Graduate Council Minutes  
The University of Southern Mississippi  
April 20, 2015

The Graduate Council met at 3:00 p.m. on April 20, 2015, in McCain Library, Room 203 with Dr. James Lambers, Chair of the Graduate Council, presiding.

The following voting members were present: Dr. Wendy Atkins-Sayre, Dr. Jonathan Barron, Dr. Brian J. Collins, Dr. Janie Butts, Dr. Dana Fennell, Dr. David Holt, Dr. James Lambers, Dr. Bonnie Nicholson, Dr. Ras Pandey, Dr. Scott Piland, Dr. Douglas Rust, Dr. Jake Schaefer, 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. Teresa Welsh for Dr. Susan Hrostowski and Dr. Bonnie Nicholson for Dr. Mike Wittmann.

The following non-voting members were present: Dr. Karen Coats, Mr. Greg Pierce and Dr. Bill Powell.

The following guests were present: Ms. Desira Bailey, Ms. Linda Bass, Ms. Jennifer Culley, Ms. Kathryn Lowery, Dr. Joe Olmi, Ms. Dawn Porter, Dr. Tim Rehner and Dr. Kathy Yadrick.

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

2.0 Adoption of Agenda  
Dr. Lambers presented the agenda with for approval. Dr. Piland moved and Dr. Rust seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

3.0 Approval of Minutes  
Dr. Lambers presented the March 23, 2015 minutes for approval. Dr. Butts moved and Dr. Rust seconded a motion to approve the March 23, 2015 minutes. The motion passed.

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

4.2 College of Business  
Department of Economic Development and Tourism  
Dr. Lambers presented the request to modify the prefix for all sport management undergraduate courses. Dr. Rust moved and Dr. Zhang seconded a motion to approve the modification of the prefix for all sport management undergraduate courses. The motion passed.

Dr. Lambers presented the request to modify the department name for The Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Dr. Piland moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve the modification of the department name for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. The motion passed.
4.3 College of Education and Psychology

Department of Educational Leadership and School Counseling
Dr. Lambers presented the request to modify the Education (Education Administration) Ed.S. plan of study. Dr. Piland moved and Dr. Rust seconded a motion to approve the modification of the Education (Education Administration) Ed.S. plan of study. The motion passed.

Dr. Lambers presented the request to modify the Education (Education Administration) Ed.D. plan of study. Dr. Piland moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to approve the modification of the Education (Education Administration) Ed.S. plan of study. The motion passed.

Dr. Lambers presented the request to modify the Education (Education Administration) Ph.D. plan of study. Dr. Rust moved and Dr. Piland seconded a motion to approve the modification of the Education (Education Administration) Ed.S. plan of study. The motion passed.

Department of Educational Studies ad Research
Dr. Lambers presented the request to add REF 730. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Piland seconded a motion to approve the addition of REF 730. The motion passed.

Department of Psychology
Dr. Lambers presented the request to add PSY 515. Dr. Rust moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve the addition of PSY 515. The motion passed.

Dr. Lambers presented the request to add PSY 516. Dr. Rust moved and Dr. Piland seconded a motion to approve the addition of PSY 516. The motion passed.

Dr. Lambers presented the request to add PSY 531. Dr. Piland moved and Dr. Rust seconded a motion to approve the addition of PSY 531. The motion passed.

Dr. Lambers presented the request to add emphasis area to Psychology M.S. Dr. Shelley moved and Dr. Piland seconded a motion to approve the addition of emphasis area to Psychology M.S. The motion passed.

4.4 College of Health

Department of Nutrition and Food Systems
Dr. Lambers presented the request to modify the admission requirements for the MS in Nutrition and Food Systems (all emphases). Dr. Piland moved and Dr. Butts seconded a motion to approve the modification of admission requirements for the MS in Nutrition and Food Systems (all emphases). The motion passed.

