Graduate School
Annual Report
2008-2009

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of introduction for the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Graduate School. We have had a very exciting year developing a new mission and strategic goals and procedures that align with USF and focus on the Graduate School becoming a hub of leadership for graduate education that helps pave the way for our future global leaders. We have had the wonderful opportunity this year to partner with the Office of Research and Innovation to develop new research initiatives for our students, such as the Student Research Challenge Grants and participation in the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Global Venture Challenge Awards. We also are working closely with the Provost’s Office in the development of an Office of Postdoctoral Affairs in the Graduate School that will bring together postdoctoral scholars across USF and help prepare them for their future academic pursuits.

In the pages ahead you will see how our master’s and doctoral headcounts and enrollment continue to climb and that we are committed to a diverse and vibrant domestic and international student body. This year we have made a concerted effort to reach out to graduate students with increased numbers of workshops and seminars that will better position our students to complete their degrees in a timely fashion and with academic excellence. Our recruitment efforts have been expanded, as have our fellowships and awards that will help USF obtain, retain, and graduate the best and brightest graduate students to be highly competitive in an ever changing global marketplace.

We have had a most productive year and we in the Graduate School look forward to a bright year ahead filled with exciting education and research opportunities for our graduate students!

Sincerely,

Karen D. Liller, PhD  
Dean of the Graduate School  
Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation
Graduate School Strategic Goals

- Enhance domestic and international recruitment, and enrollment of graduate students that reflects diversity.

- Incorporate academic procedures and policies that allow for students’ success and smooth transition to becoming alumni.

- Partner with the Office of Research and Innovation to develop creative initiatives that promote graduate student research.

- Serve as a leader in promoting interdisciplinary graduate programs.

- Partner with the University in promoting the recruitment and retention of postdoctoral students.

Sources: Informart, FAST, OASIS, Student Data Course File, and Internal Graduate School Databases.
Enhance domestic and international recruitment, and enrollment of graduate students that reflects diversity.
Active Recruiting Efforts

International Recruiting

Graduate Enrollment Trends

Graduate Student Headcount

Graduate Student Diversity

From Enrollment to Graduation

Doctoral Degrees Conferred

Master’s Degrees Conferred
Enrollment Management: Active Recruiting Efforts

An engaged and diverse graduate student body starts with an active commitment to recruit the best students. Whether Graduate School recruiters were visiting respective colleges, participating in recruitment fairs, or partnering with USF programs to identify and support campus visits, the Graduate School was actively involved in recruiting efforts during the 2008-2009 academic year. These efforts resulted in a 6% increase in applications for master’s programs and a 9% increase in applications to doctoral programs.

University/College Recruiting Visits

- Spelman College – Honors Programs
- Morehouse College – National Trio
- Florida A&M University – FEEDER Program/Conference
- Ronald E. McNair National Research Conference – University of Tennessee
- Barry University
- University of Central Florida
- Florida Atlantic University
- University of North Florida
- Florida International University
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students
- Atlanta University Consortium
- Eckerd College
- Florida Memorial University
- Florida State University
- University of Florida

![Percent Increase in Graduate Applications (07-08 to 08-09)](chart.png)
Enrollment Management: International Recruiting

USF is engaged in active efforts to increase the presence of International students on campus. USF is a member of NAFSA: Association of International Educators and regularly attends the regional and annual conferences to promote international education. In addition, Graduate School recruiters traveled to Belize for the Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation and the Washington International Education Council (WIEC) annual conference. While at the WIEC, USF visited the Bahrainian, Swedish, Russian, and United Arab Emirates Embassies, as well as the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to establish dialogues about international student partnerships.
Enrollment Management: Graduate Enrollment Trends

USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a Research University with Very High Research Activity. This designation is supported by a 66% increase in the number of graduate students between Fall 1999 and Spring 2009. Currently, 19% of the student population at USF is pursuing a doctoral or master’s degree. For the 2009-2010 academic year, USF will offer 43 doctoral programs and 134 M.A./Ed.S. programs.
Total graduate student headcount across all USF campuses in Spring 2009 was 8353. At the doctoral level, 61% of the students were full-time, while 41% of all master’s-level students were full-time. Females comprised 56% of all doctoral students and 67% of all master’s-level students. Diversity enrollment at USF remains very strong and constitutes approximately 20% of the doctoral and 23% of all master’s-level students.
Enrollment Management: Graduate Student Diversity

