

# ANNUAL REPORT 2011 - 2012



# Introduction from the Dean of the Graduate School

Greetings from the Graduate School!

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of introduction for the 2011-2012 annual report of the Graduate School. We have had a very exciting year that has included the receipt of funding from the Council of Graduate Schools, the Sloan Foundation, and the National Science Foundation. These grants are geared to answer major research questions focused on graduate student success. We were also proud to be approved as one of only 25 schools who are now part of the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning. We have opened the Graduate School's Doctoral Student Leadership Institute with our first class of 13 Fellows! This Institute will allow doctoral students from across disciplines to be better prepared for leadership positions both in and out of academia. Through our continued efforts in recruitment, marketing, admissions, academics, research, postdoctoral affairs, and finance and accounting we truly are preparing global leaders, one scholar at a time. I continue to be proud that we are sharing the success of our initiatives at national and regional professional conferences, including the Council of Graduate Schools and the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools. This year we continue to honor our graduate faculty with the Graduate Faculty Mentor Awards.

We continue to pursue and successfully meet our strategic goals that align with those of the university and the USF System. This year we have greatly focused on recruitment initiatives to maintain and grow our master's and doctoral enrollment, introduced new and improved policies for accelerated degree programs, and implemented an off-site teaching assistant initiative with Hillsborough Community College where our doctoral teaching assistants teach in the community college setting and also participate as junior faculty members in the life of the college. We are now expanding these efforts to other academic settings. As can be seen from the data within, our graduate student and postdoctoral scholar enrollments continue to increase as does our number of international students and those from diverse backgrounds. We are very proud of our diversity rates of nearly 24%. We are happy to be excellent partners with international recruitment efforts and INTO.

Our efforts with the Office of Research and Innovation are very productive as another class of Student Research Challenge Grant scholars successfully completed and presented their projects and eight new teams have been funded for next year. We provide funding for students through the Signature Research Grants and the Dissertation Completion Awards.

We continue to offer several very successful professional development workshops for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars and have worked well with the Student Success efforts. Our Student Success graduate student has completed the first USF Graduate Student Life Survey and results are forthcoming. Also in that vein, we hired our first Assistant Director for Student Services. He will be involved with all units on campus that deal with student services so that graduate students are well represented.

I have just touched the surface but hopefully you will see that we have had a very busy, fast-paced and exciting 2011-2012 academic year. We continue to improve and expand and my goal is for the Graduate School to be known as an exemplary unit of service, student success, research, and leadership throughout the world.

We hope you enjoy reading about our accomplishments this year!

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



# Graduate Student Recruitment Initiatives

The recruitment of a diverse and highly qualified graduate applicant pool continues to be a major initiative. Acting on its own and in conjunction with the Undergraduate Admissions Office and other units on campus, a wide range of new recruiting initiatives were undertaken.

## International Recruitment

### INTO USF Partnership

The Graduate School works closely with INTO USF to support the recruitment of international students into their Pathways programs and smooth the way for qualified INTO students to progress into graduate programs. This year the Graduate School sponsored pre-progression orientation sessions to encourage students to continue their studies at USF. In addition, the Graduate School and Undergraduate Studies have jointly hired an Assistant Director for Academic Program Progression as the liaison among INTO, the students, graduate programs/colleges, and administrative units to improve communication and cooperation, and assist students who qualify for progression. In the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 semesters a total of 81 Pathways students transitioned to degree seeking status.



### Recruitment Fairs & University Visits

In 2011-12 the Graduate School was represented at international graduate student recruitment fairs in five countries: Canada, United Kingdom, India, Ecuador, and Colombia. In addition, the Graduate School played a significant role in planning and hosting the 3-day USF European Exposition in London. In addition to the Expo and its graduate recruitment fair, the Graduate School sponsored visits to 10 universities by faculty and staff to discuss potential opportunities for exchange and collaboration.

### Virtual Fairs & On-line Chats

This year, the Graduate School participated in virtual recruitment fairs targeting students in India and the Middle East/Africa, Asia. These live, web-based events allow students to log in, visit “virtual booths,” and chat on-line with university representatives, view videos, and pick up informative documents. So far, the first 3 events resulted in direct contact with 675 potential international students and provided contact information for more than 12,000 prospects to date. A fourth fair with South America is scheduled.



In a similar vein, the Graduate School introduced “live-chat” sessions, offering 38 of them through its website between January and April 2012. These sessions allow applicants and potential applicants to ask questions and receive immediate answers from admissions staff. The website also allows visitors to upload questions at any time and receive an answer within 24 hours.

# Graduate Student Recruitment Initiatives

We also were heavily involved in domestic recruitment activities this year.

