Graduate Council Minutes  
The University of Southern Mississippi  
November 21, 2016

The Graduate Council met at 3:00 p.m. on October 17, 2016, in McCain Library, Room 203 with Dr. Leisa Flynn, Chair-Elect of the Graduate Council, presiding.

The following voting members were present: Dr. Laurel Abreu, Dr. Wendy Atkins-Sayre, Dr. Bret Becton, Dr. YanLin Guo, Dr. Jennifer Lemacks, Dr. Sarah Morgan, Dr. Vanessa Murphree, Dr. Bonnie Nicholson, Dr. Ras Pandey, Dr. Kyna Shelley, Dr. Amy Slagle, Dr. Teresa Welsh and Dr. Chaoyang Zhang.

The following voting members were represented by proxies to constitute a quorum: Dr. Craig Carey for Dr. Jonathan Barron.

The following non-voting members were present: Dr. Karen Coats, Dr. Diane Fisher for Dr. Ann Blackwell, Dr. Douglas Masterson for Dr. David Hayhurst, Mr. Greg Pierce, Dr. Eric Tribunella for Dr. Maureen Ryan and Dr. Bill Powell.

The following guests were present: Ms. Desira Bailey, Dr. Anita Boykins, Ms. Jennifer Culley, Dr. Bonnie Harbaugh, Dr. Gary Krebs, Ms. Kathryn Lowery and Ms. Dawn Porter.

1.0 Call to Order  
Dr. Flynn called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda  
Dr. Flynn presented the agenda with the following amendments for approval:

- Change effective date for item 4.2.2 LIS 607 to fall 2017

Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Pandey seconded a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed.

3.0 Approval of Minutes  
Dr. Flynn presented the October 17, 2016 minutes for approval. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to approve the October 17, 2016 minutes for approval. The motion passed.

4.0 Course and Program Proposals  
4.1 College of Arts & Letters – No Business

4.2 College of Business – No Business  
Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Sport Management  
Dr. Flynn presented the request to correct the plan of study for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program. Dr. Shelley moved and Dr. Morgan seconded a motion to approve the request to correct the plan of study for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program. The motion passed.
4.3 College of Education and Psychology  
*Department of Child and Family Studies*  
Dr. Flynn presented the request to modify FAM 615. Dr. Morgan moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve the modification of FAM 615. The motion passed 15-0.

*School of Library and Information Science*  
Dr. Flynn presented the request to modify LIS 607. Dr. Shelley moved and Dr. Becton seconded a motion to approve the modification of LIS 607. The motion passed 15-0.

4.4 College of Health  
*School of Kinesiology*  
Dr. Flynn presented the request to modify the Kinesiology (Exercise Science) M.S. program. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Morgan seconded a motion to approve the modification of the Kinesiology (Exercise Science) M.S. program. The motion passed 15-0.

*Department of Nutrition and Food Systems*  
Dr. Flynn presented the request to modify NFS 576 and NFS 576L. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Lemacks seconded a motion to approve these modifications as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve the modifications of NFS 576 and NFS 576L. The motion passed 15-0.

4.5 College of Nursing  
*Department of Systems Leadership and Health Outcomes*  
Dr. Flynn presented the request to modify NSG 805. Dr. Morgan moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve the modification of NSG 805. The motion passed 16-0.
College of Science and Technology

Department of Biological Sciences
Dr. Flynn presented the request to inactivate the Biological Sciences (Environmental Biology) M.S. degree emphasis, the Biological Sciences (Environmental Biology) Ph.D. degree emphasis, the Biological Sciences (Marine Biology) M.S. degree emphasis, the Biological Sciences (Microbiology Biology) M.S. degree emphasis, the Biological Sciences (Microbiology Biology) Ph.D. degree emphasis, the Biological Sciences (Molecular Biology) M.S. degree emphasis, and the Biological Sciences (Molecular Biology) Ph.D. degree emphasis. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to approve these modifications as a group. The motion passed.

