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

The following voting members were present: Dr. Wendy Atkins-Sayre, Dr. Bret Becton, Dr. Leisa Flynn, Dr. YanLin Guo, Dr. Grant Harley, Dr. Jennifer Lemacks, Dr. Sarah Morgan, Dr. Bonnie Nicholson, Dr. Ras Pandey, Dr. Kyna Shelley, Dr. Amy Slagle and Dr. Chaoyang Zhang.

The following voting members were represented by proxies to constitute a quorum: Dr. Kyna Shelley for Dr. Teresa Welsh.

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. Kathy Yadrick for Dr. Michael Forster.

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

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

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

- Rename item 4.3.1.1 to read Nursing (Leadership) Ph.D.

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

3.0 Approval of Minutes
Dr. Butts presented the September 19, 2016 minutes for approval. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to approve the September 19, 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
4.3 College of Education and Psychology

*Department of Child and Family Studies*

Dr. Butts presented the request to delete the Child Development Masters minor and Family Relations Masters minor. Dr. Flynn moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to approve these deletions as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Becton seconded a motion to approve the deletions of the Child Development Masters minor and Family Relations Masters minor. The motion passed 14-0.

*Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education*

Dr. Butts presented the request to delete the Education CIR Read Instruction Dr. minor, the Education CIR Read Instruction Masters minor, the Education Curriculum & Instruction Dr. minor, the Education & Instruction Masters minor, Instructional Tech Education Specialist minor and Instructional Tech Education Specialist Masters minor. Dr. Morgan moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve these deletions as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Morgan moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to approve the deletions of the Education CIR Read Instruction Dr. minor, the Education CIR Read Instruction Masters minor, the Education Curriculum & Instruction Dr. minor, the Education & Instruction Masters minor, Instructional Tech Education Specialist minor and Instructional Tech Education Specialist Masters minor. The motion passed 14-0.

Dr. Butts presented the request to suspend the Instructional Tech Dr. minor and Instructional Tech minor. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve these suspensions as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Morgan seconded a motion to approve the suspensions of the Instructional Tech Dr. minor and Instructional Tech minor. The motion passed 14-0.

Dr. Butts presented the request to delete the Special Education Behavioral Disorders Dr. minor, the Special Education Behavioral Disorders Masters minor, the Special Education Gifted Dr. minor, the Special Education Gifted Masters minor, Special Education Learning Disability Dr. minor, Special Education Learning Disability Masters minor and the Special Education Masters minor. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Morgan seconded a motion to approve these deletions as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Becton seconded a motion to approve the deletions of the Special Education Behavioral Disorders Dr. minor, the Special Education Behavioral Disorders Masters minor, the Special Education Gifted Dr. minor, the Special Education Gifted Masters minor, Special Education Learning Disability Dr. minor, Special Education Learning Disability Masters minor and the Special Education Masters minor. The motion passed 14-0.

Dr. Butts presented the request to modify the Instructional Technology Certificate. Dr. Shelley moved and Dr. Slagle seconded a motion to approve the modification of the Instructional Technology Certificate. The motion passed 14-0.

Dr. Butts presented the request to add IT 790. Dr. Shelley moved and Dr. Flynn seconded a motion to approve the addition of IT 790. The motion passed 14-0.
Dr. Butts presented the request to modify IT 791. Dr. Shelley moved and Dr. Flynn seconded a motion to approve the modification of IT 791. The motion passed 14-0.

Department of Education Research and Administration
Dr. Butts presented the request to delete the Administration Masters minor, the Adult Education Dr. minor, the Adult Education Masters minor, the College Student Personnel Masters minor, Educational Administration & Supervision Masters minor, Educational Administration Dr. minor, Educational Administration and Supervision Dr. minor, Elementary Administration Dr. minor, Elementary Administration Masters minor and the Higher Education Administration Masters minor. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve these deletions as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Flynn moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to approve the deletions of the Administration Masters minor, the Adult Education Dr. minor, the Adult Education Masters minor, the College Student Personnel Masters minor, Educational Administration & Supervision Masters minor, Educational Administration Dr. minor, Educational Administration and Supervision Dr. minor, Elementary Administration Dr. minor, Elementary Administration Masters minor and the Higher Education Administration Masters minor. The motion passed 14-0.

