

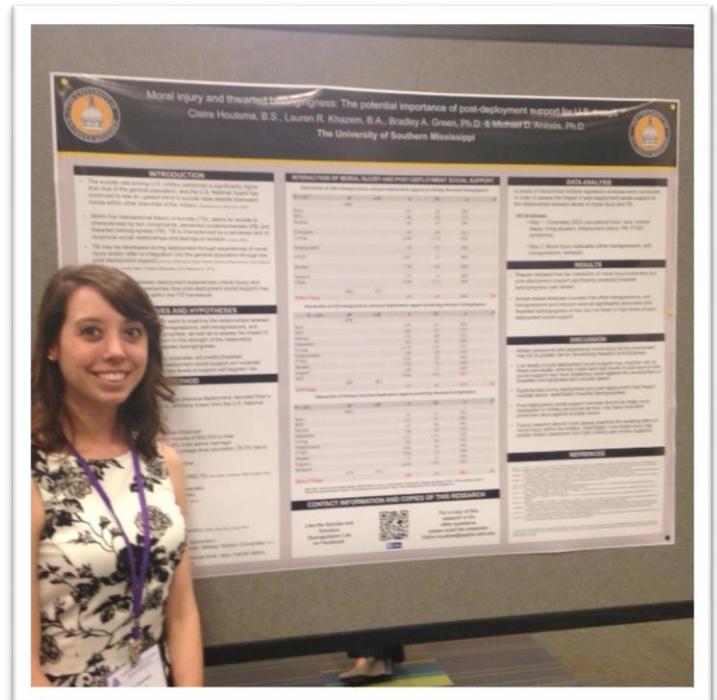
Soaring to New Heights: Graduate Education at Southern Miss

Graduate Dean's Report (March 2017)

Student Spotlight

Psychology Student Wins Prestigious National Award

Claire Houtsma, Ph.D. student in Clinical Psychology, is the 2017 recipient of the Morton M. Silverman Award. This award, presented annually by the American Association of Suicidology, recognizes the best student paper on a topic directly related to the field. Claire's paper, entitled "Practical capability: the impact of handgun ownership among previous suicide attempters," examines "the impact of handgun ownership, a component of practical capability as defined by the Three-Step Theory, on the relationship between past week suicidal ideation and perceived likelihood of making a future suicide attempt within a community sample of previous attempters." Her study found that "handgun ownership increases the likelihood of predicting engagement in future suicidal behavior" in currently-suicidal individuals who were previous attempters. Claire's hometown is the south suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. She received her B.S. in Psychology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her major professor is Dr. Michael Anestis.



Claire Houtsma presenting research on post-deployment support for U.S. troops at a national conference

Southern Miss Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Grand Champion Participates in Regional Competition

Mass Communication and Journalism doctoral student Ecaterina (Kate) Stepaniuc, the Southern Miss 2016 3MT Grand Champion, competed at the annual 3MT regional competition on March 4 during the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools annual meeting in Annapolis, Maryland. Competing against 44 other outstanding presenters representing universities from Maryland to

Ecaterina Stepaniuc discusses the importance of media on public perception at the CSGS regional 3MT competition



Oklahoma, Kate delivered a flawless presentation, “Moldova’s democracy: between opposing ideologies.” The competition included four heats of eleven to twelve students. Finalists chosen from each heat advanced to the finals competition on March 5. While Kate’s presentation was not selected to advance to the finals, she presented an energetic and compelling description of her research project, which examines how the Moldovan media influences ideology about national identity among Moldovan citizens.