Dr. Morgan moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve the inactivations of the Biological Sciences (Environmental Biology) M.S. degree emphasis, the Biological Sciences (Environmental Biology) Ph.D. degree emphasis, the Biological Sciences (Marine Biology) M.S. degree emphasis, the Biological Sciences (Microbiology Biology) M.S. degree emphasis, the Biological Sciences (Microbiology Biology) Ph.D. degree emphasis, the Biological Sciences (Molecular Biology) M.S. degree emphasis, and the Biological Sciences (Molecular Biology) Ph.D. degree emphasis. The motion passed 16-0.

Department of Geography and Geology
Dr. Flynn presented the request to inactivate GLY 544 and GLY 544L. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Becton seconded a motion to approve these modifications as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Guo seconded a motion to approve the inactivations of GLY 544 and GLY 544L. The motion passed 16-0.

Dr. Flynn presented the request to modify GLY 543 and GLY 543L. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Morgan seconded a motion to approve these modifications as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve the modifications of GLY 543 and GLY 543L. The motion passed 16-0.

School of Ocean Science and Technology
Dr. Flynn presented the request to add COA 636. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Morgan seconded a motion to approve the addition of COA 636. The motion passed 16-0.

Dr. Flynn presented the request to add COA 643. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve the addition of COA 643. The motion passed 16-0.
5.0 Officers Report
5.1 Chair – Dr. Janie Butts
No report.

5.2 Chair-Elect – Dr. Leisa Flynn
No report.

6.0 Standing Committee Reports
6.1 Bylaws Committee – Dr. Leisa Flynn
No report.

6.2 Credentials Committee – Dr. Janie Butts
Dr. Flynn submitted the Credentials report for November 2016 for approval. The report was approved. (see attached)

6.3 Election Committee – Dr. Chaoyang Zhang
No report.

6.4 Policies and Procedures Committee – Dr. Bonnie Nicholson
No report.

6.5 Program Review Committee – Dr. Kyna Shelley
No report.

7.0 Liaisons to University Committees
7.1 Assessment Committee- Dr. Leisa Flynn
No report.

7.2 Teaching Evaluation Committee – Dr. Bonnie Nicholson
No report.

7.3 Online Learning Steering Committee – Dr. Jennifer Lemacks
No report.

8.0 New Business
8.1 Discussion of Bibliography Manager for Dissertation and Theses
Dr. Coats asked Graduate Council to consider whether or not the Graduate School should require students completing theses/dissertations to use a citation manager software program when preparing the documents. The rationale was that the Graduate Reviewer frequently receives documents with bibliographies that are poorly done (i.e. missing citations, inconsistent bibliography entries, etc.). Dr. Coats stated she uses EndNote. This software is expensive but there are other free programs, including Zotero and Mendeley. Council asked if Graduate School could provide training if they required the use of a citation manager. Dr. Coats responded that Graduate School can partner with the Library to deliver training. No vote was taken on this matter.
8.2 Teach Out Plans
For all suspended or closed minors, emphasis areas, certificates and degree programs, a teach-out plan must be included in the documentation submitted to the Graduate or Academic Councils. A template for teach-out plans is available at https://info.usm.edu/group/849/page/proposals-guidelines. In instances that involve academic programs/degrees, SACSCOC must be notified and sent the teach-out plan as soon as the decision to close the program is decided.

8.3 Accelerated Master’s Options
Dr. Powell discussed the concept of accelerated master’s options, which would provide highly qualified seniors with the possibility of earning both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in as few as five years by taking 500- or 600-level courses that would apply to both an undergraduate and a master’s degree. An initial proposal, intended to serve as a starting point for discussion, was included in the documents for the GC meeting. The proposal was referred to the Policies and Procedures Committee. The proposal will also be discussed by the Academic Council.

8.4 Graduate Student Senate Report
No report

8.5 Dean’s Report
Dr. Coats presented a report to Council. (See attached)

9.0 Announcements

10.0 Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2017 at 3:00. The deadline for submitting materials to the Graduate School for the Agenda is Friday, January 6, 2017.