## **Underrepresented Minority Students:**

- Recruitment events at Florida A&M and Florida Memorial Universities (HBCUs) and Florida International University (HSI)
- Participation in the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program sponsored by the Florida Education Fund



## **General Student Recruitment:**

- Southern Regional Honors Conference
- 12th Annual ORAU/ORNL Graduate Student Recruitment Fair
- NSF REU Research Day
- SAEOPP McNair National Scholars Research Conference (URM event)
- Southern Regional Education Board's Institute on Teaching and Mentoring (URM event)
- Recruitment events at nine universities across the state
- Created the USF Graduate Student Recruitment Consortium to coordinate efforts across programs
- Focusing on Veterans & Military Personnel, we initiated educational outreach opportunities at MacDill Air Force Base, starting with the "Lunch and Learn" series in Spring 2012.

## **Recruiting USF Undergraduates – Your Future, Your Graduate School!**

This year the Graduate School stepped up its focus on recruiting students in our own backyard - making presentations to student groups in the Honors College, student organizations, the Research Experience for Undergraduates symposium, the Graduate and Undergraduate Research Symposiums, and open houses in USF Health and the Graduate School. Representative also met with outgoing USF exchange students to encourage these highly motivated students to apply to USF and to spread the word about USF's graduate programs to the international students they meet abroad.

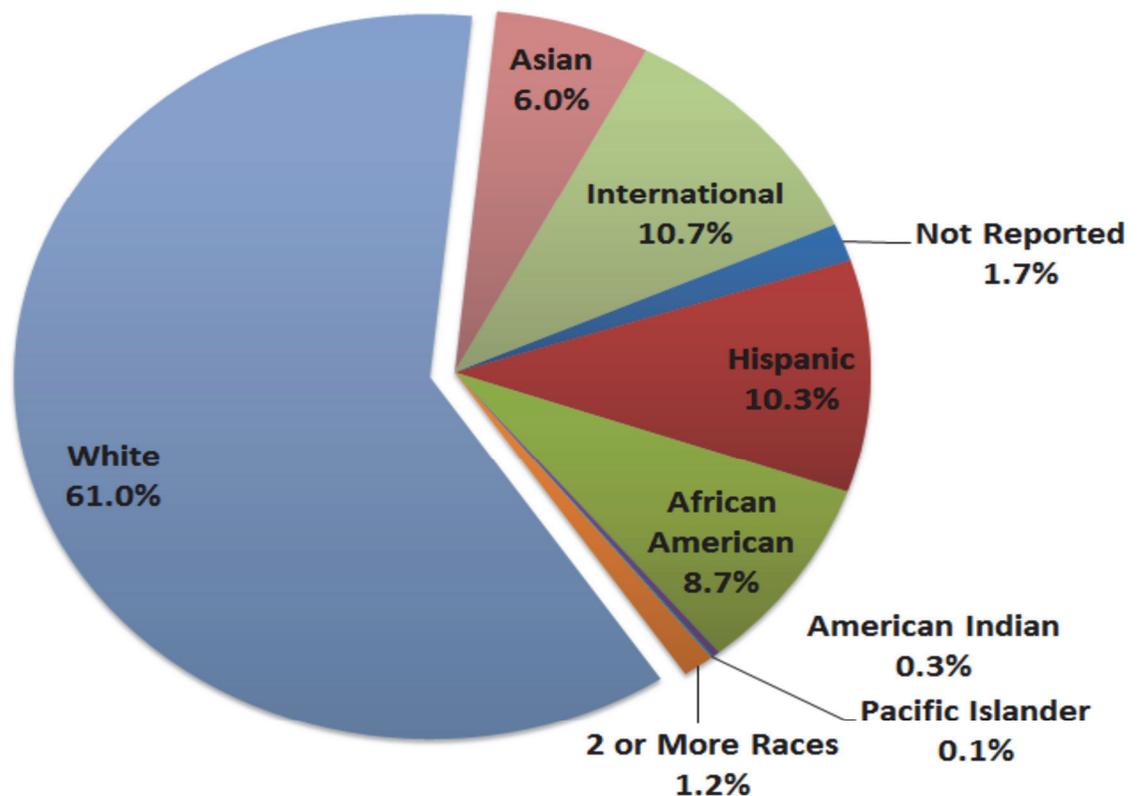
Also introduced this year is "Graduate School To-Go," an initiative which positions Graduate School staff at information tables in high foot-traffic areas on campus to provide quick information to prospective students on the go.



# Growth in Graduate Student Diversity

A diverse student body is the cornerstone of both the USF and Graduate School strategic plans. Under-represented populations represented 24% of the total graduate applications during the 2011-12 academic year. The percentage of under-represented graduate students enrolled has increased leading to the continuing diversification of the overall graduate population. In terms of overall headcount, students from under-represented populations now represent greater than 20.6% of the research doctoral and master's student population at USF. In addition, over the past five years, applications from international students have increased by over 90%, and an overall increase in enrollment of 23%. The graduate cohort entering in Fall, 2011 consisted of 11.3% international students overall (24.3% of all research doctoral students). This represents a continuing trend in the increase in the international component of the graduate student population. Based on current headcount as of Spring 2012, the diversity of graduate students continues to increase, especially among Hispanics and Asians, which both show more than a 1% increase over the past five years.

