

# Southern Miss Student Success

## Supporting Student Engagement and Persistence



Psychology Scholars, 2017

### Spring 2018 and Student Success

This 'welcome back' edition of the Student Success Newsletter highlights our transfer student and TRIO/Student Support Services programs and celebrates two particular areas that recognize and promote student success. The Drapeau Center for Undergraduate Research and Psychology Scholars program both foster student partnership with faculty mentors, a critical relationship for deep student success. We also are excited to announce the newest cohort of faculty fellows in the ACUE Faculty Development Institute; these faculty join a growing community of colleagues working together on effective teaching for student success. Thank you to all the faculty and staff working on these initiatives!

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#### SUPPORTING STUDENTS

New programs for transfer students and on-going work of Student Support Services Program

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#### CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

Undergraduate Research and the Psychology Scholars

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#### FACULTY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

New fellows for spring 2018 join the Institute!



**Canvas is here!**

Need help?  
[online@usm.edu](mailto:online@usm.edu)



#### Jump Scholars Program

Recruiting for Summer 2018!  
<https://www.usm.edu/jump>

**What's going on in your Southern Miss spot?**



Share your student success events with us to help coordinate!  
[a.c.miller@usm.edu](mailto:a.c.miller@usm.edu)

# Transfer Student Success

Transfer students form a significant part of the Southern Miss student body and culture. We welcome many new transfer students to Southern Miss each semester, and although most of our graduates do have transfer credits from another institution, we still do not see transfer students involved on campus or

engaged in their majors to the extent that we would like. As a result, far too many transfer students leave the University after just their first semester; it's not uncommon for 20 % of transfer students to only stay for one term, then another 10% to leave after their second semester. Students leave for a variety of reasons, but a lack of connection to campus, to peers, and to faculty and staff plays a role. Through the establishment of a Transfer Student Association (TSA) and mentorship of new Southern Miss transfer students by those transfer students further down the path to graduation, we hope to bring these new students into Southern Miss more smoothly and help them get started on the right foot. The TSA will be planning social and academic events for transfer students throughout the year; this cold January start to the semester included a hot chocolate social for



transfer students (see above left). We are seeking

more students to attend events and get involved in a leadership capacity (see below). These initiatives are being developed through the Office of New Student and Retention Programs, and we welcome the interest and involvement of faculty and staff as well as all transfer students. Stay tuned for announcements of events!

## TRANSFER STUDENT ASSOCIATION (TSA)

### WE ARE RECRUITING!

Please help us spread the word to transfer students about the opportunity get involved in our new Transfer Student Association. Talk to your advisees, announce it in your classes, and otherwise let students know they are welcome.



For more information, contact advisor [Lauren Richard Bridges](#) (left) in the Office of New Student and Retention Programs or [JR Moody](#) (right), the student president.



# Student Support Services Program

Student Support Services (SSS) is a program funded by the U.S. Department of Education to provide a range of support to eligible under graduate students. At Southern Miss, TRIO-Student Support Services, is a specified and effective retention tool designed to serve 195 students on the Hattiesburg campus. All student members of the SSSP must meet key eligibility requirements (see box to the right), and many students at Southern Miss are eligible for the services this program provides. Eligible students of any undergraduate classification may apply to the program, and those accepted as TRIO-SSS scholars become a part of a thriving and supportive community that enjoys individualized and group tutoring, exclusive computer lab access, collegiate developmental workshops, and social and cultural exposure opportunities. Students in the program not only get connected to mentoring by the staff but also attend workshops on topics such as career readiness, study skills, time management, and financial literacy. In addition, social and cultural enrichment activities are part of the program. Interested in learning more? Stop by McLemore Hall 201 or contact the Director or Assistant Director (see right).



Adina Narcisse Green, Ph.D.  
Director, TRIO/SSSP

Daleana Phillips, M.A. Assistant  
Director, TRIO/SSSP



## What determines if a student is eligible to join the Student Support Services Program?

To be a part of Student Support Services, students must be a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. and a student at Southern Miss. Additionally, they must fall into one of the following categories:

- Neither parent has a four-year degree **&/OR**
- Family income is below a specified Department of Education level **&/OR**
- Student has a documented disability

Students must also have a GPA of 3.0 or below and an ACT of 22 or less. Other academic need criteria may also be considered.

# Drapeau Center for Undergraduate Research

## Drapeau Center for Undergraduate Research Supports Student Researchers and their Mentors

Undergraduate research is a well-known high-impact practice for student success. At Southern Miss, we define undergraduate research as any independent scholarly project conducted by students under the guidance of faculty mentors, and we have truly exceptional scholarship being done by students in many disciplines across the institution. The [Drapeau Center for Undergraduate Research](#) (DCUR) exists to recognize, reward, and foster the engagement of our undergraduate students in research and to support the critical mentorship being provided to these students by our faculty.

Thanks to the Center's generous benefactor, alum Donald Drapeau, DCUR is able to provide funding to exceptional undergraduate students and their research mentors. For example, [Eagle Scholars Program for Undergraduate Research](#) (Eagle SPUR) was launched in fall 2013 to provide successful applicants with funding for research, such as equipment, supplies, travel, and stipends. Since its launch, Eagle SPUR has funded 147 undergraduate students. Additionally, since 2014, DCUR has also administered a program to honor exemplary mentorship, the Drapeau Undergraduate Mentorship Award. This award is given annually and provides the recognized mentor with a \$1500 stipend.. Finally, The [Drapeau Summer Research Grants](#) were initiated in 2015 and have since provided select students with up to \$4000 for eight weeks of full-time summer research. **Note that the deadline for this**



*Jessica McCord conducting research at Sea World, thanks to funding from DCUR.*

**application is** [March 2, 2018](#). Opportunities such as these provide vital financial support as well as distinction to our undergraduate scholars and the faculty mentors who make their work possible.