Faculty Kudos



Dean Katherine Nugent

Dean of the College of Nursing Honored

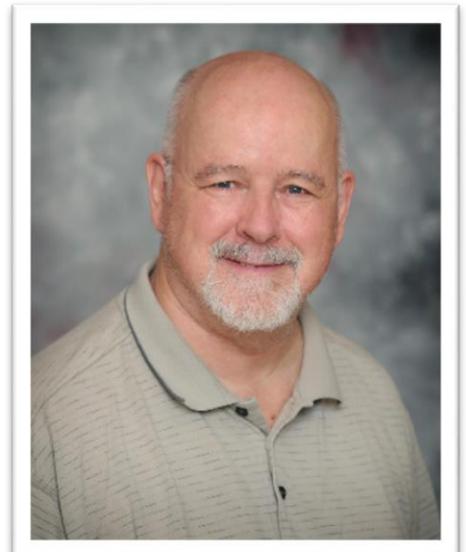
Dr. Katherine Nugent, Dean of the College of Nursing, was inducted into the Mississippi Nurses’ Association Hall of Fame on March 6 at the 11th Nightingale Awards Gala, an event hosted by the Mississippi Nurses’ Association and Mississippi Nurses’ Foundation. Dean Nugent’s many accomplishments during her tenure at Southern Miss include increased enrollment in both undergraduate and graduate nursing programs. Graduate enrollment grew by nearly 50% from Fall 2014 to Fall 2016, in part as a result of new graduate programs Dean Nugent spearheaded including the state’s only accredited nurse anesthesia program and the doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree program. She also led the development of online graduate nursing degree programs. The March 3 dedication of Asbury Hall, the College’s state-of-the-art, \$31 million

building where nursing students will receive much of their education and practical training, was a highlight in Dean Nugent’s career. The building is a result of her vision and ability to build relationships with those in a position to invest in Southern Miss. She earned her BSN and MSN degrees from Texas Woman’s University and her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. After practicing as a pediatric nurse and clinical specialist in pediatrics, she moved into a faculty position in higher education, and finally, nursing administration, which led to her directorship of the School of Nursing at Southern Miss in 2004. In 2012 she became Dean of the College of Nursing. For more information on Dean Nugent’s accomplishments see <http://news.usm.edu/article/usm-college-nursing-dean-nugent-inducted-mna-hall-fame>.

Marine Science Faculty Member Inducted into Hall of Fame

The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA) will welcome Dr. David Wells into the Hydrographer Hall of Fame during an induction ceremony to be held on March 21 during the opening ceremonies of the U.S. HYDRO 2017 conference in Galveston, Texas. The citation to be used at the induction ceremony reads: “David Wells has had an outstanding career, highlighted by his work with GPS and work to streamline the processing of multibeam sonar data. In addition, he has been an educator and advisor to a generation of hydrographers. After his early training in nuclear physics, David went on to obtain a Ph.D. in Geodesy from the University of New Brunswick (UNB). After returning to UNB in 1980, he was instrumental in the preparation of the

Dr. David Wells



“Guide to GPS Positioning”. Dr. Wells “played a key role in the creation of the Ocean Mapping Group at UNB and helped to establish the Geodetic Laboratory.” A Professor Emeritus from UNB, Dr. Wells currently teaches courses in the hydrographic science program in the Division of Marine Science at Stennis Space Center.

Fostering Faculty and Student Success

Valuing Effective Graduate Student Mentorship at Southern Miss

The second of three “Mentoring Matters” Lunch and Learn Workshops, held February 24 in the Trent Lott Center, was a resounding success. Thirty-two faculty and senior-level graduate students (participants in the Professionals in Preparation program), along with eight leaders were in attendance. Round table discussions of case studies representing realistic challenges in graduate student mentorship were led by Dr. Lachel Story, Assistant Dean and Associate Professor, Nursing; Dr. Frank Moore, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Biological Sciences; Dr. Alan Thompson, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice; Dr. Ann Blankenship, Assistant Professor, Educational Research and Administration; Dr. Bonnie Nicholson, Assistant Chair and Associate Professor, Psychology; Dr. Andrew Wiest, University Distinguished Professor, History; Dr. Douglas Masterson, Associate Dean and Associate Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry; and Dr. Elaine Molaison; Chair and Professor, Nutrition and Food Systems. The lively discussion provided opportunities for junior faculty and students to consider how to best manage tricky situations they might encounter either as a student being mentored or while mentoring students in a degree program. The final

mentorship workshop will be held on March 24 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Cook Library Art Gallery. (See information below). All Mentorship Matters workshops are 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 of the program. Vanessa Molden, Coordinator of



Drs. Doug Masterson (top left) and Elaine Molaison (bottom right) were among faculty mentors who led roundtable discussions on effective mentorship during the second Mentorship Matters workshop in late February.

