

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Annual Report

SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK

2021 - 2022

NEW LEADERSHIP

Coordinator of Field Education
MSW Coordinator

NEW INITIATIVES

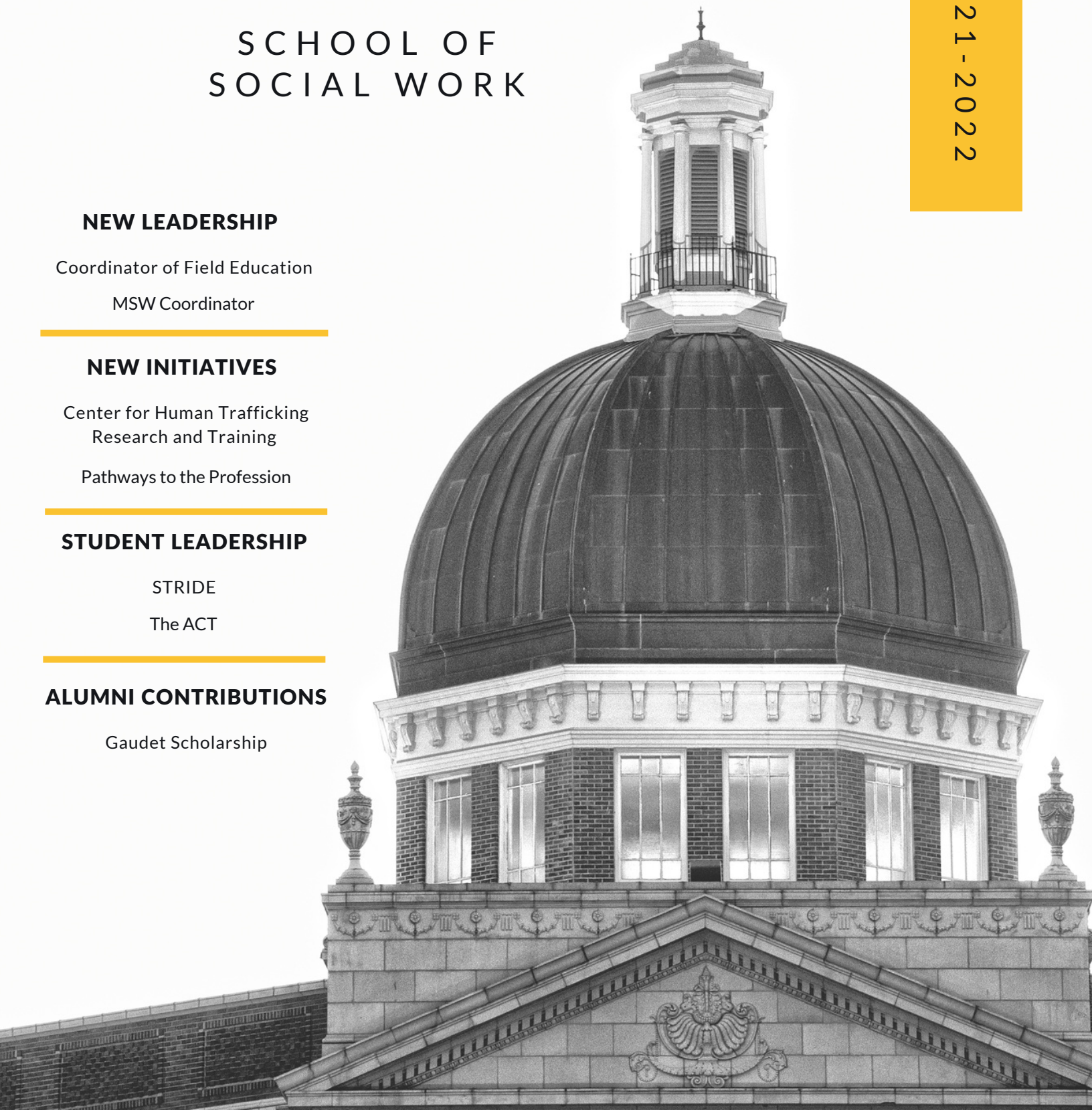
Center for Human Trafficking
Research and Training
Pathways to the Profession

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

STRIDE
The ACT

ALUMNI CONTRIBUTIONS

Gaudet Scholarship



WHAT'S INSIDE?

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- 60 2021-2022 BSW & MSW Graduates

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Alumni and Friends:

We are excited to share with you many significant developments and accomplishments during the 2021-2022 academic year by our faculty and staff, field instructors, alumni, donors, and students.

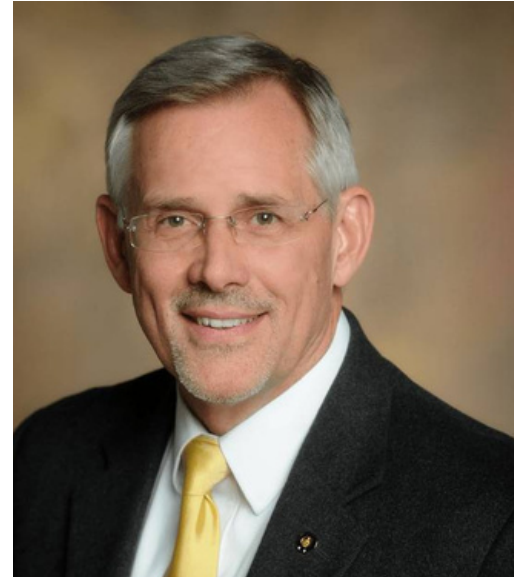
The Annual Report highlights new leadership, specifically the Coordinator of Field Education and the MSW Coordinator. Our instructional and research capacity grew stronger with the addition of several new Visiting Instructors, Instructors, and Assistant Professors. Our outreach and impact was expanded with the recent addition of the Center for Human Trafficking Research and Training and the Pathways to the Profession project.

The BSW and MSW programs remain at the top of the university in terms of graduates and per credit contributions, with applications and enrollment climbing on both the Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast campuses.

Our students continue to demonstrate exceptional leadership through STRIDE (Strategizing towards Racial Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity), The ACT (Action in Critical Times), SASW (Student Association of Social Workers), and the BSW Club.

As many have heard me say, the needs in our state and region are great. Fortunately, our graduates specialize in enhancing resilience to overcome personal, interpersonal, and systemic challenges and deeply entrenched social justice issues that exponentially impact those who are poor, oppressed, and underserved.

Please stay in touch and let us know if you would like to be part of what we are doing today and where we are headed tomorrow!



Dr. Jerome Kolbo
Director of the School of
Social Work

WHAT ARE STUDENTS SAYING ABOUT USM SOCIAL WORK?

I enjoyed the program and professors. I feel that the program prepared me for the next level of my career...

When it was time for my colleagues and I to graduate in May 2021, I felt confident and prepared. The staff and faculty pushed me to be my best self, which made me a better social worker. I was prepared for my LMSW exam and passed with flying colors. I would and have recommend the MSW program to others.

The staff and faculty in this program are unmatched...I very much enjoyed my time here and learned so much from this program!

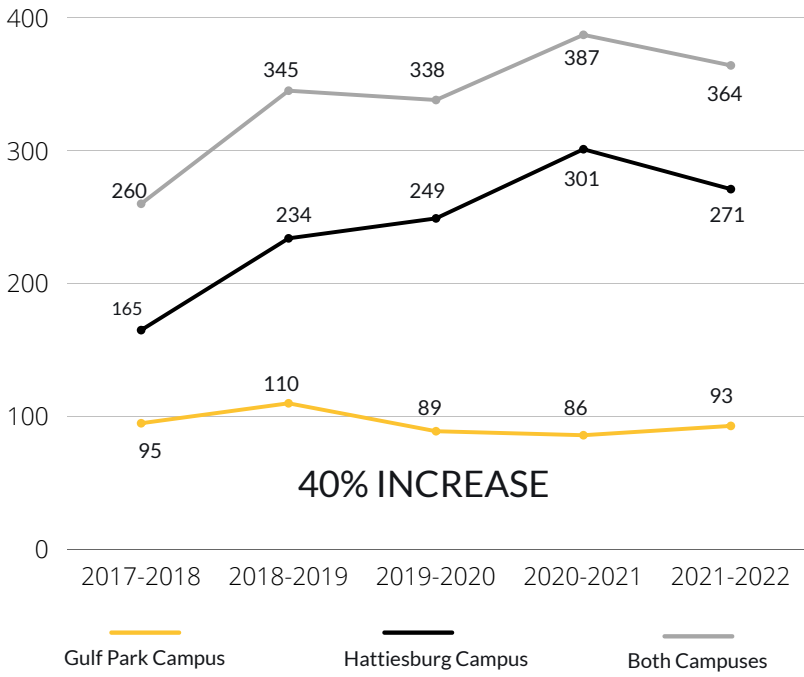
USM was an amazing experience for me. The instructors were friendly and helpful and it felt like family. I am forever grateful for my time at USM.

The University of Southern Mississippi has a great program for students who want to obtain a degree in social work. The teachers are very helpful, and they make sure you understand what they are teaching to students.



ENROLLMENT INCREASES

From the 2017-2018 school year, to 2021-2022, the School of Social Work has seen a great increase in enrollment. In 2017 we had a total of 260 enrolled student; we are now up to 364 enrolled students despite living in the middle of a global pandemic. 2021-2022. Gulf-Park 93, Hattiesburg 271 and Both 364



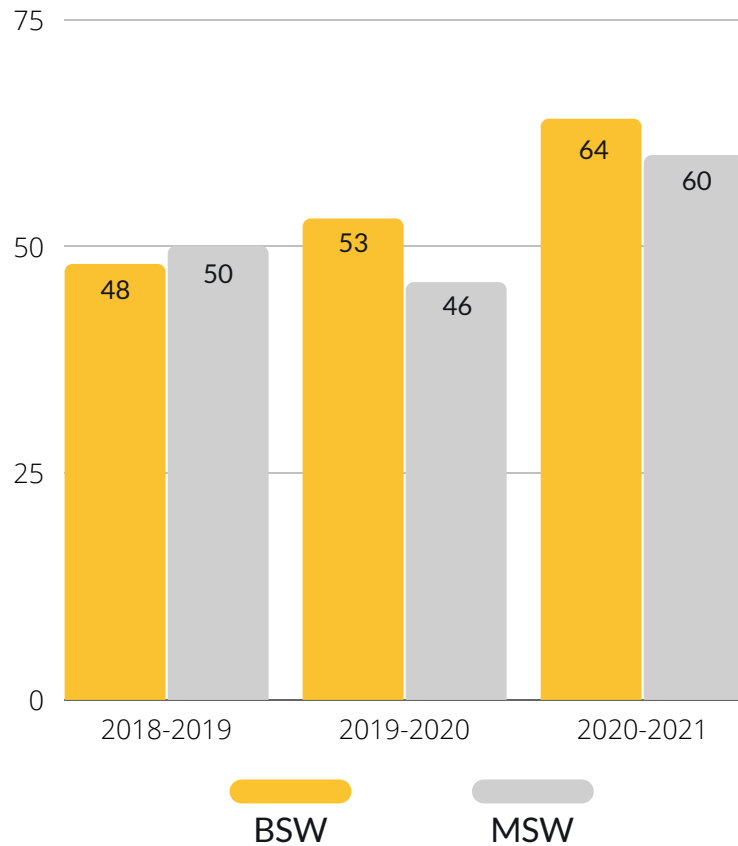
STATS AND FIGURES

Of all graduate programs at USM, the MSW program ranks

#1

10 of the last 12 years in total graduates

Graduates



Of all undergraduate programs at USM, the BSW program ranks

#10

for program costing and per credit contribution.

