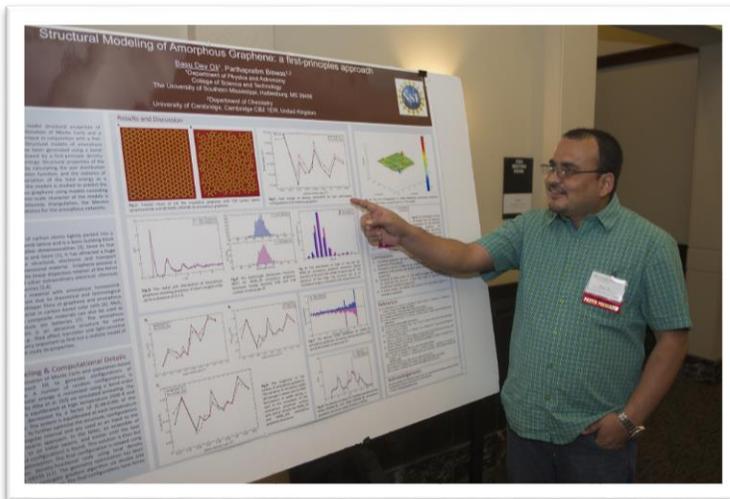


GRADUATE DEAN'S REPORT: INFORMATION AND UPDATES FROM THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Spring 2018/March

UPCOMING GRADUATE SCHOOL EVENTS FOCUS ON STUDENTS



Susan A. Siltanen Graduate Research Symposium to Showcase Research

Nearly one hundred graduate students will compete for prizes for best poster or oral presentations at the 2018 Susan A. Siltanen Graduate Research Symposium on Thursday, March 29. The event will be held in the Thad Cochran Center from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The symposium provides an opportunity for students to gain valuable experience presenting their thesis, capstone project, or dissertation research, and allows the university community the opportunity to hear about the outstanding and

innovative research happening at USM. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend the symposium.

Graduate Students to be Celebrated during Graduate Student Appreciation Week

Envisioned by three members of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS), Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week began in 1993 as a way to “physically manifest support and appreciation of the contributions, impact, and value of graduate students” (<http://nagps.org/about-us/graduate-professional-appreciation-week/>), and the celebration has



continued nation-wide during the first week of April each year ever since. Southern Miss will again join universities across the United States in celebrating the contributions of our graduate students to the teaching, research, creative activities, outreach, and service mission of our university during Graduate Student Appreciation Week, April 2 – 6. Partnering with University Libraries, the Office of Research Administration, and the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships, the Graduate School is sponsoring a series of professional development workshops to assist graduate students in research and academic pursuits, along with promotional and social events to showcase graduate student accomplishments and provide networking opportunities. Graduate students and faculty are invited to attend the following workshops and events:

Monday, April 2

Noon-1 p.m.

Workshop: *Using Interlibrary Loan Effectively*

Instructor: Nadine Phillips, Assistant Teaching Professor and Interlibrary Loan Librarian

Location: Cook Library Room 110

Tuesday, April 3

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Workshop: *Grant Proposal Writing for Graduate Students*

Instructor: Marcia Landen, Associate Vice President for Research

Location: Cook Library Room 123. IVN to the coast is available if students express interest by contacting Desira Bailey at desira.l.bailey@usm.edu no later than noon on Monday, April 2.

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Workshop: *Managing Your Scholarly Identity*

Instructor: Tracy Englert, Associate Professor and Science & Technology Librarian

Location: Cook Library Room 110

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Recognition and Social Event: *Graduate Student Hall of Fame Portrait Unveiling and Open House*

Led by Dr. Karen S. Coats, Dean of the Graduate School

Location: McCain Library 2nd Floor

Wednesday, April 4

Noon-1 p.m.

Workshop: *Designing a Winning Poster Presentation*

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

Location: Cook Library Room 110

Noon-1:30 p.m.

Social/Networking Event: *Graduate Student Luncheon and Q&A with the Dean* (for Gulf Coast graduate students)

Led by Dr. Karen S. Coats, Dean of the Graduate School

Location: University Club, Hardy Hall, Gulf Park Campus

Thursday, April 5

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Workshop: *Citation Management Tools*

Instructor: Adrienne McPhaul, Assistant Professor and Science, Health & Nursing Librarian

Location: Gulf Coast Library Room 204

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Workshop: *Introduction to the Fulbright Student Program*

Instructor: Robyn Curtis, Program Director for Nationally Competitive Scholarships

Location: McCain Library Room 203

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Workshop: *Using Thesis/Dissertation Templates and Aquila*

Instructors: Josh Cromwell, Institutional Repository Coordinator, University Libraries; and Michaela Donohue, Communications and Documents Specialist, Graduate School

Location: Cook Library Room 123

Friday, April 6

8:00-10:00 a.m.