USF is committed to a diverse student body and this is reflected in the graduate student population. Students of diversity (African American, Native American, Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander) constitute approximately 22% of the graduate student population. In addition, 9% of the graduate student population are international students and over 60% are women.
Recruiting graduate students to enroll in a degree program is only the first step. One of the goals of graduate education is to provide the opportunities and support for students to experience a quality graduate education and successfully complete their degrees. The fundamental behaviors that determine time-to-degree and degree productivity reside at the program level. These behaviors need diligent review and continued emphasis so that degree productivity matches trends in enrollment growth. The Graduate School leadership is committed to numerous initiatives to ensure the quality of graduate education at USF. These include establishing additional fellowships, development of more graduate student workshops, and continued partnering with individual programs to evaluate enrollment management strategies as well as the time-to-degree.
Enrollment Management:
From Enrollment to Graduation
Doctoral Degrees Conferred

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>277</td>
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08-09 numbers based on approved doctoral submissions.
Enrollment Management: From Enrollment to Graduation
Master’s Degrees Conferred

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<td>07/08</td>
<td>2313</td>
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<td>08/09</td>
<td>2463</td>
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Incorporate academic procedures and polices that allow for student success and smooth transition to becoming alumni.
Graduate School Policies

Student Success Graduate Fellowships

Presidential Doctoral Fellowships

Graduate Student Support: Stipends

Graduate Student Support: Tuition Waivers

Academic Workshops

Graduate and Professional Student Council
Graduate School Policy

The Academics administrative team works with the USF Graduate Council and Graduate Coordinators to review and modify graduate policy in an effort to be actively responsive to changes in graduate education. Listed below are the specific policy changes for the 2009-2010 Graduate Catalog:

**ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL CANDIDACY (12/17/07)**
Clarified policy that it was clear students were expected to meet the requirements for candidacy while at USF (versus taking a qualifying exam at another university, etc.).

**REGULATION: 33-002 FORMAL IMMUNIZATION POLICY (12/17/07)**
Reviewed and recommended proposed changes to the immunization policy, which added information for Hepatitis B and Meningitis.

**FIRST CLASS ATTENDANCE (9/15/08)**
Rescinded and reverted to previous policy that provides for colleges to establish the first course attendance policy. Students will not be automatically dropped from a course the fifth day of classes, but are responsible for dropping the course if they do not wish to continue enrollment in that course.

**REGULATION: USF 3.027 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY OF STUDENTS (10/20/08)**
Complete revision of previous policy. Recommended for approval; BOT Approved 12/11/08.

**INCOMPLETE GRADES (11/17/08)**
Revised policy to further clarify requirements, including that it is awarded at the instructor’s discretion only when the student cannot complete the requirements due to circumstances beyond their control, that the student must have satisfactory work at the time of the request, and that the majority of work for the course must have been completed. The revision also includes a reduction in time to complete the “I” grade from two to one semesters.

**REGULATION: USF 3.025 DISRUPTION OF ACADEMIC PROCESS (12/1/08)**
Complete revision of previous policy. Recommended for approval; BOT Approved 12/11/08.

**ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES (12/10/08)**
Revised and approved to match regulations 3.025, 3.027.

**READMISSION (12/15/08), (1/12/09)**
Revised and clarified policy; eliminated “reinstatement” as an option. Students who drop into non-degree seeking status must reapply for admission. Added information in the policy regarding readmission requirements, time limits for coursework and impact on doctoral candidacy.
TRANSFER OF CREDIT (4/17/08), (12/15/08) and (1/12/09)
Clarified policy for GPA requirements, time limits, undergraduate courses taken but not applied toward the undergraduate degree, professional degrees, and readmission, etc.

DOCTORAL MINIMUM HOURS (12/15/08)
Revised and clarified policy to ensure that doctoral programs with a concentration have core major requirements that all students must complete and that doctoral programs must require at least one gradable course to satisfy the GPA requirements for graduation.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE POLICIES (12/15/08)
Reaffirmation that students applying to Graduate Certificate programs must meet the Graduate Admission GPA requirements.

TIME LIMITATIONS (1/12/09)
Clarified time limits for courses taken both prior to admission to USF and taken as a USF degree seeking student. Courses taken prior to admission to the USF graduate program can be no older than 7 years at the time of graduation for master’s and Ed.S. or 8 years for doctoral. Courses taken once admitted to the USF graduate program must be completed by the stated time limit (5 years for Master’s/Ed.S. and 8 years for doctoral). There is no time limit for courses from a completed master’s applied toward a doctoral program. Time limit extensions apply to coursework as well.