Dr. Butts presented the request to suspend the Higher Education Administration Dr. minor. Dr. Nicholson moved and Dr. Morgan seconded a motion to approve the suspension of the Higher Education Administration Dr. minor. The motion passed 14-0.

School of Library and Information Science
Dr. Butts presented the request to delete the Library Science Dr. minor, the Library Science Masters minor and the Library Science Specialist minor. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to approve these deletions as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Flynn moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to approve the deletions of the Library Science Dr. minor, the Library Science Masters minor and the Library Science Specialist minor. The motion passed 14-0.

Department of Psychology
Dr. Butts presented the request to delete the Counseling Psychology minor, the Psychology Specialist minor, the Psychology Dr. minor and the Psychology Masters minor. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Nicholson seconded a motion to approve these deletions as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Morgan moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve the deletions of the Counseling Psychology minor, the Psychology Specialist minor, the Psychology Dr. minor and the Psychology Masters minor. The motion passed 14-0.
4.4 College of Health

School of Kinesiology
Dr. Butts presented the request to modify KIN 602, KIN 644 and KIN 704. Dr. Slagle moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve these modifications as a group. The motion passed. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Flynn seconded a motion to approve the modifications of KIN 602, KIN 644 and KIN 704. The motion passed 14-0.

Dr. Butts presented the request to add KIN 806L. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Morgan seconded a motion to approve the addition of KIN 806L. The motion passed 14-0.

Dr. Butts presented the request to modify the Kinesiology (Exercise Physiology) Ph.D. program. Dr. Flynn moved and Dr. Becton seconded a motion to approve the modification of the Kinesiology (Exercise Physiology) Ph.D. program. The motion passed 14-0.

Dr. Butts presented the request to modify the Kinesiology (Biomechanics) Ph.D. program. Dr. Morgan moved and Dr. Slagle seconded a motion to approve the modification of the Kinesiology Ph.D. program. The motion passed 14-0.

Dr. Butts presented the request to modify the Kinesiology (Sport Pedagogy) Ph.D. program. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Flynn seconded a motion to approve the modification of the Kinesiology Ph.D. program. The motion passed 14-0.

Department of Nutrition and Food Systems
Dr. Butts presented the request to modify the Online Certificate in Management of Child Nutrition program. Dr. Becton moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve the modification of the Online Certificate in Management of Child Nutrition program. The motion passed 14-0.

4.5 College of Nursing

Department of Systems Leadership and Health Outcomes
Dr. Butts presented the request to modify the Nursing (Leadership) Ph.D. program. Dr. Flynn moved and Dr. Becton seconded a motion to approve the modification of the Nursing (Leadership) Ph.D. program. The motion passed 14-0.

4.6 College of Science and Technology – No Business

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. Butts submitted the Credentials report for October 2016 for approval. The report was approved. (see attached)

6.3 Election Committee – Dr. Chaoyang Zhang
Dr. Zhang’s report is attached.

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
Dr. Nicholson reported the Committee on the Evaluation of Teaching has been charged with considering the need for “instructions” for online student evaluations.

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

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

8.0 New Business
8.1 Graduate Student Senate Report
No report

8.2 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 November 21, 2016 at 3:00. The deadline for submitting materials to the Graduate School for the Agenda is Friday, November 4, 2016.

