The Graduate Council met at 3:00 p.m. on February 22, 2016, in McCain Library, Room 203 with Dr. Douglas Rust, Chair of the Graduate Council, presiding.

The following voting members were present: Dr. Janie Butts, Dr. Wendy Atkins-Sayre, Dr. Dana Fennell, Dr. David Holt, Dr. Susan Hrostowski, Dr. Sarah Morgan, Dr. Bonnie Nicholson, Dr. Scott Piland, 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, Dr. Chaoyang Zhang for Dr. Ras Pandey, Dr. SherRhonda Gibbs for Dr. Leisa Flynn, and Dr. SherRhonda Gibbs for Dr. Brian Collins.

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

The following guests were present: Dr. Heather Annulis, Ms. Desira Bailey, Ms. Linda Bass, Ms. Dana Berry, Dr. Quincy Brown, Ms. Jennifer Culley, Dr. Cynthia Gaudet, and Ms. Dawn Porter.

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

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

- Remove items 8.3. Items were already approved.

Dr. Welsh moved and Dr. Hrostowski seconded a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed.

3.0 Approval of Minutes
Dr. Rust presented the November 16, 2015 minutes for approval. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve the November 16, 2015 minutes. The motion passed.

Dr. Rust presented the January 25, 2016 minutes for approval. Dr. Morgan moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to approve the January 25, 2016 minutes for approval. The motion passed.

4.0 Course and Program Proposals
4.1 College of Education and Psychology
   Department of Child and Family Studies
Dr. Rust presented the request to modify FAM 600. Dr. Morgan moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve the modification of FAM 600. The motion passed (14-0).
Dr. Rust presented the request to add FAM 602. Dr. Hrostowski moved and Dr. Butts seconded a motion approve the addition of FAM 602. The motion passed (14-0).

Dr. Rust presented the request to modify the plan of study for the Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy. Dr. Shelley moved and Dr. Morgan seconded a motion to approve the modification of the plan of study for the Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy. The motion passed (14-0).

*Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education*

Dr. Rust presented the request to modify SPE 500, SPE 600, SPE 630, SPE 631, SPE 632, SPE 640, SPE 643, SPE 645, SPE 688 and SPE 641. Dr. Shelley moved and Dr. Hrostowski seconded a motion to accept these courses as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Hrostowski moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to approve the modifications of SPE 500, SPE 600, SPE 630, SPE 631, SPE 632, SPE 640, SPE 643, SPE 645, SPE 688 and SPE 641. The motion passed. (16-0)

Dr. Rust presented the request to modify SPE 634, SPE 644, SPE 654, SPE 680, and SPE 664. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Morgan seconded a motion to accept these courses as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Shelley moved and Dr. Morgan seconded a motion to approve the modifications of SPE 634, SPE 644, SPE 654, SPE 680, and SPE 664. The motion passed (16-0).

Dr. Rust presented the request to modify SPE 655. Dr. Hrostowski moved and Dr. Butts seconded a motion approve the modification of SPE 655. The motion passed (16-0).

*Department of Educational Leadership and School Counseling*

*Department of Educational Studies and Research*

Dr. Rust presented the request to modify the plan of study for the Higher Educational Administration Ph.D. program. Dr. Morgan moved and Dr. Welsh seconded a motion to approve the modification of the plan of study for the Higher Educational Administration Ph.D. program. The motion passed (16-0).

Dr. Rust presented the request to modify the plan of study for the Education (Research, Evaluation, Statistics and Assessment) Ph.D. program. Dr. Hrostowski moved and Dr. Morgan seconded a motion to approve the modification of the plan of study for the Education (Research, Evaluation, Statistics and Assessment) Ph.D. program. The motion passed (16-0).

**4.2 College of Health**

*Department of Nutrition and Food Systems*

Dr. Rust presented the request to modify NFS 810. Dr. Hrostowski moved and Dr. Gibson seconded a motion approve the modification of NFS 810. The motion passed (16-0).

*School of Social Work*

Dr. Rust presented the request to add SWK 625. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Hrostowski seconded a motion approve the addition of SWK 625. The motion passed (16-0).
Dr. Rust presented the request to add SWK 689. Dr. Morgan moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion approve the addition of SWK 689. The motion passed (17-0).