MAJOR PROFESSORS (MP) (1/12/09)
Clarified policy for obtaining a replacement Major Professor. In the event a Major Professor is unable or unwilling to continue serving on the student’s committee, the student is responsible for finding another Major Professor. Students who are unable to find a replacement Major Professor should confer with the Program Director for available options (including converting to a non-thesis program if available.) If no other options exist the student may be requested to voluntarily withdraw from the program or may be honorably withdrawn in good academic standing.

Other key revisions noted for the record:
USF COLLEGE REALIGNMENT (8/11/08)
Provost’s realignment of colleges/departments (format of curricular offerings has been revised accordingly).

ASSISTANTSHIP INFORMATION
Addition of Assistantship Information, as extracted from the Graduate Assistantship Handbook.

UNIVERSITY ADMISSION DEADLINES (n/a)
Moved the University Admission Deadlines for Summer and Fall from 3/1, 3/15 to 2/15 for 2010
*programs may have earlier deadlines; professional programs have a 6/1 deadline.

ADMISSION DEADLINES AND ACADEMIC DISMISSAL
For clarity, new sections were created from existing policy in the Catalog.
Graduate School Fellowships: Student Success Fellowships

The Graduate School administered over $2 million in scholarship/fellowship funds during the 2008-2009 year that funded 269 students. In addition to providing stipends to support the students, many of these awards also included full or partial tuition waivers to allow students to concentrate on academics and research.

2008/2009 Academic Year Fellowship Awards

<table>
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<th>Award Name</th>
<th>Total Funds</th>
<th>Students Supported</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Presidential Doctoral Fellowship</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diverse Student Success Fellowship</td>
<td>$565,105</td>
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<tr>
<td>McKnight Doctoral Fellowship</td>
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<td>University Graduate Fellowship</td>
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<td>Delores Auzenne Fellowship</td>
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<td>International Student Success</td>
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<td>Genshaft Family Doctoral Fellowship</td>
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<td>Graduate DSS Summer Program</td>
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<td>The Kreplick Graduate Fellowship</td>
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USF Graduate Fellows, whether representing the Presidential Doctoral Fellowship, the Diverse Student Success programs, Foundation Fellowships such as the Genshaft Family Doctoral Fellowship, or the McKnight Program comprise a diverse population of students, disciplines and research interests that epitomize the Graduate School goal of "producing present-day and future global leaders, one student at a time.” In 2008-2009, 60 incoming students received awards.
The USF Presidential Doctoral Fellowship remains one of the most prestigious fellowships offered by the Graduate School. To maintain the rigor of this program, the selection process for the Fellows was modified in 2009 to include annual progress reports from current fellows and history reports of past fellows. Starting in 2010, all fellows will be required to submit progress reports and yearly goals to promote time-to-degree and tracking. To enhance the interaction of these top scholars and facilitate the dissemination of information from the Graduate School, a Presidential learning community was established on Blackboard in 2009.

**Current Presidential Statistics:**

- 31 current Fellows
- 13 graduates
- $700,000 in annual Fellowship awards

**The 31 Fellows are distributed in the programs across 7 of the 10 colleges:**

- Aging Studies (2)
- Applied Anthropology (4)
- Business Administration (1)
- Communication (1)
- Criminology (1)
- Education – Special Education (1)
- Engineering – Electrical (1)
- English (2)
- Geology (1)
- Integrative Biology (2)
- Marine Science (4)
- Mathematics (1)
- Music Education (2)
- Philosophy (2)
- Physics (1)
- Psychology (3)
- Public Health (2)
Graduate School Fellowships: Presidential Doctoral Fellowship

“I have received exposure on the international scene and met world-renowned analysts who have expressed interest in my work. None of this would have been possible had I not received the Presidential Doctoral Fellowship.”

**CECILE VAN DE VOORDE**
Presidential Doctoral Fellow
Criminology

“The Presidential Fellowship has given me flexibility in choosing classes and exploring research areas, helping me bridge two very different disciplines.”

