Greetings from the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS). On behalf of our dedicated staff, I am pleased to provide the 2017-2018 Annual Report. You will find the contents of this report to provide an overview of the many activities and services delivered by OGS. Overall, the activities and accomplishments described here reflect our strong commitment to support departments, schools, and Colleges in facilitating graduate education, a mission crucial to the overall success of the University of South Florida.

The importance of graduate education at USF has never been greater. We are currently positioned to be named as a “Preeminent” institution in the State University System, and will join two much older sister institutions that enjoy this status. Although much of the emphasis in the state legislature and the state’s Board of Governors is on the enhancement of undergraduate education, our designation of “Preeminent” requires an additional set of outcomes associated with graduate education, especially in relation to the university’s research profile. To maintain this positioning, and to continue the university’s ambition to join the prestigious Association of American Universities, graduate education will demand even more attention and development in the future. This will have to be accomplished in a time of many challenges, including changes in our regional accreditation standards, adjusting to frequently altered regulations from the Florida Board of Governors, and preparing for a consolidation of USF’s regional institutions. Consequently, there is an intent to launch a “Graduate Student Success” effort that mirrors the attention accorded our undergraduate programming for the past several years. The OGS stands ready to assist in this effort as much as possible.

The many areas of achievement that are reported in this document are due to an impressive team effort from the OGS team. In particular, Associate Dean Ruth Bahr’s dedicated facilitation of this office’s day-to-day operations is crucial to what we accomplish. In addition, the Graduate Council, chaired this past year by Dr. Steve Permuth has provided crucial faculty input and oversight regarding the development and implementation of graduate-level policy, programs, and curriculum. As well, the Enrollment/Graduate Associate Deans (aka EGAD) group has been especially helpful in advising us on a number of issues that have arisen during the past year. Further, our partnership with Graduate Admissions in the Office of Admissions has been greatly appreciated as we move into a new era of central efforts to enhance graduate student recruitment and enrollment at the University of South Florida.

As suggested in the comments above, this coming academic year will be one of many challenges and opportunities. The Office of Graduate Studies will remain wholly committed to playing a significant role in advancing graduate education at the University of South Florida, and contributing its part to achieving the ambitious goals that our institution strives to accomplish.

Sincerely,

M. Dwayne Smith, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Provost &
Dean, Office of Graduate Studies
Did you know...

During the academic year 2017-2018, the Office of Graduate Studies:

- Continued our collaboration with Graduate Admissions and Career Services to develop a series of workshops aimed at preparing students to enter and succeed in graduate school. We reached over 1300 students this year.
- Revamped our Fellowship program by increasing the stipends and modifying the selection procedures associated with the Graduate Student Success (GSS), Delores Auzenne, and Dissertation Completion Fellowships.
- Provided 578 theses/dissertations to Scholar Commons, a database that has received close to 950,000 hits this year.
- Three different theses made ProQuest's monthly list of Most-Accessed Dissertations and Theses this academic year.
- Provided $2,604,526 in fellowship awards to 205 graduate students.
- Provided $45,065 to support international conference travel.
- Honored the three winners of the Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Award and the 2017 Outstanding Mentor at the Scholars of Excellence Luncheon on Friday, October 27, 2017.
- Evaluated over 165 posters at the 10th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium on March 21, 2018. A record number of judges participated who provided oral and/or written feedback to the participants. Twelve posters were selected as excellent in their respective research categories. These individuals went on to compete in the Statewide Graduate Student Research Symposium on April 20, 2018.
- Hosted individual heats in the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Engineering and Medicine for our annual 3MT® competition. The result was 30 participants with 10 students competing in the finals on November 8, 2017.
- Increased opportunities, programming, and events for graduate students to become engaged and network during New Graduate Student Orientation, Week of Welcome (WOW), Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week, as well as through other professional development workshops.
- Had our Associate Dean, Dr. Ruth Bahr elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Council of Southern Graduate Schools. Her term runs from 2018 - 2021.
- Engaged in extensive renovations of our offices and conference room space.
Graduate Academic Affairs

**Academic Policy and Curriculum Processing**
Through the collaborative efforts of the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) and the USF Graduate Council (GC), chaired by Dr. Steve Permuth, we reviewed and updated the following academic policies:

**Academic Policies**
- **English Proficiency**: added exam options; removed paper TOEFL
- **Admissions Policies**: updated admissions policy section
- **Accelerated Majors**: added option for a bachelor’s to professional doctorate
- **Dissertation Defense**: clarified guidelines for video conferencing
- **Application of Internal Credit**: clarified requirements
- **Change of Major**: clarified GPA requirements
- **Graduate Certificates**: clarified policy
- **GC Operating Procedures**: updated policy; added Executive Committee

**Academic Curriculum**
The OGS also works with the GC in the review and approval of graduate curriculum including the creation, revision, or termination of degree programs, majors, concentrations, graduate certificates, and graduate courses. As of April 6, 2018, a total of 364 curricular actions have been reviewed:

- 5 new degree programs/majors (see below) and 2 pre-proposals for new degree programs
- 4 degree program / major terminations and 1 program suspension
- 117 changes to majors and 2 MOUs
- 20 Accelerated Program actions, 14 Concurrent degree actions
- 11 new Graduate Certificate actions reviewed
- 17 Graduate Certificate changes; 3 Graduate Certificate terminations
- 183 graduate course reviews

OGS continues to take an extensive role in working with faculty with curriculum development and revision to ensure compliance with state regulations and accreditation requirements.

**New Degree Programs**
- Learning Design and Technology (M.S.) – CIP 13.0501
- Advertising (M.S.) – CIP 09.0900
- Nurse Anesthesia (D.N.P.) – CIP 51.3818
- Cancer Chemical Biology (Ph.D.) – CIP 26.0911
- Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy (Ph.D.) – CIP 26.0911

**Degree Program and Major Terminations (4)**
- Engineering, General (Ph.D.)
- Mechanical Engineering (MME)
- Aural (Re)Habilitation Sciences (MS)
- Audiology Post-Bacc (MS)

**Program Suspension (1)**
- Rehabilitation Sciences Ph.D.
Cybersecurity Program
The Master’s program in Cybersecurity, an interdisciplinary program that crosses four different colleges, has continued to thrive in the College of Graduate Studies. This program started in Fall 2014 and is one of the most rapidly growing graduate programs on campus. Enrollment currently exceeds 400 students (over 10% of which are veterans). This program boasts 228 graduates since its inception, most of whom work post-graduation for companies in the Tampa Bay region.

International Travel Grants
The Office of Graduate Studies was pleased to continue its travel grant program for graduate students to present their work at an international conference. OGS funded airfare and conference registration, up to $2,000, for presentation of a first-authored research paper/poster at a conference outside of the United States. Travel grants were provided to 32 students who traveled, or are projected to travel, between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. These students presented their work in 16 different countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Hungary, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

Council of Florida Graduate Deans Meeting and Statewide Graduate Research Symposium
On April 19-20, 2018, staff members from OGS attended the Council of Florida Graduate Deans Meeting in Tallahassee. This event brought graduate deans and graduate studies staff from across the state of Florida together to discuss common missions and priorities. Ruth Bahr participated on the Addressing Challenging Graduate Student Situations panel and Gary Oliver represented USF on the Empowering First Generation & Under-represented Minority Graduate Students panel.

On Friday, April 20, 2018, 10 students representing USF presented their work at Statewide Graduate Research Symposium and 2 other students competed in the statewide 3MT® competition. Chen Hao Lo (CMMB) tied for 2nd place overall in the poster competition for his work in cancer biology at Moffitt Cancer Center. Patrick Cooper (Music Education) won the Arts & Humanities poster award.

Brown Bag Program Directors Series
Staff from OGS meets monthly with the Program Directors and Administrative staff from the Colleges to discuss policy concerns and interpretation. Selected topics included International Admissions, Graduate Student Health Insurance, Tuition Waivers, and Medical Withdrawals.