School of Social Work
Dr. Lambers presented the request to modify SWK 695CA. Dr. Butts moved and Dr. Rust seconded a motion to approve the modification of SWK 695CA. The motion passed.
4.5 College of Nursing
Department of Advanced Practice
Dr. Lambers presented the request to modify the program name for Nursing (Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner) MSN, the program name for Psychiatric Nursing Practitioner Graduate Certificate, and the program name for Nursing (RN-MSN Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner). Dr. Rust moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to approve these plans of study as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Rust seconded a motion to approve the modifications of the program name for Nursing (Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner) MSN, the program name for Psychiatric Nursing Practitioner Graduate Certificate, and the program name for Nursing (RN-MSN Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner). The motion passed.

Dr. Lambers presented the request to suspend admission for the Nursing (Adult-Gerontological Nurse Practitioner) MSN, the Adult-Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Graduate Certificate, and the Nursing (RN-MSN Gerontological Nurse Practitioner) MSN plans of study. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Piland seconded a motion to approve these plans of study as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Piland moved and Dr. Rust seconded a motion to approve the suspension of admission for the Nursing (Adult-Gerontological Nurse Practitioner) MSN, the Adult-Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Graduate Certificate, and the Nursing (RN-MSN Gerontological Nurse Practitioner) MSN plans of study. The motion passed.

4.6 College of Science and Technology – No Business

5.0 Officers Report
5.1 Chair – Dr. James Lambers
No report.

5.2 Chair-Elect – Dr. Douglas Rust
No report.

6.0 Standing Committee Reports
6.1 Bylaws Committee – Dr. Kyna Shelley
No report.

6.2 Credentials Committee – Dr. Jake Schaefer
Dr. Lambers submitted the Credentials report for April 2015 for approval. The report was approved. (see attached)

6.3 Election Committee – Dr. Douglas Rust
Dr. Rust reported the Committee had elected two new members. At the time of this meeting, Dr. Lambers was still seeking confirmation from the two newly-elected faculty members.

6.4 Policies and Procedures Committee – Dr. Bonnie Nicholson
Dr. Nicholson’s report is attached.

6.5 Program Review Committee – Dr. Janie Butts
No report.
7.0 Liaisons to University Committees
7.1 Assessment Committee- Dr. Douglas Rust
   Dr. Rust made the announcement for the upcoming UAC Assessment Showcase.
   It will be held at April 22 at noon in Thad Cochran Center Ballroom 3.

7.2 E-Learning Committee- Dr. James Lambers
   No report.

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

7.4 Strategic Planning Committee – Dr. Bonnie Nicholson
   No report.

8.0 New Business
8.1 Dean’s Report
   Dr. Coats presented a report to Council. (See attached)

8.2 Graduate Student Senate Report
   No report.

9.0 Announcements

10.0 Adjournment
   The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2015 at 3:00.
   The deadline for submitting materials to the Graduate School for the Agenda is Friday, April 24, 2015.

________________________________________  __________________________
Greg Pierce, Recording Secretary            Dr. James Lambers, Chair
College of Business
Department of Economic Development and Tourism

Modify: Sport Management HPR graduate courses.
To: Sport Management SM graduate courses.
Effective fall 2015.

Modify: Department of Economic Development and Tourism.
To: Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Sport Management.
Effective summer 2015.

College of Education and Psychology
Department of Educational Leadership and School Counseling

Modify: Education (Educational Administration P-12) Ed.S.
Offer online format.
Effective summer 2015.

Modify: Education (Educational Administration P-12) Ed.D.
Offer online format.
Effective summer 2015.

Modify: Education (Educational Administration P-12) Ph.D.
Offer online format.
Effective summer 2015.

Department of Educational Studies and Research

Add: REF 730 Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences I.
3 hours. Face-to-face and online format.
Effective spring 2016.

Department of Psychology

Add: PSY 515 Behavioral Assessment, 3 hours.
Effective spring 2016.

3 hours. Effective fall 2015.

Add: PSY 531 Principles of Behavioral Analysis, 3 hours.
Effective fall 2015.

**College of Health**
*Department of Nutrition and Food Systems*

Modify: Admission requirements for Nutrition and Food Systems M.S. (all emphases). Effective fall 2015

**School of Social Work**

Modify: SWK 695CA Human Rights & Social Development in Jamaica. 4 hours.