**HELEN ZAYAC**
Presidential Doctoral Fellow
Aging Studies
Graduate Student Support: Stipends

The sources of stipends that support graduate student assistantships include E&G (Education and General, from state funds), C&G (Contract and Grant, from funded research) and AUX (auxiliary, from various revenue producing activities). Graduate stipends from all sources totaled $16M in 2007-2008 but increased to over $28 million in 2008-2009.

*Summer 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009*
Graduate Student Support: Tuition Waivers

Graduate students employed through assistantships qualify for tuition waivers. About 20% of all graduate students receive support through graduate assistantships. In 2009, the total waiver allocation was $15M. This represents a $6M increase since 2003-2004 and reflects the commitment of USF to support students that receive assistantships.
**Academic Workshops**

The Graduate Student Success (GSS) unit is committed to providing outreach to all students in order to promote increased communication, productivity, retention and time-to-degree. A major initiative is the scheduling of workshops where students can interact directly with faculty on pertinent topics. For some of these workshops the GSS unit partners with the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC), as well as the Black Graduate and Professional Student Council (BGPSC). Many of these workshops are posted to the Graduate School website so that they are available to students who were unable to attend. A goal for future workshops is to produce a video of the event and have this available on the website.

**Workshops that were offered during the 2008-2009 academic year:**

- “Romance and Graduate School: Specific Issues Facing Black Graduate Students.” (*co-sponsored by the Black Graduate and Professional Student Council*)
- “Funding Sources, Tips, and Strategies to Get Your Research Funded.”
- “Faculty and Graduate Student Perspectives on Academic Conference Participation.”
- “Black Graduates’ Advice: Pursuing Academic and Non-Academic Jobs Upon Graduation.” (*co-sponsored by the Black Graduate and Professional Student Council*)
- “Graduate School Women: Balancing School & Family Commitments.”
- “Selecting a Thesis/Dissertation Topic and Setting up a Committee.”
- “Preparing your Work for Presentation at a Research Conference.”
- “Demystifying the Publication Process.”
Graduate and Professional Student Council

The GPSC consists of elected officials who serve to foster interaction between graduate and professional students through community service, social and academic events. The GPSC provides a voice for graduate and professional students through representation on university-wide committees and advocating student interests to the administration.

Key GPSC Initiatives

Continue to provide administer the Conference Presentation Grant Program to assist graduate students traveling to professional conferences for presenting their research.

Lobby for graduate students to qualify for need-based scholarship from financial aid. Graduate students pay over $1 million dollars per year in financial aid fees and until the GPSC lobbied for it, graduate students did not qualify for these need-based grants. Now graduate students qualify for these need-based grants.

Recommend graduate students for appointment on university-wide committees and councils so that the graduate student voice is represented.

Lobby for a graduate student financial aid counselor to better meet the specific needs of graduate students.

Help organize the Presidential Lunch and Learn where graduate students have the opportunity to have lunch with the President and voice their concerns.

GPSC Sponsored Events

- Graduate Student Orientation
- Graduate Student Appreciation Week
- Graduate Student Awards Banquet
- Hispanic Heritage Kick Off event (co-sponsor)
- Night of Cultural Diversity
- Graduate Student Organization Leaders Advisory Committee
- Interdisciplinary Conference on Emerging Paradigms
- Research Week Poster Competition (co-sponsor)
Partner with the Office of Research and Innovation to develop creative initiatives that promote graduate student research.
Oak Ridge National Laboratory Global Venture Challenge

Interdisciplinary Research Challenge Grants

Research One Week
The Graduate School helped coordinate efforts so that graduate student teams participated in the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Global Venture Challenge that this year focused upon industrial energy efficiency. Student teams from 15 universities were selected to advance to the semi-final round of the Challenge that was held at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory in March, 2009.

The 2009 teams were: Clark Atlanta University/Morehouse College; Duke University; Lund University; Missouri University of Science & Technology; Purdue University; South Dakota State University; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Memphis; University of North Carolina, Charlotte; University of South Florida (2 teams); University of Tennessee; University of Toledo; University of Washington; and West Virginia University. USF was the only school that had two teams selected, although only one team could participate in the competition. The Global Venture Challenge, now in its third year, is an educational contest featuring entrepreneurial and technology-based business proposals presented by students from around the world. This year's Challenge, supported by the Department of Energy's Office of Industrial Technologies and UT-Battelle, included an Energy Venture Showcase of energy efficiency products and services from several participating companies.