___________________________  _________________________
Greg Pierce, Recording Secretary       Dr. Leisa Flynn, Chair-Elect
College of Business
Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Sport Management

Modify: Business Administration (Sport Event Security Management) MBA (coded under Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Sport Management)
To: Business Administration (Sport Event Security Management) MBA (coded under Department of Management and International Business) Effective post-date of fall 2015.

College of Education and Psychology
Department of Child and Family Studies

Modify: FAM 615 Gender and Culture in the Family. Face to face format.
To: FAM 615 Gender and Culture in Therapeutic Relationships. Course description. Face to face and online correspondence format. Effective spring 2017.

School of Library and Information Science

Modify: LIS 607 School Library and the Curriculum.

College of Health
School of Kinesiology

Modify: Kinesiology (Exercise Science) M.S. 30-33 hours.
Department of Nutrition and Food Systems

Modify: NFS 576 Food Production Management II.
1 hour.

To: NFS 576 Food Production Management II.
2 hours. Effective fall 2017.

Modify: NFS 576L Food Production Management II Lab.
2 hours.

To: NFS 576L Food Production Management II Lab.

College of Nursing
Department of Systems Leadership and Health Outcomes

Modify: NSG 805 Role Development in Advanced Nursing Practice.

To: NSG 805 Role Development in Advanced Nursing Practice.

College of Science and Technology
Department of Biological Sciences

Inactivate: Biological Sciences (Environmental Biology) M.S. degree emphasis. Effective fall 2017.

Inactivate: Biological Sciences (Environmental Biology) Ph.D. degree emphasis. Effective fall 2017.

Inactivate: Biological Sciences (Marine Biology) M.S. degree emphasis. Effective fall 2017.

Inactivate: Biological Sciences (Microbiology Biology) M.S. degree emphasis. Effective fall 2017.

Inactivate: Biological Sciences (Microbiology Biology) Ph.D. degree emphasis. Effective fall 2017.

Inactivate: Biological Sciences (Molecular Biology) M.S. degree emphasis. Effective fall 2017.

Inactivate: Biological Sciences (Molecular Biology) Ph.D. degree emphasis. Effective fall 2017.
Department of Geography and Geology


Inactivate: GLY 544L Siliceous Micropaleontology Laboratory. Effective fall 2017.

Modify: GLY 543 Calcareaous Micropaleontology.


Modify: GLY 543L Calcareaous Micropaleontology Laboratory.


School of Ocean Science and Technology


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Recommendation Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate Level 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bright, Candace F.</td>
<td>Anthropology &amp; Sociology</td>
<td>A1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crockett, Justin L.</td>
<td>Marketing &amp; Merchandising</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeZutter, Stacy L.</td>
<td>Speech &amp; Hearing Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hart, Dana C.</td>
<td>Educational Research &amp; Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labat, Cherie A.</td>
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<td>A1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mohn, Leisha</td>
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<td>Spears, Stephanie</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
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<td>Zakaras, Lauren S.</td>
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<td>A1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Biological Sciences</td>
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<td>Pelts, Michael D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gulledge, Laura M.</td>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>R2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Level 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim, Sungsoo</td>
<td>Economic Dev., Tourism &amp; Sport Mngt.</td>
<td>R3</td>
</tr>
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Credentials Committee
Dr. Teresa Welsh, Chair
Graduate Faculty Status Recommendation Form

Name ___________________________________________ EMPLID ________________________
E-mail ________________________________________ Date arrived USM ____________________
Academic Rank __________________ College _____________ Campus ______________________
Dept. ___________________________ Dept. Box ___________________ Phone ____________________

☐ Initial Appointment  ☐ Reappointment  ☐ Committee Only (A2 or A3)
☐ Attach current vita (2 pages max) that documents your date of employment at USM. Plus, attach at least one:
☐ RCR training certificate
☐ Proof of completed USM graduate mentorship training
☐ Attach current vita (2 pages max)
☐ Attach current vita (2 pages max)
☐ RCR training certificate
☐ RCR training certificate
☐ Proof of completed USM graduate mentorship training.
☐ Proof of student mentorship
☐ Will serve on multiple committees
☐ Will serve on a committee for a specific student (provide student name below)