To: SWK 695CA Human Rights & Social Development in the Caribbean. 3 hours. Course Description. Effective summer 2015.

**College of Nursing**
*Department of Advanced Practice*

Modify: Nursing (Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner) M.S.N.

To: Nursing (Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner) M.S.N. Effective fall 2015.

Modify: Psychiatric Nursing Practitioner Graduate Certificate.

To: Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing Practitioner Graduate Certificate. Effective fall 2015.

Modify: Nursing (RN-MSN Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner) M.S.N.

To: Nursing (RN-MSN Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner) M.S.N. Effective fall 2015.

Modify: Suspend admission to Nursing (Adult-Gerontological Nurse Practitioner) M.S.N. Effective fall 2015.

Modify: Suspend admission to Adult-Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Graduate Certificate. Effective fall 2015.
Modify: Suspend admission to Nursing (RN-MSN Gerontological Nurse Practitioner) M.S.N.
Effective fall 2015.
DATE: April 20, 2015  
TO: Graduate Council  
F:M: Graduate Credentials Committee  
RE: Graduate Faculty Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Recommendation Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Associate Level 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yeager, Mark H.</td>
<td>Curriculum, Instruction &amp; Special Ed.</td>
<td>A1</td>
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<td><strong>Associate Level 2</strong></td>
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<td>Briggs, Kevin B.</td>
<td>Marine Science</td>
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<td><strong>Associate Level 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Biaylock, Reginald B. (3 yr Review)</td>
<td>Coastal Sciences</td>
<td>A3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curran, Stephen S. (3 yr Review)</td>
<td>Coastal Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franks, James S. (3 yr Review)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gould, Richard W.</td>
<td>Marine Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoffmayer, Eric R. (3 yr Review)</td>
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<td>Jones, Kenneth L. (3 yr Review)</td>
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<td>Otvos, Ervin G. (3 yr Review)</td>
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<td>Overstreet, Robin M.</td>
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<td>Riedel, Ralf</td>
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<td>Slack, William Todd (3 yr Review)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wetzel, James T. (3 yr Review)</td>
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<td><strong>Regular Level 1</strong></td>
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<td>McCormick, Juawice</td>
<td>Ed. Leadership &amp; School Counseling</td>
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<td><strong>Regular Level 2</strong></td>
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<td>Dolbow, David R.</td>
<td>Human Performance &amp; Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Level 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dillon, Kevin S. (5yr Review)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grimes, Darrell Jay (5yr Review)</td>
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<td>R3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heard, Richard W. (5yr Review)</td>
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<td>Lotz, Jeffrey M. (5yr Review)</td>
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<td>Peterson, Mark S. (5yr Review)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rakociinski, Chet F. (5yr Review)</td>
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<td>R3</td>
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</tbody>
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Credentials Committee Chair

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
I. **Grade Policy recommendations:**
A minimum of thirty (30) semester hours credit is required for any master's degree. Many departments require more than the minimum. Consult specific departmental requirements for additional information. A 3.0 GPA in the master's program and no grade below a "C" is allowed for graduation. No more than 2 grades of C+ or below across six credit hours is allowable in any coursework attempted (not including course retakes). Some departments require a higher GPA and restrict the number of "C" grades for graduation.

A graduate student may retake one course to improve the GPA or a course grade, but the grade earned during the original attempt will remain on the transcript. While this grade remains on the transcript, the grade will not compute in the cumulative GPA once a retake has been recorded. If a student intends to retake the course in order to raise the GPA and be removed from probation, the course must be retaken as soon as possible (e.g., at the next opportunity).