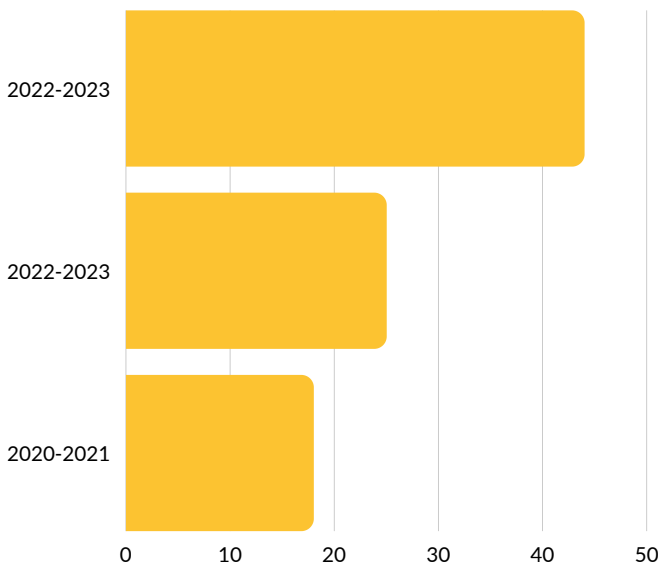
Of all graduate programs at USM, the MSW program ranks

#3

STATS AND FIGURES

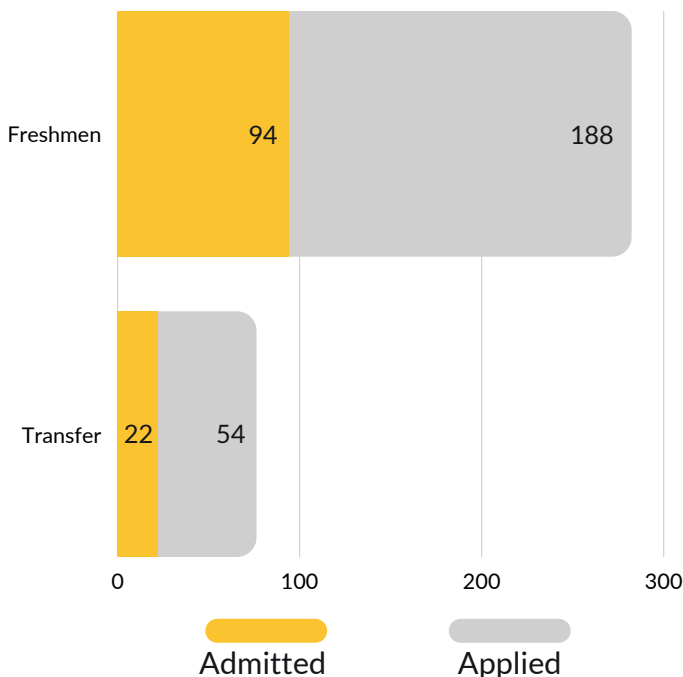
144%
increase in
applications on
the coast over
the past 3 years

BSW Program Applications: Gulf Park Campus

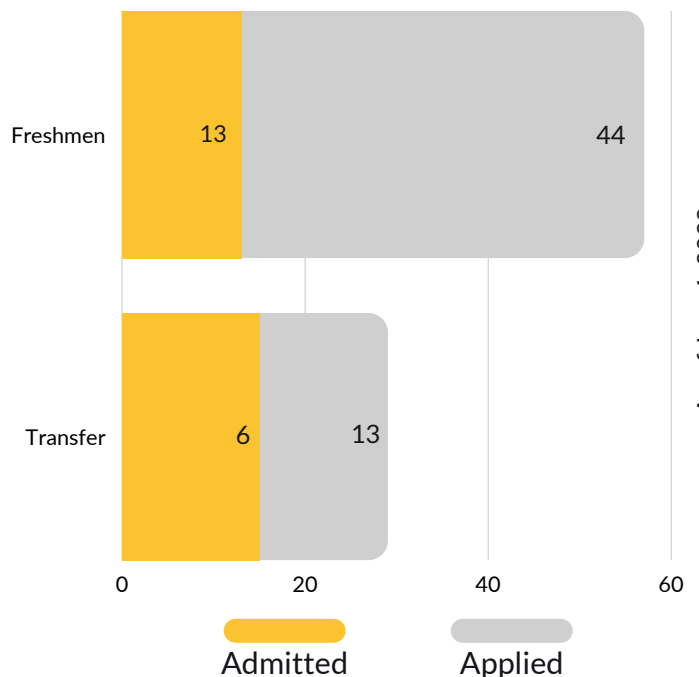


Over the past three years, overall BSW freshman applications in the School are up 12%.

2022-2023 BSW Program Applications: Hattiesburg



2022-2023 BSW Program Applications: Gulf Park



As of June 1, 2022

MEET THE FACULTY & STAFF



Laura Achter, LMSW



Denise Brown-Rouse, LCSW



Karen Aderer, LMSW



Michelle Brazeal, PhD



Bret Blackmon, PhD



Zibei Chen, LMSW, PhD

MEET THE FACULTY & STAFF



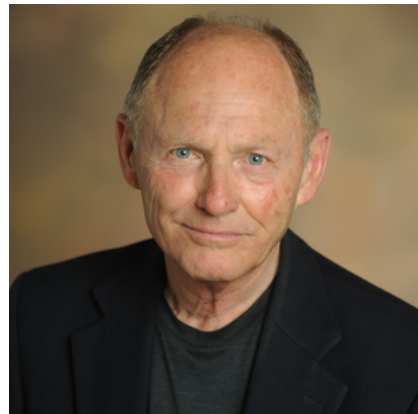
Tamecia Curry, LMSW, PhD



Rene Drumm, MSW, PhD



Melissa Coker



Michael Forster, MSW, PhD



Melody Davisson, LMSW



Kim Hogan, LMSW, PhD

MEET THE FACULTY & STAFF



Jenine Housewright, LMSW



Jerome Kolbo, PhD, ACSW



Tamara Hurst, PhD, LCSW



Rachel Lahasky, MSW, LCSW-BACS



Susan Hrostowski, PhD, MSW



Joohee Lee, PhD, MSW

MEET THE FACULTY & STAFF



Catherine Poehling, DSW,
MS, LCSW, CCTP-II



Diana Smith, LCSW



Tonya Rogillio, LMSW

2021-2022 ADJUNCT PROFESSORS

Christy Ainsworth

Alvin Baker

Nikki Dear

Danyella Berry-Terrell

April Estill -Lomax

Dr. Portia Granger

Lindsey Hardin

Riley Heron

Jenine Housewright

Amy Jackson

Dr. Valerie Joiner

Tegi Jenkins Rimmer

Lauren Strickland

Kerri Vogt

New Hires



**Laura Achter, LMSW
Visiting Instructor**

Laura Achter received her BSW and MSW from the University of Southern Mississippi. Her professional background includes mental health clinician with Pine Belt Mental Health Care Services, Family Preservation Specialist with Child Protective Services (CPS), child welfare social worker, therapeutic foster care specialist, and intensive in-home specialist with Mississippi Children's Home Services/Canopy. Further, she served in the Mississippi Air National Guard for 32 years. She started the military as an enlisted airman and was later commissioned as an officer. She has served as Medical Service supervisor, Equal Opportunity Officer and base Inspector General.

Interests: Child Welfare, Family and Children, Ethics, Cultural Competency, School Social Work, Equality, and Mental Health..



**Dr. Michelle Brazeal
Assistant Professor &
MSW Coordinator**

Michelle Brazeal, Ph.D., LCSW received her MSW and Ph.D. from the University of Alabama. She previously taught at The University of Alabama, The University of Southern Mississippi and Middle Tennessee State University. Her research focuses on the intersection of physical and mental health. She is also interested in exploring pedagogy in higher education and ways to utilize technology to improve learning. She has been awarded numerous grants focusing on integrated health, expanding workforce training in healthcare, and developing state-level opioid tracking systems. Her practice experience has included providing outpatient and residential mental health services to children and transitional age young adults, providing outpatient addictions treatment, and providing social work services in primary care. As an administrator, she has developed transitional age group homes and integrated health programs. She has assisted in developing a juvenile drug court and a jail diversion program.

Interests: Intersection of mental & physical health, effective teaching in higher education, adolescent disruptive behaviors, and trauma in transitional age youth



**Catherine Patteson Poehling,
DSW, MS, LCSW, CCTP-II
Assistant Professor**

Dr. Poehling is a mental health clinician, transformational leader, and community organizer with nearly 20 years of experience working with diverse populations. She has a wide range of clinical experience providing individual and group psychotherapy, clinical supervision, and training. In addition to mental health, she is an active advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice. She holds an Advanced Certificate in Forensic Social Work and is a Clinical Certified Trauma Professional Level II for complex trauma. Her current research is focused on the use of Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC) using the social determinants of health.

Interests: Reproductive justice, social determinants of health, trauma, severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI), substance use.



**Tonya Rogillio, MSW
Visiting Instuctor**

After teaching as an Adjunct Instructor for Spring and Fall 2021, Tonya Rogillio, MSW has joined the faculty as a Visiting Instructor for the Spring 2022 semester. Tonya earned her Bachelor of Social Work Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in May of 1993, and her Master's in May of 2012. The focus of Tonya's long career in Social Work has been Child Welfare. Tonya spent over 20 years working for the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services where she held many positions including frontline Social Worker, Director of Special Investigations, and Deputy Commissioner of Child Welfare, among others.

Interests: Child Maltreatment, Child Welfare, Children and Families, Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Teams



Diana Smith, LCSW
Instructor

Diana M. Smith, LCSW received her BSW and MSW from the University of Southern Mississippi. She received her LCSW at Edgewood Children's Center in St. Louis, MO. From St. Louis, she moved to Atlanta, GA, where she accepted a position of clinical therapist at a wilderness camp for adolescents in the juvenile justice system. She has received specialized training in Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT®), which is a cognitive-behavioral group therapy and has the distinction of being a CBT Diplomate. She returned to Hattiesburg in 2005 and joined the staff at Pine Grove Behavioral Health, where she has spent the last 16 years working with multiple populations in both inpatient and outpatient settings. For the past seven years, she was the Pine Grove program director of Inpatient Therapy Services.

Interests: Children & Adolescents, Trauma, Substance Use, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Person-Centered Practices, Adults mental illness.



New Leadership for Field Instruction: **Denise Brown-Rouse, LCSW**

"If we build it, they will come." The 1989 Field of Dreams quote is the motto that Mrs. Denise Brown-Rouse, LCSW has embraced to enhance the field instruction program at USM. She envisions "a premier field instruction program that is built on traditional face-to-face and hands-on field experience encompassing the ultimate virtual remote learning." Mrs. Brown-Rouse's vision is birthed from her wide array of experiences from her own social work career. She received both her BSW and MSW from the University of Southern Mississippi and has served as a USM field instructor herself. After college, she was employed by the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Family & Children Services Division for more than seventeen years. During her tenure she served as a child welfare caseworker, foster parent recruiter and licensure worker, supervisor, USM field instructor, and Training Director. She also provided contractual mental health services at the Pearl River County Nursing Home for several years. Since 2010, she has been a school social worker with the Pearl River Central School District. In her time at PRCSD, she served as the mental health provider, Special Education related-service provider, USM Field Instructor, TIER behavior specialist, and the team leader for the Pearl River Central Middle School's Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Team. She was also an active member of the school's Crisis Response Team and District Leadership Team. Mrs. Brown-Rouse served as

Chairperson on a local community board for more than twelve years before accepting a nomination as the President of the School Social Worker Association- MS Chapter. In order to provide a premier field instruction experience, Mrs. Brown-Rouse proposes the social work program partner with experienced social workers to establish seminars and utilize existing staff and students to develop online resources for remote learning options and to expand the field program resources.

Some of her considerations for resource development include:

- Updating the website to include social work competencies and ideas for remote competency development
- Simulation Experiences
- Expanding field instructor sites with consideration for the community's needs and student needs
- Increase remote practica options for times of disaster and pandemics
- Create a list of online social work trainings for field instructors

Mrs. Brown-Rouse is approved by the MS Board of Examiners to provide LCSW supervision for Master Level Social workers. She resides in Carriere, MS.

From August
2021-May
2022, students
spent
74,872.97
hours in field
placements.



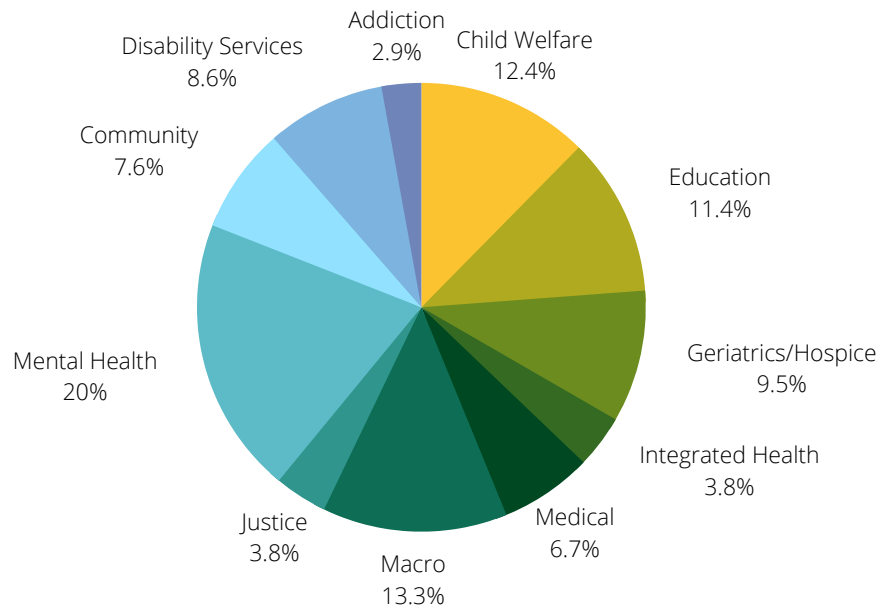
A total of
\$542,829.03
worth of hours at
minimum wage
contributed to
agencies across
Mississippi.

Field Contributions to the Community 2021-2022

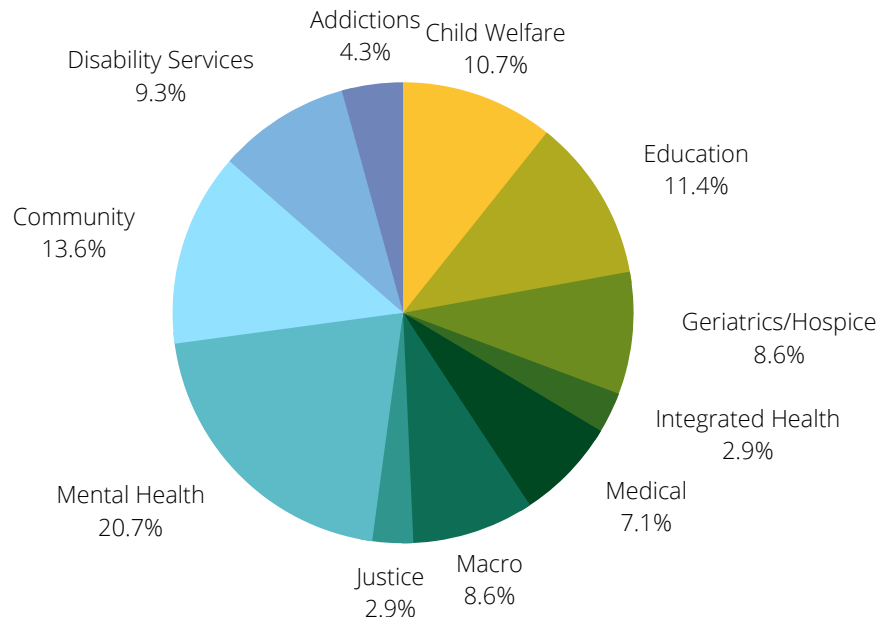
From Fall 2021-Spring 2022 the School of Social Work has placed 247 students in the field throughout Mississippi and surrounding states such as Tennessee and Alabama. Over 100 agencies, schools, hospitals, and more have accepted our students and allowed them to grow, learn, and develop skills throughout their time in field.