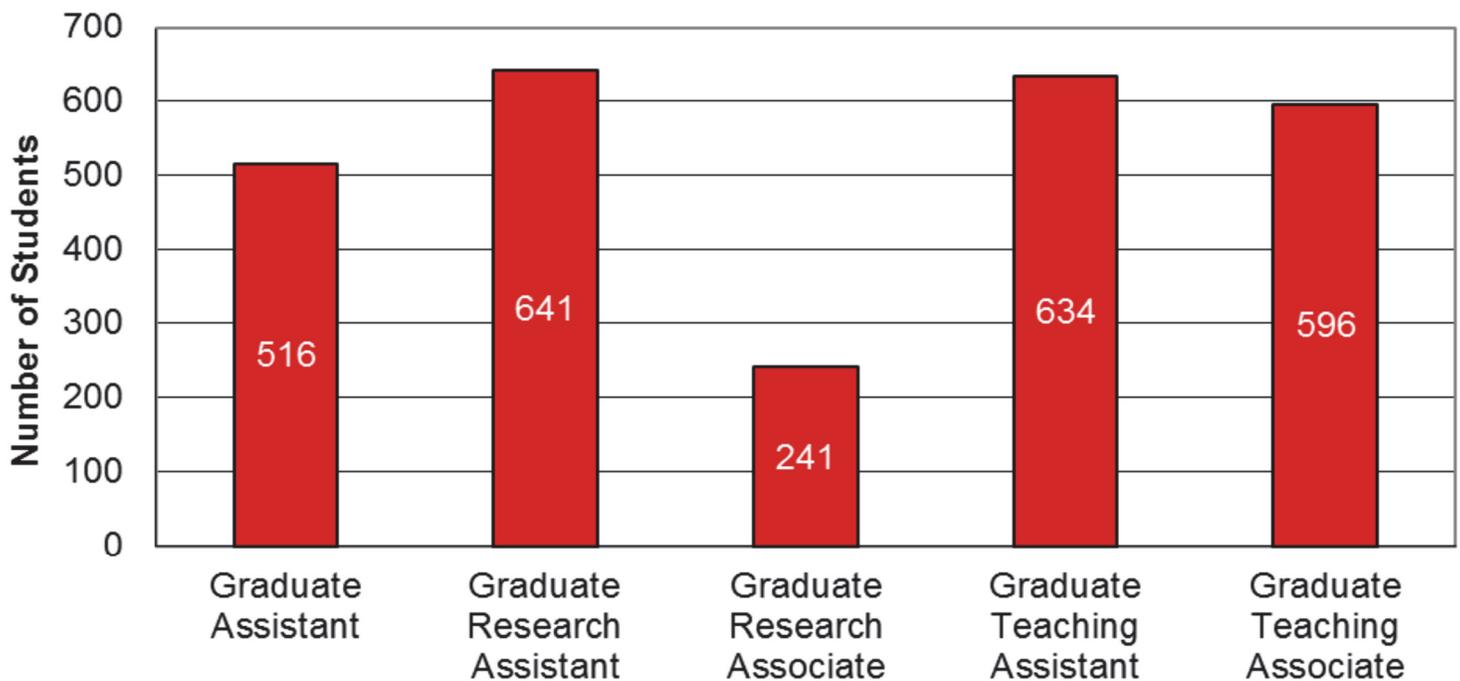
### Graduate Student Diversity: Spring 2012



