



Message from the Dean

During my review of the Annual Program Summaries for 2012-'13, it is clear that our doctoral programs continue to rely on Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) allocations to grow their doctoral enrollments. Even in the case of programs where extramural funding is steadily increasing during the past three years, the proportion of doctoral RAs to TAs/GAs is decreasing. This trend is not consistent with what we find at our peer institutions. We should do more to increase the numbers of RAs on research grants while at the same time establishing program-wide practices that would leverage RA funding with TA/GA stipends. Any plans to increase doctoral enrollments should include this strategy.

In the case of programs that generally do not attract significant funding from external sources, there are vast differences in the manner in which Educational and General (E&G) funds are used. The E&G funds used by these programs to graduate a single doctoral student ranged from \$34,000 to \$187,000. This variation is because of several reasons, namely, length of time a student is allowed on a GTA, self-funded students attracted to the program, and other factors.

I urge the programs to engage themselves in a discussion of these factors during their review of Annual Program Summaries. UGS is in the process of analyzing these and other numbers and trends to engage our colleges in strategic enrollment growth plans.

Thank you,

News

FIU/UM Exchange Program

The spring 2014 application deadline for the FIU/UM exchange program is fast approaching! FIU doctoral students and students enrolled in the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Master's programs are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to enroll in up to six graduate credits at UM for Spring 2014. The application deadline is **November 1<sup>st</sup>**. For additional information, please contact Magnolia Hernández at the UGS at [mehernan@fiu.edu](mailto:mehernan@fiu.edu) or (305) 348-1905. The application can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Graduate Open House

Don't miss the Graduate Open House on **Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm in the Graham Center Ballrooms. The program will include both prospective students and spring 2014 admitted students. This major recruitment event is a great opportunity to showcase your programs while connecting with interested future students and students recently admitted to FIU.

To reserve a table for the Information/Academic Fair, please [click here](#). To learn more about the Open House or to share the Open House flyer and agenda with your students, please [click here](#). The deadline to RSVP is **Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**. For more information, please contact Ana Rosado at [arosado@fiu.edu](mailto:arosado@fiu.edu).

Graduate Student Success Stories

Know a student with a good story? The UGS is waiting to learn about major accomplishments and news updates in regards to graduate students in your respective programs. When you have some great student news to share (including publications, presentations at national/international meetings, grants awarded, community outreach activities), please send those to Dr. Lidia Kos ([kosl@fiu.edu](mailto:kosl@fiu.edu)) and/or Dan Pimentel ([dapiment@fiu.edu](mailto:dapiment@fiu.edu)). Selected stories will be featured on our website, included in the UGS Dean's newsletter, and posted on the UGS Facebook page. Recent profiles of students are available at <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/student-spotlight-current.shtml>.

2015 VEF Fellowship Program

The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to announce the 2015 VEF Fellowship Program. The Fellowship application and selection process is open, competitive, and transparent. Applicants do not need to pay any fees to anyone in order to apply or be considered for a VEF Fellowship. Winners are chosen based on individual merit, including academic performance and preparation, intellectual capabilities, English proficiency, and the potential for contribution to scientific education and research. In an effort to increase VEF fellows at FIU, UGS will host an Adobe Connect UGS Information session on **Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**. Please contact Albert Hoyt, [ahoytiii@fiu.edu](mailto:ahoytiii@fiu.edu), to learn how you can participate in the Adobe Connect session. For more information on the VEF Fellowship Program, please visit <http://home.vef.gov/details.php?mid=6&cid=362>.

UGS Assistant Dean Receives Prestigious Award

Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter, Assistant Dean, received the Florida Education Fund President's Award for supporting the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship. In the last three years, UGS has more than doubled the number of these fellows on campus, from twelve fellows in 2012 to thirty that we currently support through the FEF McKnight Doctoral Fellowships.

Established in 1984, the FEF's McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program has increased the number of African Americans who have earned Ph.D.'s in historically underrepresented, crucial disciplines where African Americans have not historically enrolled and completed degree programs. The FEF has awarded more than 750 Fellowships to African Americans and Hispanics pursuing Ph.D.'s, and the Program enjoys an impressive, nearly 80% retention rate. More than 300 Fellows have graduated with Ph.D.'s in an average completion time of 5.5 years.

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/documents/UGS\\_CEW\\_Writing\\_Retreat.pdf](http://gradschool.fiu.edu/documents/UGS_CEW_Writing_Retreat.pdf). Completed forms must be returned to Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter ([smontash@fiu.edu](mailto:smontash@fiu.edu)) by **Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013**. 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

**GPSC Funding Workshop**

Wednesday, November 6, 2013  
5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.  
MMC—GC 140

**Avoiding plagiarism Workshop**

Thursday, November 7, 2013  
3:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.  
MMC—GL 125

**De-Stress Clinic—Balanced Minds**

Thursday, November 13, 2013  
6:00 p.m.  
MMC—GL 166

**Networking Skills Workshop**

Friday, November 21, 2013  
4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.  
MMC—GC 230

**Stress Relief Techniques Workshop**

Friday, November 21, 2013  
4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.  
MMC—GC 166

**UGS Open House**

Saturday, November 23, 2013  
9:30 a.m.—12:00 noon  
MMC—Graham Center Ballrooms

For more Graduate Events, visit:  
<http://gradschool.fiu.edu/cs-professional-development-2013-fall.shtml>

Important Deadlines

**Deadline to Defend Thesis or Dissertations for Fall 2013 Graduation**

Friday, November 15, 2013

**Final ETD Approval Form Deadline**

Friday, December 6, 2013

For more Thesis and Dissertation Deadlines, visit:

<http://gradschool.fiu.edu/electronic-thesis-dissertation-deadlines.shtml>

**Last Day to Admit International Students Living Abroad for Spring 2014**

Monday, November 4, 2013

**Last Day to Issue I-20's for International Students Living Abroad for Spring 2014**

Monday, November 18, 2013

For more Graduate Admissions deadlines, visit:

[http://gradschool.fiu.edu/documents/Grad\\_Admissions\\_Deadlines.pdf](http://gradschool.fiu.edu/documents/Grad_Admissions_Deadlines.pdf)

