice to assign the student a grade of U, which will not affect the GPA, or F, which will affect the GPA in the same way that a grade of C or D would.

**Important Dates**

**ETD Workshops**
- February 22
- 3-5PM
- DM144

**February 29**
- TBA Online

Register for ETD workshops within the following address:
http://libguides.fiu.edu/etd

**Deadline to Submit**
- UGS McNair Graduate Fellowship applications
- March 1, 2012

**Deadline to Submit**
- 2nd round of Presidential Fellowship Nominations
- Thursday, March 20, 2012

**UFS Website and Social Media Channels**

**Feedback Needed**

The University Graduate School is in the process of revamping most of its digital communications plans. Plans to remodel the website and Facebook/twitter channels are the primary focus and will include the following goals:

- Improve site navigation and efficiency
- Integrate the overall FIEE building
- Update the Web 2.0 feel and modernity
- Create a digital environment conducive to two-way communication
- Widget integration, etc.

If you have any feedback (both positive & negative) in regards to the current website & social media channels, please e-mail dopimental@fiu.edu with your comments/concerns. Your feedback will allow us to provide a dynamic website & platform for easy, enjoyable and effective navigation of our content.

**Early Admission Decisions Can Lead to a Stronger Class of 2012!**

Early admission decisions are crucial to landing the crop of the current graduate students. Many graduate students competing in national fellowship programs, such as the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship program, need early admission decisions in order to be considered for the fellowship. As we compete for top graduate students with our fellow SUS schools, UGS messages that you make admission decisions by early March so that FIU can make a choice for talented students. The McKnight Fellowship is awarded to 40 students statewide and students come to us with tens of thousands of support from the Florida Education Fund. UGS supplements each McKnight fellowship with a $10,000 enhancement.