Special Projects in the Graduate School, and Bonnie Cooper, Assistant to the Provost for Faculty Development, coordinated the workshop.

Graduate News from Colleges

College of Arts and Letters

Department of English

“Bodies That Work,” a conference hosted by the Department of **English Graduate Student Organization** (EGO) during the first week of March, featured two full days of panel presentations and a keynote address by Beth Ann Fennelly, Mississippi’s poet laureate. Sessions were held at both on-campus locations and at community venues. The conference, which was conceived, planned, and executed by EGO with the assistance of department staff, was attended by scholars from across the region. The conference was a great success that brought positive publicity to USM by engaging academic scholars and the greater Hattiesburg community.

Department of Political Science, International Development, and International Affairs

Jennifer Kuklenski, Ph.D. student in International Development, won the Outstanding PhD Student Paper in Economics award at the 2017 Annual Conference of the Academy of Economics and Finance held February 8-11 in Charleston, South Carolina. Jennifer’s paper was entitled: “A transatlantic analysis of immigration and economic growth.” This is the third time in four years that an IDV student won the award for best student paper.

College of Business

School of Accountancy

Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA) students in **Amber Hatten's** ACC 615 - Audit Analytics and IT Auditing class participated in a live webinar led by Cory Windham, Academic Program Manager with Audimation Services, Inc. in Houston, Texas. The webinar included hands-on experience with IDEA Data Analysis Software. The IDEA Academic Partnership (<https://www.audimation.com/Resources/IDEA-Academic-Partnership>) provided the USM MPA students with free access to CaseWare IDEA version 10 software downloaded to their personal computers and complimentary copies of the IDEA workbook. Students will benefit by gaining exposure to this data analysis tool used in the practice of the profession.

Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Sport Management

Sponsored by Mississippi Power Economic Development and Southeast Commercial Real Estate Services, **Master of Science in Economic Development (MSED)** students **Katie Hogan, Ann Kate Baygents, and Oprah Payne** attended the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Idea Exchange Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi March 8-9. The ICSC, with over 70,000 members from the shopping center industry, meets annually to promote its role in the commercial distribution of consumer goods. The students were made ICSC members and participated in the education, networking, and retail real estate deal-making event.

College of Education and Psychology

Department of Psychology

- **S. Kathleen (Katie) Bishop** and **Parker Lundy**, Master’s students in **Applied Behavior Analysis**, are co-authors with **Dr. James Moore** and Dr. Mark R. Dixon (Southern Illinois University) of a chapter in the upcoming book *Encyclopedia of Personality and Individual Differences*. The chapter is entitled “Behavioral Perspectives on Personality.” For more information see https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-3-319-28099-8_962-1.

- **Counseling Psychology** students received prestigious internship placements:
 - **Carly Chadick** – Federal Bureau of Prisons, Tallahassee, Florida
 - **Danielle Cottonham** – Southeast Louisiana Veterans Administration
 - **Niki Knight** – Central Arkansas Veterans Administration
 - **Ben Wu** – Veterans Administration of Central Texas
- **Clinical Psychology** students received top internship placements:
 - **Karin Fisher** – Mississippi State Hospital
 - **Chris Gillen** – University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center
 - **Jessica James** – Indiana University School of Medicine
 - **Lauren Khazem** – Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center
 - **Keyne Law** – Charleston Internship Consortium (Medical University of South Carolina)
- **Caitlyn Chambers**, first year graduate student in the **School Psychology** program, received the 2017 Fred E. Woodall Memorial Scholarship by the Mississippi Association for Psychology in Schools.

Department of Educational Research and Administration

Southern Miss was well represented at the Southern History of Education Society Conference in Athens GA on March 10 – 11, 2017, with faculty, students, and an alumnus presenting their research. Faculty members **Dr. Eric Platt** and **Dr. Holly Foster**, assistant professors in Educational Research and Administration, and **Dr. Matthew Griffis**, assistant professor, School of Library and Information Science, accompanied six students. The students, all pursuing degrees in Educational Research and Administration, included **David Taylor**, **Donavan Johnson**, **Zachary Turner**, **Jo Yarketta Hawkins**, **Kaitlyn Hall**, and **Elizabeth Cobbins**.