Scholars of Excellence Event
Our annual Scholars of Excellence Event was held on Friday, October 27, 2017 in the Marshall Center. This luncheon honored our Presidential, McKnight and NSF GRFP recipients. In addition, we honored our Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor, C. Victor Fung (Music Education) and our Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation award winners: Ashley Basiorka (Cancer Biology), Jeremy Cohen (Integrative Biology), and Prerna Malaney (Pathology).
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 as Community Engaged. These designations are a direct reflection of the increasing number of research-oriented graduate students enrolled at USF. The number of Doctoral and Master’s students has increased by 21% and 12%, respectively, from Fall 2013 to Fall 2017. As of Fall 2017, graduate and professional students constitute nearly 25% of the total student population on the USF campus. During the 2017-2018 academic year, these students are enrolled in 49 research doctoral programs, three professional doctoral programs, and 118 master’s/specialist programs.
A diverse student body is a cornerstone of both USF’s and the Office of Graduate Studies’ educational philosophy. In terms of overall headcount, students from under-represented populations now represent approximately 21% of the research doctoral and master’s student population at the university. In addition, over the past seven years, applications from international students have increased by over 120%, with a resulting overall increase in enrollment of over 110%. The graduate cohort entering in Fall 2017 consisted of 21% international students overall (27% of all research doctoral students and almost 21% of all Master’s students), an increase over the previous year.
USF maintains a strong commitment to providing graduate assistantships in support of the institution’s mission to enhance graduate education. These positions range from Graduate Assistants 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) money, research funded through Contracts and Grants (C & G), as well as various revenue producing activities (AUX). These funds support about 2,700 full-time graduate students and include tuition waivers as well as payment of insurance premiums. Recently, the Office of Graduate Studies has partnered with local community and state colleges, other USF campuses, and universities to provide graduate students with new TA position opportunities. These graduate students provide instruction and other didactic support in these settings.

**Fall 2017 Graduate Assistants Stipends by Job Classification**

![Graph showing stipends by job classification](image-url)
Graduate 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 Office of Graduate Studies goal of “preparing global leaders, one scholar at a time.” In 2017-2018, 205 students representing both master’s and doctoral programs received awards to enhance their graduate education and promote graduating in a timely manner. The amounts of money awarded to continuing and new graduate students for specific fellowships are presented below.
Degrees Conferred

In 2017-2018*, USF Tampa graduated over 3000 students with Master’s degrees, representing an increase of 20% over the 2013-2014 year. Students from under-represented populations earned 20% of the master’s degrees awarded by USF Tampa and international students earned 23% of the degrees.

Doctoral

In 2017-2018*, 329 Research PhDs were awarded by USF Tampa. This represents a five-year increase of 11% in the number of Research PhD students graduating annually. Students from under-represented populations earned nearly 15% of the research doctoral degrees awarded and international students earned 19% of the research doctorates. In addition, USF Tampa conferred an estimated 304 professional doctorates during 2017-2018*.

*Spring 2018 estimated
Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week

In 1993, the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students established an appreciation week to recognize the contributions, impact and value of graduate and professional students across the nation’s campuses. In recognition of graduate students’ contributions to our various colleges, departments, labs, classrooms and offices, the Office of Graduate Studies and the Graduate and Professional Student Council hosted “Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week 2018” from April 2nd to April 6th to encourage graduate student engagement, networking and professional development. A list of scheduled activities are highlighted below:

Monday, April 2

9:00 am - 11:00 am - Grad Café
5:30 p.m. - *USF Week Kick Off

Tuesday, April 3

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - *Patio Tuesday
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Graduate Students’ "Grab & Go"
8:00 p.m. - *ULS Featured Lecture - Leslie Odom, Jr.

Wednesday, April 4

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm - Graduate Students’ Ice Cream Social

Thursday, April 5

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Grad Night Out Bowling

Friday, April 6

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Graduate & Professional Students’ Social @ Beef "O" Brady's Sponsored by the Graduate & Professional Student Council

*Indicates activities sponsored by the USF Week Committee
On March 21, 2018 the Office of Graduate Studies and the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) hosted the 10th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium. The event was held in the Marshall Center Ballroom and provided a venue for graduate students in many disciplines to present their current research and obtain feedback from faculty and peers alike. The symposium brought together graduate students as well as faculty mentors and judges in an effort to foster further academic collaboration. The Office of Graduate Studies is proud to announce the winners of the 10th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium:

**Category: Arts and Humanities**
**Title:** Playing Gender: Essentialist Stereotypes for Instruments Prescribe Instrument Selection for 5th Grade Students  
**Presenter:** Patrick Cooper  
(Co-)Major Professor(s): Dr. C. Victor Fung  
College: College of the Arts  
Program: School of Music Education