4.3 College of Science and Technology

Department of Human Capital Development

Dr. Rust presented the request to add HCD 727. Dr. Morgan moved and Dr. Welsh seconded a motion approve the addition of HCD 727. The motion passed (17-0).

Dr. Rust presented the request to add HCD 747. Dr. Hrostowski moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion approve the addition of HCD 747. The motion passed (17-0).

Dr. Rust presented the request to modify HCD 715, HCD 720, and HCD 725. Dr. Fennell moved and Dr. Morgan seconded a motion to accept these courses as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Fennell moved and Dr. Gibson seconded a motion to approve the modifications of HCD 715, HCD 720, and HCD 725. The motion passed (17-0).

Dr. Rust presented the request to modify the plan of study for the Master of Science in Human Capital Development. Dr. Hrostowski moved and Dr. Butts seconded a motion to approve the modification of the plan of study for the Master of Science in Human Capital Development. The motion passed (17-0).

5.0 Officers Report

5.1 Chair – Dr. Douglas Rust

No report.

5.2 Chair-Elect – Dr. Janie Butts

No report.

6.0 Standing Committee Reports

6.1 Bylaws Committee – Dr. Janie Butts

No report.

6.2 Credentials Committee – Dr. Jake Schaefer

Dr. Rust submitted the Credentials report for February 2016 for approval. The report was approved. (see attached).

6.3 Election Committee – Dr. Teresa Welsh

No report.

6.4 Policies and Procedures Committee – Dr. Bonnie Nicholson

Dr. Nicholson’s report is attached.

6.5 Program Review Committee – Dr. Kyna Shelley

No report.
7.0 Liaisons to University Committees
7.1 University Assessment Committee- Dr. Janie Butts
   No report.

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

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

8.0 New Business
8.1 Graduate School Dean, Dr. Karen Coats
   8.1.1 Should students who have not been enrolled pay back tuition when
       readmitted?
       Dr. Coats presented this item to Council for discussion. It was discussed with
       positive remarks but nothing was decided upon. Council will revisit this issue
       later for further discussion.

   8.1.2 Should revalidation fees be capped for students who have timed out and
       request readmission to complete their degree?
       Dr. Coats presented this item for discussion by Council. After input from Council
       representatives, Dr. Morgan moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to
       approve the request to cap revalidation fees for students who have timed out and
       request readmission to complete their degree. The motion passed.
       Revalidation fees are capped at $400 effective fall 2016 semester.

8.2 Gregory Pierce, University Registrar
   Mr. Pierce presented Council with a report regarding changing the enrollment
   status for graduate students. (See attached).

8.3 Graduate Student Senate Report
   Ms. Shanta presented a report to Council. (See attached)

8.4 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 February 22, 2016 at
   3:00. The deadline for submitting materials to the Graduate School for the Agenda is
   Friday, February 5, 2016.

___________________________         __________________________
Greg Pierce, Recording Secretary     Dr. Douglas Rust, Chair


**College of Education and Psychology**
*Department of Child and Family Studies*

**Modify:** FAM 600
Prepracticum in Marriage and Family Therapy.
Face to face lecture format.

**To:** FAM 600
Prepracticum in Marriage and Family Therapy.
Practicum lecture format. Course description
Effective fall 2016.

**Add:** FAM 602
Introduction to the Practice of MFT.
3 hours. Effective fall 2016.

**Modify:** Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy.
Add FAM 602; Remove 3 hour elective.

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**Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education**