___________________________  ___________________________
Greg Pierce, Recording Secretary  Dr. Janie Butts, Chair
**College of Education and Psychology**  
*Department of Child and Family Studies*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Program/Minor</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
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**Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education**

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<th>Action</th>
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<th>Effective Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Delete</td>
<td>Education CIR Read Instruction Dr. minor.</td>
<td>Effective spring 2017.</td>
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<td>Delete</td>
<td>Education CIR Read Instruction Masters minor.</td>
<td>Effective spring 2017.</td>
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<td>Delete</td>
<td>Education Curriculum &amp; Instruction Dr. minor.</td>
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<td>Delete</td>
<td>Education &amp; Instruction Masters minor.</td>
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<td>Suspend</td>
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<td>Special Education Learning Disability Dr. minor.</td>
<td>Effective spring 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delete</td>
<td>Special Education Masters minor.</td>
<td>Effective spring 2017.</td>
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</table>
Modify: Instructional Technology Certificate program.  
Face to face format.

To: Instructional Technology Certificate program.  
Face to face and online format.  
Effective spring 2017.

Add: IT 790 Internship in Instructional Technology.  
3 hours. Effective spring 2017.

Modify: IT 791 Internship in Instructional Technology.
To: IT 791 Research in Instructional Technology.  
Effective spring 2017.

Department of Educational Research and Administration

Delete: Adult Education Dr. minor. Effective spring 2017.
Delete: Educational Administration & Supervision Masters minor.  
Effective spring 2017.
Delete: Educational Administration Dr. minor. Effective spring 2017.
Delete: Educational Administration & Supervision Dr. minor.  
Effective spring 2017.
Delete: Elementary Administration Dr. minor. Effective spring 2017.
Delete: Higher Education Administration Masters minor.  
Effective spring 2017.
Suspend: Higher Education Administration Dr. minor. Effective spring 2017.
School of Library and Information Science

Delete: Library Science Dr. minor. Effective spring 2017.

Department of Psychology

Delete: Psychology Dr. minor. Effective spring 2017.

College of Health

School of Kinesiology

Modify: KIN 602 Graded Exercise Testing.
Modify: KIN 704 Test and Measurement in Human Performance.
Add: KIN 806L Laboratory Techniques in Exercise Physiology. 3 hours. Effective fall 2017.
Modify: Kinesiology (Exercise Physiology) Ph.D. 72 hours.
To: Kinesiology (Exercise Physiology) Ph.D. 63 hours. Delete KIN 701L, KIN 805L, CIS 790, KIN 791, and Cognate course; Add KIN 806L. Effective fall 2017.
Modify: Kinesiology (Biomechanics) Ph.D.
72 hours.

To: Kinesiology (Biomechanics) Ph.D.
65 hours. Delete CIS 790, KIN 791, and Cognate course.
Effective fall 2017.

Modify: Kinesiology (Sport Pedagogy) Ph.D.
72 hours.

To: Kinesiology (Sport Pedagogy) Ph.D.
63 hours. Delete KIN 791 and Cognate course.
Effective fall 2017.

Department of Nutrition and Food Systems

Modify: Graduate certificate in Management of Child Nutrition program
Reduce credit hours (18 to 12). Require an undergraduate GPA
of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) on the last two years (60 hours) of
undergraduate study for admission from program requirements.
Effective spring 2017.

College of Nursing
Department of Systems Leadership and Health Outcomes

Modify: Nursing (Leadership) Ph.D. program.
66 hours.