Alumnus Joseph Odenwald, Ph.D., a graduate of the Higher Education program who is now on faculty at Louisiana State University, joined the group.



Faculty, graduate students, and a USM alumnus attended the Southern History of Education Society conference earlier this month

School of Library and Information Science

The research of assistant professor **Matthew Griffis** on the history of segregated public libraries in the South, a project funded with a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in Washington, D.C., is now available online at <http://aquila.usm.edu/rocoverview/>. "The Roots of Community: Segregated Carnegie Libraries as Spaces for Learning and Community-Making in Pre-Civil Rights America, 1900-65," examines the twelve segregated Carnegie libraries that opened across the South between 1905 and 1920. They were part of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie's library building program which funded more than 1,600



Dr. Matthew Griffis

American public libraries from 1900-1925. For more information, see USM News:
<http://news.usm.edu/article/professor-s-research-segregated-public-libraries-south-available-online-0>

College of Science and Technology

Department of Mathematics

Ph.D. students **Brianna Bingham**, **Haley Dozier**, and **Somayyeh Sheikholeslami**, and M.S. student **Elyse Garon** presented their research at the 2017 Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Conference on Computational Science and Engineering, held February 27 – March 3 in Atlanta, Georgia. It is the largest conference organized by SIAM with 1400 attendees from around world. Somayyeh was supported by an SIAM travel award. All students are mentored by **Dr. James Lambers**. The students' papers were entitled:

- “Krylov subspace spectral methods for Navier-Stokes in cylindrical geometries,” Brianna Bingham and James Lambers
- “Multigrid Krylov subspace spectral methods for time-dependent partial differential equations,” Haley Dozier and James Lambers
- “Solution to partial differential equations for photobleaching kinetics using Krylov subspace spectral methods,” Somayyeh Sheikholeslami and James Lambers

Center for Science and Mathematics Education

Dr. Berkley N. King, Jr., December 2016 Science Education graduate, presented his dissertation research entitled “Analysis of Professors’ Perceptions Towards Institutional Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites in Alabama,” at the 4th Annual Climate Change Conference, held March 17, 2017 at Loyola University Chicago.

Division of Marine Science

Faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students presented their research at national meetings during February:

- **Graduate Students:**
 - **Adam Boyette**, S. Parra, A. Shiller, I. Soto Ramos, A. Weidemann, S. Joye, M. Cambazoglu, A. Deary, T. Miles, W. Graham. Characterization of stratified coastal waters in response to a winter Mississippi River flood and the opening of the Bonnet Carré Spillway, LA. 2017 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Conference, New Orleans, LA.
 - **Peng Ho**, A. Shiller. The behavior of dissolved trace metals (V, Mo and Ni) in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. Oral presentation at ASLO 2017 Aquatic Sciences Meeting, Honolulu, HI.
 - **Stephan O’Brien**, S. L. Dykstra, L. Quas, B. Dzwonkowski, S. Howden, D. J. Wallace, I. Church O. Schofield, T. Miles, and J. D. Wiggert. Characterizing spatial and temporal changes of the suspended particulate matter in the Mississippi Sound and Mississippi Bight. 2017 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Conference, New Orleans, LA.
 - **Lauren Quas**, I. Church, M. Williamson. Correlation of benthic sediment grain-size distributions to high-resolution multibeam sonar backscatter in the Mississippi Bight. 2017 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Conference, New Orleans, LA.
 - **Laura Whitmore**, A.M. Shiller. Dissolved barium distribution in the 2015 U.S. geotraces Arctic section. Oral presentation at ASLO 2017 Aquatic Sciences Meeting, Honolulu, HI.
 - **Maxwell Williamson**, I. Church, L. Quas, A. Greer, C. Briseno-Avena, Visualizing the structure of freshwater plumes in the coastal Gulf of Mexico using high frequency multibeam sonar water column backscatter. 2017 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Postdoctoral fellows and faculty presenting research at the 2017 Oil Spill and Ecosystem Conference in New Orleans were: **Drs. Adam Greer, Brooke Jones, Dong Joo Joung, Chudong Pan, and Inia Sato Ramo** (postdocs); **Drs. Monty Graham, Bob Arnone, C.T. Hayes, Stephan Howden, and Jerry**

Wiggert (faculty). Drs. Ramo and Hayes also presented at the Association for Sciences in Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) Aquatic Sciences meeting in Honolulu, HI.