**Modify:** SPE 500
The Psychology and Education of the Exceptional Individual.

**To:** SPE 500
The Psychology and Education of Exceptional Children.
Course description.
Effective fall 2016.

**Modify:** SPE 600
Research Methods: Severe/Profound Dis Child/Adult.

**To:** SPE 600
Single Subject Research in Educational Settings.
Course description.
Effective fall 2016.

**Modify:** SPE 630
Advanced Studies in Learning Disabilities.

**To:** SPE 630
Advanced Seminar in Mild/Moderate Disabilities.
Course description.
Effective fall 2016.
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<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>SPE 631</td>
<td>Methods of Instruction: Elementary Special Education.</td>
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<tr>
<td>To:</td>
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<td>Methods of Instruction: Secondary Special Education.</td>
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<td>Course description.</td>
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<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>SPE 640</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar in Intellectual Disabilities.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Modify:</th>
<th>SPE 643</th>
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<td>To:</td>
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<td>Curriculum for Students with Severe Disabilities.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Modify:</th>
<th>SPE 645</th>
<th>Assessment &amp; Intervention - Severe Disabilities.</th>
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<td>To:</td>
<td>SPE 645</td>
<td>Assessment &amp; Instruction of Students with Severe Disabilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>SPE 688</td>
<td>Students with Physical and Health Disabilities.</td>
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<td>Course description.</td>
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<td>Effective fall 2016.</td>
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</table>
Modify: SPE 641  Transition Programming: School to Adult Life.
To: SPE 641  Transition Programming: School to Adult Life.
Course description.
Effective fall 2016.

Modify: SPE 634  Practicum in Learning Disabilities.
3-6 hours. No repeats.
To: SPE 634  Practicum in Mild/Moderate Disabilities.
1-6 hours. 3 repeats. Course description.
Effective fall 2016.

Modify: SPE 644  Practicum in Severe and Low Incidence Disabilities.
3-6 hours. No repeats.
To: SPE 644  Practicum in Severe Disabilities.
1-6 hours. 3 repeats. Course description.
Effective fall 2016.

Modify: SPE 654  Practicum: Individuals with Emotional Disorders.
3 hours. No repeats.
To: SPE 654  Practicum: Individuals with Emotional Disorders.
1-6 hours. 3 repeats. Course description.
Effective fall 2016.

Modify: SPE 680  Advanced Practicum in Special Education.
3-9 hours. No repeats.
To: SPE 680  Advanced Practicum in Special Education.
1-9 hours. 3 repeats. Course description.
Effective fall 2016.

Modify: SPE 664  Practicum with Gifted Studies.
3 hours.
To: SPE 664  Practicum with Gifted Studies.
1-6 hours. Effective fall 2016.
Modify: SPE 655  
Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disabilities.

To: SPE 655  
Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disabilities.
Course description.
Effective fall 2016.

Department of Educational Leadership and School Counseling
Department of Educational Studies and Research

Modify: Higher Education Ph.D. degree plan.
Replace HE 77 with HE 712; remove HE 816; modify list of “options” from 12-18 hours to 15-18 hours.
Effective summer 2016.

Modify: Education (RESA) Ph.D. degree plan.
Replace REF 712 with REF 724; replace REF 718 with REF 736; increase Special Topics hours from 3 to 6; increase degree hours from 63 to 66.
Effective summer 2016.

College of Health
Department of Nutrition and Food Systems

Modify: NFS 810  
Food and Nutrition Public Safety. 
Face to face format.

To: NFS 810  
Food and Nutrition Public Safety. 
Face to face and online correspondence format. 
Effective summer 2016.

School of Social Work

Add: SWK 625  
Trauma, Resiliency & Clinical Social Work Practice. 3 hours. Effective fall 2016.

Add: SWK 689  
Forensic Social Work.  
3 hours. Effective fall 2016.

College of Science and Technology
Department of Coastal Sciences

Add: HCD 272  
Intro to Human Capital Analytics.  
3 hours. Effective spring 2017.

Add: HCD 747  
Mixed Methods Research in HCD.  
3 hours. Effective summer 2016.
Modify: HCD 715  
Change Leadership.  
Face to face format.

To:  
HCD 715  
Change Leadership.  
Face to face and online correspondence format.  
Effective fall 2016.

Modify: HCD 720  
Competency Models.  
Face to face format.

To:  
HCD 720  
Competency Models.  
Face to face and online correspondence format.  
Effective fall 2016.

Modify: HCD 725  
Advanced Workforce Analysis.  
Face to face format.

To:  
HCD 725  
Advanced Workforce Analysis.  
Face to face and online correspondence format.  
Effective fall 2016.

