

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

Fall 2017/October

## Online Nursing Programs Nationally Ranked

Congratulations to the College of Nursing for another year of outstanding rankings for online master's programs in nursing! Reviewed by SR Education Group, Southern Miss nursing programs were ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation in 2018 Top Online Colleges. Rankings were based on academic strength and annual tuition rates. Ranked 24<sup>th</sup> by 2018 Most Affordable Online Colleges, the programs were selected based on "effort to provide economical options for students." For more information see:  
<http://www.onlineu.org/most-affordable-colleges/nursing-masters-degrees>  
<http://www.guidetoonlineschools.com/degrees/masters-nursing>



The Graduate School will be well represented during homecoming activities on Saturday, October 14. Graduate Student Senate president Rachel Young (seated, third from left) is graduate maid. Rachel is a Master of Education student in the Child and Family Studies Program in her second year of service to the GSS. Her hometown is Natchez, Mississippi. Donaven McLaurin (third row, far left) a Ph.D. student in Biological Sciences from Bay Springs, Mississippi, is graduate beau. Homecoming queen Tayla McKinney (second row, third from left), an undergraduate Speech Pathology major from Gulfport, Mississippi, is a current McNair Scholar.

## DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR GRADUATE COMPETITIVE TRAVEL AWARDS (GCTA) APPLICATIONS

The application deadline for Graduate Competitive Travel Awards (GCTA) is 5 pm, Monday, October 23. Travel awards will assist graduate student travel to high impact, national or international conferences, exhibitions, or other scholarly meetings to present original research or exhibit creative works. Requests will be limited to \$500 for domestic travel and \$1000 for international travel. Matching funds from the department are required, but need not be one to one. The application, eligibility requirements, and details are available on the Graduate School website at <https://www.usm.edu/graduate-school>.

## PROPOSALS FOR GRADUATE RECRUITING ASSISTANCE GRANTS DUE SOON

The Graduate School is soliciting applications for Graduate Recruiting Assistance Grants (GRAGs) from schools and departments. Requests for up to \$2000 per year will be considered. Successful applications will describe the proposed recruiting activity, the potential for the activity to engage a diverse population of high-quality prospects, and a prospect outreach plan (using Radius) to encourage submitted applications and enrollment of admitted applicants. At the end of one year, a brief quantitative report on the effectiveness of the project will be required. Applications must be submitted through the department chair or school director. Only one application per school or department will be accepted. The deadline for proposals is 5 pm, Monday, October 30. Details and application form are available on the Graduate School website at <https://www.usm.edu/graduate-school>.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND FACULTY

### Effective Graduate Student Mentorship Lunch and Learn Workshop

Faculty and advanced graduate students are invited to learn how to manage real life challenges faced by mentors and mentees at the fall 2017 Effective Graduate Student Mentorship Lunch and Learn Workshop to be held Friday, October 27 from noon – 2 pm in the Union Hall of Honors. Faculty and students will join experienced graduate faculty for a meal and roundtable discussions of case studies describing realistic problems that may arise during a student's degree program. Registration will be required. This workshop may be used to fulfill the graduate mentorship training requirement for graduate faculty status. Information and online registration can be accessed at <https://forms.usm.edu/graduate-school/view.php?id=46744>.



Dr. Sarah Morgan, Executive Associate Director and Professor, School of Polymers and High Performance Materials, spending face-to-face time mentoring her students.



The Graduate School will sponsor the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Three Minute Thesis<sup>®</sup> Competition November 1-3 in the Trent Lott Center beginning at 2 pm each day. On November 1 and 2, Master's/specialist and doctoral students will compete to become finalists in one of four categories: 1) arts and humanities; 2) life, health, and environmental sciences; 3) physical sciences and math; 4) social and educational sciences and business. Those 8 finalists will compete in the finals competition on November 3. From the finalists a Grand Champion and Runner Up will be selected by the judges, and a People's Choice winner will be selected by the audience. Prizes include the following: Finalists (\$250), Grand Champion (\$1000), Runner Up (\$750), People's Choice (\$500). Details and registration form are available on the Graduate School website at <https://www.usm.edu/graduate-school/events>. Deadline for registration is 5 pm, Monday, October 16. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend the competition.

## University Libraries Offering Workshops

University Libraries is offering workshops on two free citation management tools, Zotero and Mendeley. 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 each tool. The workshop will be offered Tuesday, October 10, from 2:30-3:30 pm and Wednesday, November 15, from noon-1 pm in Cook Library, Room 110 (LIB 110). For more information, contact Elena Azadbakht at [Elena.Azadbakht@usm.edu](mailto:Elena.Azadbakht@usm.edu) or 601.266.6424.

University Libraries is offering a workshop on the basics of APA style. The workshop will teach participants how to format in-text and full citations, how to cite less traditional sources and offer tips for efficient citation management. The workshop will be offered Wednesday, October 11, noon-1 pm in Cook Library Room 110 (LIB 110) and Monday, November 6, 3:30-4:30 pm in Cook Library Room 110 (LIB 110). For more information, contact Elena Azadbakht at [Elena.Azadbakht@usm.edu](mailto:Elena.Azadbakht@usm.edu) or 601.266.6424.

## Office of Research Integrity Workshop

Dr. Ed Jackson will lead the workshop "Writing Successful Grants" on Wednesday, November 15 from 11:30 am to 1 pm in Cook Library Room 123. Lunch is available beginning at 11:30 am for those who preregister. To preregister go to <https://www.usm.edu/research/workshops-and-forums>.

## RESOURCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS



GradSense is a financial literacy resource provided by the Council of Graduate Schools in collaboration with TIAA. It provides information on student loans and debt, tips for negotiating job offers, a budget calculator, and many links to financial literacy resources. Please inform your graduate students about this

valuable resource which can be accessed here <http://gradsense.org/gradsense> or through the Graduate School website at <https://www.usm.edu/graduate-school/financial-literacy>.

## USM Foundation Accepting Scholarship Applications for 2018-19 Academic Year

The USM Foundation is accepting scholarship applications for the 2018-19 academic year. Through one online application, students can be matched with several graduate scholarships opportunities. The application deadline is February 15, 2018. To access information online or view the portal, visit: [usmfoundation.com/go](http://usmfoundation.com/go). For questions about scholarships, email [foundation@usm.edu](mailto:foundation@usm.edu) or call (601) 266.5210.

## RECRUITING ACTIVITIES

Graduate recruiting has been going full throttle during much of September and October with staff crossing Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and Florida recruiting for all Southern Miss graduate programs. In addition to a graduate fair at Tougaloo, staff attended graduate and professional fairs at five of the eight Mississippi IHL institutions including Alcorn State, Jackson State, Mississippi State, Mississippi Valley State, and The University of Mississippi. Participating in the Alabama Connection, staff visited public and private universities from Huntsville to Mobile. In Tennessee, graduate fairs at Christian Brothers College, Rhodes College, and The University of Memphis were attended, and in Florida, a team attended a graduate and professional fair at The University of West Florida. Upcoming recruiting events include the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual National Ronald E. McNair Graduate and Recruitment Fair in Schaumburg, Illinois October 20-22, and the 52<sup>nd</sup> National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in November. These events will wrap up the recruiting season. At each event, prospect data and contact information is collected and loaded into Radius. Please reach out to these prospective students via Radius access. Graduate School recruiting efforts are led by Carolyn Cawthon, Director of Operations and Recruitment and McNair Program Director, with assistance from the entire Graduate School staff.