**Category: Behavioral and Social Sciences**
**Title:** Treatment Outcomes of Justice-Involved CSEC Victims: Youth Strengths as Mediators  
**Presenter:** Monica Landers  
(Co-)Major Professor(s): Dr. Ojmarrh Mitchell  
College: College of Behavioral and Community Sciences  
Program: Criminology

**Category: Behavioral and Social Sciences**
**Title:** Stable Isotope Analysis of the Diet of Romans and Langobards in the Veneto from Late Antiquity to the Medieval Period  
**Presenter:** Ashley Maxwell  
(Co-)Major Professor(s): Dr. Robert H. Tykot  
College: College of Arts and Sciences  
Program: Applied Anthropology

**Category: Biological and Chemical Sciences**
**Title:** Predictive Databases, Computational Peptide Sequencing, and Secondary Metabolite Identification from a New Antarctic Pseudovibrio Species  
**Presenter:** Nicole Avalon  
(Co-)Major Professor(s): Dr. Bill J. Baker  
College: College of Arts and Sciences  
Program: Chemistry

**Category: Biological and Chemical Sciences**
**Title:** Lipidated α/α- AA Heterogeneous Peptides as Antimicrobial Agents  
**Presenter:** Sylvia Singh  
(Co-)Major Professor(s): Dr. Jianfeng Cai  
College: College of Arts and Sciences  
Program: Chemistry

**Category: Education**
**Title:** Investigating Elementary Students’ Social Functioning Using a Dual-Factor Model of Mental Health  
**Presenter:** Nicolas David Smith  
(Co-)Major Professor(s): Dr. Shannon M. Suldo  
College: College of Education  
Program: Educational and Psychological Studies

**Category: Engineering**
**Title:** Architectural Support for Mitigating Buffer-Overflow Software Attack  
**Presenter:** Love Kumar Sah  
(Co-)Major Professor(s): Dr. Srinivas Katkoori  
College: College of Engineering  
Program: Computer Science and Engineering
Graduate Research Symposium

Category: Engineering
Title: Design and Development of a Wrist-Hand Orthosis for Individuals with a Spinal Cord Injury
Presenter: Amber Gatto
(Co-)Major Professor(s): Dr. Stephanie Carey
College: College of Engineering
Program: Mechanical Engineering

Category: Health Sciences
Title: Computational Modeling of Macrophage Polarization Dynamics in Skeletal Malignancies: An Integrated In Silico and In Vivo Approach
Presenter: Chen Hao Lo
(Co-)Major Professor(s): Dr. Conor C. Lynch
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Program: Cell Biology, Microbiology and Molecular Biology

Category: Health Sciences
Title: The In Vitro Role of BMI1 in Acute Lung Injury
Presenter: Helena Hernandez-Cuervo
(Co-)Major Professor(s): Dr. Narasaiah Kolliputi
College: Morsani College of Medicine
Program: Molecular Medicine

Category: Natural and Physical Sciences
Title: Antarctica in Hot Water: Employing A Suite of Archives and Techniques to Understand the Melting Continent Past
Presenter: Theresa King
(Co-)Major Professor(s): Dr. Brad Rosenheim
College: College of Marine Science
Program: Geological Oceanography

Category: Natural and Physical Sciences
Title: A Case Study of Volcanic Lightning at Sakurajima Volcano, Japan and its Potential Use as an Indicator of Volcanic Ash Parameters
Presenter: Cassandra Smith
(Co-)Major Professor(s): Dr. Stephen R. McNutt
College: College of Arts and Sciences
Program: Geology

Our annual Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition was held on November 8, 2017. This competition originated at the University of Queensland in Australia. The idea is for students to orally present the significance of their dissertation or thesis using a single static slide in just three minutes. Judges rated the student's ability to present their research to a multidisciplinary audience in accessible and engaging non-technical language. The Office of Graduate Studies is proud to announce our 3MT® Winners below. Out first place winner, Karena Nguyen, represented USF at the regional 3MT® competition at the Southern Council of Graduate Schools (SCGS) on February 24, 2018. Earnest Hansley and Saurav Chakraborty represented USF at the Statewide Graduate Student Research Symposium on April 20, 2018.

