Greetings from the Graduate School!

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of introduction for the 2012-2013 annual report of the Graduate School. We have had a very strong and exciting year that has included new and exciting initiatives from each of our School units. We are very pleased with our success in receiving federal and private funding to support our graduate student success efforts. We also have been entrepreneurial through our Postdoctoral Scholar vendor fairs and hosting the first Statewide Graduate Student Research Symposium.

This year we graduated our first class of Doctoral Student Leadership Institute Fellows and announce our inaugural class of Graduate Student Ambassadors. These students will serve as our voice throughout campus promoting the role of graduate students and their success by working with us on initiatives and advocacy.

In late October, our Offices of Graduate Admissions and Marketing and Recruitment joined Undergraduate Admissions to become the centralized USF Office of Admissions. We continue to work with the staff members who transferred to this unit so that the transition is seamless for students, faculty, and staff. This move has allowed the Graduate School to focus more squarely on graduate student success. This year we have strived to build success through many initiatives, including the development and implementation of the Graduate Student Life Guide, growing our off-site Teaching Assistant program, increasing and enhancing our workshops and professional development programs, sharing the findings of the Graduate Student Survey, and soon we will have findings from the first ever USF Postdoctoral Scholar Survey and our second Graduate Student Survey. As can be seen from the data within this report, our graduate student and postdoctoral scholar enrollments and degrees continue to grow as does our number of international students.

I have just touched the surface but hopefully you will see that we have had a very busy, fast-paced and exciting 2012-2013 academic year. Next year we will continue to refine our focus on expanding the graduate student voice and ensuring graduate student success. Our goal for the Graduate School remains to be known as an exemplary unit of service, student success, research, and leadership throughout the world.

We hope you enjoy reading about the Graduate School and join us in welcoming an exciting year ahead!

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

THIS YEAR THE GRADUATE SCHOOL.........

- Graduated its first class of Doctoral Student Leadership Institute Fellows
- Welcomed the new Graduate School Ambassadors
- Produced the first Graduate Student Life Guide for new and current students
- Mandated plagiarism checks on theses and dissertations
- Had new PhD students complete Responsible Conduct of Research Training
- Administered the Graduate Student Life Survey to learn more about student’s perception of graduate life at USF
- Totally revamped orientation to meet the needs and interests of graduate students AND continued the off-site TA program providing assistantships for five doctoral students at Hillsborough Community College and USF-Sarasota-Manatee
- Saw a 96% increase in the number of applications (N=457) for the Provost Postdoctoral Initiative in the Social Sciences and Humanities
- Provided $2,597,987 for fellowship awards and $260,788 for insurance and student fees
- Wishes much success to the new College of Global Sustainability that now houses the Master of Arts in Global Sustainability (previously housed under the College of Graduate Studies).
Graduate Student Affairs

In 2012, a unique application of Student Affairs was launched within the Graduate School – applying student-affairs best practices at the graduate-level. The Graduate School has embraced efforts to collaboratively support the personal, professional, and academic development of graduate and professional students at the USF. Our objective is to apply student affairs driven, theory-to-practice based actions that enhance the quality of graduate student life.

Below is a list of programs and services that were done during 2012-2013.

- Reorganized New Graduate Student Orientation to be more interactive.
- Implemented a spring orientation for graduate students.
- Developed a Graduate Student Ambassadors program to represent students’ interests across the institution.
- Reorganized the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC).
- Cosponsored and participated in various university programs such as TEDxUSF, Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration and Diversity Conference.
- Increased number of programs and services for graduate students during Week of Welcome (WOW) Activities and during Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week.

Some notable internal and external partners include: the USF Division of Student Affairs, the Office of National Scholarships, the USF Library, the Hispanic Heritage Committee, the Florida Education Fund, and the Florida A&M (FAMU) Feeder Program.
Graduate School Recruitment – Dean’s Scholars

The Graduate School has received a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to enhance the experience and increase the diversity of STEM graduate students at USF. In an effort to recruit high quality underrepresented minority students in the STEM fields, we have created a Dean’s Scholars program whereby current USF graduate students travel to their home institution or a professional conference to recruit prospective students about graduate studies at the University of South Florida.

For 2012-13 the Graduate School selected six Dean’s Scholars from Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Biomedical & Chemical Engineering, and Oceanography. These students travelled to such institutions as Xavier University, the University of Colorado-Boulder, Florida International University, Barry University, and Nova Southeastern University. Some of these students attended national meetings such as the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Professional Hispanic Engineers, and the Puerto Rico Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.
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 2013, graduate and professional students constitute nearly 25% of the total student population on the USF Tampa campus. During the 2012-2013 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.

![Total Graduate Students Chart](chart.png)
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 21% of the total graduate applications during the 2012-2013 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 16% 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, 2012 consisted of 11% international students overall (23% of all research doctoral students). This represents a continuing trend in the increase in the international component of the graduate student population.

Total Graduate Students Enrolled in 2012-2013

- White, 60%
- Hispanic Ethnicity, 11%
- International, 11%
- Black, 9%
- Asian, 6%
- Two or More Race, 1%
- Race Not Reported, 2%
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 2,200 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.

