Moving Forward: Progress in Graduate Education at Southern Miss

Dean’s Report (February 2015)

Student Spotlight

James Curtis and Paige Gray are doctoral students in English with emphasis in Literature, each published two peer-reviewed manuscripts during the past year. Their manuscripts focused on cultural and social impacts of children’s literature.

James earned a B.A. and M.A. in English from Middle Tennessee State University. His research interests include children’s literature, psychoanalysis and gender studies, modernism, and postmodernism. Paige, whose research interests include children’s and young adult literature, 19th century American literature, and journalism and media studies, holds an M.A. in English from USM, an M.A. in Journalism from Columbia College Chicago, and a B.A. in English Honors from Indiana University. James’ doctoral committee chair is Dr. Jameela Lares. Paige’s doctoral committee is chaired by Dr. Eric Tribunella. Both students are graduate teaching assistants in the Department of English.
Faculty Kudos

Dr. Cyndi Gaudet, Professor and Chair of the Department of Human Capitol Development on the Gulf Park campus, was elected Chair of the Academy of Human Resource Development Program Excellence Network (AHRD PEN) at the AHRD Conference in St. Louis, MO, February 19-21. AHRD PEN consists of a group of 22 university members whose purpose is commitment “to strengthening HRD academic programs and promoting excellence in teaching HRD. It provides a forum for its members to explore, learn, and work together to shape the future direction of HRD education” (https://ahrd.site-ym.com/?program_excellence).

Dr. Cyndi Gaudet

➢ Professional Development Opportunities for Students

Graduate Student Appreciation Week is coming April 6-10! Workshops and other events are being scheduled to support the professional development of graduate students. Departments will be asked to choose a day to host a special event (pizza lunch, coffee and donuts, etc.) for their graduate students. More information is coming soon, but please make your students aware of the following three workshops:

Plagiarism: What Grad Students Need to Know

Tuesday, April 7, 2015 12:15-1:00 p.m.
Cook Library Room 123 (LIB 123)

This workshop is a part of the Office of Research Integrity 2015 Spring Forums. It can be used to fulfill the plagiarism education component of the integrity assurance program for graduate students. Lunch will be served. Students may sign up on the ORI website at https://www.usm.edu/research/workshops-and-forums.

Citation Management

Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 2-3 p.m.
Cook Library Room 123 (LIB 123)

This workshop will provide an overview of two major citation management tools: RefWorks and Zotero. Participants will learn how to create an account, export citations from the most widely used scholarly databases, organize citations, and automatically generate bibliographies and in-text citations using both tools. In addition, this workshop will focus on the distinctive features of each citation manager, helping participants determine which tool is best suited to their individual research needs.
Aquila Digital Community
Thursday, April 9, 2015, 2-3 p.m.
Cook Library Room 123 (LIB 123)

Aquila is the university’s repository for scholarship and research produced at Southern Miss, and it is now the place where all graduate students will submit their theses, dissertations, and nursing capstone projects for review and approval. In this workshop, we will look at some of the different collections that are available in Aquila, and we will walk through submission process that you will use when turning your thesis, dissertation, or capstone project in to the Graduate School. We will also discuss a few of the features and benefits that are available to you as authors once your final, approved thesis or dissertation is posted in Aquila.

➤ Graduate School Staff Positions
Interviews have begun to fill two positions in the Graduate School, Admissions and Enrollment Software Manager/System Analyst and Manager of Graduate Admissions. The closing date for applications is February 24. The goal is to have these positions filled in early March.

➤ Recruiting
Graduate School staff, led by Carolyn Cawthon, recruited at the New Orleans Superdome at an event attended by students from Xavier University, Dillard University, The University of New Orleans, Tulane University, and Loyola University. Recruiting events at Delta State University and Alcorn State University garnered a lot of interest in our programs. On Tuesday, February 24, the Graduate School will recruit at the USM Career Fair. We are making plans to host an on campus visit by about 30 students from Troy State University in April. Programs are strongly encouraged to provide the Graduate School with recruiting materials (brochures, pamphlets, one-pagers) for distribution to prospective students at recruiting fairs.

➤ February Highlights

1. CASE Development Conference for Deans
   - The Dean attended this conference February 11-13 in Naples, Florida, along with the Deans of the USM Libraries and Honors College. The goal of the conference was to equip deans to begin the task of cultivating relationships with potential benefactors.

2. Graduate Coordinator/ Program Manager Workshops
   - These informational workshops featuring round table discussions and case studies highlighting commonly-faced student and policy issues were held Wednesday, Feb. 4, 1:00 – 3:00 PM and Thursday, Feb. 5, 1:00 – 3:00 PM on the Hattiesburg campus with videoconferencing to Gulf Coast campuses. Between 50 and 60 graduate coordinators and program managers attended. Assessment of the event was overwhelmingly positive, and suggestions for improvement will be incorporated into the next workshop.
3. Black History Month Panel Discussion

- On Thursday, February 19, the Graduate School, in partnership with the Office of Multicultural Affairs, hosted a luncheon and panel discussion entitled “Aiming High: Strategies for Success in Graduate School” at the Thad Cochran Center. The event was open to all students but targeted minority undergraduates. The intent was to expose students to the value of a graduate degree, ways to prepare for admission, and requirements for success. Three outstanding panelists shared their personal experiences and philosophies. The panelists included Dr. Sheila Davis, Professor, Systems Leadership and Health Outcomes, College of Nursing; Dr. Keith Sylvester, Director, School of Construction, College of Science & Technology; and Dr. Eddie Holloway, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. Over 40 students attended this event.

More than 40 undergraduate students attended the panel discussion "Aiming High: Strategies for Success in Graduate School" at the Thad Cochran Center. Left photo: Students enjoyed a luncheon supported by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Right photo: Three outstanding faculty and administrators, Drs. Eddie Holloway, Sheila Jackson, and Keith Sylvester (front table L to R), shared their experiences with the group.