Division of Coastal Sciences

Sara Pace, M.S. student, was awarded an International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) Early Career Scientist Travel Award to present her research the annual meeting in Riga, Latvia last fall. Her talk was entitled, "Evidence of multidecadal recruitment in the ocean quahog, *Arctica islandica*, in the western Atlantic Ocean." Her major professor is **Dr. Eric Powell**.

School of Polymers and High Performance Materials

- The 44th Annual Waterborne Symposium, Environmental Friendly Coatings Technology Conference, held February 19-24 in New Orleans was sponsored by the School of Polymers and High Performance Materials. **Drs. Rob Storey, James Rawlins, and Melanie Heusser** were instrumental in organizing the meeting, attended by 381 scientists. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of a \$798,800 donation to the USM Foundation to support scholarships and education for Polymer Science and Engineering Students. Graduate students **Vivek Vasagar** and **Beibei Chen** were 1st and 2nd place winners, respectively, of student awards.
- **External grants funded**
 - **Dr. Sarah Morgan**, Johnson & Johnson, \$200,000
 - **Dr. Jeff Wiggins**, Boeing, \$412,294
- **Student accomplishments**
 - **Brian Donovan**, Ph.D. student working with **Dr. Derek Patton**, was awarded a National Research Council (NRC) Postdoctoral Associateship with Dr. Timothy White and the Air Force Research Lab.
 - Ph.D. student **Levi Moore**, was awarded National Science Foundation Research Traineeship Program Internship at Air Force Research Laboratories, Edwards AFB, CA. Levi's major professor is **Dr. Sarah Morgan**.
 - **Lifeng Huang**, Ph.D. student in **Dr. Jason Azoulay's** lab, is conducting research at the Molecular Foundry at Lawrence Berkeley National Labs during the month of March.
 - Ph.D. students **Yidan Guan** and **Alex London** published their first papers in peer-reviewed journals:
 - **Guan, Y.**, K.P. Meyers, S.K. Mendon, G. Hao, J.R. Douglas, S. Trigwell, S.I. Nazarenko, D.L. Patton, J.W. Rawlins. 2016. Ecofriendly fabrication of modified graphene oxide latex nanocomposites with high oxygen barrier performance. *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces* 8(48): 33210-33220.
 - **London, A.E.**, L. Huang, B. A. Zhang, M. B. Oviedo, J. Tropp, W. Yao, Z. Wu, B. M. Wong, T. N. Ng, J. D. Azoulay. Donor-acceptor polymers with tunable infrared photoresponse. *Polymer Chemistry* (accepted).
 - Amato, D. V., H. Lee, J.G. Werner, **D.A. Weitz**, D.L. Patton. 2017. Functional microcapsules via thiol-ene photopolymerization in droplet-based microfluidics. *ACS Applied Material & Interfaces* 9: 3288-3293.
- **Faculty Accomplishments**
 - **Dr. Xiadan Gu**, assistant professor, published a paper in *Science*:
 - Xu, J., S. Wang, G.-J.N. Wang, C. Zhu, S. Luo, L. Jin, **X. Gu**, S. Chen, V.R. Feig, J.W.F. To, S. Rondeau-Gagné, J. Park, B.C. Schroeder, C. Lu, J.Y. Oh, Y. Wang, Y.-H. Kim, H. Yan, R. Sinclair, D. Zhou, G. Xue, B. Murmann, C. Linder, W. Cai, J.B.H. Tok, J.W. Chung, Z. Bao. 2017, Highly stretchable polymer semiconductor films through the nanoconfinement effect. *Science* 355 (6320): 59-64.

- **Dr. Yoan Simon**, assistant professor, was appointed Editorial Advisory Member of the Journal of Macromolecular Science, Part A: Pure and Applied Chemistry.

