

Soaring to New Heights: Graduate Education at Southern Miss

Graduate Dean's Report (February 2017)

Student Spotlight

Psychology Students and Faculty Assist in Tornado Relief

The University of Southern Mississippi stepped up to assist the Hattiesburg community following the devastating EF3 tornado that hit the area in the early morning hours of Saturday, January 21. Among those helping out were clinical psychology Ph.D. program



faculty, students, and their family and friends. After checking in at the volunteer response center at East Jerusalem Baptist Church in downtown Hattiesburg on Saturday, January 28, the group received their assignment and spent the day cleaning up a neighborhood on Sullivan Street that was nearly decimated by the storm.

Fostering Faculty and Student Success

Students and Faculty Learn the Value of Effective Mentorship

In partnership with other campus offices, the Graduate School is mentoring and providing effective mentorship training for both students and faculty throughout the spring semester. On February 7, as a part of Black History Month events, outstanding faculty and graduate students networked with minority undergraduate students at a roundtable event called "Success Strategies for Graduate School." Discussion leaders shared their personal paths to their present positions; how students can prepare to create competitive

Dr. Sheila Davis (center) and graduate student Caitlyn Chambers (far left) discuss how to prepare for graduate school with undergraduate students





Left photo: Dr. Marcus Coleman (left) and master's student Rachel Young (second from right) discuss expectations for success in graduate school with students. Right photo: Dr. SherRhonda Gibbs (foreground) advises McNair Scholar Ja'Marvae Lard on finding the right graduate program.

applications; and expectations of graduate school. Faculty leaders included Dr. Sheila Davis, professor, Department of Systems Leadership and Health Outcomes; Dr. SherRhonda Gibbs, associate professor, Department of Management and International Business; and Dr. Marcus Coleman, assistant professor, Department of Communication Studies. Graduate student leaders included doctoral students Brian Street, Social Work; Donovan McLauren, Biological Sciences; and Caitlyn Chambers, School Psychology; along with Rachel Young, a master's student in Child and Family Studies. The Office of Multicultural Programs and Services co-sponsored this event.

The first of three lunch and learn mentorship workshops for new faculty and graduate students was held on the Gulf Park campus on Tuesday, February 14. Entitled "Mentorship Matters: How to Mentor – and be Mentored – as a Faculty Member," the panel discussion of case studies was led by Dr. Kenneth Zantow, associate professor of Management and International Business; Dr. Jennifer Walker, associate dean, College of Science and Technology, and associate professor of Biological Sciences; and Dr. Deanne Nuwer, associate dean, College of Arts and Letters, and associate professor of History. Also contributing was Dr. Casey Maugh-Funderburk, Vice Provost, Gulf Park campus. Faculty from the Gulf Park and Hattiesburg (via IVN) campuses discussed strategies for managing realistic challenges in graduate mentorship. This event was co-sponsored by The Provost's First Year Foundations New Faculty Development Program, and Drs. Ann Blankenship and Alan Thompson, First Year Foundations Coordinators, were co-organizers and contributors to the program. Vanessa Molden, Coordinator of Special Projects in the Graduate School, and Bonnie Cooper, Assistant to the Provost for Faculty Development, organized all mentorship workshops. This workshop will be held on the Hattiesburg campus on February 24 and March 24, as detailed below.

Graduate News from Colleges

College of Arts and Letters

Department of English

Dr. Sreerupa Sengupta, who received her Ph.D. in December 2016, will publish her first peer-reviewed article in *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. The article, entitled "Mother before time: pregnancy, sexuality, and oppression in Taslima Nasrin's *Getting Even*," will appear in a forthcoming issue. Her major professor was Dr. Charles Sumner. Dr. Sengupta is currently an instructor of English at Auburn University.

College of Business

Department of Economic Development, Tourism, & Sport Management

The online master's degree program in **Sport Management** was ranked 8th nationally by The Sports Management Degree Guide, based on student to faculty ratios, graduate tuition and undergraduate net cost, concentration areas and accreditation. Bestcolleges.com ranked the program 16th in the country based on available courses, specializations available, student outcomes, and career support services. The program "prepares students for careers as stadium events coordinators, recreation specialists, special events coordinators, and more." For full article see Southern Miss Now at <https://news.usm.edu/article/usm-online-sport-management-degree-programs-receive-lofty-rankings>.