Fall 2012 Graduate Assistants Stipends by Job Classification

![Bar chart showing stipends by job classification]
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 2012-2013, 92 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.
Degrees Conferred

Masters: In 2012-2013 USF Tampa graduated 2580 students with Master’s degrees. The number of master’s degrees conferred by USF Tampa has increased 23% over the past five years. Students from under-represented populations earned 21% of the master’s degrees awarded by USF Tampa and international students earned 10% of the degrees, an increase of over 3% from 2010-2011. USF also awards an average of 14 Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degrees each academic year.

Doctoral: In 2012-2013, 274 Research PhDs were awarded by USF Tampa. This represents a five-year increase of 10% in the number of Research PhD students who graduate annually. Students from under-represented populations earned nearly 16% of the research doctoral degrees awarded and international students earned 24% of the research doctorates. In addition, USF Tampa conferred an estimated 142 professional PhDs during 2012-2013.
This year the Graduate School has been very proud to receive external funding to promote graduate student success:

**ETS® Personal Potential Index (ETS® PPI) Grant Funding**
This year the Graduate School has received funding related to the ETS® Personal Potential Index (ETS® PPI) to test the efficacy of this instrument’s ability to predict student success in graduate school. The ETS® PPI is designed to supplement letters of recommendation by focusing on evaluations of specific characteristics, knowledge and creativity, resilience, communication skills, planning and organization, teamwork, and ethics and integrity, which may prove to be important additional predictors of success in graduate school and augment the GRE® Revised General Test. This ETS® PPI grant will allow us to compare the results of the index to the performance and completion rates of students across a wide range of graduate programs with the ultimate goal of developing a more effective tool for evaluating 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 continues to be 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).

**Doctoral Initiative for Minority Attrition and Completion**
The Graduate School received funding from the Council of Graduate Schools 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
- Ilsabella 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
Research Symposia

On Friday, March 22, 2013 the Graduate School and the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) hosted the 5th annual Graduate and Postdoctoral Scholar Research Symposium. The event was held in the Marshall Center Ballroom and provided a venue for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in many disciplines to present their current research and obtain feedback from faculty and peers alike. This is the first time postdoctoral scholars joined the Graduate School for the Research Symposium.

The first Statewide Graduate Student Research Symposium was held at USF-Tampa on April 19, 2013. This event marked the first time that graduate students from across the state were able to present their research to a broad audience and network with their peers from different universities.
Research Symposia
Graduate School Doctoral Student Leadership Institute

We are very proud this year that our first class of Doctoral Student Leadership Institute Fellows (Spring 2012 class) graduated and our Fall, 2012 class continues to shine. The Spring 2012 class hosted the first Leadership Institute Forum on March 1st where they provided information pertaining to their accomplishments and the success of their service project at Greco Middle School. Students from Greco attended the Forum and told the audience how they planned to grow as leaders in their fields.

The Doctoral Student Leadership Institute spans a period of four semesters and provides doctoral students from all disciplines the unique opportunity to develop and enhance leadership skills that will prepare them for careers in or out of academia. Doctoral students take courses, shadow effective leaders, develop a leadership plan and portfolio, participate in leadership workshops/conferences/events, develop service projects, lead a campus-wide leadership forum and more! We look forward to the continued growth and refinement of the Institute.
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.

In 2012-13, we fulfilled our mission through the success of the following events:

- In collaboration with the USF Postdoctoral Scholars Association, we held two Postdoctoral Research Colloquia. Over 30 postdoctoral scholars from many different disciplines presented their research to other postdoctoral scholars, students, and faculty. We will continue to hold this event as part of the Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Research Symposium each spring.

- More than 20 postdoctoral scholars received travel awards from the OPA.

- We held the annual New Postdoctoral Scholar Orientation where incoming postdoctoral scholars received an opportunity to learn about benefits and services available to them. Additionally, they were invited to participate in activities from the New Faculty Orientation including the Provost’s Kick-Off Breakfast.

- Three new postdoctoral scholars arrived for the 2012/13 Provost’s Postdoctoral Initiative in the Humanities and Social Sciences. They held a research symposium April 17, 2013 on issues related to human security featuring Professor Marwan Kraidy from the University of Pennsylvania.

- We conducted the first survey of postdoctoral scholars at USF.

- In conjunction with the Postdoctoral Scholars Association (PSA), we coordinated the first two Postdoctoral Scholar Biotech Expos, which featured almost 40 national life science companies. The PSA was able to raise funds for travel awards and social events.

Postdoctoral Scholar Highlight – Dr. Csilla Ari- Department of Molecular Pharmacology & Physiology

Dr. Ari received her PhD in neurosciences at the Semmelweis Medical University, Budapest, Hungary. Her research focused on the astroglial architecture and encephalization of cartilaginous fishes which was published in several scientific journals and as a book in 2009. The current focus of her postdoctoral fellowship at USF is the investigation of molecular mechanisms and metabolic dysfunction underlying neurological disease including seizures, Alzheimer's disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). At the Hyperbaric Biomedical Laboratory she develops and tests nontoxic metabolic therapies designed by Dr. Dominic D’Agostino to target specific neurodegenerative diseases and cancer. Part of her research is funded by Office of Naval Research (ONR) to address the risk of seizures from the use of oxygen tanks used by deep-water divers.