Social/Networking Event: *First Friday Donuts and Coffee*

Location: McCain Library 2nd floor

Noon-1 p.m. Cook Library Room 110

Workshop: *Citation Management Tools*

Instructor: Elena Azadbakht, Assistant Professor and Health & Nursing Librarian

Location: Cook Library Room 110

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2018-19 PROFESSIONALS IN PREPARATION PROGRAM

Professionals in Preparation is a professional development program sponsored by the Graduate School designed to assist students in developing the “transferable skills” which provide a competitive edge in the job market and career advancement. The program introduces graduate students to effective communication, interviewing skills, business and dining etiquette, leadership, scholarly ethics and integrity, and more. Master’s, specialist, and doctoral students are encouraged to apply to become part of the academic year 2018-19 cohort. Information about the program and a link to the application form is located on the Graduate School website at <https://www.usm.edu/graduate-school/professionals-preparation>. Applications are due by noon, Friday, April 12.

ANNOUNCING GRADUATE RECRUITMENT SUMMIT FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

Directors, program chairs, and graduate coordinators, please mark your calendars and plan to attend the upcoming Graduate Recruitment Summit. The purpose of the Summit is to:

- Promote innovative recruitment strategies by sharing both successful and failed initiatives with members of the graduate recruitment community
- Identify best practices for graduate recruitment
- Assemble a graduate recruitment advisory board who will continue to disseminate information about successes and strategize for future initiatives

Event date and location: May 15 | 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Thad Cochran Center Room 218 A-B

Electronic invitations will be sent in the near future.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Spring 2018 GRE Boot Camps

To help prepare undergraduate students for the GRE and encourage successful graduate applications, the Graduate School is hosting multiple GRE boot camps throughout 2018. The format for each boot camp on the Hattiesburg campus will be two, half-day sessions focusing on verbal and quantitative skills sections of the GRE. Sessions at the Gulf Park campus will be full-day Saturday workshops covering the same content. The boot camps will also be available to online students. GRE boot camp instructors will be doctoral students in English and

mathematics with experience leading GRE preparatory courses. Each boot camp will be limited to a total of 30 students. A \$50 registration fee will cover the cost of the full course. Course materials will be provided at no additional charge. This project is funded through a grant from the Southern Miss Fund. The following is a list of spring sessions scheduled on the Hattiesburg campus. All sessions will be held in McCain Library Rooms 100 and 203. Additional workshops will be held on the Gulf Park campus at a later dates, and more will follow during the summer and fall semesters.

Boot camp 1: Saturday, March 24 and Saturday, March 31, 8:00 a.m. to noon

Boot camp 2: Tuesday, April 10 and Tuesday, April 17, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

How to Get into Graduate School: a Panel Discussion

In this panel discussion aimed at junior and senior USM undergraduate students, faculty and graduate students will share their graduate school experiences; inform students on the expectations of graduate school; and advise them on developing a resumé that will support a competitive graduate application. Panelists will include: Dr. Karen Coats, Dean of the Graduate School; Dr. Hugh Broome, assistant teaching professor, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry; Dr. Marcus Coleman, assistant professor, Department of Communication Studies; and Dr. Marek Steedman, associate professor, Department of Political Science, International Development, & International Affairs; along with doctoral students Tanja Nathanael and Samantha Druwellar. Participants are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. The Graduate School will provide snacks.

Event date and location: March 21 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Thad Cochran Center Room 118A

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICY/PROCEDURE UPDATES

Graduate Council Affirms Master's En Route to Ph.D. Policy

In the February meeting of Graduate Council, members unanimously affirmed a proposal brought forward by the Policies and Procedures subcommittee to establish a master's en route to Ph.D. policy, and the new proposal was approved by Provost Steven Moser. The new policy reads as follows: "Doctoral programs may elect to confer the master's degree en route to the Ph.D. after a student completes thirty hours of graduate courses in the discipline with a GPA of 3.0 and good academic standing; passes a comprehensive examination; meets any other requirements specific to the program; and obtains approval of the graduate committee."

Graduate Enrollment Deadline Enacted

In consultation with the Registrar and with approval by Provost Steven Moser, a deadline for graduate students to enroll in coursework was enacted. The following statement was included in the Graduate Bulletin.

"Graduate students must be enrolled in coursework by the tenth day of class each fall and spring semester. It will be assumed graduate students who have not enrolled by the 10th day of class elected not to enroll, and they will be required to apply for readmission and responsible for all fees associated with readmission. This policy excludes eight week two (8W2) courses. However, students who fail to enroll in 8W2 courses according to the standard fee schedule remain subject to late enrollment fees."

Doctoral Diplomas to be Distributed by Registrar

Beginning this spring semester, the Graduate School will no longer distribute diplomas to doctoral graduates. Instead, the registrar's office will mail doctoral diplomas, and graduates should expect to receive them within six to eight weeks after commencement. This change in practice will allow graduate degree auditors adequate time to clear doctoral students for graduation and post degrees prior to issuing the diploma, and it will eliminate the potential for errors associated with additional handling of diplomas. This change applies to doctoral graduates on all USM campuses.