

USF COLLEGE OF MARINE SCIENCE

BRIDGE TO THE DOCTORATE ENDOWED GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

In 2004 the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded the University of South Florida the first of three major grants - Louis Stokes Bridge to the Doctorate Program - that have supported more than 70 domestic underrepresented students in USF's marine science and engineering graduate programs (MS and PhD). From the beginning USF's program has been directed at creating a cohesive, supportive graduate community aimed at preparing minority marine science and engineering graduate students for successful careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

At the time of the first NSF Award, the Dean of the College of Marine Science embarked on a campaign to endow a graduate fellowship for a minority graduate student - Bridge to the Doctorate Endowed Graduate Fellowship. As an inducement to prospective donors the Consortium for Ocean Leadership (formerly Joint Oceanographic Institutions) based in Washington, D.C. agreed to fund the first five years of a graduate fellowship. By 2007 individual and corporate donors from St. Petersburg had established a fully funded endowment sufficient to continue the Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship Graduate Fellowship in perpetuity.

In 2006, USF's efforts to attract minority students to its graduate program in Marine Science and endow a graduate fellowship led to a formal review by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Shortly after the Sloan review, USF's College of Marine Science became part of the Sloan Foundation's Minority PhD Program. As a result, the Sloan Foundation annually matched the support our minority PhD students received from the Bridge to the Doctorate Endowed Fellowship. The Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship Program is managed by the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME) in partnership with the College of Marine Science. In 2015, CMS was awarded Phase II of the Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship Program.

Bridge To The Doctorate Endowed Graduate Fellowship Recipients

2006 Camille Daniels

2007 Camille Daniels

2008 Camille Daniels

2009 Marietta Mayo

2010 William Abbott

Sennai Habtes

2011 Ana R. Arellano

Adrienne George

Eloy Martinez

Maria Vega-Rodriguez

2013 Ileana Freytes-Ortiz

Michelle Guitard

2015 Maria Vega-Rodriguez

2016 Shaniqua Gladney

2017 Loraine Martell-Bonet

2018 Loraine Martell-Bonet

2019 Loraine Martell-Bonet

Dinorah Chacin



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Commitment Of Match From The College Of Marine Science Bridge To The Doctorate National Science Foundation Grant

The USF is a member of the NSF funded FG-LSAMP program. The goal of the NSF FG-LSAMP program (funded by the Human Resources Development Directorate) is to increase the numbers of underrepresented minority (URM) students earning BS degrees in STEM and transition these students into the technical workforce and/or graduate programs. FG-LSAMP is a coalition of 14 institutions (research universities, minority-serving institutions, and community colleges) in Florida and Georgia. Florida A&M University is the lead institution in the alliance that includes USF, UF, FSU, and UCF among other institutions. In response to the need to increase the numbers of URM students entering graduate programs and continuing PhD degree completion in STEM disciplines, NSF initiated the FG-LSAMP Bridge to the Doctorate activity as a supplement to the LSAMP program. To be eligible for NSF Bridge to the Doctorate funding, students must meet the following criteria: a) participated in a LSAMP program as an undergraduate; b) earned a BS in science, engineering, or mathematics, from an NSF-LSAMP institution; and c) be a US citizen or permanent resident.

USF has been awarded eight separate awards (2004-2006, 2005-2007, 2006-2008, 2009-2011, 2011-2013, 2014-2016, 2016-2018, and 2019-2021) to serve as site for the FG-LSAMP Bridge to the Doctorate activity. NSF provided support for 12 two-year fellowships, plus cost of education funds to cover tuition/fees, and health insurance. In prior years, the Provost Office provided support for training, recruitment, faculty mentoring initiatives, student programmatic and professional development activities. For selection as the Bridge to Doctorate host site by the FG-LSAMP alliance, USF committed matching fellowships at the same level as the NSF rate (2-year fellowships at \$32K per year) during annual preliminary proposal competitions. Each participating College has provided one additional fellowship and the Office of Research (2004-2011) previously provided fellowships to augment each cohort with the goal of recruiting and preparing a "critical mass" of URM students to USF who will become the next generation of scholar-leaders and research innovators. Beginning in 2014, all matching commitment for fellowships and professional development has been provided by each College. This project supports minority STEM graduate students (MS or PhD) in the College of Engineering, College of Marine Science (CMS), College of Arts and Science, and the Morsani College of Medicine (PhD only).