To: Nursing (Leadership) Ph.D.
48 hours.
Effective post-date of Fall 2013.
NOTE: SACSCOC notification may be required.
DATE: October 17, 2016
TO: Graduate Council
FM: 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>Associate Level 1</td>
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<td>Buchanan, J. Paige</td>
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<td>Evans, Andrew N.</td>
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<td>Peterson, Mark S.</td>
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<td>Walton, William C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Level 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Level 3</td>
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<td>Gordon, Evelyn J.</td>
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<td>Kozlowski, Karen P.</td>
<td>Anthropology &amp; Sociology</td>
<td>R2</td>
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<td>Regular Level 1</td>
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<td>Stengrim, Laura A.</td>
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<td>R1</td>
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<td>Regular Level 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony, Kathryn E.</td>
<td>Communication Studies</td>
<td>R3</td>
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<td>Classen, Audra</td>
<td>Curriculum, Instruction, &amp; Special Education</td>
<td>R3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deans, Jeremy R.</td>
<td>Geography &amp; Geology</td>
<td>R3</td>
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<td>Hamdan, Leila</td>
<td>Coastal Sciences</td>
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<td>Kessl, Jacques J.</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Biochemistry</td>
<td>R3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marapareddy, Ramakalavathi</td>
<td>Computing</td>
<td>R3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credentials Committee
Dr. , Chair
Dr. Janie Butts, Graduate Council (GC) Chair, reviewed the GC memberships and identified an issue in the past election. Our University Elections ballot in April 2016 contained faculty names who were not eligible to serve according to the GC Bylaws. The GC needs a college-wide election of Hattiesburg faculty in the College of Arts and Letters (CoAL) to replace the two English Department faculty who are taken off the committee.

**Rationale for Re-Election**

Our University Elections ballot last April 2016 contained faculty names who were not eligible to serve because of at least one of the eligibility criteria below:

a) no more than one representative from any department or school may serve at any given time
b) at least 3 years of contractual employment at USM
c) regular graduate faculty status
d) no members may serve more than two consecutive terms, although after a term absence from the Graduate Council, a faculty member again becomes eligible to serve for two consecutive terms
e) no Deans or higher administration (these are ex-officio members only)

**Re-Election Process**

I was appointed as the election committee chair this semester and helped with this re-election process. Dr. Butts sent me a list of graduate faculty in the College of Arts and Letters. I contacted all department chairs in CoAL and ask them to verify if their faculty members are eligible to vote and be to be elected to GC. I created two lists of faculty in the spreadsheet, as shown in the Appendix #1. The faculty marked ‘*’ in Column E are eligible to vote. The faculty marked ‘**’ in Column F are eligible to be elected to Graduate Council.

Column E includes all graduate faculty (marked *) with regular graduate faculty status from both Gulf Coast and Hattiesburg campuses. Column F includes all graduate faculty (marked *) who are eligible to serve. The criteria are (1) regulate graduate faculty who have regular graduate faculty status and (2) in at least their third year of full-time contractual service to the university. The Column F does not include the faculty from three departments (Eng, CMS and PHI) because there is a representative from each of the three departments who serves on GC. This list does not include faculty from the Gulf Coast.

**Action**

Dr. Butts created online ballots that include all eligible faculty in Column F. She sent out an email to all eligible faculty in Column E on Oct. 13 and asked them to vote, as shown in Appendix 2. We expect to call the election in a few days.
Soaring to New Heights: Graduate Education at Southern Miss

Graduate Dean’s Report (October 2016)

Student Spotlight

Social Work Graduate Students Fight Hunger with the Eagle’s Nest Food Pantry

Finding out that sometimes students must choose between purchasing textbooks and purchasing food motivated the Southern Miss Student Association of Social Workers (SASW) to establish Eagle’s Nest Food Pantry, an on-campus resource for currently-enrolled students in need. From reviewing current literature, surveying students, and visiting with leaders of other on-campus food pantries, the organization learned that student hunger is a largely unrecognized national problem, particularly among low-income and non-traditional students with children. SASW’s intent was to establish a legacy program to hand down from one cohort to the next to serve the needs of students for years to come. This project is also important to the professional development of social work graduate students who serve on administrative subcommittees to learn the “business” side of social work. For example, the Volunteer Services subcommittee is tasked with designing and implementing training sessions for students who volunteer at the pantry. They must also supply a student workforce for food drives and other fundraising activities. The General Operations subcommittee is tasked with monitoring the day-to-day operations of the pantry. Five other subcommittees are assigned with tasks such as engaging on-campus and community resources; overseeing financial transactions and inventory; and creating marketing strategies. Funds are being sought to support these student activities with scholarship funds. Eagles’ Nest Food Pantry opened on October 12 with shelves stocked with food, personal hygiene items, and school supplies which students may obtain at no cost. Located in the basement of the Hub, its hours of operation are Monday 10:00 - 2:00; Wednesday 1:00-5:00; and Friday 11:00-3:00.
The College of Nursing Shares Students’ Success

