2015 Graduate Student Society Open Access Award Pilot

Background

The GSS Open Access award was initiated in the year 2015. The GSS Open Access (OA) Award acknowledges graduate students who have published work in gold open access journals. The aim was to increase the visibility and prestige of such publications and support the open access movement's ability to effectively disseminate research findings. 2015 GSS OA award was jointly administered by the GSS and the SFU Library and consisted of up to six monetary awards of $125.00.

Adjudication of 2015 awards

Applications were accepted in October and November 2015 to November 13th, 2015 and were announced in late November 2015. In total, we received 15 applications from 14 applicants and were able to award six grants. Their student ID numbers were entered into a number randomizer. All students were confirmed to be current graduate students. Total Budget was $750, equally contributed by the GSS, SFU Library, and VP Research office. 13 out of 15 are currently pursuing their doctorate. Most papers (11/15 or 73%) had at least one co-author with 6 having three or more co-authors (40%). Figure 1 depicts the distribution of applications across departments and figure 2 depicts where the applicants published their paper.
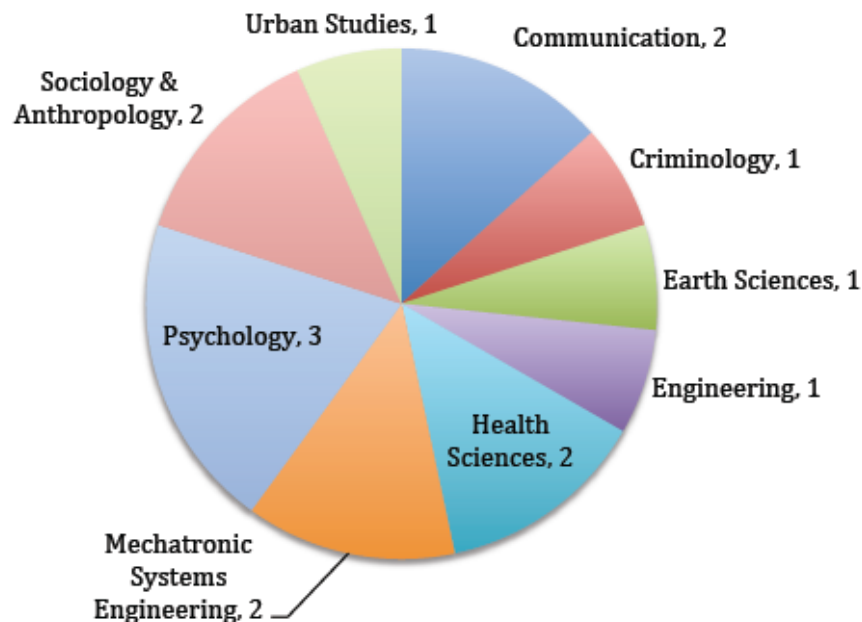

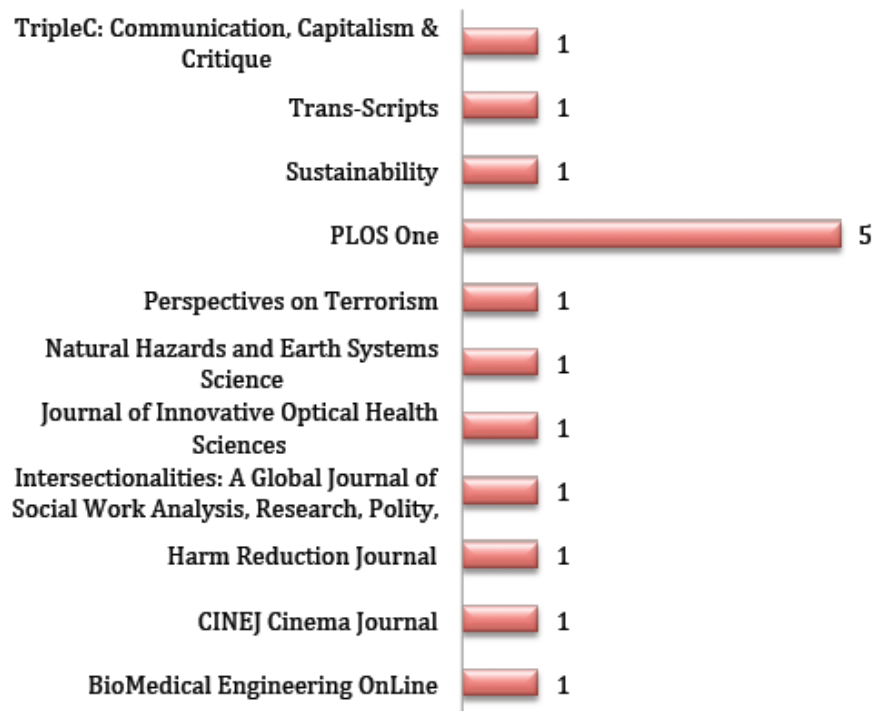Figure 1: Distribution based on departments

Figure 2: Distribution based on Journal title

Suggested improvements for 2016 adjudication cycle

Award information:
1. Award amount changed to $50 per award in order to increase number of awards.
2. Selection will be by lottery. The GSS OA Award working group will check to make sure all applicants are GSS members and all submitted papers meet application criteria.
3. Applicants will be required to provide a link to the article at time of submission. All submitted articles will be added to Summit and tagged with the "GSS OA Award".
4. GSS OA Award recipients will be asked to provide a photo and author bio to be posted on GSS webpage along with paper information.
5. Requested funding for up to 50 awards in 2016 includes:
   a. $1000 GSS
   b. $1000 Library
   c. $250 VP Research
   d. $250 Dean of Graduate Studies

Application criteria:
1. The article has to be published or accepted for publication in a gold OA journal at time of application.
2. GSS OA Award will be open to current GSS members and recent graduates (within 1 year of convocation).
3. Authors must confirm that submitted articles correspond to their work at SFU and their SFU affiliations must be listed on the publication.
4. Past GSS OA Award winners are eligible to apply again, but cannot submit the same paper more than one time.
5. GSS Open Access Award for a multi-authored paper will be awarded to a single author unless each co-author applies individually. If all co-authors apply individually and the paper is selected,

all authors will receive an award.

Applicant feedback from the 2015 Pilot

"Holy freakin' amazing that you've/we've finally put into place some kind of recognition (beyond the publication itself) for grad students who publish, effectively on their own times, sometimes at the expense of other curricular activities, and therefore arguably at a cost (another semester, a TAship, etc. etc.). The publications of grad students bring recognition to the university, and even if one wanted to publish as an "independent scholar," which some do, that takes away from cross-referencing to the other work that may be done through the university more formally. In any case, my huge applause for the incentive, especially since it's one that grad students have been talking about for a few years now."