Showcasing New Programs

Food and Nutrition Systems Partners with the Aramark Dietetic Internship Program to Establish a New Online Master of Science Degree

The Department of Nutrition and Food Systems (NFS) and the Aramark Dietetic Internship Program are partnering to provide an online Master of Science degree in Nutrition and Food Systems. The program will be piloted during academic year 2016-17 and include interns from across the country. The Aramark Dietetic Internship Program accepts sixty interns annually, and all sixty positions will be transitioned to require the master's degree over a five-year period. The partnership between Southern Miss and Aramark is responsive to a recent mandate by the dietetics credentialing agency requiring dieticians and nutritionists taking the registration examination to hold a master’s degree by January 1, 2024. According to Dr. Elaine Molaison, Professor and Chair of the Department of Nutrition and Food Systems, “Dietetic internships without a direct tie to a university are in jeopardy of losing their programs because they cannot provide the required master’s degree.” In early February Dr. Molaison and Roxanne Kingston, Instructor and Dietetic Internship Director, met with representatives of the Aramark Dietetic Internship Program over a two-day period for discussions which resulted in the partnership. Dr. Molaison is also in discussion with two additional programs to establish a similar relationship, with the combined enrollment of the additional programs exceeding 150 students per year.
Student Spotlight

Biological Sciences Doctoral Student’s Hummingbird Research Featured by International News Magazines

Exciting research on the migration of ruby-throated hummingbirds by Biological Sciences doctoral student Theodore J. (T.J.) Zenzal and his major professor Dr. Frank Moore, published in the March 9 issue of The Auk: Ornithological Advances, caught the attention of the major news magazines Christian Science Monitor and Discover Magazine, which featured his research in their recent publications. Focusing on 2729 of the hummingbirds caught with mist nets as they migrated south through the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge in Alabama from 2010-2014, T.J. and his colleagues were able to band the birds and record biological data.

In a spotlight of the article, The Auk publishers noted, “Using a computer program to estimate flight range based on birds’ mass and wingspan, they estimated that the average hummingbird has a flight range of around 2,200 kilometers [over 1300 miles]. Older birds and males were predicted to be able to travel farther at a time than younger birds and females.” Furthermore, they stated, “This research provides some of the first details of their annual fall journey from the eastern United States to Central America, showing that their fall migration peaks in September and that older birds travel ahead of younger ones.” While the data do not prove that the birds fly cross the Gulf of Mexico during migration, as has been reported anecdotally, they do show that most of them would have the ability to do so, pending appropriate weather conditions. This report is part of T.J.’s dissertation research, which he successfully defended recently. He will graduate with his Ph.D. in May.

For more information see the following links:
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/tiny-hummingbirds-incredible-migration/
http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2016/0311/These-tiny-birds-can-fly-over-1-000-miles-nonstop
http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/d-brief/2016/03/10/hummingbirds-migration-endurance/#.VuR7vHqo0mQ
Psychology graduate students recognized at Capitol

On Friday, February 26, Dr. Joe Olmi, Chair of the Department of Psychology, along with students in the first cohort of the new Psychology M.S. program with an emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis, visited the State Capitol. They were greeted by Representative Steve Massengill, author of House bill 885, which led to the launch of the program. Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann met with Dr. Olmi and the students to discuss the importance of the program to the children of Mississippi. After meeting with Secretary Hosemann they were given a tour of the Capitol and were recognized during session in the House Chamber by Rep. Massengill. Dr. Olmi and the students were also able to meet area representatives and Southern Miss alumni Toby Barker and Chris Johnson.