First Place:
Karena Nguyen
Integrative Biology
Parasites, People, and the Changing Climate

Runner-up:
Earnest Hansley
Computer Science & Engineering
Identification of Individuals from Ears

People’s Choice:
Saurav Chakraborty
Geography and Environmental Science & Policy
El Nino Neutral Condition and its Influence on the Development of Hurricanes

http://www.grad.usf.edu/3mt.php
Professional Development Initiatives for Graduate Students

The landscape of academia is changing. Opportunities for tenure-track faculty employment are diminishing; giving rise to the need to train graduate students for a broader range of job opportunities. Therefore, the Office of Graduate Studies and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs have realigned their efforts towards professional development. Our offices have developed a variety of partnerships across campus with organizations, such as the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC), along with other offices, such as the USF Counseling Center, ATLE, Career Services, Library and the Writing Studio, to help develop stronger, more relevant programming for graduate students with a focus on non-academic jobs and professional development. This year we started a one-on-one career counseling service where graduate students may work on their CV, cover letter and job...
Professional Development Initiatives for Graduate Students

During 2017-2018, the Office of Graduate Studies developed, collaborated, and helped facilitate a range of professional development workshops; these included:

- Get It Approved: The Necessary Components of a Thesis/Dissertation Approval
- You Want Me to do What? How to Write a Literature Review
- The Art of Revising: An Overview of the Right Questions to Ask
- Dissertation Forum facilitated by the Writing Studio and Library
- Interviewing for a Faculty Position (Social Science PhD Series)
- Faculty Positions Abroad (Social Science PhD Series)
- The Art of Ethnography (Social Science PhD Series)
- Medical Science Liaison (MSL) as a Career for PhD Scientists
- Individual Development Plans for Science and Engineering
- Individual Development Plans for Humanities and Social Sciences
- Revising Your Paper for Publication (3 workshop session series)
- Preparing for Your First Year as an Assistant Professor
- Publishing in the Humanities
- Publishing in the Biomedical Sciences (Moffitt Cancer Center)
- Careers in Higher Education Administration
- Financial Literacy for Graduate Students
The goal of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) is to provide an exemplary professional and personal development experience for every postdoctoral scholar 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 2017-18, we fulfilled our mission through the success of the following events and responsibilities:

- In August, we held our annual orientation for new postdoctoral scholars with 15 postdocs in attendance.

- We accepted seven new postdocs in the Provost’s Postdoctoral Initiative for the Humanities and Social Sciences. In March, they hosted renowned scholar and public intellectual Moustafa Bayoumi who gave a talk on dynamics of being a Muslim in US over the past 20 years.

- Trevor Hedberg, our Provost’s Postdoc in Philosophy, will have his book published by Routledge in late 2018. The title is: *Environmental Impact of Overpopulation: The Ethics of Procreation*.

- Pinar Kemerli, one of our Provost’s Postdocs in the School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies has secured a tenure-track position at New York University’s Department of Liberal Studies. This is the first AAU tenure-track placement for a Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholar.

- In conjunction with the Postdoctoral Scholars Association (PSA), OPA coordinated a Postdoctoral Scholar Biotech Expo in October featuring 20 national life science companies. The PSA was able to raise funds for postdoc travel awards and social events.

- Hosted 25 workshops for postdoctoral scholars including, “The Medical Science Liaison Career Path,” “Preparing for Your First Year as an Assistant Professor,” “Interviewing for a Faculty Position,” and “Translating your CV into a Resume.”

- We collaborated with Moffitt’s Postdoctoral Association to host a *Postdocktoberfest* in October and several professional development opportunities.

- Eleven postdoctoral scholars traveled to domestic and international conferences on OPA travel awards.

- Two postdoctoral scholars represented USF at the meeting of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) in Cleveland. USF will be a major sponsor of the NPA meeting next year in Orlando.

- The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs coordinated the collection of the National Science Foundation Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS), reporting 281 postdocs for the USF System.
Office of Graduate Studies Administration & Staff

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Senior Vice Provost & Dean, Office of Graduate Studies

Ruth Huntley Bahr, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean

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For additional information on Office of Graduate Studies administration and staff, please visit our website at http://www.grad.usf.edu/
STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The University of South Florida is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees at the Baccalaureate, Master’s, Specialist, and Doctoral levels, including the Doctor of Medicine.

Events, activities, programs and facilities of the University of South Florida are available to all without regard to race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, Vietnam or disabled veteran status as provided by law in accordance with the University’s respect for personal dignity.