# Graduate Assistantships

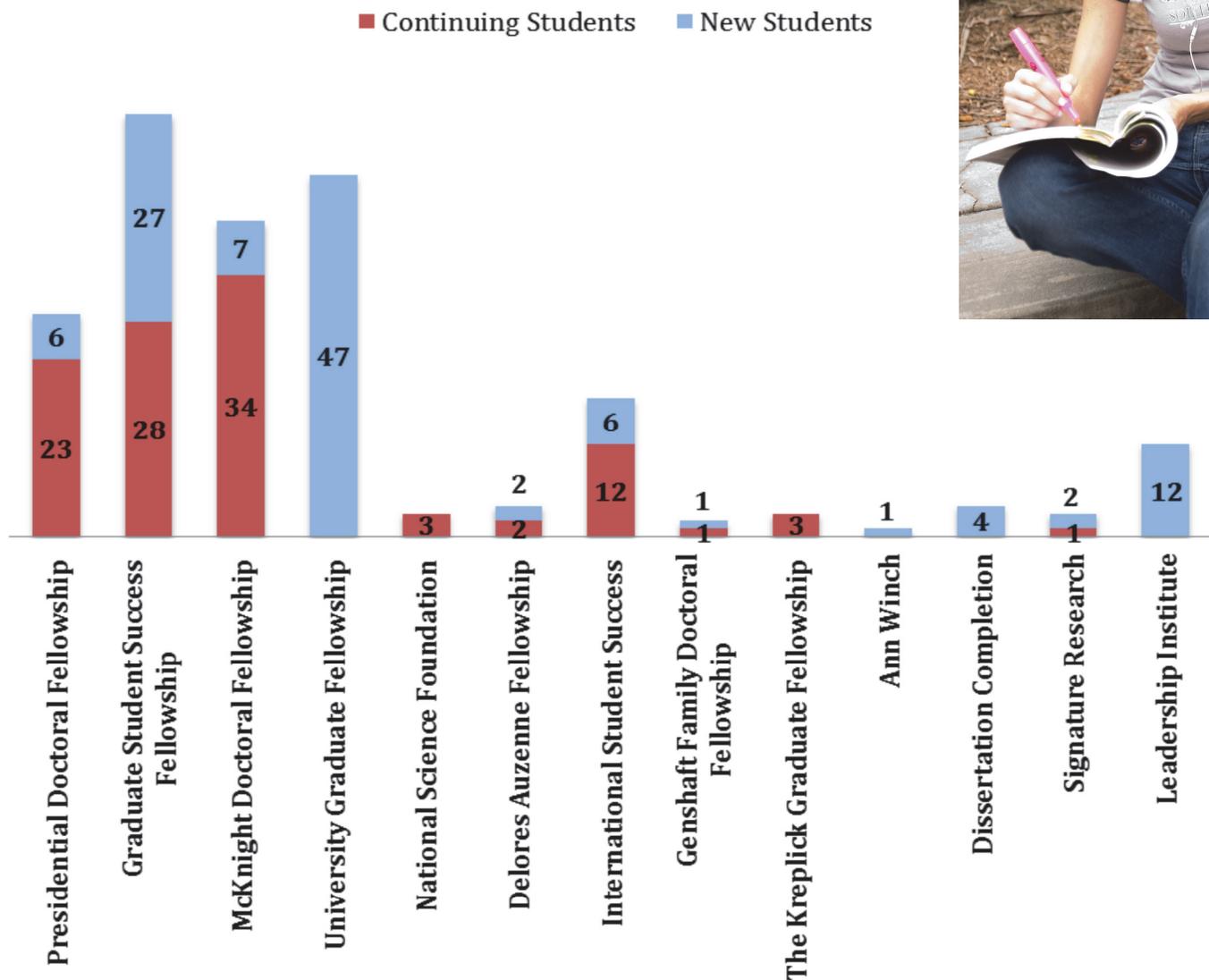
USF maintains a strong commitment to providing graduate assistantships in support of the institution's mission to enhance graduate education. These positions range from a Graduate Assistant to various categories of Graduate Research and Graduate Teaching assistantships. These are funded from a variety of sources that include State Education and General (E & G), research funded through Contracts and Grants (C & G), as well as various revenue producing activities (AUX). These funds support over 2,600 full-time graduate students and include tuition waivers as well as payment of insurance premiums. Recently, the Graduate School has begun a new initiative partnering with local community and state colleges, other USF campuses and universities to provide TA support to graduate students. The graduate students provide instruction and other didactic support in these settings. Currently, this partnership is already in place with Hillsborough Community College with several others in the planning stage.

**Graduate Assistants Stipends by Job Classification: Fall 2011**



# Graduate School Fellowships: Supporting Student Success

USF Graduate Fellows, whether representing the Presidential Doctoral Fellowship, the Graduate Student Success Diversity Fellowship, the McKnight Programs, or USF Foundation Fellowships, such as the Genshaft Family Doctoral Fellowship, comprise a diverse population of students, disciplines, and research interests that epitomize the Graduate School goal of "preparing global leaders, one scholar at a time." In 2011-2012, 115 incoming students representing both master's and doctoral programs received awards to enhance their graduate education and promote graduating in a timely manner. The number of continuing and new students who received awards for specific fellowships are presented below.