Modify:  
Master of Science in Human Capital Development.  
Online correspondence format.  
Effective fall 2016.
DATE: February 22, 2016  
TO: Graduate Council  
FROM: Graduate Credentials Committee  
RE: Graduate Faculty Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Recommendation Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Willis, Russell H.</td>
<td>Management &amp; International Business</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bozzolo, Francis H.</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prather, C. Daniel</td>
<td>Political Sci., Int'l Development &amp; Int'l Affairs</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracy, Matthew J.</td>
<td>Political Sci., Int'l Development &amp; Int'l Affairs</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pendergrass, K. Michelle</td>
<td>Advanced Practice</td>
<td>R2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fox, James T.</td>
<td>Ed. Leadership &amp; School Counseling</td>
<td>R3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labat, Myron B.</td>
<td>Ed. Leadership &amp; School Counseling</td>
<td>R3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilarczyk, Jessica E.</td>
<td>Marine Science</td>
<td>R3</td>
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Credentials Committee  
Dr. Jake Schaefer, Chair
Policies and Procedures Report
February 2016 Graduate Council Meeting

The Policies and Procedures committee was asked to consider the following:

1. How research and related classes were used across the university and to work toward a system to systematize the use of these types of courses.
2. Replacing grading for thesis/ dissertation credits with a Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory grade each semester.
3. A mechanism by which we can determine which classes may be considered “full time” for financial aid.

After some discussion, the committee agreed to develop a proposal for consideration at the March meeting.

Respectfully submitted:
Bonnie Nicholson, Chair, Policies and Procedures Committee
Grad Council Meeting Report  
Graduate Student Senate President: Tamanna Shanta  

- GSS Bylaws has been amended on October 2015.
- New attendance policy (Article IV, Section 3c) will be implemented.
- Graduate Research Symposium:
  1. When: 9 am - 12 pm, March 24, 2016
  2. Where: TCC
  3. Total abstract submission: 140 (both oral and poster)
  4. Each attendees will be judged by a panel of two judges
  5. Further information can be obtained at- visit:
     http://www.usm.edu/graduate-school/susan-siltanen-graduate-student-research-symposium or, http://www.usm.edu/graduate-school/graduate-student-senate
Taking it to the Top at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools

The best of Southern Miss graduate education was on display at the 45th Annual Meeting of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) in Charlotte, NC last week. On Friday, February 19 at the annual awards luncheon, Dr. Douglas Masterson received the CSGS Award for Faculty Excellence in Mentoring Graduate Students, taking home a commemorative plaque and a check for $1000. Dr. Masterson competed with nominees from member institutions from Texas to Maryland. On Sunday, February 21, Allison Tharp, doctoral student in the Department of English, was named the 2nd place winner in the CSGS Three Minute Thesis Competition and received a check for $500. Thirty-eight students, all 3MT Grand Champions at their home institutions, competed in the preliminary competition on Saturday. Allison was named one of 8 finalists who advanced to the finals competition on Sunday. Entitled “Out of the dark confinement! Physical Containment in Mid-Nineteenth Century Protest Literature”, her compelling presentation described fugitive slave Harriet Jacobs’ seven year confinement in a 3 feet tall space in her grandmother’s attic and argued for the importance of protest literature in the struggle for social justice. Allison will graduate with a Ph.D. in May. Her major professor is Dr. Ellen Weinhauer, Dean of the Honors College and Associate Professor of English.
Student Spotlight

USM’s Team Blueprint Health took first prize at the Social Business Challenge competition, sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield in Jackson this month. The team included graduate students Cecelia Snyder (Nutrition & Food Systems), Brian Street (Social Work), and Molly Chaffin (Nutrition & Food Systems), and senior undergraduate student Timothy King (Nutrition & Dietetics). The faculty advisor was Dr. Jennifer Lemacks, assistant professor in the department of Nutrition & Food Systems. The competition challenged teams “to develop a plan for combatting obesity and health issues in Mississippi.” They developed a business model that “addresses obesity throughout the state by first targeting employees of selected businesses for behavior change or disease management”. The team progressed to the statewide competition after winning the university competition in December and competed with teams from ten other Mississippi public universities. The prize included a $5000 business start-up fund award. For the complete article see Southern Miss Now (http://news.usm.edu/article/southern-miss-team-captures-social-business-challenge-health-initiative).