II. **Probation and Dismissal**
A student whose cumulative grade point average (GPA) or program GPA falls below 3.0 or who earns a grade of "C" or lower will be placed on academic probation for the next regular semester of enrollment (fall or spring). During the probationary semester a student will not be allowed to take qualifying comprehensive exams or defend a thesis, dissertation, or capstone project. The student will be required to achieve all requirements that are necessary to return the student to good academic standing. The program coordinator will prepare a letter informing the student that he/she will be placed on probation for one semester or as dictated by the program (if full time) or up to two semesters (if part time) which includes a set of expectations for the student’s return to good academic standing and approved by the major professor, the department chair and the graduate dean. Once the terms of the probationary period have been met, the department is responsible for informing the Graduate School and the student in writing. Failure to return to good academic standing by the end of the probationary period will result in dismissal from the program.
III. Policies requiring additional work (postpone until 2015-2016):

A. Dual Degree

Dual Degree programs are already in practice. Should a student wish to dually enroll in more than one degree program, the program directors, chairs and Graduate School should develop a written plan detailing the expectations of both degree programs. It is recommended that any dual-degree programs already approved be listed correctly in the bulletin.

B. Incomplete grades

Suggestion was made to consider amending the policy such that incomplete grades never turn into an F but instead remain an I on the transcript.
Moving Forward: Progress in Graduate Education at Southern Miss

Dean’s Report (April 2015)

Student Spotlight

Daniel McNair, M.S. Student in the Department of Biological Sciences, was named Graduate Assistant of the Year 2015. Daniel was selected from a large pool of master’s and doctoral nominees. Daniel’s major professor is Dr. Mac Alford. Daniel’s research involves cataloging vascular plants of Wayne County, MS. In addition he is digitizing USM’s herbarium collections as a part of the Magnolia grandiflora Project, funded by the National Science Foundation. After learning photography as a necessity of his project, Daniel garnered 1st and 2nd place photography awards at a national conference, and his work is featured in online resources such as The University of Washington Herbarium Image Collection. Daniel published two peer-reviewed manuscripts and presented his research at local, regional, and national meetings. The Graduate School is delighted to honor Daniel as the inaugural GA of the Year.

Congratulations to new National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Fellows! On March 31, four current USM students were named GRFP fellows, including Laken Kendrick, a senior in Polymer Science, Abagail Williams and Cassandra Reese, both doctoral students in Polymer Science, and Dexter Dean, a doctoral student in Chemistry and...
Biochemistry. Lisa Lauderdale, a master’s student in Psychology received honorable mention. GRFP fellows receive a stipend of $34,000 per twelve-month fellowship year for a maximum of three years. The financial support may be used in any three, 12-month units, starting in summer (June 1) or fall (September 1) over a five-year period that begins in 2015. USM will receive a $12,000 Cost of Education Allowance in lieu of all required tuition and fees for each of the three years the students choose to utilize the fellowship funding.

Faculty Kudos

Dr. Douglas Masterson was named the 2015 Graduate Mentor of the Year. Dr. Masterson, an Associate Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, earned his B.S. in Chemistry in 1995 from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Oklahoma in 1999. Following a three year postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt in the laboratory of Dr. Ned A. Porter, Dr. Masterson taught general chemistry for non-scientists at Vanderbilt (2003-2004) before arriving at USM in 2004 as an Assistant Professor. Promoted to Associate Professor in 2009, Dr. Masterson was appointed associate chair of his department the same year. He has published numerous articles with his students in peer-reviewed journals and received funding from the American Chemical Society, The Eppley Foundation for Research, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Science Foundation. Dr. Masterson has mentored Master’s, Ph.D., and undergraduate students in chemistry. His students describe him as an enthusiastic teacher who is patient and committed to their success. In addition to ensuring his students are well-prepared chemists, he considers their career goals and tailors individualized development plans to equip them to meet those goals. His students and colleagues praise his commitment to quality graduate student mentorship. Congratulations to Dr. Masterson.

➢ Improving Efficiency in the Graduate School

- Changes in AdmissionPros:
  - Automatic email reminders: Emails are being sent out on Monday mornings to alert all reviewers to log into the portal to review applications. The email reminder is prompted after an application has been in “My Reviews to Complete” for at least 7 days and is sent once a week.
  - New Prospects* tab on the Review Portal: AdmissionPros installed a new tab in the review portal entitled PROSPECTS. This tab will now allow reviewers to view potential students who have not yet applied to graduate school but have shown interest in specific academic programs. To view, reviewers should double click on the student’s name to access biographic/demographic information and any official test scores received. By clicking on the email address, communications can be sent to the prospect’s email account, facilitating easy communication. It is important to note that the email will launch from the reviewer’s email account and not that of the department. Finally, these are prospective student records; therefore, any emails that are sent personally will not be captured in the student’s contact history.
These prospective student records come from GRE/GMAT scores, recruitment fairs, or from people who have shown interest via our web page or message board. This feature will allow us all to recruit these prospective students and grow our enrollment.