School of Accountancy

Twenty of twenty-one students (95.2%) in the **Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA)** program completed training requirements and passed the exam to become certified as a Specialist in Microsoft Excel. According to Amber Hatten, Director of the MPA program, "Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) 2016 Certification gives students a commanding competitive edge in today's academic and professional environments." The certification demonstrates "globally-recognized, industry-endorsed evidence of skills mastery in Microsoft Excel," and "ability and willingness to embrace new technologies."

College of Education and Psychology

School Psychology doctoral students were awarded internships at top American Psychological Association (APA)-accredited institutions for a 100% placement rate.

- **Marian Melendez-Torres** will intern at the Pediatric Developmental Disorders Clinic of Johns Hopkins Kennedy Krieger Center.
- **Jamie Pasqua** will study behavioral pediatrics during her internship at the Munroe Meyer Institute at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, an agency of the Nebraska Internship Consortium.
- **Heather Whipple** will intern at Johns Hopkins Kennedy Krieger Center focusing on the discipline applied behavior analysis, a field of advanced training within the Neurobehavioral Unit.

College of Health

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

- Last year the department was reaccredited according to American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) standards for the doctoral audiology and master's speech pathology programs.
- **Mary Schaub**, assistant professor, was voted the 2016 Outstanding Alumnus for the Department of Communication Disorders at the University of Wyoming.
- **Dr. Kelly Metz**, assistant professor, was selected president-elect for the Association of College Educators - Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The president-elect position begins Dr. Metz' three-year commitment to leadership in the association which will include serving as president in 2018 and past president in 2019.
- **Dr. Kimberly Ward**, assistant professor and audiology clinic coordinator, and **Amy Rosonet**, clinical instructor and speech-language pathology clinic director, are organizers of the Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association Continuing Education Conference to be held in Natchez March 29-31. The conference, which will feature more than 50 speakers including several of international renown, will offer the opportunity for attendees to earn CEU credits.

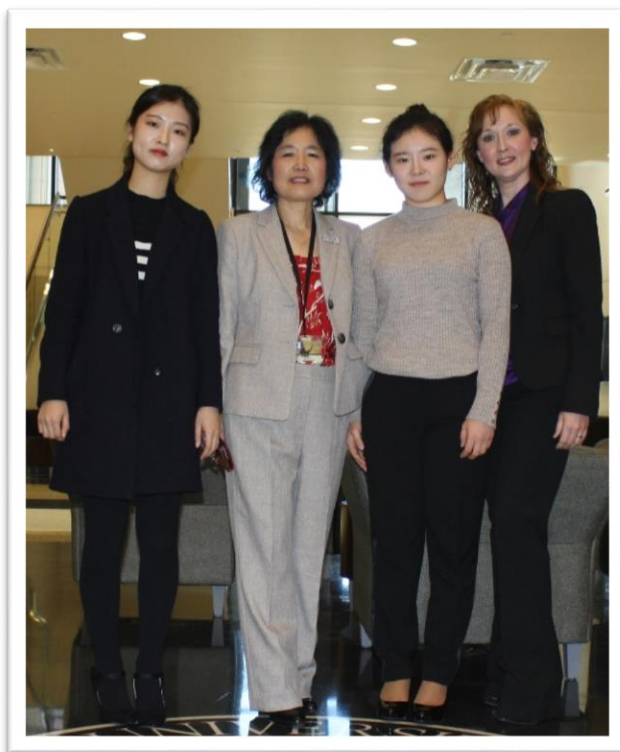
College of Nursing



Dr. Gulenia Rikabi, assistant professor, Department of Advanced Practice, will be a keynote speaker and present a podium presentation entitled “A Quality Improvement Project: A Patient-Centered Motivational Program to Improve Adherence to Lifestyle Modifications in Patients with Dyslipidemia” at the Twenty-fourth Global Nursing Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The conference, to be held March 1-2, has the theme “Exploring Latest Innovations in Nursing and Health Care.”

Dr. Gulenia Rikabi

First-year South Korean nursing students, So-Hyun Lee and Hye-wan Gwon from Woosong University in the Republic of Korea toured Asbury Hall and learned about the **Nurse Anesthesia Program** during a recent visit to Southern Miss. Both students aspire to become certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA’s) and visited the College of Nursing to “learn more about the practice of CRNA’s in the U.S.” They became interested in Southern Miss’ CRNA program after hearing Dr. Michong Rayborn, assistant professor, speak at an international conference. While in Mississippi the students attended the Mississippi Association of Nurse Anesthetists (MANA) meeting in Jackson held January 26-27. For complete article, see Southern Miss Now (<http://news.usm.edu/article/south-korean-students-visit-southern-miss-nurse-anesthesia-program>).