MLIS Student Receives National Recognition

LaTrisha Blunt, a student in the Master of Library and Information Science program and Library Technician at the East Baton Rouge Parish Public Library, was named the recipient of the EBSCO American Library Association (ALA) Conference Sponsorship. This award will reimburse her expenses up to $1,000 to attend the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, June 23-28. Among LaTrisha’s other awards and recognition, she was awarded a paid Summer Transportation Internship at the Federal Highway Administration Research Library in Washington, D.C. in 2014. In 2015 she was awarded the 2015 Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Career Enhancement Fellowship,
which included a paid summer internship at the University of Kentucky Library and a trip to the ARL Annual Leadership Symposium in Chicago, held last winter.

Coastal Sciences Graduate Student Wins Best Paper Award

Danielle Simning, M.S. student in the Department of Coastal Sciences, was selected as recipient of the 2016 James D. Watkins Student Award for Excellence in Research at the 2016 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference in January. Danielle was applauded by the Program Manager for the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, based in Washington, D.C., for a presentation that “was just outstanding both in the content and particularly the way the material was delivered.” Danielle received a $500 cash award and a plaque recognizing her achievement. Danielle’s major professor is Dr. Joe Griffitt, Associate Professor and Interim Chair of the department.

Faculty Kudos

The Texas Catholic Historical Society named Dr. Eric Platt a recipient of the Patrick Foley Award for his article on Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel. Dr. Platt’s article was published in the 2015 issue of Catholic Southwest. He also was awarded a grant by the Spencer Foundation for his research entitled "Ethnic Schooling in the Ecclesiastical Square: Educational Opportunity, Social Divide, and the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century New Orleans." The Spencer Foundation, established in 1962 by Lyle M. Spencer, is “dedicated to the belief that research is necessary to the improvement in education,” thus “supporting high-quality investigation of education through its research programs” (http://www.spencer.org/mission). Dr. Platt is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Studies and Research/Educational Leadership.
Bragging Points from Graduate Programs

From the College of Business
- *Journal of Sport Safety and Security* is a new peer-reviewed, international journal published by USM and the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS4). This open access, online journal is “dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge created from theoretical and applied research studies in sport safety and security management” (http://aquila.usm.edu/jsss/). Dr. Stacey A. Hall, Associate Professor of Sport Management and Dr. Doug Manning, Assistant Professor of Sport Management, both in the Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Sport Management, serve as Editor-In-Chief and member of the editorial board, respectively.

From the College of Education & Psychology
- Dr. Kimberly Bunch-Crump, Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education, was selected as a participant in the Council for Exceptional Children’s Division for Research Beginning Career Researcher Workshop, to be held in St. Louis, MO in April. Being selected to participate in this workshop is an award limited to 20 participants nationwide. Selection is based on evidence of exceptional promise in research.
- Jesse Emling, a doctoral student in Instructional Technology and Design, won the Mississippi Educational Computing Association mini-grant. This is a small grant to help Jesse integrate Dot and Dash robots into his fifth grade computer science course to teach coding, writing, math, and music.
- Dr. Danielle Forest, Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education, and her colleague from Old Dominion University are receiving the best paper award from the Media, Culture, and Learning Special Interest Group at the 2016 meeting of the American Educational Research Association to be held in Washington, D.C. in April. The paper is entitled "It was . . . the Word ‘Scrotum’ on the First Page": Educators’ Perspectives of Controversial Literature."
- Three graduate students in the Ph.D. program in Higher Education Administration were honored with the Dean’s Award for two research presentations at the recent annual meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association. Amanda Griffin and Lauren Lassabe received the award for their study, “Learning how to teach: Examining the relationship between practice teaching opportunities and preparedness for student teaching”. Ms. Griffin was also honored with the award for her research with Lenore Schaffer “Life after sexual assault: Likelihood to report and persistence in college after sexual assault.”

From the College of Health
- Amy Rosonet, Clinical Instructor and Speech-Language Pathology Clinic Coordinator in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, was elected 2017 Mississippi Speech and Hearing Association President Elect.
Graduate School Recruiting

- Mississippi Valley State University to Visit USM
  The Graduate School will host about 20 prospective students from Mississippi Valley State University for a campus visit on Wednesday, March 23. Arriving at 10:00 AM, the students will be greeted by Graduate School staff who will discuss the benefits of a graduate degree, how to apply, and how to progress successfully to completion of a degree. They will be taken on a guided tour the campus. Following a luncheon in the Hall of Honors, representatives from a wide variety of degree programs will briefly highlight their programs and take questions from the students.