In addition to funding, DCUR also coordinates production of [Catalyst](#), a multidisciplinary journal of undergraduate research. This fully online peer-reviewed journal is available on [Aquila](#), and students can submit their own work to [Catalyst](#) for consideration for publication.

Finally, each spring, DCUR also works with the Honors College to host the annual [Undergraduate Symposium on Research and Creative Activity](#). The 2018 Symposium will be held on April 21st, and student submissions are due by March 5th. More details regarding the event and submission procedures are available [online](#). Faculty are encouraged to promote student submission from all disciplines.

**Want to get involved?** The DCUR is coordinated by a steering committee comprised of representatives from each academic college, Faculty Senate, University Libraries, the Honors College, and the Office of the Provost. Please see the [DCUR website](#) for details or contact [Marie Danforth](#), Committee Chair.

# Psychology Scholars Program



2018 Class of Psychology Scholars with advisor, Dr. Michael Madson

## PSYCHOLOGY RECOGNIZES NEW CLASS OF SCHOLARS, PROVIDING PATHWAYS FOR ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Initiated in 2017, the Psychology Scholars program is designed to enhance the academic experiences of successful students by providing them with opportunities for mentorship, research training, and increased involvement in the department. The students who are chosen work with faculty to experience additional challenges and guidance towards their successful next steps as graduate students or in careers in psychology. The seven participants from 2017 (see page 1) report a high level of satisfaction and growth in core skills areas (e.g., research and professionalism). For 2018, eleven new scholars have been chosen. These students will receive additional support on GRE preparation and expanded options for connecting with mental health professionals in the community for mentorship, as well as some continuing workshops and one-on-one direct mentoring support from faculty.

Through this program, Psychology expects to see greater readiness for graduate school application and success, more involvement in departmental orientations for new students, and increased participation in research with professional presentations. We will be excited to see the new class of scholars grow through guided goal setting, mentorship of peers, searches for graduate programs and connections to practitioners in their field. At the reception for the scholars in November, it was exciting to see the enthusiasm among the new cohort, despite some nervousness about the challenge. As one 2017 Scholar noted, "The scholars program is extremely helpful in preparing you for future. I know for a fact that I wouldn't be half as prepared for graduate school if I had not been part of this program. It has eased my mind, and made me confident in my ability to succeed."

Want more info? Contact [Dr. Mike Madson](#) or see their [website](#).

Congratulations on this great work!

# ACUE Faculty Development Institute

We are excited to announce the **spring 2018 cohort of Faculty Fellows for the ACUE Faculty Development Institute**. These 17 fellows from 13 different disciplines will join together this spring to complete an online course in effective teaching for student success. They will be joined by facilitators, Bonnie Cooper and Jennifer Regan. We are happy to welcome them to the community! Starting with the top left, this spring's new Fellows include:

1. Sam Bruton, Philosophy
2. Mary Bullock, Math
3. Matt Casey, History
4. Joann Cao, Marketing
5. Emily Clark, Biological Sciences
6. Loren Coleman, Mass Communication
7. Jeremy Deans, Geology
8. Bridget Hayden, Anthropology
9. Sabine Heinhorst, Biochemistry and Honors College
10. Mark Huff, Psychology
11. Lucas Keefer, Psychology
12. Melanie Leuty, Psychology
13. Lauren Malone, Interdisciplinary Studies
14. Megan McCay, New Student and Retention Programs
15. Bob Press, Political Science
16. Michael Sellers, Biological Sciences



Want more information? Please see the [website for the Faculty Development Institute](#) or contact [Bonnie Cooper](#), Assistant to the Provost for Faculty Development.

# Did you know?

The Center for Faculty Development is seeking faculty applicants to serve as **Director** of the Center. The new Director will lead the functions of the Center, from New Faculty Orientation to the Faculty Development Institute to Teaching Forums and other workshops. The Center Director will also help faculty coordinate interdisciplinary scholarly working groups of faculty and help to promote new initiatives, including a future Leadership Institute. The Center Director will be an important advocate and leader on campus for faculty professional development, and we look forward to selecting a strong, enthusiastic, experienced leader. *The ad for the position will soon be posted on the human resources website, so consider applying if you are interested, and spread the word to colleagues as well. Thank you!*

## KEY ACADEMIC CALENDAR DATES

February 12-13: Mardi Gras Holiday  
 February 28: Interim Grades Due (5pm)  
 March 12-16: Spring Break Holidays  
 April 5: Last day for students to drop a full-term course with a W  
 May 11: Hattiesburg Commencement  
 May 14: Semester grades due  
 May 14- June 1: Summer Intersession  
 June 4: Full term and Summer Session I.

Students can now download the Pocket Points app to earn points by locking their phones during class. Earned points can then be redeemed for online purchases or discounts and local restaurants. After downloading the app, Southern Miss students should enter the code "SMTT" to get bonus points. Local businesses can also [contact the company](#) to be added to the program.

## TEACHING FORUM: THURSDAY, FEB 15 9:30-10:30AM Int'l Center Room 319

This first Teaching Forum will focus on a "Toolkit for Getting students Engaged." Attendees will learn from a diverse panel of faculty about techniques that are suitable for use in the

beginning, middle, and end of class for promoting learning and helping to build a sense of community. Panelists include:

- Brigitte Burgess, Marketing and Merchandising
- Renee Rupp, Nutrition and Food Systems
- Lindsay Wright, Child and Family Studies

Register [here](#) to attend!