- **Certificate and Non-degree Applications:**
  - Both certificate and non-degree applications are now available online through AdmissionPros. Departments **must** remove links to paper applications, discard any hard copies of applications on hand, and refer students to the Graduate School application portal. Paper applications will not be accepted past the summer application period. Certificate applications will be reviewable by departments if requested. Non-degree applications will not be reviewable by departments. However, to block non-degree coded students from registering for classes without permission, a restriction will be placed on all graduate courses. Non-degree students will be referred to departments to obtain a class permission override to register. Once class permission is granted by the departments, non-degree students will register themselves for classes.

- **Policies:**
  - **Graduate Student Leave of Absence**
    The following policy was approved by Human Resources and can be accessed on the Graduate School website at [https://www.usm.edu/graduate-school/leave-absence](https://www.usm.edu/graduate-school/leave-absence).

    "Under special circumstances (illness, family hardship, military service etc.) a student may request a leave of absence from his/her graduate program. A leave of absence will be granted for one semester or longer as circumstances warrant. Requests for a leave of absence should be submitted via the Leave of Absence Request Form to the department chair or director. The chair/director should forward the Leave of Absence Form to the Graduate School indicating the department’s recommendation regarding leave. Upon final review by the Dean of the Graduate School, the student and chair/director will be notified of the final decision."

  - **Degree Applications and Deferment**
    Application for Degree forms should be submitted the semester prior to the anticipated graduation (fall for spring; spring for summer; summer for fall), according to posted deadlines. These applications require the signature of the advisor and chair, and should not be approved if the student clearly will not be ready for graduation the following semester. The new $50 late fee for graduate applications submitted after the appropriate deadline is effective July 1. A graduation deferment request must be submitted if the student will not complete as anticipated. Currently the deferment request requires a $50 deferment fee. Effective July 1, the Graduate School will waive the fee for the first deferment request. However, any subsequent deferment requests must be accompanied by the $50 deferment fee.
Responsible Conduct of Research Training

Current Graduate School policy on Responsible Conduct of Research Training states, "All graduate students must complete the RCR training modules required by the Graduate School and their departments the first semester they are enrolled in graduate school." Yet, Graduate School degree auditors find that many students have not completed this training late in their graduate programs. Putting off RCR training defeats the purpose of the training requirement. Therefore, during Fall 2015, a Block Next Term service indicator will be placed on all new and continuing students who have not completed RCR training, prohibiting them from registering for Spring 2016 (or later semester) classes until training is completed. This new restriction will not impact registration for the upcoming Fall 2015 semester.

Application fee increase

As a reminder, all application fees will increase to $60 effective July 1.

Professional Development

Professionals in Preparation

A call for applications for participation in “Professionals in Preparation: a Pilot Program Aimed at Strengthening Graduate Student Professional Development” was emailed to department chairs, deans, and associate deans on March 31. Professionals in Preparation (PIP) will engage an annual cohort of 20-25 graduate students from any discipline. The goal of PIP is to strengthen students’ professional presence and personal growth, giving them a competitive edge in the increasingly-challenging job market. Students will participate in a 2-semester program designed to enhance “transferable skills” which are essential to success in any discipline. The students will:

- Participate in a series of seminars and workshops designed to develop communication skills, leadership, integrity, networking skills, and personal development
- Develop an individual development plan
- Learn to be effective mentors
- Participate in community outreach
- Compete for $500 scholarships to support domestic travel to present their research/creative works at a national-level professional conference or exhibition

Applications are due Monday, April 27 at noon. Please encourage students to participate.

