

Soaring to New Heights: Graduate Education at Southern Miss

Graduate Dean's Report (January 2017)

Student Spotlight

School Psychology Doctoral Student Wins National Dissertation Award

John Lum, doctoral student in the School Psychology program was selected as winner of the 2017 Ron Edwards Dissertation Award (REDA) of the Behavioral School Psychology Interest Group (BSPIG) of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The award will be presented to John on February 23 at the BSPIG meeting of NASP in San Antonio, Texas. Selected from among other exceptional dissertations, John's work was recognized by the awards committee as impressive with "many positive features" that impact the field of behavioral school psychology. John was nominated for the award by his major professor, Dr. Daniel Tingstrom. Dr. Tingstrom remarked, "John's work, writing, critical thinking, attention to detail, and very tight methodology made my job easy." John's dissertation, is entitled "Tootling with a Randomized Independent Group Contingency in a High School Setting." Coined in 1998 by Dr. Christopher Skinner, Professor of School Psychology at the University of Tennessee, the term "tootling" (the opposite of tattling because students report good behavior rather than bad), plays on the phrase "tooting your own horn." John examined how tootling classmates' positive and prosocial behavior impacted "disruptive and academically engaged behavior in three general education high school classrooms," using a randomized independent group contingency procedure. Students anonymously wrote tootles and placed them in marked containers.



John Lum

Teachers randomly selected students who were tootled about and those who submitted tootles and rewarded those students. In the classrooms evaluated, "decreases in disruptive behavior and increases in academically engaged behavior during intervention phases" occurred. John's results suggest that such a modified tootling procedure can be an effective intervention for teachers to improve the behavior of students in a high school setting." An additional accomplishment is that John's master's thesis research was accepted for publication and will soon appear in the journal *Psychology in Schools* as an article entitled "The effects of tootling on disruptive behavior and academic engagement in high school classrooms." Coauthored by D. Tingstrom, B.A. Dufrene, K.C. Radley, and S. Lynne, it is the first peer-reviewed report that shows this intervention works with high school students, not just elementary and middle school students. A citizen of North Vancouver, British Columbia, John completed an M.A. in School Psychology from Southern Miss in summer 2015 en route to the Ph.D. John is currently completing a school psychology internship and expects to graduate this May.



Janette Hreish

Speech and Hearing Sciences Graduate Student Awarded Prestigious Internship

Janette Hreish, a master of science student in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, was one of only two students nationwide to be selected to intern with the Inpatient Rehabilitation Department of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, ranked by U.S. News and World Report as “among the nation’s best pediatric Hospitals.” Janette began her internship this month and hopes to apply the knowledge she learned in her academic program “to best serve the children at the hospital” and to enhance her clinical skills so she is well prepared to serve future patients and clients. Her career goal is to work with pediatric patients in a hospital setting. Janette is a native of Columbus, Mississippi. She is expected to graduate this May. For complete article by Hanna Knowles, see Southern Miss Now at <http://news.usm.edu/article/southern-miss-student-selected-competitive-internship>.

Coastal Sciences Graduate Student Receives Best Abstract Award

The abstract of Adam Daw, doctoral student in the Division of Coastal Sciences, was selected for the U.S. Aquaculture Society’s Tyson Best Abstract Award for his paper, “Evaluation of sodium hypochlorite immersion protocols for the disinfection of *Acartia tonsa* and *Parvocalanus crassirostris* cultures.” Adam will present his research at the Aquaculture America national meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas February 19-22. The award includes \$1500 cash, a plaque, recognition by the society, and reimbursement of meeting registration. Selection for the award was highly competitive with over 750 abstracts submitted for the meeting.

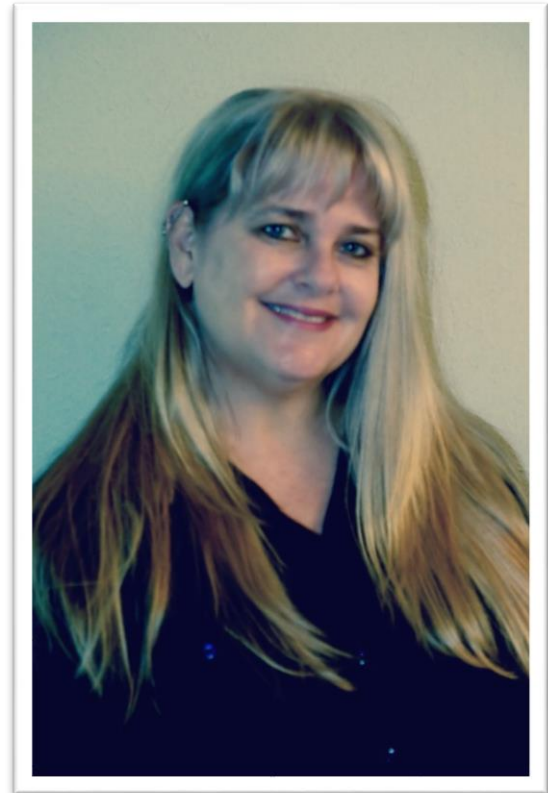


Adam Daw

Faculty Kudos

Nurse Anesthesia Director Named Distinguished Fellow in National Academies of Practice in Nursing