The College of Nursing has a lot to brag about. In addition to the near completion of Asbury Hall, a state-of-the-art, 81,000 square foot facility soon to be the College’s new home, nurse practitioner programs at Southern Miss were ranked in the Top 100 Best Online Nursing Programs for 2016 by U.S. News & World Report. Most importantly, graduate students in nursing are performing at the highest level. Students completing the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program, either as Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) students or in the post-master’s certificate program, achieved a 100% pass rate from the American Nurses Credentialing Center in 2015. Housed in the Department of Advanced Practice, the program prepares students for leadership in comprehensive, patient-centered healthcare through rigorous coursework and clinical practice experience. It is offered online with full-time or part-time options. Also contributing to the College’s reputation for excellence, students are actively engaged in research. Three Ph.D. students in the Department of Systems Leadership and Health Outcomes gave poster presentations at national and international conferences last month. Elise Jordan, from Baton Rouge, LA presented a poster entitled “Nurse Martyrdom: a Concept Analysis” at the annual Evidence-Based Practice/Research Conference in New Orleans, LA. Noted as “Rising Stars,” Tomekia Earl, from Summit, MS, and Tiffany Zyniewicz, of Seattle, WA presented posters at the Sigma Theta Tau International Leadership Conference in Seattle, WA. Tomekia presented the poster “A Motivational Profile of Nurses who Pursue Doctoral Degrees.” Tiffany’s poster was “Simulation as Replacement for Clinical in Undergraduate Nursing Education: Ratios of Simulation to Clinical Replacement Time.” Sigma Theta Tau fosters professional research, scholarship, and community service for nursing professionals.

Faculty Kudos

Biology Faculty Member is Randall Lecturer

Dr. Fengwei Bai, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, was selected as recipient of the 2016 Randall Lectureship by the South Central Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (SCB-ASM). The prestigious award is named for the late Dr. Charles Randall, former head of the Department of Microbiology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and President of SCB-ASM.
from 1965-67. The Randall Lectureship recognizes an assistant professor at early stages of his or her career whose research in microbiology is recognized for excellence and relevance to contemporary issues in the field. The Randall Lecture is a featured event when researchers, including faculty, students, and postdoctoral scientists from universities in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas, gather at a host institution to present their latest research findings at the SCB-ASM annual meeting. As this year’s Randall lecturer, Dr. Bai will present the talk “Self-Limited Congenital Zika Virus Infection in Mice Causes Postnatal Growth Impediment and Neurobehavioral Deficits” at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on October 29. Dr. Bai earned a Ph.D. in genetics at Fudan University in China in 2002, followed by postdoctoral training at Yale. He joined the faculty of Southern Miss in 2011. His research explores the pathogenesis of numerous mosquito-borne viruses including West Nile virus, dengue virus, and chikungunya virus, in addition to Zika.

Graduate News from Colleges

College of Arts and Letters
Students in the Department of History share research findings.

- Lindsey Peterson, Ph.D. student, published her first article “Iowa Excelled Them All: Iowa Local Ladies’ Aid Societies on the Civil War Frontier, 1861-1865 in Middle West Review (Fall 2016).

College of Business
Richard Ess, Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA) student was awarded the Rhyne E. Neubert Scholarship from the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA).