Faculty Kudos

Dr. Scott Milroy

*Field Methods in Marine Science*, published by Garland Science in 2015, is Dr. Scott Milroy’s first textbook. Dr. Milroy, assistant chair and associate professor in the Department of Marine Science, wrote the textbook because he had “always been frustrated by the difficulty in finding an introductory ‘training manual’ for students to actually design and perform field experiments in marine science”. The intent of the book is to provide a “good introductory manual for field methods, then gently take the reader through the process.
of using his/her own field data to create simple mathematical models that can be used to simulate/forecast complex ocean and ecological dynamics in virtual space”. The complete story can be found at Southern Miss Now (https://news.usm.edu/article/usm-professor-authors-introductory-book-marine-science-methods).

Dr. Mac Alford, associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, and USM alum Angie Dement published an article describing their discovery of a new plant genus, *Irenodendron*, in the September 2015 issue of the *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas*. Entitled “*Irenodendron, a New Genus of Samydaceae*”, the paper describes the reclassification of three species of shrubs and trees from South America, *I. coriaceum*, *I. cupulatum*, and *I. ovalifolium*, previously recognized members of the *Laetia*. Angie, a former participant in the Alliance for Graduate Education in Mississippi (AGEM) summer internship program, transferred to USM following her internship experience in Dr. Alford’s lab. Dr. Alford noted that while an intern in his lab, Angie observed “weird combinations of characters in these plant species”. At first he thought she was wrong, but through her careful review of the primary literature and study of illustrations from old floras, she proved she was correct. Their paper reports how these plants differ from the *Laetia* in having “cupular, bracts, an apically divided style, and large rays in the wood.” Dr. Alford believes this work is significant because it “helped clear up phylogenetic relationships of several similar genera of plants and will permit future studies to focus on natural groups of close relatives”. Angie’s experience with DNA technology during her internship sparked her interest in bioinformatics. After receiving her B.S. in Biological Sciences and Psychology in 2011, she was accepted into a bioinformatics doctoral program at Virginia Tech. Dr. Alford, whose research focuses on plant systematics and floristics of the southeastern U.S. and the neotropics, received his bachelor’s degree from Mississippi College, a master’s degree from Duke, and his Ph.D. from Cornell University. He also serves as curator of the herbarium.
Bragging Points from Graduate Programs

From the College of Arts & Letters

From the College of Business
- A study by Dr. Chad Miller, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator, Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Sport Management, and his graduate student, Michael Brinza, called “Retail Analysis of Stone County for Stone County Economic Development Partnership” was featured on WLOX News Now on February 16. The study reports that millions of dollars could be leaving Stone County for the Coast and Hattiesburg. Meeting with county and city leadership and business owners, Dr. Miller and Mr. Brinza presented results of the study and discussed possible solutions to this problem. The full story can be accessed at: http://www.wlox.com/story/31234669/study-says-millions-of-dollars-could-be-leaving-stone-county.

From the College of Education & Psychology
- 100% of pre-doctoral internship candidates from the School, Clinical, and Counseling Psychology programs were matched with internship programs! With a national average placement rate of 75%, the excellent quality of these programs and our graduate students is showcased by this outstanding accomplishment. Placements were as follows:
  - Clinical Psychology:
    - Corey Brawner, Memphis VA Medical Center, Memphis, TN
    - Elizabeth Fair, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL
    - Joe Finn, State Operated Forensic Services, St. Peter, MN
    - Jonathan Jore, Hazelden’s Mental Health Center, Center City, MN
  - Counseling Psychology:
    - Caitlin Clark, Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, Bay Pines, FL
    - Daniel Deason, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
    - David Gavel, Charles George VA Medical Center, Asheville, NC
    - Deirdre Paulson-O’Donovan, Madison VHA, Madison, WI
    - Margo Villarosa, Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, New Orleans, LA
  - School Psychology:
    - Allison Battaglia-Meyer, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha NE
    - Hannah Cavell, Boys Town, Omaha, NE
    - Komila Dadakhodjaeva, Johns Hopkins/Krieger Behavior Management Clinic, Baltimore, MD
    - Blake Ford, Meyer Rural Integrated Care, Nebraska Consortium, Lincoln, NE
    - Chris Furlow, Johns Hopkins/Krieger Applied Behavior Analysis, Baltimore, MD
    - Zack LaBrot, Meyer Behavioral Pediatrics, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
    - John Lum, May Institute Applied Behavioral Services, Boston, MA
    - Emily Ness, Johns Hopkins/Krieger Applied Behavior Analysis, Baltimore, MD
From the College of Health
• Dr. Kimberly Ward, Assistant Professor, Clinical Instructor and Audiology Clinic Coordinator, gave a platform presentation entitled “Changing the Medicaid Mindset: What’s Next for Providers at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention in Denver, CO last November.
• Dr. Kelly Metz, Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, was a featured speaker at the IV Congreso Internacional de Educación Especial y Básica (4th International Congress on Special Education) in November 2015. Invited by the Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo Ecuador (CIDE), she spoke on inclusive special education practices in the U.S.