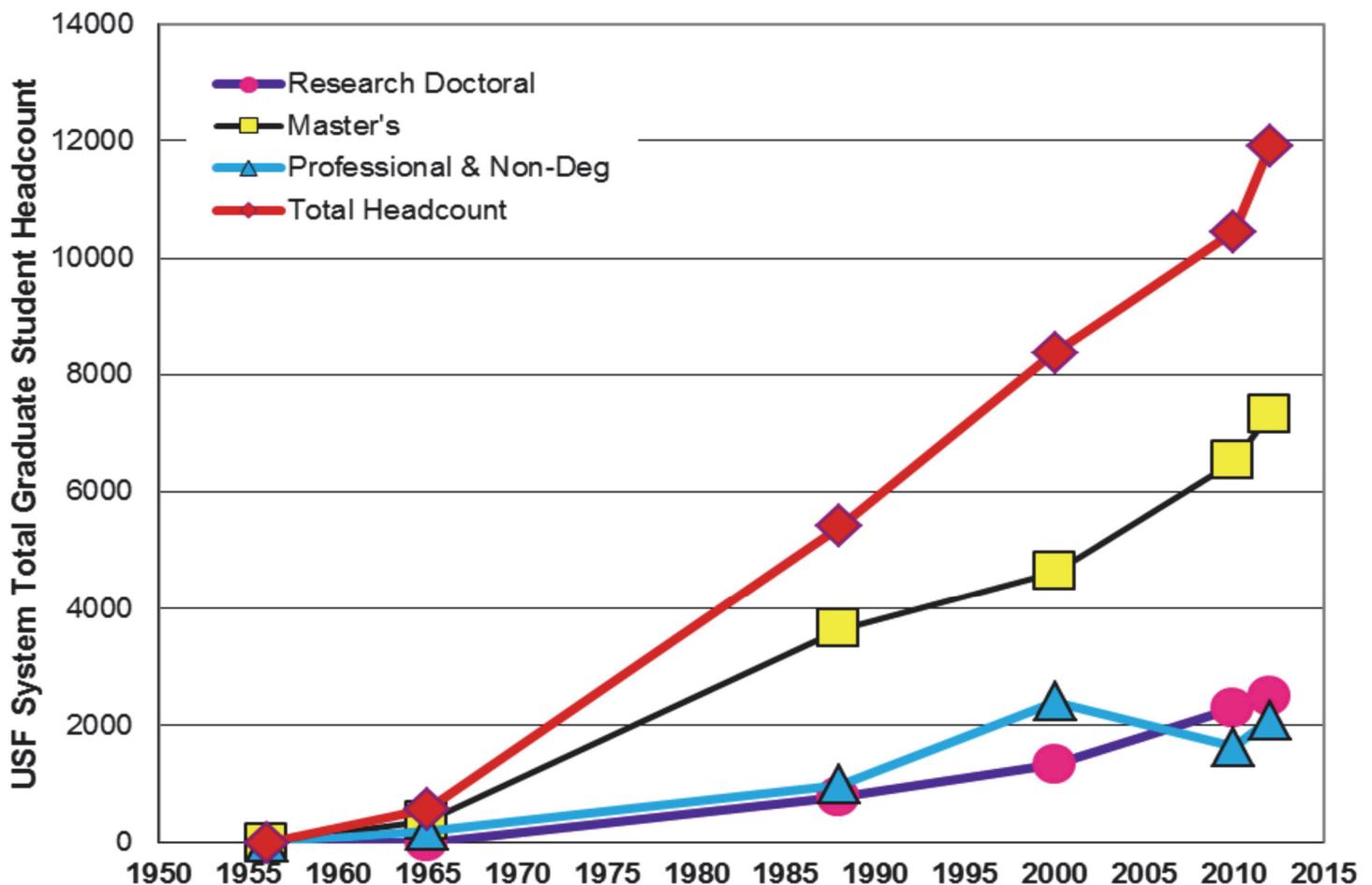


# Enrollment Management: Graduate Enrollment Trends

USF is one of only 25 public research universities nationwide classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a Research University with Very High Research Activity and also classified as Community Engaged. These designations have been driven in part by an 86% increase in the number of research doctoral students between Fall 2000 and Fall 2012 and a 42% increase in the number of total graduate students over the past twelve years. As of Spring 2012, graduate and professional students constitute nearly 25% of the total student population on the USF Tampa campus. During the 2011-2012 academic year, these students were enrolled in 41 research doctoral programs, three professional doctoral programs, 126 master's/specialist programs, and 110 graduate certificate programs.



### Graduate Student Headcount: 1955-2012



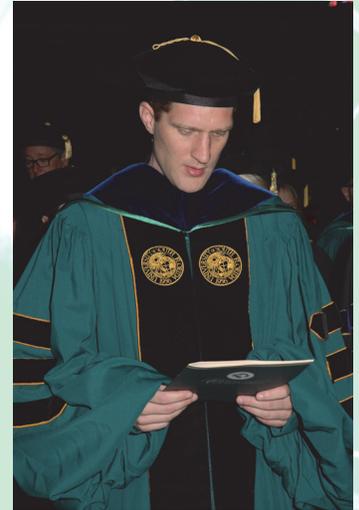
## Master of Arts in Global Sustainability

This year the Master of Arts in Global Sustainability continued to expand and grow their offerings. Presently being implemented is a summer program for high school juniors and seniors, national consortium related to the new Sustainable Tourism concentration (beginning next year), and the faculty attended various conferences around the world to promote the program. New concentrations formally added this year were in water and entrepreneurship.