Dr. Marjorie Geisz-Everson, Interim Program Director for the Nurse Anesthesia Program and Assistant Professor in the Department of Advanced Practice, was elected to the Distinguished Fellowship of the National Academies of Practice in Nursing. She will be inducted at a gala banquet to be held during the 2017 Annual Meeting & Forum of the National Academies of Practice in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in mid-March. According to Dr. Satya Verma, President of the National Academies of Practice, selection as a Distinguished Fellow recognizes outstanding achievements and leadership in the profession. She will join “the current outstanding healthcare leaders and practitioners of NAP who are working together as an interdisciplinary force to influence national health policy and legislation and promote quality healthcare through cooperative advocacy, practice, education, and research.” After earning a bachelor of science in nursing from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana and a master of science from the School of Nurse Anesthesiology at Xavier University in New Orleans, she worked for many years as a certified registered nurse anesthetist in New Orleans-area hospitals and as an instructor at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program. Dr. Geisz-Everson earned her Ph.D. from Virginia Commonwealth University Medical College of Virginia in 2010 and joined Southern Miss as an assistant clinical professor in the College of Nursing in 2012.



Dr. Marjorie Geisz-Everson



Education Faculty Member Receives Excellence Award

Dr. Javier Gomez, adjunct instructor in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education at the Gulf Park campus, was selected as the 2016 Mississippi Foreign Language Association (MFLA) Educator of Excellence. Dr. Gomez will represent Mississippi at the Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) in Atlanta, Georgia in 2018 and will compete against other SCOLT state winners for the national-level award. Dr. Gomez completed his Ph.D. in Instructional Technology and Design in May 2016.

Dr. Javier Gomez, right, being presented the 2016 Educator of Excellence Award

Graduate News from Colleges

College of Arts and Letters

Department of Political Science, International Development, & International Affairs

Dr. Robert Press' third book, *Ripples of Hope How Ordinary People Resist Repression without Violence*, first published in 2015 by Amsterdam University Press, became available by open access in 2016. The book tells how ordinary people (mothers, teachers, attorneys, students, and others) stood up to repressive leaders through non-violent protest and helped bring change. The book is available at: <http://oapen.org/search?identifier=611225> Dr. Press, associate professor and former faculty senate president, was Bureau Chief for *The Christian Science Monitor* in Nairobi, Kenya from 1987-95.

College of Health

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

- **Dr. Kimberly Ward**, Assistant Professor of Audiology gave two presentations at the annual meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania last November. Her talks, entitled "Everyday leaders know Medicaid!" and "Medicaid experts provide answers to questions: what everyday leaders need to know," were delivered as podium and poster presentations, respectively. Dr. Ward also was selected to participate in the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders Leadership Academy to be held April 18-19, 2017 in New Orleans. This academic leadership development program will be led by Dr. Jeffrey Buller, Dean of Florida Atlantic University's Wilkes Honors College.
- The Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences faculty and students participated in the Mississippi Legislative Day at the Capitol on January 13. Audiologists and speech-language pathologists partnered with the Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association to provide hearing screenings to Mississippi legislators. This was a valuable opportunity to advocate for clients with speech and language difficulties. For more information about services provided by the department, visit: www.usm.edu/shs.

Dr. Kimberly Ward



College of Nursing

The Family Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, and associated post-master's certificate online graduate degree programs received the top ranking in Mississippi and were ranked 57th of 100 nationally by the U.S. News and World Report Online Graduate Nursing Program Rankings for 2017. The rankings are based on



Faculty and students from the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the Mississippi Capitol.

faculty credentials and training, graduation rates, academic and career support services offered to students, and admissions selectivity. For the complete listing see:

<http://www.usnews.com/education/online-education/nursing/rankings?page=3>.

College of Science and Technology

Department of Human Capital Development

- Alumna **Holly Burkett**, Ph.D., authored the book, *Learning for the Long Run: 7 Practices for Sustaining a Resilient Learning Organization*. The book earned the 2017 Award of Excellence for Outstanding Human Performance Communication from the International Society of Performance Improvement.
- **Gizzatta Johnson**, Ph.D. student, was awarded a 2016 Society of Human Resource Management Foundation Scholarship. The \$5000 award is intended to support Human Resource professionals working towards a graduate degree.

Department of Geography and Geology

- Master's students **Bill Funderburk**, **Will Jeter**, and **Carlton Anderson** each published their thesis research as their first peer-reviewed articles in scholarly journals:
 - **Jeter Jr., G. W.**, and G. A. Carter. 2016. Habitat change on Horn Island, Mississippi, 1940-2010, determined from textural features in panchromatic vertical aerial imagery. *Geocarto International*, 31(9): 985-994, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10106049.2015.1094527>. [published online in fall, 2015]
 - **Funderburk, W. R.**, G. A. Carter, and C. P. Anderson. 2016. Evaluating the influence of elevation and impact of Hurricane Katrina on radial growth in slash pine (*Pinus elliottii* var. *elliottii* Engelm.) on Cat Island, Mississippi, U.S.A. *Journal of Coastal Research*, 32(3): 483-489, <http://dx.doi.org/10.2112/JCOASTRES-D-15-00038.1>. [published online in fall, 2015]
 - **Anderson, C. P.**, G. A. Carter, and W. R. Funderburk. 2016. The use of aerial R, G, B imagery and LIDAR in comparing ecological habitats and geomorphic features on a natural versus man-made barrier island. *Remote Sensing*, 8, 602. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/rs8070602>.
- Master's student **Heather Nicholson** will give an oral presentation of her research during the Imaging & Geospatial Technology Forum of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland to be held March 11-17. Her abstract is entitled "Detecting change in coastal marshlands from 1950-2014 using textural analysis of panchromatic imagery."