A total of 119 Bridge to the Doctorate fellows/trainees (MS or PhD) have been supported either by NSF or USF matching funds. Twenty-nine fellows have been supported in the CMS. We anticipate 76% (19/25) of these students to eventually complete their PhD at USF by 2022. In 2013, the Bridge to the Doctorate activity was a primary factor in the CMS conferring doctorates in oceanography to six URM students and becoming one of only eight institutions awarded a prestigious Sloan University Center of Exemplary Mentoring (UCEM) grant for its national leadership in URM graduate education.



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Bridge to the Doctorate Endowed Graduate Fellowship and Bridge to the Doctorate National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant Recipients Where They Are Today

William Abbott '15 MS, NOAA Commissioned Officer, Corps, Ensign

Ana R. Arellano '13 PhD, USF, Diversity Recruiter, Instructor, and Chemical Oceanographer

Kathryn Bailey '07 MS, '12 PhD, Environmental Engineering, Associate Scientist at DSM

Camille Daniels '10 PhD, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia, Postdoctoral Researcher completed in 2015

Regina Easley '13 PhD, Research Chemist, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Gaithersburg, MD.

Erica Echols '09 MS, Evaluation Associate at the National Institute for STEM Evaluation and Research (NISER) at UT-Knoxville, transferred and received MS in Environmental Science/Policy at USFSP. Pursuing in Educational Psychology at UT-Knoxville

Cara Estes, Current PhD student, Biological Oceanography

Ileana Freytes-Ortiz, PhD 2018 Data Analyst, Rakuten Marketing

Adrienne George '17 PhD, Professor Instruction I, Department of Biology, University of Tampa.

Shaniqua Gladney, Current Masters student, received the following awards: Alfred P. Sloan Foundation University Center of Exemplary Mentoring Scholarship

Michelle Guitard '15 MS, Current PhD student. Received the following awards: Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Graduate Scholarship (MPHD), NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (Honorable Mention), NSF East Asia Pacific Summer Institute (EAPSI) Fellowship in Japan, and McKnight Doctoral Fellowship

Sennai Habtes '14 PhD, University of the Virgin Islands, Research Assistant Professor for Marine and Environmental Studies

Luz Hernandez-Cruz, Left the program

Warner Ithier-Guzman '10 PhD, Animal Research Facility Director, IACUC Chairman, University of Puerto Rico Rejo Piedras Campus

Natalia Lopez-Figueroa, Current PhD student, received the following award: Alfred P. Sloan Foundation University Center of Exemplary Mentoring (UCEM)



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Recipients Where They Are Today Continued

Loraine Martell-Bonet, Current PhD student

Eloy Martinez '13 PhD, Assistant Professor, Eastern Illinois University

Marietta Mayo '13 PhD, Biology Instructor at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston

Natasha Mendez-Ferrer '16 PhD, Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

Luis Miranda '13 PhD, Science Teacher, Sarasota High School

Susana Mullikin, Left the program

Anna Omojola, Current PhD student, Biological Oceanography

Victoria Roberts '12 MS, Industrial Engineering, Quality Engineer, Honeywell

Karyna Rosario '10 PhD, USF College of Marine Science, Research Associate.

Candice Simmons '13 PhD, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Environmental Consultant.

Inia Soto '06 MS, '13 PhD, Earth Science Scientist at USRA, NASA Goddard

Cristina Subt '18 PhD

Francesca Toldedo-Cossu, PhD student, Left the program. Student in Geosciences at USF Tampa

Maria Vega-Rodriguez '16 PhD, Pinellas County Technical Project Coordinator.

Nekesha Williams '10 PhD, Saint Mary's College of California, Department of Environmental and Earth Science.

Ryann Williams-Agbasi '09 MS, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Senior Associate



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