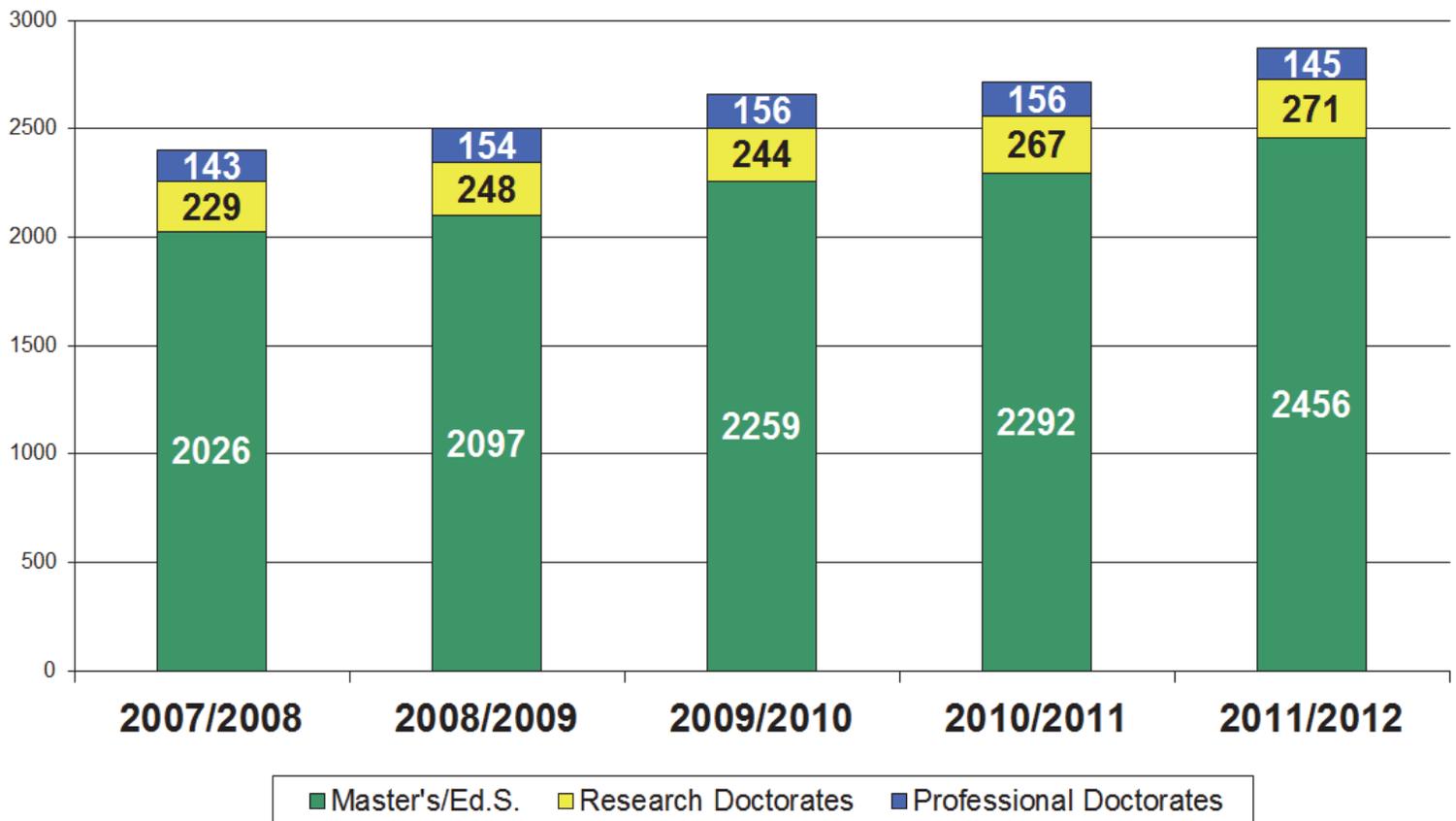
# Degrees Conferred

**Masters:** In 2011-2012 USF Tampa graduated 2456 students with Master's degrees. The number of master's degrees conferred by USF Tampa has increased by 21% over the past five years. Students from under-represented populations earned 20.1% of the master's degrees awarded by USF Tampa and international students earned 8.3% of the degrees, an increase in over 2% from 2010-2011. USF also awards an average of 14 Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degrees each academic year.



**Doctoral:** In 2011-2012, 271 Research PhDs were awarded by USF Tampa. This represents a five-year increase of 18% in the number of Research PhD students who graduate annually. Students from under-represented populations earned nearly 17.3% of the research doctoral degrees awarded and international students earned 21.4% of the research doctorates. In addition, USF Tampa conferred 145 professional PhDs during 2011-2012.

## Graduate Degrees Conferred



# Graduate School Research

This year the Graduate School has been very proud to receive external funding to promote graduate student success:

## **Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) from the National Science Foundation**

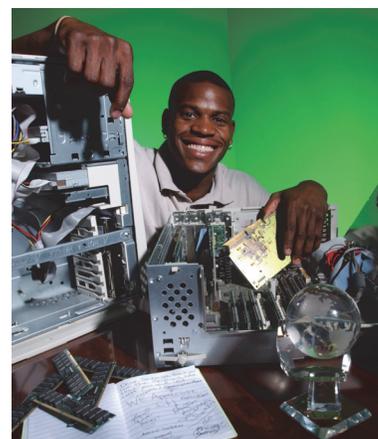
The Graduate School received funding for the AGEP Planning Grant with partners -University of Central Florida, Florida Education Fund, Valencia Community College, and Hillsborough Community College. The goal is to broaden the pathways to the professoriate by creating an academic/social support net that will better prepare underrepresented minority (URM) students in community college AA programs in addition to URM transfer, and first time in college (FTIC) students already in baccalaureate programs for entry into and graduation from STEM doctoral programs.