Out of the 100+ field placements, we were able to categorize them into different areas of social work. These areas included: Child Welfare, Education, Geriatrics/Hospice, Integrated Health, Justice, MACRO, Medical, Mental Health, Community, Disability Services, and Addiction. View the chart below to see the the percentage of students at each type of placement.

**Fall 2021
Student Placement Percentages**



**Spring 2022
Field Placement Percentages**



STRIDE STATEMENT

STRATEGIZING TOWARDS RACIAL INCLUSION DIVERSITY & EQUITY

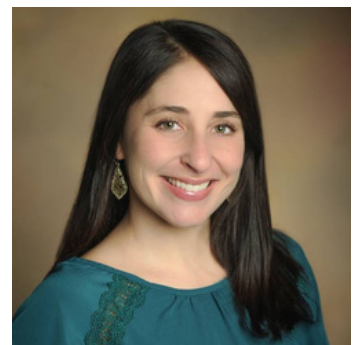
Consistent with the mission of S.T.R.I.D.E to strategize toward racial inclusion, diversity, and equity, the primary goal of the team most recently has been to determine if courses within the School of Social Work include comprehensive material that takes diversity into consideration. An aspect of that is providing a well-rounded curriculum rooted in inclusivity and culture. The team is currently working toward providing students with an online forum to voice concerns and suggestions related to diversity and inclusion based on their experiences in the program. In addition, the team is actively collecting a list of suggestions to improve the availability of inclusive literature in the library and on the USM library database.

Team members inform students about these services by giving presentations on S.T.R.I.D.E. in classes and providing an educational video on discrimination and stereotypes. The S.T.R.I.D.E. team meets via Zoom every other Monday at noon.

Chair



Tamecia Curry, LMSW



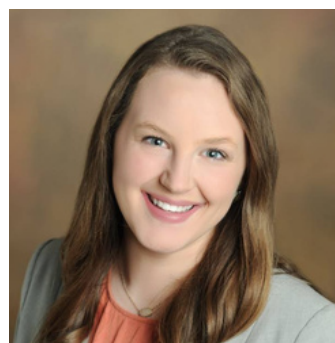
Rachel Lahasky, LCSW



Heather Gillespie



Raevin Wade, LMSW



Melody Davisson, LMSW



Karen Aderer, LMSW

The University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Work

Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity

We are committed to fostering, sustaining, and strategizing toward racial inclusion, diversity, and equity (S.T.R.I.D.E.). As a school, we will adhere to this commitment by taking strong positions, taking action, providing help, and being clear on expectations from all affiliated with the School of Social Work at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). This statement is couched within the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics. Lastly, this statement is intended to offer our position, plans of action, and expectations for students, staff, faculty, and field partners.

What is Our Position?

All students, staff, and faculty are welcome in any School of Social Work setting. We disavow all racism, xenophobia, homophobia, sexism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, classism, ableism, and hate speech or actions that attempt to silence, threaten, and degrade others. We recognize that discrimination can be direct or indirect and take place at both institutional and personal levels. Expressions or actions that disparage a person are contrary to the mission of S.T.R.I.D.E. and the school and will not be tolerated.

How do we Implement Action behind our Position?

We are committed to supporting our students and fostering an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. We will work to promote an anti-discriminatory environment where everyone should feel welcome. During class, your instructors will not shy away from the uncomfortable. The faculty urge you to have the courage to be uncomfortable in class discussions. In exchange for your courage, we will work to ensure a classroom environment that supports your taking these intellectual and emotional risks.

What does Providing Help Look Like?

If you feel that our courses, programs, or department fall short of this commitment, we encourage you to engage in dialogue with your instructor, staff, or administrator. Your instructors will always be in the process of learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something was said or done that made you feel uncomfortable, please talk to an instructor, administrator, or university partner about it. Alternatively, you may file a Statement of Complaint with the **Office of Affirmative Action & Equal Employment Opportunity** in person or online at: <https://forms.usm.edu/human-resources/view.php?id=13153>. You may also contact the **Office of Multicultural Programs and Services (Hattiesburg Campus)** to submit complaints in person or online at: <https://www.usm.edu/student-affairs/cares.php#report>.

Our Expectations

We expect that learning needs will be addressed both in and out of class. The diversity that students bring to class will be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. Courteous behavior and responses are expected at all times. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom. We expect you to be able to disagree without becoming disagreeable. Civility and respect for the opinions of others are very important in an academic environment.

HEAR IT FROM THE TEAM

“STRIDE means we are listening to different voices and taking into consideration different opinions and views. We embrace our differences and advocate for change.” -**Melody Davisson, LMSW**

“STRIDE is a recognition that we all -faculty, staff, and administration included - need to practice cultural humility in order to ensure that we are not engaging in communication or practices that are perceived as harmful or offensive to any group. Since former faculty member Dr. Curtis Davis first started this initiative in 2020, we have hosted listening sessions, ordered more content focused on diversity for our library, gathered data about inclusion, diversity and equity from our students, faculty, staff and field agencies, made a video that was presented by students in many of our classes, had students present findings along with faculty at the Mississippi NASW Conference, and much more. Now under the able leadership of Tamecia Curry, we are discussing focusing more on evaluation of curriculum, to ensure that we are uplifting diversity in our readings, videos, powerpoints, and assignments.” -**Karen Aderer, LMSW**

“To me, STRIDE is our way of committing to improving areas of diversity and inclusion in our School of Social Work. I want our students to feel safe in our school and to know that we embrace differences across the board. We have room to grow, and S.T.R.I.D.E. is our accountability piece in that process.”
-**Rachel Lahasky, LCSW**

“STRIDE is about offering a space for students to get involved with influencing social work education. It encourages the search for fresh information from various perspectives, leading to informed decision making and prompt problem solving. The efforts of STRIDE challenge a routine approach which increases the potential for creativity. This professional activity equips students to be most influential both in and outside of the classroom. I believe STRIDE involvement prepares students to be dynamic in the multiple practice settings of their future careers,” -**Tamecia Curry, LMSW**

FROM THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

BLACK. LIVES. MATTER.

Systemic racism has existed in our country for centuries, and the killing of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbury, Tony McDade, George Floyd, and countless others has ignited into flame a long-smoldering resistance. The University of Southern Mississippi's School of Social Work shares the outrage and pain at the blatant bias against Black individuals and other marginalized groups. Rampant injustice and repressive violence have reached untenable levels and destroyed any semblance of a united nation. Our School strives to embody the NASW Code of Ethics. We celebrate diversity and uphold the dignity and worth of every human being and believe that all people should be treated with respect; regardless of race, ethnicity, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ability, or any other category of persons. We are compelled, then, to speak out now against a culture of white supremacy, to denounce in the strongest possible terms racism and discrimination in any form, and we fully commit to action that ensures equity and inclusion in every aspect of our shared lives. We believe it is time for bold measures to protect the rights of all persons and to eradicate bias and injustice in every social institution. So what, then, shall we as a School do? How do we best address systemic racism and the pervasive and inescapable injustice created and sustained by a white supremacist culture? How do we fully embrace and value diversity in our community? How do we ensure that our efforts will have impact, real impact, long-lasting impact? The answers to these questions are very important. They will not be answered easily. For now, individually and collectively as a School, we are committed to maintaining a focus on the most pressing current issues, such as police brutality; to examining thoroughly their structural and systemic roots, as well as to confronting our own privileges and biases; to actively listening to (and learning from) the voices of our Black faculty, field instructors, students, and alumni; and to ensuring that we translate intentions into real actions that are in line with the values and principles of our profession. More to come.

• Released May 2020 •

The STRIDE Team continues to honor this movement through an array of initiatives within the school each year. To get involved in STRIDE, contact Dr. Jerome Kolbo at jerome.kolbo@usm.edu.

NEW AREA OF ADVANCED PRACTICE

RESILIENCE-INFORMED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

Resilience-Informed Social Work Practice is the Area of Specialized Practice for the MSW program.

Resilience-informed social work is a forward-thinking collaborative model that honors the strengths of individuals, families, and communities who experience long-term negative outcomes caused by manmade or natural occurrences. The model identifies, addresses, and mitigates risk factors through the use of resilience-based assessments and interventions. The model of resilience-informed practice builds on strengths and protective factors however they are defined while simultaneously addressing the vulnerabilities and socially unjust conditions experienced by and through various ecological systems.

Specialized practice in resilience augments the generalist social work competencies and is grounded in all the values of the profession (Grant, 2014; Greene, 2002), including but not limited to service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, competence, human rights, and scientific inquiry.

The resilience-informed curriculum builds upon the generalist practice through courses and assignments that apply ethical principles and critical thinking in practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels; promotes diversity in practice and advocacy for human rights and social, economic, and environmental justice; engages research-informed practice that is consistent with the social work knowledge, values, and skills and is necessary to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate policy and practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities; and extends and expands knowledge, values, skills, cognitive and affective processes, and behaviors associated with the nine social work competencies (Grant, 2014; Greene, 2002).

Located in a diverse region marked by deeply entrenched systemic issues and punctuated by damaging natural or

man-made crises, the USM School of Social Work challenges students to strategically engage members across all socioeconomic levels in the development and enhancement of individual, family, group, organizational, and community resilience. Students build from a person-in-the-environment perspective, inspiring on-going persistence and determination, as they work to identify solutions to overcome the effects of social, economic, and environmental stressors. Our students are challenged through cyclical integrations of experiential, practice-based, and research-based learning platforms allowing for broad-based application of this specialization in a multitude of settings.

Context within Mississippi:

The history and culture of Mississippi has created and perpetuates a myriad of challenges including poverty, racism, and intolerance as well as injustice/ inequity/disparity in many areas including, but not limited to, health/mental health, education, criminal justice, and child welfare. In addition, Mississippi, especially south MS, has constantly faced disasters, both natural and human-made. Many individuals in MS are in an ongoing process of crisis/disaster response, recovery and preparedness. The poor, oppressed, and underserved face multiple challenges in this process.

Furthermore, Mississippi has experienced a critical shortage of professional social workers in all the practice areas. Nowhere in the United States are client systems more in need of a resilience-informed approach to addressing these inequities.

While Mississippi provides the principal context, the school prepares students for practice in reference to regional, national, and global contexts as well. In these contexts, too, as much as in Mississippi, resilience-informed practice is fully and increasingly relevant to current and emerging societal challenges.

COMMITMENT TO THE COAST

A PROPOSAL TO THE COASTAL OPERATIONS LEADERSHIP TEAM

Continuing education for social workers on the Coast was the second strategy to enhance and differentiate the Social Work program at Gulf Park. Quality training for social workers and related professions is critical to meet the needs of vulnerable coast residents and thus improve coastal resilience. The School could leverage its community partnerships and externally funded projects to make the Gulf Park Campus a destination for hosting workshops, trainings, and conferences.

The School's field education office is capable of offering continuing education opportunities for field instructors, the professionals that supervise students in their internships. Continuing education offerings could cover topics that are specific to the Gulf Coast (i.e. disaster preparedness, crisis intervention, trauma-informed care). Additional education topics could provide field instructors with skills needed to improve the quality of care for Coast residents, increase resilience of the Coast community, and improve the educational experience for students. It could also serve as a community empowerment opportunity that can facilitate community partnerships across agencies and with the university.

The School of Social Work currently houses externally funded projects whose purpose is to train professionals from across the state in best practices. One example is Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), a course offered to students and community members to educate on common mental health disorders and how to effectively intervene in emotional health crises. MHFA helps individuals become more prepared to handle mental health crises and better equips them to respond in times of disaster. Therefore, it aids in disaster preparedness and response and serves as an added layer of resilience for the MS Gulf Coast.

Other examples of our externally funded training programs are the MS Person Centered Practices Initiative and the MS Wrap Around Institute.

These programs employ the only nationally credentialed trainers in MS to train professionals on how to improve their work with adults and youth with mental, intellectual, and developmental disabilities. These programs have already hosted workshops at Gulf Park and plan to hold more.

Lastly, there is tremendous potential to partner with state and regional organizations to host conferences at Gulf Park. The annual Social Work Colloquium, National Association of Social Workers – MS Chapter Conference, and Alabama-Mississippi Social Work Education Conference are a few examples that would bring hundreds of professionals and students to Gulf Park.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- A. Increase student enrollment in the BSW and MSW programs.
- B. Increase the number of professionally trained, licensed social workers on the MS Gulf Coast to address the mental health crisis.
- C. Increase community partnerships with agencies and organizations based on the MS Gulf Coast through formal affiliation agreements with the School of Social Work.
- D. Increase the number of service hours that our students provide to agencies on the MS Gulf Coast through their field internships.
- E. Host conferences at Gulf Park to enhance and expand community partnerships.
- F. Increase continuing education opportunities for social service professionals at different skill levels through workshops at Gulf Park (licensure preparation, clinical skills, management, etc.).