Professional Development Upcoming Events

- Susan A. Siltanen Graduate Student Research Symposium
  Join the Graduate Student Senate for an exciting day showcasing excellent research by graduate students! Poster and oral presentations will be delivered by graduate students in the Arts and Humanities; Social Sciences and Business; Education and Psychology; Health and Nursing; Physical Sciences and Mathematics; and Life Sciences. Awards will be presented in all categories for both oral and poster presentations. This event will be held Thursday, March 24, 2016 from 9:00 AM to approximately 12:30 PM at the Thad Cochran Center. For more information contact Vanessa Molden at Vanessa.molden@usm.edu.

- Graduate Student Appreciation Week: April 4-8
  The Graduate School will celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of Southern Miss graduate students during Graduate Student Appreciation Week (April 4-8). Events and activities will highlight resources that are available to help students successfully complete their degree program, and professional development workshops and seminars will be featured. Events will include the following, and other events are being scheduled and will be announced soon.
  - Graduate Student Hall of Fame Portrait Unveiling and Open House
    Monday, April 4 | 2-4 p.m. | McCain Library Second Floor
  - “I Don’t Like the Other Grad Students in My Program: Am I a Bad Person?”
    Negotiating relationships of all kinds with peers in graduate department will be discussed. Led by Dr. Rebecca Woodrick Malley, Title IX Coordinator
    Wednesday, April 6 | Two opportunities: Noon-1 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. | Luckyday Multipurpose Room
  - “Leadership Development: An Exception to the Rule” Guest speaker: Dr. Samuel Jones, Dean of Student Affairs, Jones County Community College
    Thursday, April 7 | Noon-2 p.m. | Bennett Auditorium
  - Copyright Seminar, led by Dr. Chase Kasper, Assistant Vice President for Research Technology Transfer & Corporate Relations
    Friday, April 8 | Time and Location (TBD)
  - Graduate Student Mixer/Social
    Friday, April 8 | 4-6 p.m. | R. C. Cook Lounge
Graduate School Policies and Procedures

- Graduate School Fees (Information Only)
  The following fee schedule is included to inform students and faculty of fees that are required for services as students make progress to the degree. Note that graduation fees ARE required for graduate students (differs from undergraduates). All fees must be paid by specified deadlines. Details can be found at the following link: https://commerce.cashnet.com/cashnetg/selfserve/BrowseCatalog.aspx.

Table 1. Schedule of fees required for graduate students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application fee</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readmission application fee</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation fee for certificate programs</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation fee for doctoral degree</td>
<td>$325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation fee for master’s with thesis</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyright fee for thesis (Optional)</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation fee for master’s or specialist without thesis</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation late fee</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very late degree application</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late/rush degree application</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation late fee if filed exam/commencement week</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation deferment fee (first deferment is free)</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revalidation fee per course</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Course Revalidation Update
  The time limitation on courses used to complete a degree correspond with the time limit for a degree (Master’s = 5 years; Specialist = 6 years; Doctorate = 8 years). In the event that an over-time-limit student successfully petitions for an extension, over-age coursework will require revalidation. To provide guidance, Graduate Council approved the following language for inclusion in the 2016-17 Graduate Bulletin, “Revalidation can include course retake, partial content revalidation (to bring the content of the course taken up to date with current standards), literature review, completion of a comprehensive examination on revalidated course content and/or other option proposed by the department and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.” In the February meeting of the Graduate Council, council members approved the following modification to the course revalidation fee structure: the fee is $50 per revalidated course with a maximum revalidation fee of $400.