Professional Development Opportunities for Graduate Students and Faculty

The following professional development events are rapidly approaching. More information on each session will follow.

Academic Integrity Workshop Presenters: Drs. Sam Bruton and Michele Frasier-Robinson
Date: Friday, Jan. 27, noon to 1:00 PM
Cook Library 110
Co-sponsored by The Graduate School and USM Libraries
http://lib.usm.edu/about_us/news/gradintegrity2017_news.html
Open to all graduate students and honors undergraduate students

Success Strategies for
Graduate School: Roundtable
and Luncheon

Discussion leaders: USM Faculty and Graduate Students
Date: Tuesday, Feb. 7, noon to 1:00 PM
Thad Cochran Center Room 218
Co-sponsored by The Graduate School and Office of Multi-cultural
Programs and Services
**Open to minority undergraduate students, McNair Scholars, and
other interested students**

Leadership: a Panel
Discussion

Panelists: Drs. Amy Miller, Faye Gilbert, Ann Blackwell
Date: Friday, Feb. 10, noon to 1:00 PM
Union Hall of Honors
Limited to Professionals in Preparation participants only

Effective Mentorship Lunch &
Learn Workshops

Discussion leaders: USM Graduate Faculty
Hattiesburg: Friday, Feb. 24 and Friday, Mar. 24, noon to 2:00 PM
Union Hall of Honors
Gulf Park: Tuesday, Feb. 14, noon to 1:00 PM
Location TBA
Co-sponsored by The Graduate School and Provost's First Year
Foundations New Faculty Development Program
Open to all university faculty and graduate students (RSVP)

News from the Graduate School

Graduate School Staff Changes

- **Dr. Roseanne Scammahorn** joined the Graduate School as Senior Graduate Admissions Specialist on January 3. She will provide leadership in all aspects of graduate admissions and assist with recruiting. Roseanne earned a Ph.D. in Human Sciences with a concentration in Agricultural and Extension Education from Mississippi State University in 2014. Her research assessed risks for high school agriculture teacher attrition in the southern region. While at MSU she held an assistantship with the Southern Rural Development Center & Extension Center for Technology Outreach where she assisted in the development of educational assessment tools, educational data collection and analysis, and conducted workshops. Dr. Scammahorn also holds a B.S. in Education with a concentration in Organizational Leadership from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio; an MBA with emphasis in Management, Innovation, and Change from Wright State, and an Educational Specialist in Counselor Education from Mississippi State University. The breadth of expertise she brings will be valuable in many aspects of Graduate School operations and will be used beyond the admissions office.



Dr. Roseanne Scammahorn

- **Sharon Pool**, Graduate Degree Auditor, resigned her position in The Graduate School effective February 1. Sharon and her family are taking advantage of a new career opportunities in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Sharon has held her position in The Graduate School for four years, serving as a liaison with faculty and students in the Colleges of Business, Health, Nursing, and Science & Technology. In addition to performing degree audits and monitoring student progress to degree, she advises the dean on policies and practices pertaining to student academic standing and degree progress. She has been a very effective member of the recruiting team, participating in on campus and off campus recruiting efforts. The Graduate School is advertising for a Degree Auditor Specialist. The position announcement is posted on the Human Resources Employment website with a closing date of January 24. Interviews are already ongoing.

Important Workshops on Hiring Graduate Assistants!

Graduate School staff Carolyn Cawthon, Director of Operations and Recruitment, and Shelby Flores, Coordinator of Business and Accounting Processes, will lead informational workshops on processing graduate assistant (GA) assignment paperwork in early February. It is essential that personnel who process GA paperwork attend. All workshops will be held in McCain 203. Space is limited to 30; please RSVP to Carolyn Cawthon at carolyn.cawthon@usm.edu. The schedule is as follows:

Date	Time	Units
Feb. 7	9:00 AM to noon	College of Arts & Letters
Feb. 8	9:00 AM to noon	College of Business; College of Nursing
Feb. 8	1:30 PM to 4:30 PM	College of Health; College of Education & Psychology
Feb. 9	9:00 AM to noon	College of Science & Technology
Feb. 9	1:30 PM to 4:30 PM	Academic support/Auxiliary Units
Feb. 10	8:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Open session for those unable to attend at assigned time
Feb. 10	2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Open session for those unable to attend at assigned time

Taking You TO THE TOP!

Elevating you to a higher level of academic and professional achievement