2021-2022 FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS



BSW FACULTY OF THE YEAR
Ms. Karen Aderer



MSW FACULTY OF THE YEAR
Dr. Kim Hogan



**BSW ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR
OF THE YEAR**
Ms. Tonya Rogillio



**MSW ADJUNCT
INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR**
Dr. Portia Granger

2021-2022 FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS



OUTSTANDING SCHOOL SPIRIT AWARD

Ms. Rachel Lahasky



OUTSTANDING SCHOOL SERVICE AWARD

Ms. Karen Aderer



DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR

Dr. Bret Blackmon

2021-2022 FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS



OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL

Ms. Renee Dyess

Renee Dyess, the custodian for Joseph Greene Hall, was recognized at a faculty meeting with an award "For Outstanding Service to the School." Renee consistently maintains Joseph Greene to look its best. The School of Social Work is grateful for her contributions and service to its faculty, staff, and students. Renee shared that she enjoys working in Joseph Greene, and the School of Social Work always makes her feel appreciated.





Intellectual Contributions

Blackmon, Bret J.

Journal Article

Dabney, W. F., Blackmon, B. J., Livermore, M. (2021). A Typology to Describe School Choice Policy in the United States: Using Cluster Analysis to Categorize States' Charter School Law Characteristics. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 17, 134-144.

<https://thescipub.com/jss>

Journal Article

Brazeal, M., Blackmon, B. J., Zakaras, L. S. (2021). The Role of Mood in the Self-Care Activities of Primary Care Patients with Type 2 Diabetes. *Social Work in Public Health*.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19371918.2021.2017380?journalCode=whsp20>

Chen, Zibei

Journal Article

Chen, Z. (in press). Make the Invisible Underbanked Visible: Who Are the Underbanked? *Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning*.

Journal Article

Chen, Z. (in press). Identifying Factors of a Financial Literacy Scale Used among Vulnerable Populations. *Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning*.

Journal Article

Chen, Z. (in press). The Role of Secured and Unsecured Debt in Retirement Planning. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*.

Intellectual Contributions

Drumm, Rene' D.

Book Chapter

Drumm, R. D. (2021). Ethics in qualitative research. *Qualitative research for practical theology* (vol. 1, pp. 256-267). Berrien Springs, MI: Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies. amazon.com

Book

(in press). In R. D. Drumm (Ed.), *Mending Ministers: Insights from Research on Pastor Health*.

Book Chapter

Drumm, R. D. (in press). Emotional Health and Wellness. *Insights from Research on Pastor Health* (pp. 95-120). Advent Source.

Book Chapter

Drumm, R. D. (in press). Examples of Denominational reports using quantitative research. *Quantitative Research for Practical Theology*. Berrien Springs MI: Andrews University Press.

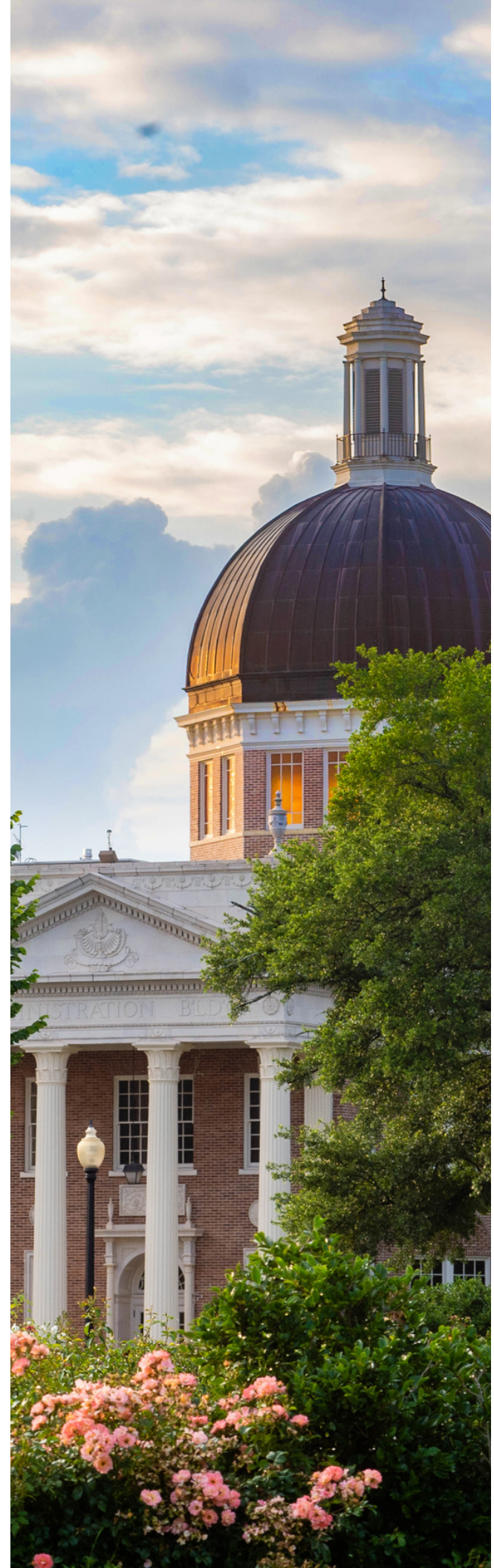
Hogan, Kimberly A.

Conference Proceeding

Hogan, K. A., Roe-Sepowitz, D. (2022). LGBTQ+ Homeless Young Adults and Sex Trafficking Vulnerability. Honolulu, Hawaii: 19th Annual Hawai'i International Summit on Preventing, Assessing, and Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan. Honolulu, Hawaii. <https://www.ivatcenters.org/hawaii-summit>

Conference Proceeding

Hogan, K. A. (2021). LGBTQ+ Homeless Young Adults and Sex Trafficking Vulnerability. Ontario: Ontario GREAT Conference. Ontario, Canada..





Intellectual Contributions

Conference Proceeding

Hogan, K. A., Roe-Sepowitz, D. (2021). LGBTQ+ Homeless Young Adults and Sex Trafficking Vulnerability. Atlanta, Georgia: National Center for Victims of Crime - National Training Institute.

Conference Proceeding

Hogan, K. A. (2021). LGBTQ+ Homeless Young Adults and Sex Trafficking Vulnerability. San Diego, California: HT-RADAR Conference.

Conference Proceeding

Hogan, K. A. (2021). LGBTQ+ Young Adults and Sex Trafficking Vulnerability. Johannesburg: Twenty-Second Biennial International Conference of International Consortium for Social Development.

Kolbo, Jerome R.

Journal Article

Kolbo, J. R., Gordy, X., Bagwell, J., Jones, P., Ferrel, C., Camp, L., Zhang, L. (2022). Trends and Subgroup Comparison in Overweight and Obesity Prevalence among Mississippi Public School Students 2005-2019. *JMSMA*, 63(4), 93-104.

<https://ejournal.msmaonline.com/april-2022/page-92>

Lee, Joohee

Journal Article

Choi, H. W., Brazeal, M., Duggirala, L., Lee, J. (2022). Loneliness and depression among adults living on MS Gulf Coast: individual, interpersonal, and community predictors. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*.

External Funding

Blackmon, Bret J.

Blackmon, Bret J, "Mississippi Person Centered Practices Initiative #5," Sponsored by Mississippi Division of Medicaid, State, \$520,542.00. (February 3, 2021 - February 2, 2023).

Curry, Tamecia Myers, Blackmon, Bret J, "Forrest General Hospital Family Medicine Residency & SWK Inegration Program," Sponsored by Forrest General Hospital, Local, \$175,556.00. (February 1, 2021 - January 31, 2023).

Curry, Tamecia M.

Curry, Tamecia Myers, Blackmon, Bret J, "Forrest General Hospital Family Medicine Residency & SWK Inegration Program," Sponsored by Forrest General Hospital, Local, \$175,556.00. (February 1, 2021 - January 31, 2023).

Hogan, Kim A.

Charles, Nora (PI), McRaney, Kristy DiSabatino (Supporting), Hogan, Kimberly (Supporting), "Project ACCESS: Advancing Community Connections to Enhance Services and Success," Sponsored by Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), Federal, \$699,740.20. (July 2021 - June 2025).

Hurst, Tamara E.

Hurst, Tamara E, "Mississippi Wraparound Institute - MDMH #14," Sponsored by Mississippi Department of Mental Health, State, \$265,465.00. (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022).

Hurst, Tamara E, "Mississippi Wraparound Institute - MDMH #15," Sponsored by Mississippi Department of Mental Health, State, \$132,809.00. (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022).

Hurst, Tamara E, Brazeal, Michelle (COPI), "Mississippi Wraparound Institute-MDMH #13," Sponsored by Mississippi Department of Mental Health, State, \$401,592.00. (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021).

Kolbo, Jerome R.

Kolbo, Jerome (PI), Lahasky, Rachel Spinner (COPI), "Building a Pathway from Community College to the USM BSW with Licensure to Employment in South Mississippi Workforce Development Initiative," Sponsored by Bower Foundation, Foundation, \$386,279.00. (May 1, 2022 - June 30, 2027).

Kolbo, Jerome R, "Evaluation of the Mississippi Better Sight for Better Learning Program," Sponsored by Center for Mississippi Health Policy, Foundation, \$69,873.00. (August 2020 - August 2021).

Lahasky, Rachel S.

Kolbo, Jerome (PI), Lahasky, Rachel Spinner (COPI), "Building a Pathway from Community College to the USM BSW with Licensure to Employment in South Mississippi Workforce Development Initiative," Sponsored by Bower Foundation, Foundation, \$386,279.00. (May 1, 2022 - June 30, 2027).

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Blackmon, Bret J.

Blackmon, Bret J, Williams, Courtney, Green, Yolanda, Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts Annual Conference, "Intersectionality & Charting the Life Course: Components of Person-Centered Practices," Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts, Biloxi, MS, United States. (April 20, 2022).

Blackmon, Bret J, Williams, Courtney, Green, Yolanda, National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Mississippi Chapter Conference, "Advanced Skills to Enhance Person-Centered Communication and Assessment: Charting the Life Course, Understanding Intersectionality, and Advanced Matching," NASW- MS, Jackson, MS, United States. (March 25, 2022).

Lee, Joohee, Blackmon, Bret J, Bain, Rebecca, National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Mississippi Chapter Conference, "Culturally Informed Crisis Preparedness and Management Amidst Cumulative Disasters on the Mississippi Gulf Coast," NASW - MS, Jackson, MS, United States. (March 25, 2022).

Hagan, Lynn, Hagan, Don, Blackmon, Bret J (Facilitator), Osher Lifelong Learning Institute course, "Exploration Kuwait: Our Life in the Desert," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Long Beach, MS, United States. (February 23, 2022).

Brown-Rouse, Denise

Brown-Rouse, B Denise, Lunch and Learn with SLIS, "Social Workers and Libraries," SLIS Faculty, Hattiesburg, MS, United States. (April 21, 2022).

Brown-Rouse, B Denise, Field Instructor Training, "Mandated Reporting," USM School of Social Work, Hattiesburg, MS, United States. (January 13, 2022).

Brown-Rouse, B Denise, Field Instructor Training, "Mandated Reporting," USM School of Social Work, Long Beach, MS, United States. (January 11, 2022).

Chen, Zibei

Chen, Zibei, Fall Conference of Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, "Financial Hardships and Mental Health Crisis: An Examination of Young Adults' Covid-19," Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, Austin, TX, United States. (March 2022).

Curry, Tamecia M.

Curry, Tamecia Myers, National Association of African American Studies & Affiliates 2022 Conference, "'The Deepest Fear They Will Ever Experience': The Erosion of Girlhood for Black Girls," National Association of African American Studies. (January 2022).

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Drumm, Rene' D.

Rodas, Melissa Ponce (co-author), Drumm, Rene' D., Adventist Human Subjects Research, "Spouse Abuse in the Adventist Church: The Intersection of Research, Practice, and Policy," General Conference of SDA, Orlando, FL, United States. (May 2022).

Trecartin, Shannon M (co-author), Drumm, Rene D (co-author), Adventist Human Subject Researchers Association 10th Annual Conference, "'I struggled with depression, self-injury, and was suicidal': How Religious Practices Help LGBTQ+ Adventist Millennials," General Conference of SDA, Orlando, FL, United States. (May 2022).

Drumm, Rene' D., Adventist Human Subject Researcher Conference, "'It takes a lot of discipline to say, 'I'm going to walk with God today': Recognizing and Addressing Barriers to Pastors' Spiritual Wellbeing," General Conference of SDA, FL, United States. (May 2022).

Drumm, Rene' D., 16th Annual International Conference on Sociology, "'We Were Just Stunned:' Parents' Reactions to Their Child's Coming-Out," Athen's Institute for Education and Research, Athens, Greece. (April 2022).

Drumm, Rene' D., International Violence, Abuse, and Trauma, "In Their Own Words: How Victim-Survivors Define Intimate Partner Violence," IVAT, Honolulu, HI, United States. (March 2022).

Drumm, Rene' D., North American Association of Christians in Social Work, "'His coming out made our family better': Christian Family Dynamics Post Coming Out," NACSW, Glendale, CA, United States. (November 2021).

Drumm, Rene' D., Council on Social Work Education, "'I am no longer silent': Critical Conversations for Christian Parents Post Coming Out.," CSWE, Orlando, FL, United States. (November 2021).

Drumm, Rene' D., Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, "Pastoral Caring and Visitation: How Cultural Context Intersects with Church Member Perceptions," SSSR, Portland, OR, United States. (October 2021).