Graduate Teaching Credentials

Highest Degree __________ Year ________ Institution __________________________
Has this applicant completed the terminal degree in their field? ○ Yes ○ No
(If you answered no to the previous question, attach a memorandum to this form explaining the applicant’s qualifications.)
Courses to be taught: ____________________________________________________________

Graduate Committee Credentials (Check One)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Associate Status (for part-time, visiting and adjunct faculty)</th>
<th>Regular Status (for tenured and tenure-track faculty)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate status expires after three years</td>
<td>Regular status expires after five years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ A1 May not serve on graduate committees</td>
<td>○ R1 May serve on Master’s or Specialist degree committees CV must document research activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ A2 May serve on Master’s or Specialist degree committees CV must document research activity</td>
<td>○ R2 May serve on Doctoral, Master’s or Specialist degree committees CV must document publications or presentations within the last 5 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ A3 May serve on Doctoral, Master’s or Specialist degree committees CV must document research activity and include a completed terminal degree (or its equivalent). Applicants who are A.B.D. may not hold A3 status.</td>
<td>○ R3 May serve on Doctoral, Master’s or Specialist degree committees May chair Doctoral, Master’s or Specialist degree committees CV must document publications or presentations within the last 5 yrs and show a consistent, active engagement in the professional field.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signatures:
Chair/Director ___________________________ Date ________________
College Dean ___________________________ Date ________________

ASSOCIATE STATUS REQUESTS MUST INCLUDE A LETTER OF RATIONALE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Do not write below this line
Approved by Graduate Council __________________________ Date: ________________
Approved by Dean of the Graduate School __________________________ Date: ________________
PROCEDURE THREE

Closing a Program, Instructional Site, Branch Campus or an Institution:
Teach-Out Plans and Teach-Out Agreements

In accordance with Federal regulations, an institution is required to submit a teach-out plan to SACSCOC for approval if any of the following occurs:

1. The USDOE notifies the Commission that it has initiated an emergency action against an institution or an action to limit, suspend, or terminate an institution participating in any Title IV, HEA program.

2. The Commission terminates accreditation or candidacy.

3. The institution notifies the Commission that it intends to cease operations entirely or close a location that provides at least 50% of at least one program.

4. A State Licensing or authorizing agency notifies the Commission that an institution's license or legal authorization to provide an educational program has been or will be revoked.

If an institution decides to close an educational program, approved instructional site, branch campus, or the entire institution, it must submit to SACSCOC a teach-out plan for approval. If the plan includes teach-out agreements, then the agreements must also be approved prior to implementation.

Teach-out plans and teach-out agreements must be approved by SACSCOC prior to implementation. See also the SACSCOC Good Practices document “Closing a Program, Site, Branch or Institution”

Teach-out Plans

A teach-out plan is a written plan developed by an institution that provides for the equitable treatment of students if an institution, or an institutional location that provides fifty percent or more of at least one program, ceases to operate before all students have completed their program of study, and may include, if required by the institution's accrediting agency, a teach-out agreement between institutions. Teach-out plans must be approved by SACSCOC in advance of implementation.

To be approved, a teach-out plan must include the following information:

1. Date of closure (date when new students will no longer be admitted)

2. An explanation of how affected parties (students, faculty, staff) will be informed of the impending closure

3. An explanation of how all affected students will be helped to complete their programs of study with minimal disruption

4. An indication as to whether the teach-out plan will incur additional charges/expenses to the students and, if so, how the students will be notified

5. Copies of signed teach-out agreements with other institutions, if any

6. How faculty and staff will be redeployed or helped to find new employment

7. If closing an institution, arrangement for the storing of student records, disposition of final financial resources and other assets

Following review and approval of a teach-out plan that includes a program that is accredited by another accrediting agency, the Commission will notify that accreditor of its approval.
University of Southern Mississippi
Teach-Out Plan for the Deletion/Inactivation of Degree Program, Emphasis Area, Certificate, or Minor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department or School:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree/Emphasis/Certificate/Minor:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Date for suspension of admission: ____________

2. Estimated date current students will complete teach-out plan: ____________

3. Provide an explanation of how affected parties (students, faculty, staff) will be informed of the impending closure of the degree/emphasis/certificate/minor. Provide as well an explanation of how students will be advised as to their options.