College of Education and Psychology
Denise Dickson, Ph.D. student in Special Education in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education gave two presentations at the Annual Conference of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities last June. Her papers were entitled “UDL and Individuals with Intellectual Disability: Intentional Inclusion”, coauthored by K.A. Lowrey and S. Smith, and “Results of a National Study on UDL in Today’s Schools: What Might that Mean for Individuals with ID?, coauthored by K.A. Lowrey.

Dr. Matthew Griffis, School of Library and Information Sciences, was awarded a 2016 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant for the project “The Roots of Community: Segregated Carnegie Libraries as Spaces for Learning and Community Making in Pre-Civil Rights America.” He also presented a juried research paper at the American Library Association Annual Conference in
Orlando, FL in June based on his Online Computer Library Center (OCLC)-funded research on roving reference services.

**Special Events and Professional Development Opportunities for Graduate Students**

**McNair Research Symposium**  
Oct. 18, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Lucky Day multi-purpose room  
Ronald McNair Scholars will participate in a research symposium to report on mentored research projects conducted during the last year. The Scholars, who are either first generation or a member of a demographic group underrepresented in the academy, have also successfully completed a GRE preparatory class, taken field trips to research sites and universities to tour graduate programs, and participated in professional development activities. They are preparing for the 25th National Ronald E. McNair Research Conference and Graduate Fair to be held at Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan, WI on October 28-30. All students and faculty are invited to attend the local symposium.

**Teaching Workshop for Graduate Assistants**  
Oct. 28, Noon-1 p.m., Union Hall of Honors  
The Department of Communication Studies in partnership with the Graduate School will host “Class in Session: Excelling as an Instructor.” A faculty panel including Drs. Steven Venette, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Kyna Shelley, Professor of Educational Studies and Research, and Doug Masterson, Associate Dean College of Science and Technology and Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry will lead a panel discussion covering topics on teacher and student communication, dealing with conflict in the classroom, how to plan a lecture/activity, and teaching for different learning styles. Lunch will be provided. Space is limited. For more information contact Carley.Young@usm.edu or Vanessa.Molden@usm.edu. RSVP at https://forms.usm.edu/graduate-school/view.php?id=43787.

**Homecoming Tailgate**  
Oct. 29, 2-4 p.m., McCain Library east side  
Please celebrate homecoming with the Graduate School staff and the Graduate Student Senate at the Graduate School Homecoming Tailgate. All graduate students are invited to attend.

**Three Minute Thesis Competition**  
Students will be challenged to describe the importance of their research to a general audience in less than three minutes using only a single slide as a visual aid. Master’s/specialist and doctoral students will be selected as finalists in four categories: 1) Arts and Humanities; 2) Life, Health, and Environmental Sciences; 3) Physical Sciences and Mathematics; and 4) Social and Educational Sciences and Business during preliminary rounds on November 2 and 3 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Trent Lott Center A-D. Grand Champion, Runner Up, and People’s Choice will be selected during the finals competition on Nov. 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the same location. Excellent cash prizes will be awarded. Information on the competition and a registration form is located on the Graduate School website (https://www.usm.edu/graduate-school/three-minute-thesis-competition%20). **The deadline for registration is 5:00 PM, Monday, October 24.**
Graduate School Recruiting

- Dean Coats was invited speaker at “Lunch with Leadership” on the Gulf Park campus September 13. She discussed strategies for success in navigating the graduate application process with approximately 40 undergraduate and graduate students.

- During September and October Graduate School recruiters attended recruitment fairs in Mississippi (Rust College, Mississippi Valley State University, Alcorn State University, Jackson State University, and Tougaloo College); Tennessee (Rhodes College and University of Memphis); Florida (University of West Florida); Louisiana (Southeastern Louisiana University); Alabama (Oakwood University, Birmingham-Southern College, Stillman College, Auburn University, Spring Hill College, and Faulkner University) and National Collegiate Honors Council in Seattle, WA. Contact information will be available in Radius for follow up by departments.

Taking You TO THE TOP!

 Elevating you to a higher level of academic and professional achievement