Drumm, Rene' D., International Violence, Trauma, and Abuse San Diego, "'Don't just give me a phone number': Helping IPV Victim-Survivors in Conservative Faith Communities Reach Safety," IVAT, San Diego, CA, United States. (August 2021).

Forster, Michael D.

Forster, Michael D, USM Faculty First Week, "Mentoring and Institutional Memory in the Hybrid Environment: Challenges and Opportunities," University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS. (August 19, 2021).

Hogan, Kimberly A.

Hogan, Kimberly Ann, Charles, Nora, McRaney, Kristy DiSabatino, "The Child Mental Health Crisis: The Silent Consequence of the Pandemic," Hattiesburg, MS, United States. (May 4, 2022).

Hogan, Kimberly Ann, Psychology PhD Students, "Human Trafficking 101," Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS, United States. (April 6, 2022).

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Hogan, Kimberly Ann, 19th Annual Hawai'i International Summit on Preventing, Assessing & Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan Trauma Informed Care from a Cultural Perspective, "LGBTQ+ Homeless Young Adults and Sex Trafficking Vulnerability," Institute on Violence, Trauma, and Abuse (IVAT), Honolulu, HI, United States. (March 31, 2022).

Hogan, Kimberly Ann, San Diego Human Trafficking Committee, "LGBTQ+ homeless youth vulnerabilities," HT-RADAR, San Diego, CA, United States. (December 9, 2021).

Hogan, Kimberly Ann, ASU Global Human Rights Hub / ASU School of Politics and Global Studies, "Sex Trafficking in the LGBTQ+ Community," ASU Global Human Rights Hub / ASU School of Politics and Global Studies, Phoenix, AZ, United States. (November 8, 2021).

Hogan, Kimberly Ann, Ontario Tech University's annual Human Trafficking Conference, "LGBTQ+ Homeless Young Adults and Sex Trafficking Vulnerability," Ontario Tech University, Canada. (November 5, 2021).

Hogan, Kimberly Ann, HT-RADAR Annual Human Trafficking Research Conference 2021, "LGBTQ+ Homeless Young Adults and Sex Trafficking Vulnerability," Point Loma Nazarene University Center for Justice and Reconciliation, San Diego, CA, United States. (October 15, 2021).

Hogan, Kimberly Ann (Assistant Professor), National Center for Victims of Crime 2021 National Training Institute, "LGBTQ+ Homeless Young Adults and Sex Trafficking Vulnerability," National Center for Victims of Crime, Atlanta, GA, United States. (October 6, 2021).

Hrostowski, Susan

Hrostowski, Susan (Presenter), Northcutt, Anna (Presenter), Davenport, Aaron (presenter), Daniels, Sonja (presenter), NASW Mississippi Chapter Annual Social Work Conference, "Services for People Living with HIV in Mississippi: Building a Social Infrastructure," NASW Mississippi Chapter, Jackson, MS, United States. (March 24, 2022).

Hurst, Tamara E.

Lucas, Ashlee (Lead Presenter), Hurst, Tamara E, 43rd Juvenile Justice Symposium, "Human Trafficking," MS Department of Public Safety, Biloxi. (March 24, 2022).

Hurst, Tamara E, 43rd Juvenile Justice Symposium, "Identification of Human Trafficking Victims & Assessment Tools," MS Department of Public Safety, Biloxi. (March 23, 2022).

Hurst, Tamara E, CAST Statewide Meeting, "Child Advocacy Studies and Simulations," Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi, Jackson, MS. (February 23, 2022).

Hurst, Tamara (Associate Professor), Hogan, Kimberly Ann (Assistant Professor), City of Hattiesburg Human Trafficking 101, "Human Trafficking 101," City of Hattiesburg, Hattiesburg, MS, United States. (September 27, 2021).

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Kolbo, Jerome R.

Gordy, Xiaosha, Bagwell, Jana, Ferrell, Christina, Kolbo, Jerome R, Camp, Laken, Zhang, Lei, MPHA, "Trends and Subgroup Comparisons in overweight and obesity prevalence among Mississippi public school students 2005-2019," Jackson, MS. (April 2022).

Kolbo, Jerome R, Camp, Laken, Porter, Lauren, Wade, Raevin, Andrews, Michaela, NASW-MS, "Lessons Learned in The ACT (Action in Critical Times) at Southern Miss," Jackson, MS. (March 25, 2022).

Lahasky, Rachel S.

Lahasky, Rachel Spinner (Lead presenter), Holmes Community College Student Forum, "College Students and Stress," Holmes Community College, MS, United States. (March 2022).

Lahasky, Rachel Spinner (Primary Presenter, BSW Coordinator, Instructor), Family Medicine Residency Clinic Lunch Seminar, "Grief and Adjustment Disorders: What You Should Know," Forrest General Hospital, Hattiesburg, MS, United States. (September 9, 2021).

Lahasky, Rachel Spinner (Primary Presenter, BSW Coordinator, Instructor), Deus, Thomas (Secondary Presenter, Associate Dean of Students), Faculty First Week, "We CARE: Classroom Management and Student Misconduct," USM- Center for Faculty Development, Hattiesburg, MS, United States. (August 17, 2021).

Lee, Joohee

Lee, Joohee, Blackmon, Bret J, Bain, Rebecca, National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Mississippi Chapter Conference, "Culturally Informed Crisis Preparedness and Management Amidst Cumulative Disasters on the Mississippi Gulf Coast," NASW - MS, Jackson, MS, United States. (March 25, 2022).

Faculty Engagement

Aderer, Karen A.

- Faculty Advisor, Generation Action/Planned Parenthood Club (August 2021-Present)
- Member, CEHS Awards Committee (August 2021-Present)
- Team Member, USM Gulf Park Golden Basket Thanksgiving Event (September 2020-Present)
- Member, STRIDE (Strategizing Towards Racial Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (August 2020-Present)
- CARES Team Member, CARES Committee - Gulf Park Campus. (2014 - Present).
- Member, Undergraduate Admission Committee. (2012 - Present).
- BSW Club Faculty Advisor, Gulf Park BSW Club . (2011 - Present).
- USM Contact Tracing Team Member
- Committee Member, 100 Women DBA Scholarship Committee (January 2022-Present)
- Member, 100 Women DBA Scholarship Committee (May 2020-Present)
- Member, Black Lives Matter (June 2021-Present)
- Board Member, Common Cause, Jackson, MS. (June 2019 - Present).
- Legal Protest Observer, Mississippi Center for Justice / ACLU, Jackson, MS. (June 6, 2020 - Present).

Blackmon, Bret J.

- Member, Administrative Leadership Team (February 2020-Present)
- Member, College Curriculum Committee. (August 2020 - Present)
- Member, Graduate Council. (August 2020 - Present)
- Member, Graduate Assistant Application Review (GAAR) Committee. (May 2020 - Present)
- Co-Chair, Senior Faculty Leadership Team. (January 2020 - Present)
- Member, Dean's Advisory Council (DAC). (January 2020 - Present)
- Co-Chair, SWK - Coastal Operations Leadership Team. (November 2019 - Present)
- Chair, Faculty Search Committee. (September 2019 - Present)
- Member, Accreditation and Reaffirmation Committee. (January 2019 - Present).
- Reviewer/Referee, Social Work In Public Health (November 12, 2021)
- Reviewer/Referee, Disaster Medicine (October 19th, 2021)
- Volunteer, Open Doors Homeless Coalition, Gulfport, MS (October 15, 2021-October 30, 2021)

Brown-Rouse, Denise

- Faculty Member, Faculty Search Committee (September 2021-Present)
- Field Coordinator, Administrative Leadership Team (September 2021-Present)
- Field Coordinator for the School of Social Work, ARC (September 2021-Present)
- Chairperson, School Social Work Association-MS Chapter, MS (January 2016-Present)
- Attendee, Meeting, National School Social Work Association (2015-Present)

Chen, Zibei

- Member, IHL Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award Selection Committee (November 5, 2020-Present)
- Committee Member, MSW Program Admission Committee (January 12, 2021-January 12, 2022)
- Committee Member, National Association of Social Workers Mississippi Chapter Macro Social Work Committee, Jackson, MS (September 16, 2021-Present)
- Reviewer, Referee, Journal of Community Practice (January 1, 2021-Present)
- Reviewer, Referee, Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal (January 1, 2020-Present)

Faculty Engagement

Davisson, Melody S. N.

- Co-Advisor, Southern Miss DM (May 1, 2022-Present)
- Advisor, BSW Club (October 2021-Present)
- Committee Member, Recruitment & Public Relations Committee (May 2021-Present)
- Committee Member, Undergraduate/Admissions Committees (May 2021-Present)
- Chapter Advisor, Phi Mu Fraternity (February 1, 2021-Present)
- Committee Member, Academic Standards Committee (February 1, 2021-Present)
- Committee Member, GA Search Committee (February 1, 2021-Present)
- Committee Member, STRIDE Committee (February 1, 2021-Present)
- Committee Member, Student Success Committee (February 2021-Present)
- Committee Member, CEHS Scholarship Committee (January 2022-April 2022)

Drumm, Rene' D.

- Faculty mentor, Affiliate faculty mentor with USM's Drapeau Center for Undergraduate Research. (August 1, 2018 - Present).
- Committee Member, Career Services Advisory Board – Gulf Park. (September 30, 2017 - Present)
- Committee Member, New Faculty Transition Committee. (August 15, 2017 - Present)
- Committee member, IHL Diversity Committee. (August 15, 2016 - Present)
- Committee Member, Pathways Committee. (June 15, 2016 - Present).
- Club Sponsor, National Alliance on Mental Illness Club. (January 15, 2016 - Present).
- Committee Member, Macro Curriculum Team (September 15, 2015-Present)
- Board of Advisors, SDA Kinship International Advisory. (February 2, 2015 - Present)
- Board of Advisors, Adventist Human-Subjects Research Association (AHSRA) Board Members. (2018 - Present).
- Committee Member, NACSW LGBTQ+ Caucus (January 2022-Present)
- Committee Member, North American Division Committee on Pastor Health, Baltimore, MD (January 2021-Present)

Forster, Michael D.

- Member, University Faculty Handbook Committee. (May 15, 2020 - Present)
- Member, University Promotion & Tenure Committee. (August 18, 2018 - Present).
- Member & Chair, CoEP Promotion & Tenure Committee. (August 18, 2018 - Present).
- Committee Chair, NASW-MS Student-Faculty Liaison Committee, Jackson, MS (May 2021-Present)
- Reviewer/Referee, Administration in Social Work. (August 15, 2010 - Present)
- Board Member, Common Cause Mississippi, Jackson, MS. (September 1, 2019 - Present).

Hogan, Kimberly

- Member, Search Committee, March 2022-April 2022
- Conference-Related, International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference, Toledo, OH (September 1, 2021-September 22, 2021)
- Reviewer/Referee, International Consortium for Social Development, Johannesburg (June 2021-July 5, 2021)

Faculty Engagement

- Committee Member, Mississippi Human Trafficking Council, Jackson, MS (March 2022-Present)
- Committee Member, Pine Belt Coalition on Homelessness, Hattiesburg, MS (October 1, 2021-Present)
- Committee Member, Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution (S.O.A.P. Project) National Outreach Team, Columbus, OH (July 1, 2021-Present)
- Committee Member, Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution (S.O.A.P. Project) National Retreat Team, Columbus, OH (July 1, 2021-Present)

Hrostowski, Susan

- Member, Graduate Admissions (September 1, 2021-Present)
- Member, Action in Critical Times (2021-2022)
- Member, Grade Review Council (2021-2022)
- Member, Senior Faculty Leadership Team (2021-2022)
- Ombudsman, Office of the Provost (2021-2022)
- Chair, Policies and Procedures (September 1, 2021-May 31, 2022)

Hurst, Tamara E.

- Chair, Finance Committee, Faculty Senate (September 1, 2020 - Present)
- Member, Faculty Senate (August 16, 2019 - Present).
- Faculty Affiliate, Drapeau Center for Undergraduate Research (August 2018 - Present)
- Member, School of Social Work MSW Admissions Committee (August 2016 - Present)
- Member, School of Social Work Policy and Handbook Committee. (August 2013 - Present)
- Graduate Coordinator, School of Social Work (January 1, 2021-August 2021)
- Committee Member, Statewide Child Abuse Protocol Development Committee, MS (April 21, 2022-Present)
- Board of Advisors, MS Department of Health/Office Against Interpersonal Violence, Jackson, MS (2019-Present)
- Task Force Chair, MS Human Trafficking Council/Strategic Planning and Trafficking Protocol Subcommittee, Jackson, MS (2019-Present)
- Candidate, Fulbright Specialist Program Roster (August 2018-Present)
- Reviewer/Referee, Child Abuse & Neglect (2018-Present)
- Faculty, ChildFirst Training, Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi, Jackson, MS (2013-Present)
- Reviewer/Referee, The University of Missouri, St. Louis, St. Louis (April 13, 2022-April 15, 2022)
- Reviewer/Referee, Science and Engineering Ethics (August 17, 2020-August 17, 2021)

Kolbo, Jerome

- Director, Senior Faculty Leadership Team (January 2020-Present)
- Director, Accreditation Review Committee (February 2019-Present)
- Director, DAC (February 2019-Present)
- Director, DEC (February 2019-Present)
- Director, Curriculum Committee (January 2019-Present)
- MSW Coordinator, Admissions Committee (January 2019-Present)

Faculty Engagement

Lahasky, Rachel S.