From the College of Nursing
• The online graduate nursing program was ranked in the Top 100 (number 60) among colleges and universities with online graduate programs by the U.S. News & World Report. The ranking was based on student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation, student services and technology, and admissions selectivity. The full story is available at Southern Miss Now (http://news.usm.edu/article/usm-online-graduate-nursing-program-ranked-among-nation-s-best).

From the College of Science & Technology
• Two recent Biological Sciences graduates were named herbarium curators at prestigious institutions. Dr. Tharangamala Samarakoon, awarded the Ph.D. in May 2015, is the Curator of the Herbarium at Emory University. Daniel McNair, who received his M.S. in December 2015, is the Assistant Curator of the Herbarium at the University of California, Davis.
• Dr. Francis Ezeakacha, who completed his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences in December 2015, is now a postdoctoral researcher in the laboratory of Dr. Matt Thomas at Pennsylvania State University. He will study Anopheles mosquitoes, the only world-wide vector of the malaria parasite.

Professional Development Upcoming Events
• Susan A. Siltanen Graduate Student Research Symposium
This event will be held March 24, 2016 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Thad Cochran Center. One hundred forty abstracts for oral or poster presentations were received, and students will present in one of the following categories: Arts and Humanities; Social Sciences and Business; Education and Psychology; Health and Nursing; Physical Sciences and Mathematics; or Life Sciences. First place ($500), second place ($350), and third place ($150) prizes will be awarded in each category for both oral and poster presentations. For more information contact Vanessa Molden at Vanessa.molden@usm.edu.
• Strategies for Success in Graduate School
This lunch and learn event is a part of the Black History Month event series. It will feature round table discussions led by Dr. Cheryl Jenkins, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism; Dr. Kimberley Davis, School of Music; Dr. Kimberley Bunch-Crump, Department of Curriculum Instruction & Special Education; Dr. Marcus Gaut, Department of Systems Leadership & Health Outcomes; and graduate students from the Graduate Student Senate. The discussion leaders will provide their perspectives to undergraduate students about the benefits and challenges of graduate school.
Date and Time: February 25, noon to 1:00 PM
Location: Thad Cochran Center room 218

• Professionals in Preparation (these events are restricted to PIP students)
Friday, February 26: Entrepreneurship
Dr. Shannon Campbell, Director of the Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship, will discuss entrepreneurship and small business ownership and respond to questions from PIP students.

Friday, March 4: Interviewing
Drs. Mike and Joye Anestis (Department of Psychology) and Dr. Gopinath Subramanian (School of Polymers & High Performance Materials) will serve as panelists, discussing their experience with academic interviews, including issues as dual career couples, challenges for international job candidates, and preparation for telephone and on campus interviews.

Friday, March 11: Dining etiquette
In preparation for on-site interviews, PIP students will participate in a dining etiquette workshop which will include a meal and instruction for proper etiquette led by Ms. Linda Montgomery.

• Graduate Student Appreciation Week is April 4-8
Save the date for USM’s second annual Graduate Student Appreciation Week kick-off event on Monday, April 4. The Graduate School will host the Graduate Student Hall of Fame photo unveiling followed by an Open House.
Date: Monday, April 4
Time: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Location: McCain Library 2nd floor breezeway

Tuesday, April 5 – Friday, April 8 professional development workshops and social events are in planning. A calendar of events will be announced soon.