4. Provide (here or as an attachment) an explanation of how all affected students will be helped to complete their programs of study with minimal disruption. Include a detailed schedule of course offerings that will allow students in the emphasis area and/or degree to complete their programs of study.

5. Provide an indication as to whether the teach-out plan will incur additional charges/expenses to the students (including additional travel requirements) and, if so, how the students will be notified:
6. Explain how faculty and staff will be redeployed or helped to find new employment, if pertinent.

Prepared by  ____________________________________  Date: ____________________

Signature: ____________________________________  Date: ____________________

College Dean Signature: _________________________  Date: ____________________

Please submit this information (1) to the Academic or Graduate Council as part of a proposal after December 2016 or (2) to the Office of the Provost if proposal has already been reviewed by the appropriate council.

Contact Dr. Bill Powell (6-4487) or Ms. Kathryn Lowery (6-6775) with any questions.
Accelerated Master’s Options at The University of Southern Mississippi (INITIAL PROPOSAL)

Audience: Highly qualified undergraduate students classified as seniors

Description: An Accelerated Master’s Option (AMO) provides students with the possibility of earning both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in as few as five years. Students admitted to a pathway can take up to 12 hours of 500- or 600-level graduate credit during their senior year. Such coursework can apply to both an undergraduate and a graduate degree.

Graduate School Admission Requirements: Students will meet the following criteria. Individual programs may establish additional requirements, such as standardized test scores, the completion of specific undergraduate courses, a higher undergraduate GPA, a statement of educational goals, etc. Interested students should contact the specific department offering an accelerated master’s option.

1. Completion or near completion of general education curriculum requirements (GEC 01-06)
2. Completion of a minimum of 90 hours graded undergraduate coursework before beginning the first graduate course (an application can be submitted before the completion of 90 hours)
3. Minimum and maintenance of a 3.0 undergraduate grade point average
4. Completion of at least 15 hours of appropriate DEG coursework in the undergraduate major
5. Submission of a graduate application and payment of the application fee
6. Submission of Undergraduate Request to Enroll in Graduate Courses form

Additional Information - Students

- Students engaged in an AMO will be charged the undergraduate tuition rate.
- AMO students will retain their eligibility for financial aid at the undergraduate level provided they maintain a full-time student classification.
- AMO students are limited to 13 hours of combined undergraduate/graduate coursework during a semester.
- Advanced master’s option in programs that do not carry the expectation of an undergraduate degree in the same field are possible.
- Students may opt out of an AMO at any time and complete the required undergraduate degree plan. Any graduate credit earned to that point can be applied to the undergraduate degree plan.
- AMO students retain an undergraduate classification until they have completed all the requirements of their undergraduate degree plan. It is expected that a student will complete the undergraduate degree within two years of being accepted into an Accelerated Master’s Option.
- The graduate degree cannot be awarded until an AMO student meets all requirements for the undergraduate degree.
A graduate course successfully completed to fulfill undergraduate degree requirements will be graded as Pass, which will not affect the student’s undergraduate grade point average. The letter grade for the course will be included in the master’s program GPA.

Additional Information – Academic Programs

Graduate programs desiring to establish an Accelerated Master’s Option will provide the following to the Graduate Council for approval:

- A memo of request providing the college, department, and program information, to include a rationale for the AMO, including an academic justification for the option, and a proposed date of implementation.
- A sample plan for completing both the undergraduate and the graduate degree:
  - For master’s programs without a ‘lead-in’ undergraduate degree, the plan must include how a student would complete an undergraduate degree in a different field.
- Statements of support from the department chair and college dean, in addition to the normal curricular approval processes.
- Any additional or more stringent admission requirements.
- For an Accelerated Master’s Option that would have less than 150 hours of combined undergraduate and graduate coursework, a detailed explanation and an acceptable academic justification for the program length of such combination degrees (SACSCOC). Implementation of such an AMO could be delayed until SACSCOC approval is received.
- A revised Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin narrative that includes an overview of the option for qualified undergraduates.