- Faculty Advisor, BSW Club (May 1, 2021-Present)
- Panel Member, Career Services (March 22, 2021-Present)
- Program Review Subcommittee, Academic Council (October 2020-Present)
- Committee Member, Academic Council (August 2020-Present)
- Committee Member, Scholarship and Awards Committee (November 1, 2018-Present)
- Committee Member, Conduct Hearing Panel (October 31, 2018-Present)
- CARE Team Member, CARE Team (August 2016-Present)
- Commencement Volunteer (December 10, 2015-Present)
- Chair, Undergraduate Admissions (September 1, 2021-May 30, 2022)
- Co-Chair, Recruitment and Public Relations (September 1, 2021-May 30, 2022)
- Committee Member, Curriculum Committee (September 1, 2021-May 30, 2022)
- Committee Member, Evaluation Committee (September 1, 2021-May 30, 2022)
- Committee Member, Professional Continuing Education Committee (September 1, 2021-May 30, 2022)
- Committee Member, STRIDE Committee (September 1, 2021-May 30, 2022)
- Chair, Awards Committee (September 1, 2021-May 15, 2022)
- Graduation Volunteer, USM Graduation (May 11, 2022)
- BSW Club Faculty Advisor, BSW Club, School of Social Work (August 2010-October 1, 2021)
- Supervisor, LCSW Supervisor, Hattiesburg, MS (June 2015-Present)
- Attendee, Meeting, NASW-MS, Pine Belt Chapter, Hattiesburg, MS (April 2015-Present)
- Committee Member, Jewish Community Legacy Project, Hattiesburg, MS (March 15, 2021-Present)
- Board of Directors, Camp Dream Street, Utica, MS (May 1, 2020-Present)
- Board Member, Temple B'Nai Israel Sisterhood, Hattiesburg, MS (August 1, 2019-Present)
- Board Member, JCRS, New Orleans, LA (February 2018-Present)
- Chair, Fundraising, Temple B'Nai Israel Sisterhood (August 2017-Present)

Lee, Joohee

- Committee Member, Institutional Review Board (February 2021-Present)
- Committee Member, Accreditation Reaffirmation Committee (January 2020-Present)
- Committee Member, Senior Faculty Leadership Committee (January 2020-Present)
- Chair, Faculty Evaluation Committee (August 2019-Present)
- Committee Member, The School's Unit Policies and Procedures Committee (August 2018-Present)
- Committee Member, Faculty Search Committee (August 2013-Present)
- Committee Member, Tenure & Promotion Committee (August 2012-Present)
- Chair, Program Evaluation Committee (August 2007-Present)
- Committee Member, Curriculum Committee (August 2006-Present)
- Editorial Review Board Member, Korean Academy of Social Welfare (November 2020-Present)



Tamecia Curry, LMSW, PhD

A Dissertation Successfully Defended

Dr. Tamecia Curry successfully defended her dissertation in May 2022 on The Underutilization of Formal Mental Health Services among African American Emerging Adults. Her dissertation utilized a mixed methods approach to examine willingness to seek help and help-seeking intentions among college students. Data was collected from four location sites including Louisiana State University, Texas State University, The University of Southern Mississippi and Southern University and A&M College. Minority and non-minority college students completed the Willingness-To-Seek-Help Questionnaire and the General Help-Seeking Questionnaire (n=120; M age=24 years; range= 18-29 years.) African American emerging adult participants who have sought out professional mental health treatment within the past 12 months completed in-depth interviews. The main findings include a) minority emerging adults report lower willingness to seek formal psychological help than non-minority emerging adults; b) minority emerging adults report lower formal help-seeking intention for suicidal or emotional problems; c) causes of mental distress among emerging adults are identified; d) sources of support are identified; e) factors that encourage and discourage formal help-seeking are identified. A correlational analysis showed that Race and Age are predictive of willingness to seek help and Age, Gender, and School Affiliation are predictive of general help-seeking. A thematic analysis showed that perceived susceptibility, perceived severity, self-efficacy, perceived benefits, perceived barriers, cues to action and social support are all constructs that influence the formal help-seeking experience. An implication is to improve public health policies increasing access to formal mental health treatment. Policy and practice implications are to promote and support the use of non-traditional formal support, such as teletherapy on college campuses and at community mental health centers.



Kimberly Hogan, LMSW, PhD

A Dissertation Successfully Defended

Dr. Kimberly Hogan successfully defended her dissertation in April 2022 on Exploring Sex Trafficking Risk Factors for LGBTQ+ Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness. Her dissertation study aimed to understand sex trafficking risk factors for LGBTQ+ young adults experiencing homelessness through the 2019 Youth Experiences Survey (2019 YES) and 16 follow-up interviews. The main findings include a) the odds of being LGBTQ+ and experiencing homelessness and reporting sex trafficking victimization were 2.41 times greater (95% CI: 1.22, 4.74) than being a cisgender heterosexual experiencing homelessness and reporting sex trafficking victimization; and b) risk factors that contributed significantly to a binary logistic regression model to predict being an LGBTQ+ young adult experiencing homelessness and reporting sex trafficking victimization included having a current medical issue, having a history of dating violence, having a childhood history of sexual abuse (ACEs sexual abuse), having a history of bingeing/vomiting, and having a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The interviews back up quantitative data for contextualization purposes. The findings of this study confirm the need for more services for LGBTQ+ young adults experiencing homelessness and reporting sex trafficking victimization. Additionally, healthcare providers must consider screening for eating disorders among LGBTQ+ young adults experiencing homelessness and reporting sex trafficking victimization. Finally, future research on LGBTQ+ young adults experiencing homelessness and reporting sex trafficking victimization is recommended.

CENTER FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESEARCH AND TRAINING



Dr. Tamara Hurst



Dr. Kimberly Hogan

The University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Work has been involved in the anti-human trafficking movement for several years through the efforts of Dr. Tamara Hurst, her work on two state-level human trafficking tasks forces, and her survivor-focused research platform. Dr. Hurst's efforts received a major boost with the addition of the school's newest faculty member, Dr. Kimberly Hogan from the Arizona State University Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research. Dr. Hogan's research with trafficking survivors, the LGBTQ+ population, and homeless youth will have significant positive impact on how the state improves its response to human trafficking. Dr. Hogan was also invited to join the Strategic Planning and Trafficking Protocol subcommittee of the Mississippi Human Trafficking Council which is chaired by Dr. Hurst.

Drs. Hurst and Hogan recognized the state's need for empirically-sound data collection and analysis, and the need for evidence-based training and increased awareness of human trafficking in Mississippi. As such, they proposed and received university and IHL approval (6/16/22) for a Center for Human Trafficking Research and Training (CHTRT). This entity will be an interdisciplinary collaboration of researchers, trafficking survivors, and students who collect, analyze, and evaluate human trafficking data from our state and local agencies and provide evidence-based education and training to agency personnel for the accelerated development of Mississippi's anti-human trafficking policies, legislation, protocols, and victim services.

Examples of CHTRT projects include identifying juvenile-justice involved youth who are at-risk of or experiencing exploitation. Working in collaboration with the Hancock County Youth Court, Drs. Hurst and Hogan have begun implementation of an assessment tool and creating links between juvenile justice systems to increase the identification of trafficked youth.



Dr. Joohee Lee

An Opportunity for a Closer Look

One faculty member's granted sabbatical offers potential for enriched resilience curriculum

Dr. Joohee Lee will soon embark to her home country of South Korea to invest in her longstanding interest in how various populations respond to natural disasters. She was recently granted a research sabbatical for the 2022 Fall Semester to explore the nature of how community resilience played a role in preparing for and recovering from natural disasters in the COVID-19 pandemic, and how cultural factors influenced the way in which individuals responded to the disasters. The title of her research is "Community Resilience to Natural Disasters and the Pandemic and the Influence of Cultural Factors: A Comparative Look".

Dr. Lee reported that for the project, semi-structured interviews will be sought with individuals from groups in South Korea and the Mississippi Gulf Coast including community-based mutual aid organizations, first responders, and long-term residents who have experienced more than one local disaster event. During the past several years, Dr. Lee has studied the psychosocial impacts (e.g., depression, anxiety, loneliness) of natural and human-made disasters among the residents of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the role of resilience factors (e.g., psychological resilience, coping, posttraumatic growth, social support, community resilience) in responding and adapting to disasters.

"Recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has complicated the efforts of Mississippi communities to adapt to and recover from the ongoing, cumulative effects of natural disasters. In addition, possible natural disasters due to global climate changes and future pandemic threats would result in unprecedented challenges for many communities in Mississippi," she says.

Although the importance of community resilience in disaster preparedness and recovery has become increasingly recognized in recent years, there is scarce research regarding how culture affects the way in which individuals prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and the pandemic. The South Mississippi population is rapidly becoming more ethnically and culturally diverse. Dr. Lee attests that culturally-informed crisis preparedness and management would enhance the resilience of individuals and communities, and it could not be more timely.

Dr. Lee believes that research findings will be useful to stimulate and facilitate local research and action intended to enhance community resilience on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. In addition, these projects will bring cross-cultural insights into how to increase effective engagement with the local residents in disaster preparedness and response. Also, considering the USM School of Social Work's area of specialization is resilience-informed practice, Dr. Lee predicts that her research will substantially enrich the School's curriculum. The Master of Social Work curriculum emphasizes assessing, building, and promoting resilience at the micro, mezzo, and macro level. Dr. Lee shared that she is most excited for the opportunity to conduct research abroad in South Korea, collaborating with Korean scholars: Dr. JongSerl Chun (Professor in the Department of Social Welfare at Ewha Womans University) and Dr. Wanhee Lee (Associate Professor in the Department of Transdisciplinary Security at Dongguk University) as well as local colleagues whose resilience-related research interests coincide with her own. Dr. Lee also shared that she is looking forward to spending time with her family in South Korea including her parents, younger sister, younger brother, nephews, and a niece.

Pathways to the Profession

*A Workforce Development Initiative
between Community Colleges and USM*



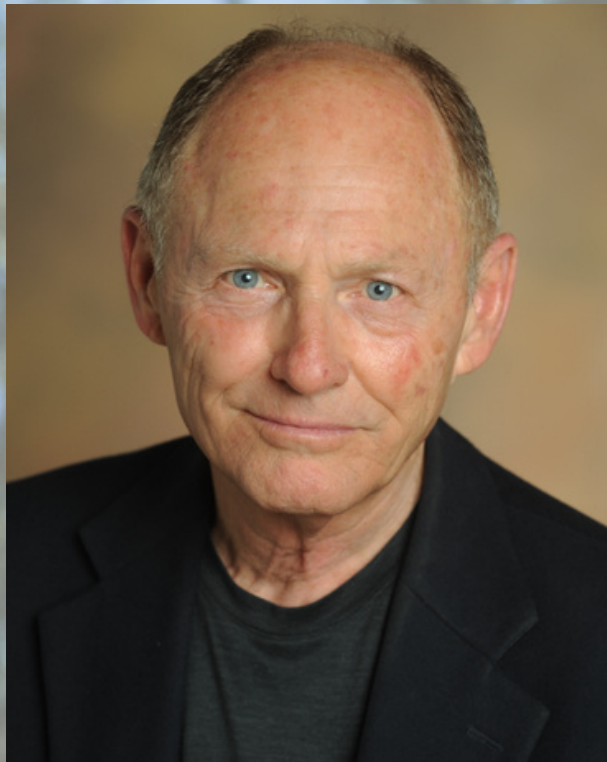
Dr. Jerome Kolbo



Ms. Rachel Lahasky

The School of Social Work was recently awarded a five-year grant by the Bower Foundation for an innovative workforce development initiative entitled Pathways to the Profession. The purpose of this project is to establish a new partnership between The University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Work and the five Community Colleges serving south Mississippi in order to increase the number of local Community College students obtaining the BSW degree, successfully passing the Licensure Exam (LSW), and returning to a local community and working in south Mississippi. This grant will enable Southern Miss to provide an "inspirational series" to educate university-bound students on the social work profession. It will also provide an award each year for deserving transfer students including tuition, fees, and all costs associated with social work licensure. This project is designed to create a cultural shift in south Mississippi through increased understanding of needs and awareness of opportunities available to our graduates as professional social workers that will result in a decrease in the number of social work vacancies and increase retention among social workers in South Mississippi. This project will serve as a model for local-level partnerships necessary to address the increasing need for licensed social workers to address an expanding array of social, emotional, behavioral, and other mental health needs in South Mississippi. This project will significantly increase the number of applications and enrollment of Community College students at Southern Miss.





PROFESSOR EMERITUS & NASW LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT RECIPIENT DR. MICHAEL FORSTER

Dr. Michael Forester received honors that many will only ever dream of. Dr. Forester was awarded the 2022 National Association of Social Work-MS Lifetime Achievement Award. He also received his Professor Emeritus status this year. The professor emeritus title is considered very prestigious. Dr. Forester received B.A. in Political Science, Louisiana State University New Orleans (now the University of New Orleans), M.S. and Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and M.S.W., Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois, Chicago.

Since joining the School of Social work in the Fall of 1994, Dr. Forester has served as a college dean and a director of a school of social work at Southern Miss. He's taught 16 courses in MSW and BSW programs, and he's mentored countless students on research and field internships. He even developed a political social work course and has helped so many students find their voice in political activism. He has authored over 100 scholarly publications that addressed critical issues in the field of social work such as the climate crisis, progressive political activism, public health, and aging. He has brought in tens of millions of dollars with grants to help vulnerable and

under-served Mississippians. He has been and continues to be very active in NASW – MS which leads the student-Faculty Liaison Committee and Social Justice Committee. And he helped with Advocacy Day this year.