Professional Development Opportunities for Graduate Students and Faculty

Graduate Student Appreciation Week (April 3-7)

Schedule of Events

➤ GRADUATE STUDENT HALL OF FAME PORTRAIT UNVEILING AND OPEN HOUSE

April 3 | 2-4 p.m. | McCain Library, Second Floor

Each year the Graduate School showcases outstanding graduate students from each academic college in the Graduate Student Hall of Fame. Students, selected by their college Dean, were photographed in their research environment. Canvas portraits, to be displayed in the Office of the Graduate School for one year, will be unveiled at a ceremony which honors each student. The ceremony will be followed by an Open House and reception. The event kicks off Graduate Student Appreciation Week.

➤ WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

All workshops will be captured, archived, and available for electronic viewing at a later date by accessing the Graduate School website for students unable to attend the face-to-face events.

Mendeley for Citation Management

April 3 | 10-11 a.m. | Cook Library, Room 123

April 3 | 10-11 a.m. | Gulf Coast Library, Room 213



Looking for a more effective way to manage citations for your next major research project or paper? Drop in for a workshop on Mendeley, a free citation management tool. 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. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own laptops with Mendeley already installed.

Presenters: Elena Azadbakht, Assistant Professor and Health and Nursing Librarian, Hattiesburg
Adrienne McPhaul, Assistant Professor, Science, Health and Nursing Library, Gulf Park

Finding Data and Statistics for Education Research

April 4 | 12:15-1:15 p.m. | Cook Library, Room 110

Need assistance finding data and statistical sources for your education research? Drop in for a workshop that provides an overview of statistics and data resources available from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The NCES is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the U.S. and other nations. Learn how to find state, district and local-level data for early childhood through post-secondary education. This workshop will show you how to find datasets and tables on topics including: dropout rates, race and ethnicity, student/teacher ratio, and college and university enrollment.

Presenter: Michele Frasier-Robinson, Assistant Professor and Education and Psychology Librarian

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

April 5 | Noon-1 p.m. | McCain Library, Room 203



The Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers research, study, and teaching opportunities in over 140 countries to recent graduates and graduate students. Students interested in more information about applying for a prestigious Fulbright award should attend this informational workshop.

Presenter: Robyn Curtis, Director, Nationally Competitive Awards

Using Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Effectively – Graduate Student edition

April 5 | 2-3 p.m. | Cook Library, Room 123

Are you a graduate student looking for access to materials not owned by University Libraries? The Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Unit provides patrons with crucial research materials when they are unable to locate them within our own collections. Join Interlibrary Loan Librarian Nadine Phillips for an overview of interlibrary loan and how best to utilize ILL services. This workshop will provide an overview for graduate students of interlibrary loan services and the ILLiad system used to process ILL requests. Attendees will learn when it's appropriate to place ILL requests and how to navigate the ILLiad system with ease and improved confidence. All related questions and queries are welcome.

Presenter: Nadine Phillips, Instructor and Interlibrary Loan Librarian

Zotero for Citation Management

April 6 | 12:15-1:15 p.m. | Cook Library, Room 123

April 6 | 12:15-1:15 p.m. | Gulf Coast Library, Room 213



Looking for a more effective way to manage citations for your next major research project or paper? Drop in for a workshop on Zotero, a free citation management tool. 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. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own laptops with Zotero already installed.

Presenters: Elena Azadbakht, Assistant Professor and Health and Nursing Librarian, Hattiesburg
Adrienne McPhaul, Assistant Professor, Science, Health and Nursing Library, Gulf Park

Overview of Aquila and an Introduction to the Thesis, Dissertation and Nursing Capstone Project Formatting and Submission Process

April 6 | 1:30-2:30 p.m. | Cook Library, Room 203

Are you a graduate student approaching completion of your research project? If so, this workshop will help you get started on the right foot correctly formatting your thesis, dissertation, or capstone document and understanding how it must be submitted.

Presenters: Josh Cromwell, Institutional Repository Coordinator, Cook Library
Jeanne Stewart, Reviewer of Theses, Dissertations, and Nursing Capstone Projects,
Graduate School

➤ **SUSAN A. SILTANEN GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

April 4, 2017 | 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>.