N.B. The Admission section of the Graduate Bulletin would have to be edited if Accelerated Master’s Option is approved.
Soaring to New Heights: Graduate Education at Southern Miss
Graduate Dean’s Report (November 2016)

Student Spotlight

Mass Communication Ph.D. Student is Three Minute Thesis Grand Champion
Ecaterina (Kate) Stepaniuc, a doctoral student from the School of Mass Communication and Journalism, is the 2016 Three Minute Thesis Grand Champion. Competing against seven other finalists on Friday, November 4 at the Trent Lott National Center, Kate impressed the judges with her presentation, “Moldova’s Democracy: Between Opposing Ideologies,” a passionate articulation of the media’s influence on national identity and political ideology of the Moldovan people. She received a $1000 award and will represent Southern Miss at the regional Three Minute Thesis competition in Annapolis, Maryland in early March, to be held during the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools annual meeting. Runner Up was Dawn Klos, a master’s student studying History and Anthropology. Dawn received a $750 award. Maria Zapetis, doctoral student in the Brain and Behavior program in the Department of Psychology, was selected as People’s Choice winner and received $500.

Eight finalists competed in the final round after winning either the master’s or doctoral preliminary competition in one of four categories (Arts and Humanities; Life, Health, and Environmental Sciences; Physical Sciences and Mathematics; and Social and Educational Sciences and Business) and being awarded $250. Taking time from their busy schedules to judge the finals competition were Dr. Glenn Boyce, Commissioner of Higher Education, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning; Ms. Cheryl Johnson, President, Mississippi Gulf Coast Regions Bank; Dr. Steven Moser, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Gordon Cannon, Vice President for Research. Tasked with explaining the significance of their research to a general audience in less than three minutes using only a single, static PowerPoint slide as a visual aid, forty-seven students competed in the third annual Three Minute Thesis competition in preliminary rounds held Wednesday, November 2 and Thursday, November 3. Finalists by category were:

Arts and Humanities
Master’s: Dawn Klos, History and Anthropology, major professors: Drs. Westley Follett and Bridget Hayden
Doctoral: Ecaterina Stepaniuc, Mass Communication and Journalism, major professor: Dr. Mary Lou Sheffer
Life, Health, and Environmental Sciences
Master’s: Maria Zapetis, Psychology (Brain and Behavior), major professor: Dr. Heidi Lyn
Doctoral: Oindrila Paul, Biological Sciences, major professor: Dr. Janet Donaldson

Physical Sciences and Mathematics
Master’s: David Simmons, Geology and Geography, major professor: Dr. Mark Puckett
Doctoral: Kelli Stockmal, Polymers and High Performance Materials, major professor: Dr. Sarah Morgan

Social and Educational Sciences and Business
Master’s: Jackson Howard, Psychology (Counseling), major professor: Dr. Bonnie Nicholson
Doctoral: Lauren Lassabe, Educational Research and Administration, major professor: Dr. Lilian Hill.

Eight students were selected as finalists in the Three Minute Thesis competition over two days of preliminary competitions. Finalists from day 1 were (left photo, L-R) Maria Zapetis, Oindrila Paul, Dawn Klos, and Ecaterina Stepaniuc. Day 2 finalists were (right photo, L-R) David Simmons, Kelli Stockmal, Jackson Howard, and Lauren Lassabe.

USM McNair Scholars Present Research at National Symposium
Nine Ronald McNair Scholars, along with McNair program staff, graduate students, and Graduate School staff attended the National McNair Research Symposium at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, Wisconsin October 28-30. The students presented data from mentored research conducted during the 2015-16 academic year as a part of the program. The students had opportunities to network with other McNair Scholars, to attend a recruiting fair, and to hear lectures from the internationally-acclaimed theoretical physicist Dr. Sylvester Gates and Carl McNair, brother of Dr. Ronald McNair. The McNair Scholars Program is named for astronaut Ronald E. McNair who died during the space shuttle Challenger explosion in January 1986.