Thank you, Dr. Forester, for the care, dedication, hard work, and guidance you have put into your time here at USM and throughout your service as a social worker in our community. Dr. Forester and his wife are recognized, ballroom dancers. They've led community health initiatives like a program called Dancing for the Health of It. We hope that Dr. Forester will have more time to devote to his family and the world of dance!

What Emeritus status means to Dr. Forester, "In addition to recognizing long and meritorious service to the university, Emeritus status means that I am able to continue work, with the Director's approval, that contributes to the mission and well-being of the School of Social Work. At present, for example, I am supervising three MSW students completing "macro" field education experiences."

FIELD INSTRUCTOR OF THE MONTH FALL 2021 - SPRING 2022

September – Kim Bennett, Bedford Care Center

October – Leah Washington, Mobile Area Interfaith Conference

November – Beth Casey, Gulf Coast Family Counseling Agency

December – Heather Dickerson, The Children’s Center for Communication and Development

January – Esther Faye Clay-Arant, Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources

February – Dawn Mucha-Johnson, Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System Biloxi VA

March – Dr. Coletha Colley, Biloxi Public School District

April – Laura Smith, USM IDS

May – Cecile Tebo, Family Treatment Court Hancock County

FIELD INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR: FALL 2021-SPRING 2022

GULF COAST CAMPUS AWARD WINNER: RICARDO BOLTON



Ricardo Bolton is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) that obtained his Masters of Social Worker (MSW) from the University of Southern Mississippi. Prior to obtaining his MSW, he obtained a Bachelor's Degree from Belhaven University. Mr. Bolton has a passion for human interaction and a desire to help people in need. He understands how trauma can impact each individual and is willing to do his part to ensure his interactions with people are genuine. Mr. Bolton strives to support individuals and to make a positive impact within the social work field and the surrounding community.

Mr. Bolton is currently a Senior Lead Primary Care Social Worker at the Biloxi VA Medical Center. He has been in his current position for two and half years and enjoys assisting Veterans. Prior to joining the Biloxi VA Medical Center, Ricardo was employed with Harrison County Child Protection Services for 10 years where he held various positions including Regional Director and supported over hundred case workers with assisting families and children.

His previous experience while being an intern in college has shaped his role of being a Field Instructor. The connections and experience that each intern possesses will carry on based on the internship and time in school. A Field Instructor has a great opportunity to work with social work interns in opening up their eyes to possibilities within the field of social work and how many different ways the intern can apply their skills to a certain population. Being a Field Instructor for 10 years and supporting interns from different universities has challenged him to continuously evaluate each intern's needs and help them grow in supervision.

HATTIESBURG CAMPUS AWARD WINNER: FRANCES NIXON



Frances obtained a B.A. in social work from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1992. She has been a field instructor with the School of Social Work for nine years, a social worker with The Salvation Army Social Service Department for fourteen years, and a case manager specialist for The Pathway of Hope program for four years.

She finds joy in training and empowering students to become productive social workers that will facilitate change within their communities. Not only does Frances collaborate with many of the surrounding agencies in the Hattiesburg area but is not limited to other surrounding areas. She is a part of the Pine Belt Coalition and serves on the board of R3SM.

In her free time, Frances enjoys spending time with her husband Robert, talking with her children Nadia, Dariel, Robert and raising her three grandchildren, Semetrius, Dariel, and Samayah. She also loves cooking, working with the youth where she serves as Youth Pastor for Wayside Holy Temple. Frances passion is meeting needs of her clients and students.

2021-2022 Students of the Year

Overall BSW Student of the Year
Valorie Cochran

Overall MSW Student of the Year
Destiny Marks

Student of the Year
BSW | Gulf Park
Lori Macy

Student of the Year
MSW | Gulf Park
Greer Massey

Field Student of the Year
BSW | Gulf Park
Abigayle LaBorde

Field Student of the Year
MSW | Gulf Park
Brandon Pate Thaggard

Student of the Year
BSW | Hattiesburg
Valorie Cochran

Student of the Year
MSW | Hattiesburg
Destiny Marks

Field Student of the Year
BSW | Hattiesburg
Tandra Griffith

Field Student of the Year
MSW | Hattiesburg
Deanna Campbell

2022 NASW Awards



MSW Student of the Year: Laken Camp

Laken Camp was awarded the "NASW-MS MSW Student of the Year" award at the Annual NASW-MS Conference on March 24, 2022. Laken is a graduating MSW student, Graduate Assistant, Project Lead facilitator in the development of an informational panel series called "Action in Critical Times" for the 2021-2022 USM academic school year. Laken has also contributed to several research projects during her time as a MSW student.



Public Citizen of the Year: Reginald Virgil

Reginald Virgil was awarded "Public Citizen of the Year" at the 2022 NASW Conference. He is a MSW student and also the cofounder of Black Lives Matter Mississippi. He was recognized with this award for his investment with marginalized communities, victims of police brutality and violence, and K-12 youth.



A student-led initiative to equip social workers to take action against injustice



The ACT aims to enhance understanding of critical issues affecting Mississippians and provide the research sources and tools, tangible community resources, and transferable skills to assist clinicians, students, and faculty in action-based practice. We aim to equip social workers with the knowledge to make articulate and informed decisions confidently. Our mission is to empower social workers to take effective action against injustice and change the systems fighting against us and the people we serve. The following page is the flyer used to advertise the spring series.

Student Leadership



Michaela Andrews



Laken Camp, LMSW



Lauren Porter, LMSW



Raevin Wade, LMSW

Spring '22 Sessions

Action in Critical Times

The ACT Spring 2022 Session Schedule



The ACT, or Action in Critical Times, is a student and faculty led initiative which focuses on fostering social justice and activism among social workers in Mississippi. We have developed an information and action-based series intended to highlight the critical issues affecting Mississippians and to discuss what can be done to address them.

The following is our session schedule for the Spring 2022 semester. Come be a part of our effort to facilitate critical and relevant discussions amongst social workers and social work students.

Human Trafficking

February 4

Emphasizing the importance of human trafficking awareness and examining myths, facts, risks and preventive factors associated with the crime.

LGBTQIA2S+ Rights and Inclusivity

February 25

"LGBT rights" are the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender [+] people to live openly without discrimination and enjoy equal rights, personal autonomy, and freedom of expression and association.

Criminal Justice Reform

March 18

Criminal justice reform addresses structural issues in criminal justice systems such as racial profiling, police brutality, overcriminalization, mass incarceration, and recidivism.

Racism, Discrimination, Intersectionality

April 22

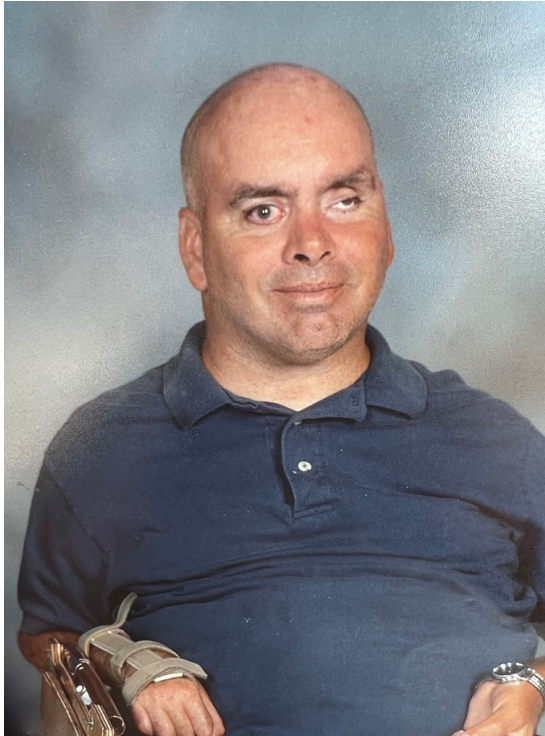
Exploring the disparities and connections between racism and discrimination, as well as considerations for an intersectional social work practice.

For more information, contact

SOSWtheACT@gmail.com

Alumni Contributions

Glenn W. Gaudet | Class of 2006



In an act of great generosity, Southern Miss alumnus Glenn W. Gaudet left the University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Work \$151,276 through a bequest to provide discretionary support. A 2006 alumnus, Glenn gained more than a master's degree in social work from USM. He found the independence he had been seeking for decades.

When Glenn was 16 years old, he was in an automobile accident that rendered him a quadriplegic. Years of treatment and rehab followed. "He lost a lot in the crash," said Karl Gaudet, Glenn's older brother. "But he always had a smile and a great sense of humor. He didn't talk about the 'what ifs,' though. He focused on what he could do now and how he could be there to help someone else."

After earning his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University in 2000, Glenn enrolled at Southern Miss seeking his master's — as well as a little more independence. Glenn's mother, Pat, remembers USM fondly. "Glenn had a handicapped room in McCarty Hall over near the athletics building. He struck up a friendship with the football coach, Coach Jeff Bower. He'd chat with Glenn and always bring him ball caps."

Those interactions and the warm, welcoming environment of Southern Miss put Pat at ease sending her son outside of the Baton Rouge area. "Every time Glenn went to eat in the dining hall, the staff would take such good care of him. They knew exactly what he wanted and how to make it for him."

After graduating from USM, Glenn moved back to Baton Rouge and began living on his own with the aid of personal care assistants. "Glenn gained so much from his time in Hattiesburg," Pat said. "He needed to be farther away to gain the skills to do more for himself. He counted his few years at Southern Miss among the most significant of his life."

Director of the School of Social Work Dr. Jerome Kolbo met Glenn while he was in the master's program. "We had many conversations in and outside the classroom, and he almost always carried a lightness, a smile, as if he knew something no one else did. Most memorably, he actively advocated on campus for accommodations, particularly parking spaces, for disabled students. He was bold, outspoken, and truly fearless. Glenn never let his disability define him."

Pat explained Glenn chose to pursue a degree in social work because he wanted to be a priest. "Social work seemed like a close fit, and USM was close enough to us but also far enough away that he could find a little freedom and forge his own path."

Despite earning his degree, Glenn was never hired to work in the social work field because of his physical impairments. "It was hard for Glenn to face those realities, but I know God was working through my son during all of it," Pat said. "He took his training, his faith and his strong character and used it in his work through the Church."

Glenn was raised a devoted Catholic, and his family remains active in the St. Patrick's Parish in Baton Rouge. He taught The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) classes, assisting those interested in participating fully in the Catholic Church, as well as confirmation classes and Catechism. While in Hattiesburg, Glenn attended St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church on Fourth Street, just off of campus.

"Glenn made a fantastic impression on me the first time I met him," said the Rev. Tommy Conway, former pastor of St. Thomas. "He told me right off the bat, 'I've heard about you!' He was a devout Catholic and his faith in Jesus was unwavering. I believe his kind nature and sense of humor helped him in life. I often tell people who are diagnosed with a serious illness that three things will help them: faith, family and a sense of humor. Each was very important to Glenn. He always saw the glass as half full and was an inspiration to me."

The faculty, staff and students within the School of Social Work are incredibly grateful for the generosity of Glenn Gaudet. "It is an honor to have someone go through our program and think so highly that he would provide such a substantial gift benefitting countless numbers of students as they pursue their dreams of higher education," Kolbo said.



Scholarship Donors & Recipients

Barbara Pease Scholarship: Simone McKinney

Francis Gandy Scholarship: Gabriella Sampson

Fern & John Pearson Scholarship: Ashley Holland, Samantha Brown, Breanna Brewer & Sanja Daniels

Elizabeth Boggan and Ronald Charles Howard Family Social Work Scholarship: Gabriella Sampson

Nellie B. Hutchinson Scholarship: Elizabeth Hoffer & Marissa Moore

Nancy Baker Endowment: Maggie King

Beulah Elizabeth Roberts Compton: Christiana Corfee & Veronica Foerg

Samuel Tucker Scholarship: Dianna Couch & Kara Lowe

Betty Spencer - Gulf Coast Scholarship: Karis Wimbish & Korilyn Baudoin

Katharine L. Guice: Alisha Graham

Sara Caldwell Graduate Social Work Endowment: Andrew Chism & Victoria Esphagen

Milton Concannon Scholarship: Kamryn Nelson

Day/Mehearg Scholarship: Ashley Westbrook

Gerry Parish Graduate School Scholarship: Tracy Coleman, Kennesah Ducre, Christina McNair & Shonesty Smith

Parker Family Scholarship: Juliet Liuzza

Parker Family Gift: Victoria Bolls, Fernanda Roberts, Jacqueline Coffman & Marcus Pigford

Lynn Purnell Hagan Scholarship: Angelina Mistretta

James D. and Sara M. Turner Endowment - School of Social Work Master's Program: Alena Vu

MEET THE 2021-2022 GRADUATE ASSISTANTS



KIRSTEN ABBOTT

Kirsten assists with several tasks including research, BSW writing lab, tutoring, grading, and any other tasks that might arise.



REBECCA BAIN

Rebecca supports Dr. Bret Blackmon with developing weekly lecture materials for classes along with assisting with grading and providing constructive feedback on student assignments. She has completed research with Dr. Lee and Dr. Blackmon over Person-Centered Practices (PCP) and co-wrote a PCP academic journal article. She currently assists Dr. Lee and Dr. Blackmon with research over culturally-informed disaster preparedness and response and will be co-presenting this research at the 2022 NASW MS Chapter Conference.



BLAKE BERRY

Blake's typical duties include assisting Rachel Lahasky in her field education class, grading papers, and leading small group discussions in field. He also assists in the social work office where he answers phone calls and reviews student papers.