The USF participating team was comprised of graduate students Jason Lewis, Barbara Bennington, and Jaideep Rajput. Lewis, a Ph.D. candidate in physics, has created the Flexible Organic Photovoltaic Energy Collector (FOPEC), a new type of solar array based on environmentally friendly organic soft semiconductors built on a flexible substrate. With the help of teammates, Bennington (a Ph.D. student in communication) and Rajput (an MBA student), USF-FOPEC team presented its debut show in Oak Ridge. Faculty advisor for the team, Dr. Xiaomei Jiang, said she is proud of the team’s achievement. “I am honored to have led our USF-FOPEC team which is interdisciplinary in nature,” she said. “This gives us the strength to achieve the prestige of accomplishment and real-world impact of
Interdisciplinary Research Challenge Grants:
Building Partnerships Across Disciplines

In 2008, the Graduate School and the Office of Research and Innovation partnered to provide seed funding to interdisciplinary teams of graduate students to pursue research in the signature research areas of USF. The Research Council judged the proposals and seven projects were awarded funds. These projects represent true interdisciplinary collaboration among the students and their mentors. Progress reports are due in July, 2009 and final reports in January, 2010. We congratulate each team and their mentors for their efforts in helping to create exemplary student researchers.

1. Title: Algal Production of Biofuel from sewage: An Interdisciplinary Collaboration on Renewable Energy via Sustainable Resource Recovery.

Research Team:
- Ana Lucia Prieto – College of Engineering – Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Joshua Berger – College of Arts and Sciences – Geography (ES&P program)
- Brandon Smeltzer – College of Engineering – Chemical & Biomedical Engineering
- Erica Turner – College of Arts and Sciences – Chemistry

2. Title: Reading Development Electrified: Semantic and Syntactic Integration During Sentence Comprehension in School-age Children & Young Adults.

Research Team:
- Justine VanDyke – College of Behavior and Community Sciences – Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Annie Nelson – College of Education - Curriculum & Instruction
- Stephanie Karidas – College of Behavior and Community Sciences – Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Lynette Dornton – College of Behavior and Community Sciences – Communication Sciences & Disorders

3. Title: Exploring the Impact of Health Report Cards.

Research Team:
- Jenna Brunaugh – College of Public Health – Community & Family Health
- John Trainor – College of Arts and Sciences – Anthropology
4. Title: Fanaticism, America, and Sustainability.

Research Team:
- Ellen Mueller – College of The Arts – Art
- Robert Fladry – College of The Arts – Art
- Jeffrey A. Hinzmann – College of Arts and Sciences – Philosophy
- Elizabeth Victor – College of Arts and Sciences – Philosophy

5. Title: Comparing the Enhancing Effects of Distinctiveness and Emotion on Memory Statistical Modeling of Event-Related Brain Potentials to Predict Subsequent Memory.

Research Team:
- Siri-Maria Kamp – College of Arts and Sciences – Psychology
- Kun Li – College of Engineering – Electrical Engineering
- Daniel Paul Siu – College of Arts and Sciences – Mathematics & Statistics
- Dimitrios Vovoras – College of Arts and Sciences – Mathematics & Statistics

6. Title: Optimization Models for Non-Invasive Early Diagnosis of Ovarian Cancer using Protein Biomarkers.

Research Team:
- Chaitra Gopalappa – College of Engineering - Industrial & Management Systems Engineering
- Dayna Lee Martinez – College of Engineering - Industrial & Management Systems Engineering
- Jael Donato Rodriguez – College of Medicine
- Barbara Nataly Davila – College of Medicine – Graduate Biomedical Sciences Program

7. Title: Sustainability Related to Mercury Use: A Multidisciplinary Approach Integrating Environmental, Economic and Socio-cultural Dynamics.

Research Team:
- Trina Halfhide – College of Arts and Sciences – Environmental Science & Policy
- Joniqua Howard – College of Engineering – Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Ryan Michael – College of Public Health – Environmental & Occupational Health
- Daniela Soledad – College of Engineering – Civil & Environmental Engineering
ResearchOne Week

ResearchOne week was held in November 2008 to showcase the collective research efforts of USF. The Graduate School, Office of Research and Innovation and the GPSC co-sponsored a poster presentation competition during the week that was entitled “Global Challenges for the 21st Century.”

