Dean’s Corner

Continued budget cuts require us to be prudent in our fellowship awards. UGS leadership is considering several measures to make sure that we handle the budget cuts in a way that would not negatively impact graduate programs. The variety of fellowships we have at FIU is unique when compared with the rest of the graduate schools in Florida. Along with McKnight and McNair fellowships, Presidential Fellowship, Dissertation Year Fellowship (DYF), and Dissertation Evidence Acquisition (DEA) Fellowship help us compete for the best of the graduate students during admissions. Our share of McKnight scholar has increased this year, thanks to the dedicated efforts of our Assistant Dean Montas-Hunter, and acceptance rate of our Presidential Fellowship offers has also increased.

With this background on our fellowship funding, I invite the graduate community to visit our blog at blog.gradschool.fiu.edu and engage in a constructive discussion on how to continue to grow in our enrollments. The blog presents a comparison with our peers in terms of MS and PhD enrollments and number of degrees awarded. It also highlights the need for targeted efforts to recruit more international students. I look forward to receiving your comments on the blog.

-Lakshmi Reddi

McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Winners

UGS would like to welcome and congratulate the 2012 cohort of McKnight Doctoral Fellowship winners. This is the largest incoming cohort of McKnight Fellows we’ve had at FIU in one academic year. At FIU, each award provides an annual stipend of $12,000 plus a $10,000 USG enhancement for three academic years. The participating academic unit also provides additional two years of support at this same level. The award also includes a comprehensive system of academic support.

The McKnight Doctoral Fellowship program is designed to address the under-representation of African American and Hispanic faculty at colleges and universities throughout the state of Florida. The McKnight Doctoral Fellowship program is designed to address the under-representation of African American and Hispanic faculty at colleges and universities in the state of Florida. By increasing the pool of citizens qualified with Ph.D. degrees to teach at the college and university levels. Up to 40 Fellowships are awarded annually to students at any of the participating Florida universities.

The selection committee includes leadership from all of the SUS and University of Miami. As the FIU McKnight liaison, UGS is pleased to announce the seven future scholars who have been selected to receive the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship and have been fully accepted to FIU. Please join us in welcoming and wishing them much success on their academic journey.

Carlos Tamayo - Ph.D. Program in Civil Engineering - Graduate of FIU
Jodonnis Rodriguez - Ph.D. Program in Business - Graduate of FIU
Tammy Sanders - Ph.D. Program in Business – Motrosity Institute of Intl. Studies Graduate
Alejandro Diaz - Ph.D. Program in Psychology - Graduate of FIU
Dudith Pierre-Victor - Ph.D. Program in Public Health – Graduate of FIU
Elaine Espinola - Ph.D. Program in Psychology – Graduate of FIU

NFGraduate Research Fellowship Winners

Congratulations to FIU graduate students Mario Consuegra (Computer Science) and Patricia Momenzad (Psychology) for winning NSF Graduate Research Fellowships this year. This is a prestigious honor awarded to some of the top graduate students in the United States. The fellowship comes with a generous, 3-year stipend that allows students to focus on their research while they attend graduate school.

Congratulations are also in order for FIU graduate students Billy Hall (Global and Sociocultural Studies), Seth Manthey (Curriculum and Instruction), and Allison Magozzi (Psychology), for earning Honorable Mentions from the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. This is an incredible accomplishment given the over 12,000 applications NSF receives for this competition each year.

2012-13 Recruitment Enhancement Funds Initiative

UGS is pleased to announce the 2012-13 Recruitment Enhancement Funds Initiative to assist graduate programs in the recruitment of highly qualified doctoral students. Graduate programs offering PhD degrees may apply for these non-recurrent funds until the end of Fall Semester 2012. These funds (up to $5,000) may be used in a variety of ways, based on unit needs, but are subject to UGS approval and require a cost-sharing commitment from the department and/or the College/Graduate School. For more information, visit http://gradschool.fiu.edu/PSF_announcements/Recruitment_Initiative_Announcement.pdf

UGS has also developed a Recruiting Resources webpage to provide further support to academic units in the recruitment of highly qualified graduate students. This webpage features recruitment resources, best practices, FAQs, and the UGS recruitment travel calendar so units are aware of where UGS will be traveling in the future. The Recruiting Resources webpage will be continually updated to offer units recruitment support and should be reviewed on a recurring basis.

For more information on the 2012-13 Recruitment Enhancement Funds Initiative or the new Recruiting Resources webpage, contact Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter or the UGS recruiter, Albert Hoyt.