South Korean nursing students Hye-wan Gwon (left) and So-Hyun Lee (2nd from right) visited the College of Nursing in late January to learn about the CRNA program. Also pictured Dr. Michong Rayborn (2nd from left) and Dr. Lachel Story (right).

College of Science and Technology Division of Coastal Sciences

Master’s student **Alex Fogg** published his first peer-reviewed article: Fogg, A.Q., N.J. Brown-Peterson, and M.S. Peterson. (2017). Reproductive life history characteristics of invasive red lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) in the northern Gulf of Mexico. *Bulletin of Marine Science* 93(3): (doi: <https://doi.org/10.5343/bms.2016.1095>). Alex is scheduled to graduate this May. His major professor is Dr. Mark Peterson.

Last month **Dr. Mark Peterson**, professor (retired), Division of Coastal Sciences, was appointed Associate Editor for the journal *Estuaries and Coasts*, the journal of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation.

Department of Geography and Geology

Geography master's students **Josh Oliver**, **Michael Thornton**, and **Charles White** each published their first peer-reviewed article in scholarly journals. Their major professor is **Dr. Grant Harley**, assistant professor.

- Matheus, T.J., J.T. Maxwell, J.S. Oliver, **M.P. Thornton**, M. Hess, and G.L. Harley. (2017). Defining the pioneer settlement history around the Spring Mill village in southern Indiana using dendroarchaeology, *Dendrochronologia* (doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dendro.2016.11.004>) (in press)
- Patterson, T., R.S. Maxwell, G.L. Harley, **J.S. Oliver**, J. Speer, S. Collins, M. Downe, B. Gannon, L. Ma, C. Raso, C. Russell, A. Teets. (2017). Climate-signal instability in *Pinus rigida* at the northern range limit, Acadia National Park, Maine. *Northeastern Naturalist*, 23(4):490–500, doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1656/045.023.0406>
- **C.R. White** and Harley, G.L. (2017). Historical fire in longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris* Mill.) forests of south Mississippi and its relation to land use and climate, *Ecosphere* 7(11):e01458. [10.1002/ecs2.1458](https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.1458)

Professional Development Opportunities for Graduate Students and Faculty

Susan A. Siltanen Graduate Research Symposium (Tuesday, April 4, 9 a.m. - noon, Thad Cochran Center)

More than 110 master's and doctoral students submitted abstracts for this year's Susan A. Siltanen Graduate Research Symposium, selecting from the categories arts and humanities; social and educational sciences and business; physical sciences and mathematics; or life, health, and environmental sciences. Faculty are needed to judge poster or oral presentations. Judges are invited to attend the luncheon which immediately follows the symposium. Faculty who can be available to judge all or part of the morning may sign up by using the Mach Form at the following link:

<https://forms.usm.edu/graduate-school/view.php?id=51045>.

Mentoring Matters: How to be a Mentor – and be Mentored – as a Faculty Member Lunch and Learn Workshops

Good mentoring is crucial to a student's degree progress and ultimate success. Yet, being an effective mentor is rarely second nature to anyone. It requires training, practice, and the willingness to learn from the experience of others. We are providing an opportunity for faculty and graduate students to begin to develop mentorship skills through Mentoring Matters workshops. Respected veteran faculty mentors from the Colleges of Arts and Letters; Education and Psychology; Health; Nursing; and Science and Technology will lead roundtable discussions of case studies that illustrate realistic challenges in mentoring graduate students, allowing participants to learn from leaders and peers through interactive dialog. Faculty and graduate students may register by visiting First Year Foundations at the following link <https://www.usm.edu/center-faculty-development/first-year-foundations> and clicking the "register here" button.

- Dates and locations for the workshops:
 - Friday, February 24, noon to 1:30 p.m., Trent Lott Center, Room A-D
 - Friday, March 24, noon to 1:30 p.m., Cook Library Art Gallery

Citation Management Tools: Zotero and Mendeley

Learn how to manage citations for research projects, papers, theses, and dissertations by attending one or more workshops about the free citation management tools, Zotero and Mendeley. Staff librarians will demonstrate 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 each tool. The workshops, led by librarians Elena Azadbakht (elena.azadbakht@usm.edu or 601.266.6424) in Hattiesburg and Adrienne McPhaul (Adrienne.mcphaul@usm.edu or 228.214.3467) in Long Beach will be offered several times this spring at both Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast campuses. This workshop may also be scheduled for a class, student group, or faculty meeting. Contact Elena or Adrienne for more information.