McNair Scholars attending the national symposium were (L-R): Arcia Caston, Chelsea Nelson, Aaliyah Granger, Aaliyah Cole, Nadjah McLaurin, Kelsey Hubbard, Tamara Wright, ShaKyiah Saddler, and Aliscia Burkett.
Graduate News from Colleges

College of Arts and Letters
School of Music

- Wesley Saunders, Master of Music student in Vocal Performance from the Studio of Maryann Kyle, won 1st prize at the Gulf Coast Messiah Competition.
- Ezekiel Andrew McCall, Master of Music student in Vocal Performance from the Studio of Maryann Kyle, is a finalist in the S. Livingston Mather Scholarship Competition, to be held in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Jeff Humpfrey, Master of Music student in Saxophone performance from the Studio of Larry Gwozdz, won the Mississippi Music Teacher’s Association solo woodwind competition. He will compete in the Southeastern Regional Music Teachers’ National Association competition.
- Jeff Humpfrey and Aaron Manigault, Master of Music students in Saxophone performance from the chamber music class of Larry Gwozdz, won the Mississippi Music Teachers’ Association chamber music competition as a part of the Vibe Quartet and will compete in the Southeastern Regional Music Teachers’ National Association competition.

Department of English

- Jessica Guzman, Ph.D. student and poet in the Department of English Center for Writers, was awarded the Tinhouse Workshop Scholarship. Jessica was the poet selected from 115 applicants to receive this scholarship, which is awarded to only one individual per genre.

College of Education and Psychology
Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education

- Dr. Hani Morgan, associate professor, will present highlights from his new book, The World Leaders in Education: Lessons from the Successes and Drawbacks of Their Methods on Monday, November 21 at 6:30pm in Owings-McQuagge Hall, Room 10. The book, edited by Dr. Morgan and his colleague, Christopher Barry, compares the United States to top performers in the world on PISA, an international assessment of student academic achievement.
- Dr. Tracey Hodges, assistant professor, organized and will chair a symposium at the upcoming American Educational Research Association to be held in San Antonio, Texas in April 2017. The symposium, "Modeling Scientific Writing: Current Problems and Solutions for Teaching Writing to Struggling Students," will include five papers from Norwegian and U.S. researchers from ten institutions.

Department of Psychology

- The Clinical Psychology Graduate Student Organization (CPGSO) is engaged in fundraising for a fund called CARE which helps those in the community with mental health needs. CARE is used to assist underprivileged clients with needs ranging from financial assistance for individual therapy sessions to assessment costs. In the future the groups hopes to provide transportation for clients with financial need. For more information about CPGSO and upcoming fundraisers, see their website or facebook page: https://www.usm.edu/clinical-psychology/who-we-are or https://www.facebook.com/CPGSO.
- Dr. Nora Charles, assistant professor in Clinical Psychology, received a mini-grant from the Society for Community Research and Action for a collaborative program evaluation study with the Forrest/Perry County Youth Drug Court (2016).
The master’s thesis research of Danielle Cottonham, Ph.D. student in Counseling Psychology, will be published in the Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse. The paper is entitled, “Harmful Alcohol Use and Alcohol-related Sex Expectancies as Predictors of Risky Sex Among African American Female College Drinkers.”

College of Health
School of Social Work
- The School of Social Work was awarded a two-year, $1.4 million contract from the Division of Medicaid. The contract will fund two projects with equal support. The goal of the first project, led by Dr. Bret Blackmon (principal investigator) and Drs. Joohee Lee and Tim Rehner (co-principal investigators), is to develop a Person-Centered Planning Training Institute within the School of Social Work that provides training, mentoring, and technical assistance for case managers and support coordinators who serve patients under the Medicaid waiver programs, including the elderly and disabled and those with intellectual or developmental disability. The aim of the second project, led by Dr. Tamara Hurst, is to augment the services of the Mississippi Wraparound Institute (MWI) which assists Mississippi’s child-serving agencies in developing integrated systems of mental and behavioral health that follow the principles of a high fidelity Wraparound. Funds will be used to increase statewide training opportunities for new MWI facilitators and to support additional MWI professionals in the state.