## **Sloan Foundation Funding**

The Graduate School received funding from the Sloan Foundation to enhance underrepresented (URM) STEM Graduate Student Success through institutionalizing efforts. With these funds we have developed the Dean's Scholars programs whereby URM STEM graduate students will return to their home or other institutions to recruit, workshops and speaker presentations will be conducted, and an interdisciplinary group of faculty will form a committee to pursue grant funding for URM graduate students.

## **Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL)**

The Graduate School has applied for and was accepted to become part of the CIRTL network of 25 universities that includes many prestigious universities, including, but not limited to Howard University, Michigan State University, Texas A&M University, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Wisconsin at Madison, and Vanderbilt University. The focus of CIRTL is to integrate improving teaching and learning within a STEM research model (teaching as research); embed professional development within a learning community of and for STEM future and current faculty; and enhance the learning of all through the diversity of students (learning-through-diversity).



## **Council of Graduate Schools funding: Doctoral Initiative for Minority Attrition and Completion**

The Graduate School has received funding to determine those variables that relate to doctoral minority student attrition and completion. Through examining several factors, we join 20 other universities in determining if federal funding for these efforts over the last decades has served as a positive force for these students.



## **University of Central Florida/Sloan Foundation**

The Graduate School continues to receive funds to promote the development of Professional Science Masters (PSM) Programs. This year geology has been added as a PSM program.

# Interdisciplinary Research Challenge Grants: Building Partnerships Across Disciplines

In 2009, the Graduate School and the Office of Research and Innovation initiated the Student Research Challenge Grants: Building Research Partnerships Across Disciplines. These one-year projects are designed to facilitate development of research skills that will allow graduate students to excel in their chosen fields. This initiative aligns with the strategic plans of both USF and the Graduate School to build leaders through excellence in collaborative graduate education and research. Student proposals must compliment one of the following topic areas:

- Neuroscience
- Sustainability of populations and/or the environment
- Diabetes and autoimmune disorders
- Partnerships with industry
- Global (International) research
- The Arts

Each team consists of four students, with at least two team members representing two different colleges. The teams receiving awards in 2011-2012 had very successful results. Many teams utilized their research to complete degree programs, present at professional conferences and submit publications. Eight teams were awarded funds for 2012-2013 and are shown below:



## Funded Proposals:

### 1. Title: **A Non-Communicable Disease Profile and Explanatory Models of Obesity in High Risk Refugee Communities of South Florida: A Mixed Method Approach to Understanding Barriers and Behaviors Related to Chronic Disease**

#### Research Team:

- **Ethel Saryee (Team Leader)**—College of Arts & Sciences—Anthropology
- **Gino Collura**—Colleges of Arts & Sciences—Anthropology
- **Ashley Gallentine**—Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Public Health—Anthropology and Community & Family Health
- **Nicole Falk-Smith**—Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Public Health—Anthropology and Community & Family Health

### 2. Title: **Variation in Hippocampal-Dependent Behaviors and Neurogenesis During a Range Expansion**

#### Research Team:

- **Andrea Liebl (Team Leader)**—College of Arts and Sciences—Integrative Biology
- **Justin Trotter**—Morsani College of Medicine—Molecular Pharmacology & Physiology
- **S. Leilani Kellogg**—College of Arts and Sciences—Psychology
- **Tina Fiorelli**—Morsani College of Medicine—Molecular Medicine



# Interdisciplinary Research Challenge Grants: Building Partnerships Across Disciplines

3. Title: **Reevaluating the Impact of Urban Agriculture on Food Accessibility through GIS Modeling: An Assets-Based Approach to Food Desert Research**

Research Team:

- **Margeaux Chavez (Team Leader)**—College of Arts & Sciences—Anthropology
- David Godfrey—College of Arts & Sciences—Anthropology
- Susan Tyler—Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Public Health—Anthropology and Community & Family Health
- Lorraine Monteagut—College of Arts & Sciences—Geography, Environment & Planning

4. Title: **Evaluating Maternal Nutrition in the North-Central Andes of Peru: Opportunity for Assessment and Action**

Research Team:

- **Allison Cantor (Team Leader)**—College of Arts & Sciences—Anthropology
- Kristina Baines—College of Arts & Sciences—Anthropology
- IIsabella Chan—Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Public Health—Anthropology and Global Health
- Curtis DeVetter—College of Public Health—Global Health

5. Title: **Exploring Fetal Origins of Diabetes: Associations between Maternal Stressors during Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes in the Population of Puerto Rico**

Research Team:

- **Juan Pablo Arroyo (Team Leader)**—College of Arts & Sciences—Anthropology
- Coralia Vázquez-Otero—College of Public Health—Community & Family Health
- Eunae Cho—College of Arts & Sciences—Psychology
- Charlotte Noble—College of Arts & Sciences—Anthropology