140 Graduate Student Posters presented in six categories:

- Physical Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Sustainability
- Health
- Engineering
- Humanities and Social Sciences

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Susan MacManus – Distinguished University Professor
Department of Government and International Affairs

12 awards to students from the following programs: Chemical Oceanography, Chemical Engineering, SLA/IT, Cancer Biology, Public Health, Biology and Applied Physics.
Serve as a leader in promoting interdisciplinary graduate programs.
Multidisciplinary Research and Graduate Education Enhancement Initiative

Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program

New Integrated Ph.D. programs in History, Government and Sociology
Overview
During year two of this four year, multidisciplinary initiative, one doctoral-level scholar graduated and two additional Graduate Multidisciplinary Scholars (GMS). As of the conclusion of the 2009 calendar year, the majority of the initial GMS two-year appointments will conclude and the responsibility for continued funding of GMS annual stipends and tuition for years three and four of the initiative rests with the GMS academic program. Numerous publications and presentations resulted from the multidisciplinary research of the GMS and their supervising faculty members.

Funding
Over the past year, forty-nine Graduate Multidisciplinary Scholars (GMS), appointed as .50 FTE Graduate Research Assistants, continued to receive funding from the Graduate School in the form of stipends, tuition waivers, and student health insurance supplements from the original $13 million multidisciplinary research budget. At the conclusion of the spring ’09 semester, funding for the initial two years of the GMS initiative will conclude for eleven GMS students. Funding for an additional thirty-two students is scheduled to expire by the close of the summer ’09 semester.

Academic Achievements and Activities
Informal monthly gatherings of GMS students and the GMS Director entitled Coffee Talk continued through the Summer and Fall ’08 semesters with the meetings held in the Graduate School lounge. GMS were regularly invited to all events and seminars sponsored by the Graduate Student Professional Council (GPSC) and the Graduate Student Success (GSS) division of the Graduate School. Eleven GMS students reached candidacy in the past year. A total of fifteen doctoral-level GMS students have reached candidacy since the implementation of the initiative.

Graduates
GMS students have earned the following degrees: Ph.D. in Chemistry (Fall ‘08), M.A. in Women’s Studies (Spring ‘09), Ph.D. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology (Spring ‘09), this student has secured a position locally as a Corporate Consultant for Verizon Wireless. Finally, a Student in the Humanities and Social Sciences thrust area successfully defended her
master’s thesis in April ’09, but has opted to graduate in August ’09 to allow herself the opportunity to submit her multidisciplinary research and results for publication consideration in collaboration with her GMS faculty supervisor.

**Notable Accomplishments**
Two GMS were selected to attend the Education Without Walls conference in Dubai, UAE in March ’09 and a total of five GMS students are members of three research teams selected for funding of their Interdisciplinary Research Challenge Grants. The Schlumberger Foundation Faculty of the Future Award for 2008-09 was awarded to a GMS student who is a member of the water thrust area. Additionally, another GMS student has been selected to participate in the Summer ’09 Sustainable Development Research Experience in Bolivia from June 6th through July 6th and will be conducting mercury sampling and analysis.

**Publications, Patents, Conference/Symposium/Poster Presentations**
GMS students were “co-authors” on a total of fifteen journal article publications and an additional fifteen journal articles were published with GMS students listed as the “lead” authors. Over the course of the past year, three new patent applications were submitted, and three provisional patents were received as a result of multidisciplinary research at the university. A total of thirty-eight conference and symposium presentations were conducted at local, national, and international venues including Montreal, Spain, and Italy. Forty-eight poster presentations were conducted at various events and locales including USF, state-wide venues, and national venues.

**Marketing**
The final eight-panel brochure is currently under development and will serve to market and advertise the multidisciplinary research being conducted by the Applied Life Sciences thrust area (i.e. Florida Center of Excellence –Biomolecular Identification and Targeted Therapeutics). Issue No. 3 of the Graduate Multidisciplinary Scholars electronic newsletter was completed and distributed electronically to university administrators, faculty, staff, and relevant graduate students during the fall ’08 semester. Hard copies of the issue were printed and distributed at various locations across campus. The multidisciplinary research of three GMS students was profiled in a four page article in the Fall ’08 issue of USF Magazine, while two GMS students were profiled on the university’s home page. Information regarding the GMS initiative was also included in the revised USF Graduate School Viewbook publication.
Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program

Tremendous advancement in the detection and treatment of cancer has occurred over the last decade, yet cancer continues to adversely effect millions of people worldwide in terms of quality of life, life span and economic burden. The Moffitt Cancer Center is a leading institution of basic research, clinical research and patient treatment. The Moffitt Cancer Center has received national acclaim and is officially designated as a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health.