Recruiting

Graduate School recruiting during April included the following events: Rust College Fair, William Carey University Fair, USM Career Fair, USM Graduate School Recruitment Fair/Troy University campus visit. All prospect information is available via the AdmissionPros Prospect tab.
Focus on Graduate Education at USM

- 2015 Graduate Student Hall of Fame

Portraits of twelve graduate students were unveiled in McCain Library on Monday afternoon, April 6 to a packed house. Featured students were joined by mentors, department chairs, graduate coordinators, administrators, colleagues, and friends. An Open House followed the unveiling. This event kicked off USM’s first-ever participation in Graduate Student Appreciation Week.

[Left, Drew Davidson, next to his portrait, is a College of Arts & Letters featured student. Drew is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre. Right, students and attendees from all colleges enjoyed refreshments at the Graduate School Open House which followed the portrait unveiling.]

- Graduate Student Appreciation Week Was a Success!

In conjunction with the national event, Graduate Student Appreciation Week was celebrated at USM April 6-10.

Our graduate students had the opportunity to:
- Attend professional development workshops and departmental events
  - Aquila Digital Community and Citation Management workshops were co-hosted and led by Library staff Josh Cromwell and Elena Azadbakht, respectively. Those workshops were also attended by students at Gulf Park, GCRL, and Stennis via interactive video networking. About 25 students attended each workshop.
  - Thirty-four students attended a workshop entitled Plagiarism: What Grad Students Need to Know, hosted by the Office of Research Integrity and led by Dr. Sam Bruton. The workshop is currently available by enrolling in Blackboard Collaborate.
  - Candace Bright, Research Associate in the Department of Political Science, International Development, and International Affairs, held a workshop on Social Network Analysis that was attended by 11 students.
- Mingle with other graduate students at the “Live at Five” mixer hosted by the Graduate Student Senate and sponsored by the Graduate School.
• About 40 students enjoyed music, food, and fun at the season’s first Live at Five at Town Square Park.
  o Represent their graduate programs at an on-campus graduate school recruitment fair in the Union on Friday from 10:00 A.M. to noon.
• Nearly 30 USM graduate programs were on display at the Graduate School Fair, held on Friday, April 10 from 9:00 AM to noon in the Union. Our own undergraduate students, as well as students visiting from Troy University* were able to meet students or other departmental representatives to discuss graduate degree programs.
  o Attend functions hosted by their home departments.

*The Graduate School hosted an on-campus visit by 35 students from Troy University on Friday morning, April 10. The Troy students were treated to breakfast and lunch, attended a Q&A session by Graduate School staff, toured the campus, and attended the recruitment fair.

The 2015 Dr. Susan A. Siltanen Graduate Research Symposium and Luncheon was held March 25 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Thad Cochran Center. The 2015 Graduate Research Symposium featured a new, half-day format topped off by the awards luncheon. Another new addition was the poster session. One-hundred high-quality oral (83) and poster (17) presentations were delivered. Cash awards were presented for most outstanding oral presentations (Yarbrough Awards) and best poster presentations by college. See below for winners. Also new this year were the inaugural Graduate Assistant of the Year and Graduate Mentor of the Year awards, won by Daniel McNair and Dr. Doug Masterson, respectively (page one). A special treat was the keynote address delivered by Dr. Melinda Gray Lucas, a Hattiesburg dentist and daughter-in-law of President Emeritus Aubrey K. Lucas, who discussed perseverance in the face of adversity as illustrated by her trek to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro with her family following a diagnosis of breast cancer.

Yarbrough Award Winners:
Adam Collier- Ed & Psych
Flem-Flam Flemister- Nursing/Health
Jeremy Kellet- Arts & Letters
Keith Parsons- Science &Tech

Poster Award Winners:
Joyce Lui- Ed & Psych/Arts & Letters
Ramesh Ramakrishnan- Science & Tech/Health
Scenes from the Graduate Student Research Symposium and banquet. Top: Award winners are pictured with VP for Research Gordon Cannon and Dean Coats; Middle left: Emily Jane Dever, Educational Studies and Research, presents her poster; Middle right: Dr. Melinda Gray Lucas gives the keynote address; Bottom left: Cory Russo, Coastal Sciences, receives a departmental award; Bottom right: Emmalea Gomberg, GSS President, emcees the program.