Alumni Foundation Training
Graduate Education

The Graduate School
Montana State University
June 8, 2015

Creating Knowledge, Elevating Discovery, Striving for Innovation
Questions To be Addressed

• What is graduate education?
• Why is it important?
• Comparison to undergrad education
• Graduate education funding priorities
• How to team together to engage donors
• Ways to involve the Graduate School Dean in fundraising & donor cultivation
Graduate Education: Primary Features

• **Product: Research or Scholarly work**
  – New discoveries
  – Creation of knowledge
  – Advances knowledge in the discipline
  – Allows for innovation
  – Has short and long term societal impact

• **Intellectual Property**
Importance of a Graduate Education

• **Investment Contributes to**
  – Prestige and mission of the university
  – Economic well-being
  – Quality of life
  – Public good that has tangible/intangible benefits
  – Health and security of our states, nation, and the world
  – Intellectual capital capacity
Graduate

- Depth
  - Level of intensity that cannot be found in a textbook
- Publically defended product:
  - Thesis/Dissertation
- Customized program of study

Undergraduate

- Depth
  - Textbook understanding
- No public defense to receive degree
  - No end-product required
- Accredited program guidelines
Coveted Carnegie Ranking

"RU/VH"
Research Universities Very High Research Activity

• At least 20 research doctorates
  – Excludes professional degrees (MD, EdD, DNP, Pharm D)
• Level of research activity
  – R&D expenditures in science & engineering & non-science & engineering per-capita research activity
  – Number of science & engineering research staff

"RU/VH” – 108 Universities Including Montana State University
Graduate Education Facts

- F2013 grad students: 2,030
- F2014 grad students: 2,050
- Doctoral programs: 33
- Master’s programs: 56
- Certificate programs: 19
- 46 doctoral degrees awarded in May 2015
MSU Strategic Goal for Growth in Graduate Education

By 2019

Graduate student population will increase to approximately 2,350 (20% increase), with an emphasis on increasing doctoral student enrollment.
What Our Alumni Have to Say

“I’ll never forget the exquisite memories or how vividly my life changed after one phone call to the MSU Graduate School 25 years ago. I wish I could do it again!”

G. Stan Meloy, M.S., 1992, Marriage & Family Therapy
Counselor to Soldiers & Military Families

“Almost everyday at work I lean on the skills that I learned in graduate school.”

Randall Mullen, Ph.D., 2012, Ecology & Environmental Sciences
Statistician & Researcher, E&J Gallo Winery

“I am enormously grateful for the inspiring field geologists I worked with at MSU, and I am thankful for the positive impact graduate school had on my career.”

Jeannette Wolak, Ph.D., 2011, Earth Sciences
Geology Professor, Tennessee Tech University
The Alumni Foundation & The Graduate School

"And these are the alumni."

Teaming Together to Raise Money for Graduate Education
Graduate Education Funding Priorities

• Gifts directly to The Graduate School
  ✓ Fellowships - $110-$120K per fiscal year supports five students at $22-24K per student
  ✓ Travel Awards –$18K per year would provide 15 students each with $1.2K for travel and registration
  ✓ Competitive Research Grants –$30K per year will fund a minimum of 15 students (maximum award size is $2K)

• Gifts to a specific department or college can be designated (Fully or partially) to graduate education and graduate fellowships.

• Help Montana State University dream big! A $10-12 million gift will name The Graduate School.
Ways to Engage Donors in Graduate Education

- October, Graduate Student Summit
- End of February, Graduate Student Recruiting Weekend
- Research Presentations
- What are your ideas?
Ways to Involve the Dean & The Graduate School in Fundraising

“Congratulations. Please remember the college’s financial plight. Congratulations. Please remember the college’s financial plight. Congratulations. Please remember…”
Our Students Thank You!
If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact
The Graduate School
406-994-4149

Dr. Karlene Hoo, Dean
Ann Vinciguerra, Program Assistant

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