School of Kinesiology
- Dr. Melissa Thompson, associate professor of sport coaching education, launched the Southern Coaching Academy. Supported by the Aubrey K. and Ella Ginn Lucas Endowment, the Southern Coaching Academy is a series of coach education workshops designed to develop skills necessary for effective coaching. The academy is comprised of on-site training sessions that were held during the summer and during October 2016 in Hattiesburg and via online training modules.

Department of Nutrition & Food Systems
- The Master’s in Nutrition online program was rated 13th for 2016-17 by TopMastersinHealthcare.com. The ranking was based on accreditation, related programs, internships, and costs. “The website’s editors noted that Southern Miss offers one of the very best master’s program in dietetics online – with emphasis in Management of Childhood Nutrition.” See http://news.usm.edu/article/usm-online-master-s-nutrition-program-rated-among-nation-s-best.

College of Nursing
Department of Advanced Practice
- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded a $350,000 traineeship grant to the department, supporting fifty advanced practice registered nurses during academic years 2016-2018 who are interested in serving rural and medically-underserved populations. According to Dr. Lachel Story, associate professor and assistant dean, “The grant helps prepare independent clinical practitioners to provide much needed comprehensive care for our

College of Science and Technology
Center for Logistics, Trade, and Transportation
- Master’s student *Salahuddin Ayuby* presented two research papers at the Institute of Industrial & Systems Engineering Research Conference (ISERC) in last summer in Anaheim, California. He was the recipient of an NSF travel grant which funded travel to the conference. A graduate research assistant since 2015 working with Dr. MD Sarder on several federally-funded projects, Salahuddin will graduate in December 2016.

Special Events and Professional Development Opportunities for Graduate Students

The Professionals in Preparation fall series will be completed on Friday, November 18 with a panel discussion called “Academic Job Interviewing: the Department Chair’s Perspective.” Panelists Drs. Joe Olmi (Psychology), Scott Piland (Kinesiology), and Janet Donaldson (Biological Sciences) will share advice on preparing for academic job interviews, explaining what it takes to submit a competitive application and what to expect during the interview. Abagail Jentsch, Ph.D. student from the School of Polymers and High Performance Materials, will moderate the session. During the fall PIP series, workshops and discussion sessions focused on preparation for Three Minute Thesis, Strength Finder, and effective teaching. The Graduate School is grateful to all faculty and staff who led fall sessions. The spring 2017 PIP series will kick off in late January with a workshop on academic integrity led by Drs. Sam Bruton and Tisha Zelner.

News from the Graduate School

Graduate School staff changes
- *Tracy Barnhill* was named Manager of Graduate Admissions in the Graduate School, effective October 24. Tracy is continuing in her role as Admissions Software Manager and System Analyst, but she now also oversees the entire admissions operation and supervises admissions staff and graduate students. Tracy brings an exceptional set of skills to the position, including expertise with Radius software, software user training, system analytics, knowledge of application processing and program requirements, and supervisory experience.
The Graduate School is advertising for a Senior Graduate Admissions Specialist. The position announcement is posted on the Human Resources Employment website. The intent is to fill the position by early January.

**Fall 2016 Degree Completion**
The following graduate degrees will be awarded fall 2016: 49 doctorates (27 Ph.D., 20 Doctor of Nursing Practice, and 2 Doctor Musical Arts) and 203 master’s degrees.

**Operations Update**
Departments and programs must remove the link to AdmissionPros from their webpages and replace it with the link to Radius. The following url should be used: http://apps.usm.edu/graduate-school/grad-school-apps/?utm_source=top-nav&utm_medium=web&utm_content=grad-apply&utm_campaign=admissions.

**Commencement Practice**
Commencement hooding practice is scheduled for 1:00 PM, Thursday, December 15. Faculty and doctoral candidates being hooded are encouraged to attend.

**Graduate School Recruiting**
Carolyn Cawthon, Sharon Pool, Vanessa Molden, Desira Bailey, and Robin Jackson attended recruiting fairs during October and November. The National McNair Research Conference (October 28-29), held at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, Wisconsin, provided the opportunity to recruit McNair Scholars from across the country. Other recruiting events included fairs at Mississippi State University (November 1), and Delta State University (November 16).

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