- Dates and locations for the workshops:
 - Cook Library Room 123 (LIB 123)
 - Monday, February 20, 3-4 p.m.
 - Wednesday, March 8, noon-1 p.m.
 - Gulf Coast Library Room 213 (GLIB 213)
 - Monday, February 20, 3-4 p.m.
 - Wednesday, March 8, noon-1 p.m.
 - Gunter Library, Caylor Building 104 (GCRL)
 - Friday, March 31, 10-11 a.m.

News from the Graduate School

Important Information on Hiring Graduate Assistants

Thanks to academic and auxiliary units who attended informational workshops on hiring graduate assistants led by Graduate School staff Carolyn Cawthon and Shelby Flores and Human Resource Specialist Mary Alexander in early February. The following are key “take-away” items from the workshops.

- The minimum stipend for a full-time graduate assistantship is \$7200 per nine months equally distributed between fall and spring semesters (\$3600 in fall; \$3600 in spring). Any E&G funded GA must receive a tuition waiver (20 hours/week = full tuition waiver; 10 hours/week = half tuition waiver).
- Departments are encouraged to award 9-month GA appointments. Summer appointments must be accompanied by a separate assignment form.
- E&G stipend funds may be used only to hire a GA. These funds may not be used to hire a student in any other capacity.
- All GA's must be full time students enrolled in at least 9 graduate-level credit hours during fall and spring and 3 hours during summer unless enrolled in a designated 1 hour summer course that carries full-time status. (Neither audit nor undergraduate coursework count toward full time enrollment).
- Tuition will be prorated for GA's who work only part of a semester. The tuition proration policy is included below.
- A GA who is placed on probation will not lose the assistantship during the probationary period unless the department chooses to terminate the student. A student on probation has one semester to return to good academic standing. If at the end of the probationary period the student has not returned to good academic standing, he/she will be terminated from the assistantship and dismissed from the program.
- Effective dates for GA employment for AY 2017-18 are as follows:

Assignment Period	Assistantship Start Date	Assistantship End Date
Fall 2017 only	August 14	December 15
Spring 2018 only	January 11	May 18
Summer 2018 only	June 1	August 5
Fall 2017 - Spring 2018	August 14	May 18

- **Deadlines** for the Graduate School to receive correctly-completed GA assignment forms will be strictly enforced. The Graduate School will not accept late forms. For academic units who miss the deadline, academic deans will reallocate E&G-supported GA lines for the current academic year; for non-academic or support units who miss deadlines, the Dean of the Graduate School will reallocate lines for the current year. Obvious exceptions include paperwork for GA's on new grants or contracts which may not be awarded in time to meet deadlines. Upcoming deadlines:

Assistantship Begins	Deadline for Graduate School to Receive GA Assignment Form
Fall 2017	July 14 by 5:00 pm
Summer 2017	May 12 by 5:00 pm

- GA hiring administrators should use the Pay Rate Calculator (see link) to calculate biweekly compensation rate for GA's. <https://www.usm.edu/graduate-school/ga-rate-pay-calculator>.

Graduate School Operating Policy on Tuition Proration for Graduate Assistants

Tuition for students holding an assistantship for only a part of a semester will be prorated in the following situations:

- A. A GA fully supported on E&G funds, including the stipend and tuition waiver:**
 - a. If the student is enrolled after the 5th class day, resigns or is terminated before the end of the semester, or drops below 9 graduate hours, then both in-state and out-of-state tuition will be prorated.
 - b. Exceptions that leave the tuition waiver intact include the following. If a department chooses to fill the vacated line in these situations, the tuition will be prorated for both the current and incoming GA.
 - i. A student completes all requirements for a degree and resigns before the end of the term (Example, the student resigns to accept a job).
 - ii. A student has a documented major medical issue or military deployment and must leave the assistantship before the end of term.
- B. A GA fully supported on grants. (Both the stipend and tuition are paid from a grant):**
 - a. Tuition will not be prorated on the front end because the agency pays the tuition unless proration is requested by the principal investigator.
 - b. Tuition will be prorated if the student resigns, is terminated, or drops below 9 graduate hours before the end of the semester.
 - c. Exceptions are the same as above.
- C. A GA stipend supported on a grant, but an E&G tuition waiver provided by USM:**
 - a. All stipulations from item A apply.

Taking You TO THE TOP!

Elevating you to a higher level of academic and professional achievement