6. Title: **Exploring Tampa Bay's Greener Future: Estimating Air Pollution Emissions from Transportation Networks in Two Urban Planning Scenarios**

Research Team:

- **Haofei Yu (Team Leader)**—College of Public Health—Environmental & Occupational Health
- Sashikanth Gurram—College of Engineering—Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Aiah Yassin—College of Arts & Sciences—Geography, Environment & Planning

- Tomohiko Music—College of Arts & Sciences—Geography, Environment & Planning

7. Title: **Integration of a Brain-Computer Interface with Intelligent Machine Vision to Control a Robotic Arm and Enhance Quality of Life for Persons with Disabilities**

Research Team:

- **Anthony Murphy (Team Leader)**—College of Arts & Sciences—Psychology
- Siri-Maria Kamp—College of Arts & Sciences—Psychology
- Karan Khokar—College of Engineering—Mechanical Engineering
- Glen Forester—College of Arts & Sciences—Psychology
- Indika Pathirage—College of Engineering—Computer Science & Engineering

8. Title: **Towards Sustainability in Food Service: Food Waste Reduction and Recycling for Energy and Fertilizer Use at an Environmental Charter School**

Research Team:

- **Robert Bair (Team Leader)**—College of Engineering—Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Onur Ozcan—College of Engineering—Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Steven Williams—College of Arts & Sciences—Anthropology
- Rebecca Loraamm—College of Arts & Sciences—Geography, Environment & Planning
- Herby Jean—College of Engineering—Civil & Environmental Engineering



# Graduate School Doctoral Student Leadership Institute

We are proud to announce the new Doctoral Student Leadership Institute. The Institute, which began in January, 2012 builds leadership skills of USF doctoral students across academic and non-academic settings. This exciting new initiative provides several opportunities for the 13 Fellows selected over the course of their two year experience. The Fellows were selected from nearly one hundred applicants and represent nearly all colleges. The students will be participating in a one-semester Doctoral Student Leadership Course (3 credit hours), shadowing effective leaders for at least two semesters, developing a leadership plan and portfolio, participating in a leadership journal club, attending leadership conferences/retreats/forums, serving as mentors to the new class of Leadership Fellows and developing and implementing a university-wide Leadership Forum.



# Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

The goal of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) is for each postdoctoral scholar to have an exemplary professional and personal development experience while at USF.

The office strives to foster a robust postdoctoral community, provide opportunities to enhance the postdoctoral experience and future success for its constituents, serve as a dedicated resource for postdoctoral scholars, and promote the university's dynamic program of postdoctoral opportunities while supporting postdoctoral scholars through their time at USF.

In 2011-12, the office fulfilled its mission through the success of the following events:

- In collaboration with ResearchOne and the USF Postdoctoral Scholars Association, the first ever interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Research Colloquium was held. Over 20 postdoctoral scholars from various disciplines presented their research to other postdoctoral scholars, students, faculty, and staff. This will become an annual event for postdoctoral scholars to present their work and network among their peers.
- 11 postdoctoral scholars from various disciplines received travel awards from the OPA.
- The annual New Postdoctoral Scholar Orientation was held, allowing postdoctoral scholars to learn about benefits and services available to them. Additionally, the scholars were invited to participate in activities from the New Faculty Orientation including the Provost's Kick-Off Breakfast.
- The cohort from the 2010-11 Provost's Postdoctoral Initiative published their interdisciplinary project on the BP Oil Spill in the *Journal of Applied Social Science* and presented their work at the USF Humanities Colloquium and the USF Green Expo.
- Seven new postdoctoral scholars arrived for the 2011-12 Provost's Postdoctoral Initiative. They held the first Provost's Postdoctoral Research Symposium on April 13, 2012 on issues related to global crisis and risk.

## *Provost's Postdoctoral Initiative Highlight – Dr. Deepanwita Dasgupta*

The Provost's Postdoctoral Initiative was born out of the USF 2007-2012 Strategic Plan designed to elevate the performance and rankings of the university as one of the national leading research institutions. In 2009, USF instituted a new Provost Postdoctoral Scholars program designed to attract scholars from the Social Sciences and Humanities to enrich the USF community with their knowledge and expertise. Since then we have received over 700 applications from highly qualified candidates and we have awarded 24 postdoctoral scholarships to candidates from universities such as UCLA, Harvard, and Yale. Dr. Deepanwita Dasgupta is one of our most recent scholars in the Department of Philosophy. She holds Ph.Ds. from Jadavpur University, India and the University of Minnesota. Her research focuses on understanding the nature of scientific practice in the changing contexts of the 21<sup>st</sup> century when scientific communities are often transnational and include members from different cultures. She is a five-time recipient of NSF travel grants and is currently working on a book about the formation of a physics community in India during the period of 1910-1930. During the 2011-2012 academic year, she taught two courses at USF on scientific reasoning and on science and society.



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