LAKEN CAMP

Laken has assisted with numerous research efforts pertaining to residents of Mississippi that have been under the lens of racial disparity as well as socio-economic and socio-demographic influences. Her efforts include exploring rates of maternal and infant mortality, access to reproductive health services and education, and data acquisition for the 2020 USM Vision Study in collaboration with the MS Department of Education Office of Healthy Schools. Laken was the Project Lead for facilitating the development of an informational panel series called "Action in Critical Times" (ACT) for the 2021-2022 USM academic school year.

MEET THE 2021-2022 GRADUATE ASSISTANTS



CHRISTIAN CHISM

Christian works in the Eagle's Nest Food Pantry. His duties include stocking and running the food pantry, working with volunteers and donors, and participating in related campus events such as the Swipe Out for Hunger program.



KARLA DANNER

Karla assists with social work 301 courses, working in the front office and acting as a resource for students. In addition, she helped the field office with the placement of student internships for the spring 2022 semester.



ANDREKA DEDEAUX

Andreka assists Dr. Jerome Kolbo with research efforts related to USM students and Mississippi residents. Assists Dr. Zibei Chen on research pertaining to Black women's sexuality. She also assist with front desk reception and office duties in the Hattiesburg social work office.



HEATHER GILLESPIE

Heather assists Dr. Tamecia Curry with her research. She also assists with her courses by grading, tutoring, and teaching classes. Heather mainly serves on the Gulf Park campus.

MEET THE 2021-2022 GRADUATE ASSISTANTS



ARIA GRANT

Aria served patrons at the Eagle's Nest Food Pantry, a nonprofit food resource for students, staff, and faculty on campus, by bagging groceries and restocking items. She also ran the marketing and social media platforms for the pantry; communicated with potential and current volunteers; solicited and organized donations; and completed tasks and errands for the Dean of Students, Mrs. Sirena Cantrell



PATRICIA KAUHANE

Patricia Kauhane is a graduate assistant for the field education department. She assists Denise Brown-Rouse and Jenine Housewright with finding placements for social work students.



DESTINY MARKS

Destiny works with Dr. Renee Drumm on research about pastoral stress. She also assists with her classes: Field Education, Social Service Systems, and Social Work Practice II.



NATHALIE ROWELL

Nathalie is a research assistant under Kim Hogan. Her main field of research is focused on human trafficking. She writes literature reviews and obtains articles to help the human trafficking committee. In the near future, Nathalie will help with field studies.

MEET THE 2021-2022 GRADUATE ASSISTANTS



LAUREN STEPHENS

Lauren assists Dr. Jerome Kolbo with research efforts related to workforce development and child welfare. She coauthored a grant proposal to benefit community college students pursuing social work careers. She also was an editor for the 2021-2022 annual report for the School of Social Work. She works weekly in the Hattiesburg social work office completing various duties including front desk reception, assisting students, and other tasks as needed.



REGINALD VIRGIL

Reginald worked with Dr. Zibei Chen on a health care project and also served on the S.T.R.I.D.E. team. Reginald has also conducted his own qualitative and quantitative research and coordinated forum discussions regarding race related issues such as "assessing one's comfort level discussing racism" through round table dialogue sessions. He works in the community to raise awareness of injustices in Mississippi on educational, economic, and social levels using social work core values that focus on advocacy.



RAEVIN WADE

Raevin handled the marketing and communications on behalf of the School of Social Work. She developed flyers, graphics, and other digital designs alongside written social media postings to advertise events and opportunities within the school. Raevin also served on the Action in Critical Times (ACT) team and assisted in the facilitation of its series of informational panel sessions.



PHI ALPHA HONOR SOCIETY

Current Members

President



Andreka Dedeaux

Vice President



Blake Berry

Treasurer



Briana Barron

Secretary



Amanda King

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Briana L. Burton | Laken Camp |
| Monica Calderon | Ashlee Cote |
| Valorie Cochran | Andreka Dedeaux |
| Angelique Cole | Alexandria Elliott |
| Abigayle Laborde | Heather Gillespie |
| Charlene Nathan | Amanda King |
| Madison Paris | Lauren Magee |
| Kirsten Abbott | Allyson McDonald |
| Jonathan Blake Berry | Renee Edwards Reynolds |

New Members

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Florenciana Belleza Abney | Renee Kristen Isaac |
| Michaela Andrews | Briana Lofton |
| Abbe Bates | Lori Michelle Cleary Macy |
| Madison Blankenship | Greer Massey |
| Holly Bray | Simone Mckinney |
| Tiaziuna Buxton | Keisha C. McLendon |
| Deanna Campbell | Christian McNair |
| Shania Denise Carter | Tosha Mills |
| Dianna Couch | Anya A. Moye |
| Nakiaya A. Daniels | Matikia Pittman |
| Sanja Moon Daniels | Jasmine Plummer |
| Santiica Doss | Tori. D. Ricks |
| Brandy Ellis | J. Suzanne Sanders |
| Dani Jo Ezell | Madison Toney |
| Veronica Foerg | Tiffany M. Trippe |
| Alisha Graham | Emma Sinclair Walls |
| Morgan P. Henry | Sonia Williams |
| Brittany Mekala Hinton | Kasey A. Word |

BSW CLUB

HATTIESBURG

The BSW (Bachelor of Social Work) Club has been active on and off-campus this year helping with events such as the Kids Halloween Festival sponsored by SMAC and the Out of Darkness Walk. The BSW Club also held a table at the Fall Wellness Festival where information was shared on stress management. The club held multiple donation drives for victims of Hurricane Ida, local hospice patients, and a Christmas toy/monetary donation for the Salvation Army. Most recently, BSW held a profit share at Hub City Creamery.

This year the board decided to hold monthly club meetings to respect precautions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. The BSW Club is intentional in staying focused on social justice events and advocating for community needs while still offering its members a safe place to be vulnerable. Any USM students interested in social justice and creating change are welcome to join the BSW Club.

Outgoing Officers: Fall 2021

President: Tori Ricks

Vice President: Demecia Edmond

Treasurer: DeMari Blakely

Social Media Team: Jasmine Plummer and Tatum Brown

Secretaries: Caliyah Moore and Dani Jo Ezell

Political Chair: Tyra Briggs

Incoming Officers: Spring 2022

President: Gracee Wells

Vice President: Hailey Morgan

Treasurer: Abrejha McKennis

Secretary: Jasmine Walker

Assistant Secretary: Julee Albert

Social Media Specialist: Tatum Brown

Assistant Social Media Specialist: Keria Bunch

Voter/Political Chair: Hailee Hodges

STRIDE: Dianna Dardar

BSW CLUB

GULF PARK

The Gulf Park BSW Club project for the spring semester was in honor of March as Social Work Month. The club raised funds to purchase feminine hygiene products for a local middle school to give to students whose families may struggle financially.

In the fall, BSW Club raised money for cancer survivors. They also teamed up with the Boys and Girls Club where the children created holiday cards for residents at a local nursing home. The club also participated in the annual Golden Basket event and sponsored an HIV Awareness Lunch and Learn.

Outgoing Officers: Fall 2021

President: Brittany Hinton

Vice President: Julie Paige

Secretary: Ciara Watson

Treasurer: Kayla Dunning

Events Chair: Charlene Hutchins Nathan

Social Media Chair: Lori Macy/Abigayle LaBorde

Fundraising Chair: Brenda Lowe

Incoming Officers Spring 2022

President: Angelina Mistretta

Vice President: Caroline Jacobs

Secretary: Aleia McDougal

Treasurer: Denisha Mcnair

Social Media Chair: Camari Fairley

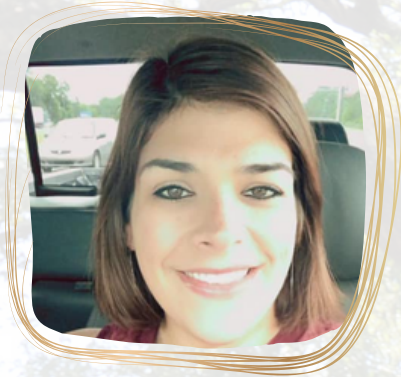
Events Chair: Amiya Moore

Fundraising Chair: Wendy Weisler Beale

SASW

Student Association of Social Workers

ASHLEY HOLLAND



President

KAT NEAL



Advanced Standing Representative

KARLNEQUA BALL



Vice President

BRANDY ELLIS



Treasurer

FAITH WEBSTER



Saturday PT Representative 2020

RICHELLE BIEN



Secretary

LAKEN CAMP



Full-time Tuesday/Thursday Cohort Representative

MARCUS PIGFORD



Saturday PT Representative 2021

AMANDA KING



Eagle's Nest Representative

SASW

Student Association of Social Workers

KIRSTEN ABBOTT
REBECCA BAIN
KARLNEQUA BALL
KORILYN BAUDOIN
RICHELLE BIEN
VICTORIA BOLLS
LAKEN CAMP
CHRISTIAN CHISM
TRACY COLEMAN
SANJA DANIELS
SHELBY DAVIS
ANDREKA DEDEAUX
BRANDY ELLIS
VERONICA FOERG
MICHAEL FORSTER
DEBRA FOSTER
MARYADELYN FRAISER
RENEE ISAAC
MARTI JORDAN
AMANDA KING
JEROME KOLBO

ESTHER LOKO
CHRISTINA MCNAIR
JAMEKA MCSWAIN
CATHERINE NEAL
ANNA NORTHCUTT
MARCUS PIGFORD
LAUREN PORTER
RENEE REYNOLDS
FERNANDA
ROBERTS
NATHALIE ROWELL
ANNA SIMS
SHONESTY SMITH
LAUREN STEPHENS
MADISON TONEY
FAITH WEBSTER
ASHLEY
WESTBROOK
SONIA WILLIAMS
SATERRICA WILLIS

FALL 2021 BSW GRADUATES

BSW Hattiesburg

Andrea Boykin

Marissa Moore

Shalisha Brooks

LaKera Newsom

Jesmonique Catchings

Emily Michelle Parker

Shania Douglas

Mara Pickering

Rakema Fisher

Keirah Sandifer

Kelsi Page Ford

Jamiya Sanson

Charkayla French

Eternity Scott

Cesaley Hammond-Martin

Aurielle Smith

Addie Holland

Alisha Elizabeth Steele

Victoria Jackson

Mequandra L. Twillie

Lynn Jordan

Lakyn Lee-Ann Welborn

Brittney Ke'ana Magee

Chelsea K. Williams

Jasmine McCray

Brianna Wishart

Annie Woods

SPRING 2022 BSW GRADUATES

BSW Hattiesburg

Ella Baker
Obriona DeShaye Brown
Briana Laura Burton
Gaby Calderon
Shania Denise Carter
Valorie Grace Cochran
Angelique Cole
Ellie Grace Currie
Tandra Mickensy Griffin
Karyn E. Haslett
Xeryus Elizabeth Johnson
Muriel Kelso
Kathryn Lynn Moolenaar
Krijn Elizabeth Paetow
Madison Alexys Paris
Angel Pittman
Jeri Suzanne Sanders
Alyssa Ann Stogner
Miriam Thompson
Brianna Wagner
Emma Sinclair Walls
Miranda Brook Wilson
Abby Marie Zink

BSW Gulf Coast

Savannah Davis
Kayla Dunning
Rhiannon Garrett
Brittany Hinton
Courtney Jackson
Kristy Keller
Abigayle LaBorde
Shayla Lee
Brenda Lowe
Lori Macy
Mineshia McKinney
Charlene Nathan
Julie Paige
Kimberly Richmond
Ciara Watson
Kasey Word

2022 MSW GRADUATES

MSW Full-Time

Kirsten Abbot
Abigail Alford
Shanavia Black
Rachel Burchfield
Laken Elizabeth Camp
Deanna Nariel Campbell
Ashlee Marie Cote'
Aaron Davenport
Andreka Jenay Dedeaux
Abigail Douglass
Cassidy Nicole Gaston
Hannah Holland
Julie Jackson
Madalyn Keyes
Amanda King
Megan Elizabeth Masters
Anna Northcutt
Lauren Porter
Renee Edwards Reynolds
Brenna Rosetti
Madison Toney

2022 MSW Graduates

MSW Part-Time Regular & Advanced Standing

Michaela Andrews

Blake Berry

Melody Boone

Samantha Brown

Ahjana Buckley

Ashlie Cameron

Karla Danner

Santiica Doss

Alexandria Elliott

Heather Gillespie

Kaitlyn Gray

Jesse J. Gruich

Lauren Hill

Veronica Howard

India Janay Kelly

Lakeshia Kern

Esther Loko

Destiny Lee Marks

Ashley McClain

Brandon McCorkle

Jameka McSwain

Allyson Marie Meek

Jessica Moreau

Amanda Moulder

Abigail Mowers

Catherine Neal

Ashley Perry

Kayla Pettigrew

Daryn Pierce

Harlie Pounds

O'Meshia Pruitt

Hannah L. Reitcheck

Josh Seymour

Anna Grace Sims

Jessica Skanes

Raevin Wade

Candace Williams

IN MEMORY OF

Annie Woods

APRIL 9, 1996 - MARCH 25, 2022



This annual report is dedicated to the memory of Ms. Annie Woods. She graduated from USM with honors in 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work degree. Her life will forever be a legacy for social justice and advocacy.

Meet the Editors

The 2021-2022 USM School of Social Work Annual Report was compiled and created by Andreka Dedeaux, Lauren Stephens, & Raevin Wade.



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