Graduate School Policies and Procedures

• Thesis, Dissertation, and Nursing Capstone Project Electronic Templates and Guidelines
Video tutorials are in production and will be available on the Graduate Student website in the coming days. These videos feature Jeanne Stewart guiding students through the use of the title page and thesis/dissertation/capstone projects templates. Many thanks to Michael Trest, multi-media developer in the Learning Enhancement Center, for his assistance filming and editing these videos.

- Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees

Each year the Graduate School, in consultation with Institutional Research, provides data to CGS on annual enrollment and degrees awarded through the Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees. The data are reported according to codes requested by CGS. This survey was submitted in early February. Among the data reported were the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Degrees conferred between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015</th>
<th>Table 2. Graduate Enrollment by Gender and Race/Ethnicity (Fall 2015)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men</strong></td>
<td><strong>Women</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s, Specialist</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Non-Resident Aliens | 159 | 73 |
| Hispanic/Latino | 26 | 40 |
| Am Indian/Alaskan Native | 4 | 4 |
| Asian | 10 | 16 |
| Native | 0 | 0 |
| Hawaiian/Pacific Isle White | 684 | 1117 |
| Two or more races | 27 | 66 |
| Unknown | 6 | 9 |

Figure 1. USM Graduate Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity Fall 2015
University of Southern Mississippi Full Time and Half Time Graduate Enrollment Status

REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE
Lenders defer student loans based on a student’s enrollment status depending on if a student is enrolled full-time, three quarter-time, half-time or less than half-time. A student must be enrolled at least half-time to have their loan(s) deferred.

Institutions determine what is considered full-time, three quarter-time, half-time, or less than half-time.

The current Southern Miss Graduate Enrollment Standard: Fall/Spring; 9 hours or more full-time, 4-8 hours ¾ or half-time, 3 hours or less considered less than half-time.

Summer; 3 hours full-time, 2 hours three quarter-time, 1.5 hours half-time, 1-less than half-time.
Current Certification as a Full-Time Graduate Student
9 enrolled hours
   OR
   3 hrs or more of thesis - 698 and 798
   3 hrs or more of dissertation – 898
   3 hrs or more of internship courses, e.g., PSY 796
   or externship courses, e.g., PSY 840
   3 hrs or more of practicum, advanced practicum or
   field education, e.g., CPY 696, SWK 641
   3 hrs or more of research courses, e.g., 691, 791, 891
   3 hrs or more of independent study, e.g., 697 and 797

Current Certification as a Half-Time Graduate Student
4-8 enrolled hours
   OR
   1 or 2 hrs of thesis – 698 and 798
   1 or 2 hrs of dissertation – 898
   1 or 2 hrs of internship, e.g., Psy 796
   1 or 2 hrs of externship, e.g., Psy 840
   1 or 2 hrs of practicum, advanced practicum or field education, SWK 641
   1 or 2 hrs of research courses, e.g., 691, 791, 891
## Current Graduate Enrollment Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Students</th>
<th>Full-Time Enrollment</th>
<th>3/4-Time Enrollment</th>
<th>Half-Time Enrollment</th>
<th>Less Than 1/2-Time Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall/Spring</td>
<td>9 (or more)</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Best Business Practice
Reviewed: MSU, UM, LSU, Alabama, Auburn, Stanford, Louisville, Memphis, UT-Austin, Michigan State University, Indiana University

**GOAL:** Establish Full-Time, Three Quarter-Time, Half-Time Enrollment Standard for Fall/Spring/Summer.

**Fall/Spring**
- 9 hours or more: Full-Time
- 6,7,8 hours: Three Quarter-Time
- 4,5 hours: Half-Time
- 0,1,2,3, hours: Less than half-time

**Summer**
- 3 hours or more: Full-Time
- 2 hours: Three Quarter-Time
- 1 hour: Half-Time
- 0 hours: Less Than Half-Time
Federal agencies such as the Department of Education, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of Homeland Security and the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning may have separate and distinct full-time status requirements.

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