The University of South Florida is one of only three Florida public universities classified by the Carnegie Foundation in the top tier of research universities. The Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program is recognized by The Association of Integrative Studies, an interdisciplinary professional organization founded in 1979 to promote the interchange of ideas among scholars and administrators in all of the arts and sciences on intellectual and organizational issues related to furthering integrative studies.

The USF Graduate School is the academic home for the Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program and the courses are housed in the Department of Cell Biology, Microbiology and Molecular Biology. This unique arrangement allows the program to be truly interdisciplinary and involve faculty from any department on campus.

The Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program's goal is to educate the next generation of Cancer researchers. Studies of cancer require specific knowledge in multiple fields that have traditionally been independent. The Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program emulates the multidisciplinary structure of the Moffitt Cancer Center and eliminates these boundaries.
In the Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program, students receive cancer-oriented education in the following disciplines:

- Molecular Biology
- Immunology
- Functional Genomics
- Bioinformatics
- Drug Discovery
- Cancer Genetics
- Cell Biology
- Biochemistry
- Proteomics
- Chemistry
- Cancer Prevention & Control

Graduation statistics:

- 4 graduates in 2008-2009
- 14 graduates since Fall 2004
In development for the past three years, three new doctoral programs received BOG approval in 2008 and are open for admission for the Fall 2009 semester. This program represents a unique interdisciplinary initiative at USF, as these doctoral programs in Government, Sociology, and History provide a new and innovative perspective in the study of Healthy Sustainable Communities. Students entering these programs complete a common capstone course and specific core requirements for each specific program. They then engage in collaborative and interdisciplinary research through a group of common electives, subject-specific to the student’s research area, including interdisciplinary faculty representation on the dissertation committee. Interdisciplinary initiatives such as this continue to be developed as the University moves forward, bringing Graduate Education to students in new and exciting ways.
Partner with the University in promoting the recruitment and retention of postdoctoral students.
Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

Mission Statement:
The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) was developed in 2009. Its mission is to serve as an administrative and academic center of excellence for postdoctoral scholars across USF. It strives to foster a robust postdoctoral community, provides opportunities to enhance the postdoctoral experience and future success for its constituents, and serves as a dedicated resource for postdoctoral scholars, faculty, and administrators.

Objectives:

1. To work with Human Resources, the Office of Research and Innovation, and International Affairs in providing administrative support and guidance to Colleges and postdoctoral scholars during the recruitment and hiring phases.
2. To maintain a detailed database of current postdoctoral scholars as well as postdoctoral alumni.
3. To assume responsibility for the reporting of postdoctoral data for university, state, national, and international reports.
4. To officiate and/or provide professional development workshops each semester for the postdoctoral scholars and their mentors.
5. To build collaboration between postdoctoral scholars, Colleges, other USF units, and graduate students.
6. To work with the National Postdoctoral Association to enhance the postdoctoral experience at USF.
7. To convene an advisory team of postdoctoral scholars to meet regularly with the OPA leadership to discuss issues concerning the USF postdoctoral community.
8. To facilitate the development of a USF Postdoctoral Association.
Postdoctoral Initiatives

In 2008-2009, USF embarked on an ambitious program to enhance its rising stature as a pre-eminent research university with state, national and global impact, and position itself for membership in the Association of American Universities through: (1) expanding world-class interdisciplinary research, creative, and scholarly endeavors; (2) promoting globally competitive programs in teaching and research; (3) expanding local and global engagement initiatives to strengthen sustainable and healthy communities; and (4) enhancing revenue through external support.

As part of this initiative, the Provost’s Office, in partnership with the Graduate School, sponsored a program to recruit and hire five Postdoctoral Scholars in the areas of the humanities and social sciences. Specifically, the focus was upon the departments of Anthropology, Communications, English, Geography, and Philosophy. These new scholars will join the departments in Fall, 2009.

The Postdoctoral Scholars will: (1) contribute to one or more of the priority goals of the USF strategic plan; (2) work closely with distinguished faculty; (3) participate in interdisciplinary and programmatic seminar series; (4) teach one course each semester; (5) continue to build an independent research record and engage in publishing refereed articles and creative scholarship; and (6) seek external funding.