➤ **Graduate Student Meet & Greet Social with Dr. Justin Brown, Senior Scientist at Asuragen**

April 7, 2017 | 3-5 p.m. | R. C. Cook Union Lounge

This informal come and go event is an opportunity for graduate students to network with Dr. Justin Brown, Senior Scientist at Asuragen, a biotechnology company which focuses on development of new therapeutics and diagnostic tests in molecular oncology and genetics. Dr. Brown will discuss how he has successfully navigated concerns in molecular science, manufacturing, business development, intellectual property, incoming market research, outgoing marketing, quality assurance, clinical affairs, and regulatory compliance. Dr. Brown received his Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin where he studied cellular function of mRNA degradation and translational control. He then transitioned to molecular diagnostics, including the varied fields of high complexity in vitro diagnostics, oncology, genetic screening, reference materials and controls, and enabling technologies.

Graduate students from all disciplines will have the opportunity to discuss how leverage a Ph.D. in both academic and non-academic job markets. Refreshments will be served.

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

Friday, March 24 | noon – 1:30 p.m. | Cook Library Art Gallery

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 this semester's final Mentoring Matters workshop. 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. Join the group for lunch and great discussion. 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.

News from the Graduate School

Graduate School Staff Changes

Dr. Roseanne Scammahorn, previously Senior Graduate Admissions Specialist in the Graduate School, began her new role as Degree Auditor on March 1. She replaces Sharon Pool, who resigned from the position at the end of January. Aided by veteran degree auditor Sue Fayard, Roseanne is quickly learning auditing processes and getting to know departments. The degree auditors are reviewing current processes with an eye toward streamlining and improving customer service and efficiency. Shaadi Shoubaki, formerly graduate admissions specialist, assumed the position Senior Graduate Admissions Specialist on March 10. Shaadi's broad background and education in higher education student services will bring innovative ideas to improve graduate admissions. Interviews of job candidates for the vacant Graduate Admissions Specialist position are underway with hopes of filling the position in the coming weeks.



Dr. Roseanne Scammahorn, left, and Shaadi Shoubaki assumed new roles in the Graduate School in recent weeks.

Updates on Policies

Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree Program

In recent Graduate Council meetings, guidelines for the creation of accelerated bachelor's to master's degree programs (4+1), were reviewed and affirmed. These guidelines were developed by Dr. Bill Powell, Associate Provost, with input from the Registrar, the Director of Financial Aid, the Dean of the Graduate School, Graduate Council leadership, and the Department of English. The guidelines meet the specifications for SACSCOC compliance. During the February meeting of Graduate Council, a proposal submitted by the Department of English to begin an Accelerated B.A. to M.A. (4+1) degree option was vetted and approved. The department intends to begin the pilot program during the Fall 2017 semester. Hopefully, other departments will follow suit and develop proposals for accelerated programs, if appropriate, so that USM will soon be able to feature this option for graduate study to our

most outstanding undergraduate students in a broad array of disciplines. For more information, please contact the Graduate School.

“Limitations on University Faculty Members” Policy Now Void

During the January 2017 meeting of Graduate Council, the policy restricting faculty members above the rank of instructor from pursuing doctoral degrees at USM, as stated in the 2016-2017 and earlier Graduate Bulletins, was voided by unanimous vote. The original policy reads as follows:

”Members of the faculty of The University of Southern Mississippi above the rank of instructor cannot become candidates for a doctoral degree at the institution. They may, however, enroll for graduate courses as a non-degree student. Faculty members of the rank of instructor may become candidates for doctoral degrees at The University of Southern Mississippi on the same terms as any other advanced graduate student candidate.”

Following the Graduate Council vote, the policy statement was deleted from the current Graduate Bulletin and will not appear in future editions.

Information Item

Fees for Graduate Students Not Enrolled During Summer Term

Students who are not enrolled during the summer 2017 term will be assessed the following fees if they choose to use university services. These fees are not new, but may increase periodically. A summer tuition waiver should not be requested for graduate assistants to avoid their incurring one or more of these fees.

*Health Services Card	\$75.00
Payne Center Summer Pass	\$47.50
Friends of University Libraries Membership	\$10.00

(See <https://www.friendsofuniversitylibraries.com/> for benefits of membership)

*This fee is for students who are NOT enrolled in the university’s student health plan (United). Those students who are enrolled in United do not pay a fee for summer use of Moffitt Health Center, nor do they pay the \$20 per visit charge.

Taking You TO THE TOP!

Elevating you to a higher level of academic and professional achievement