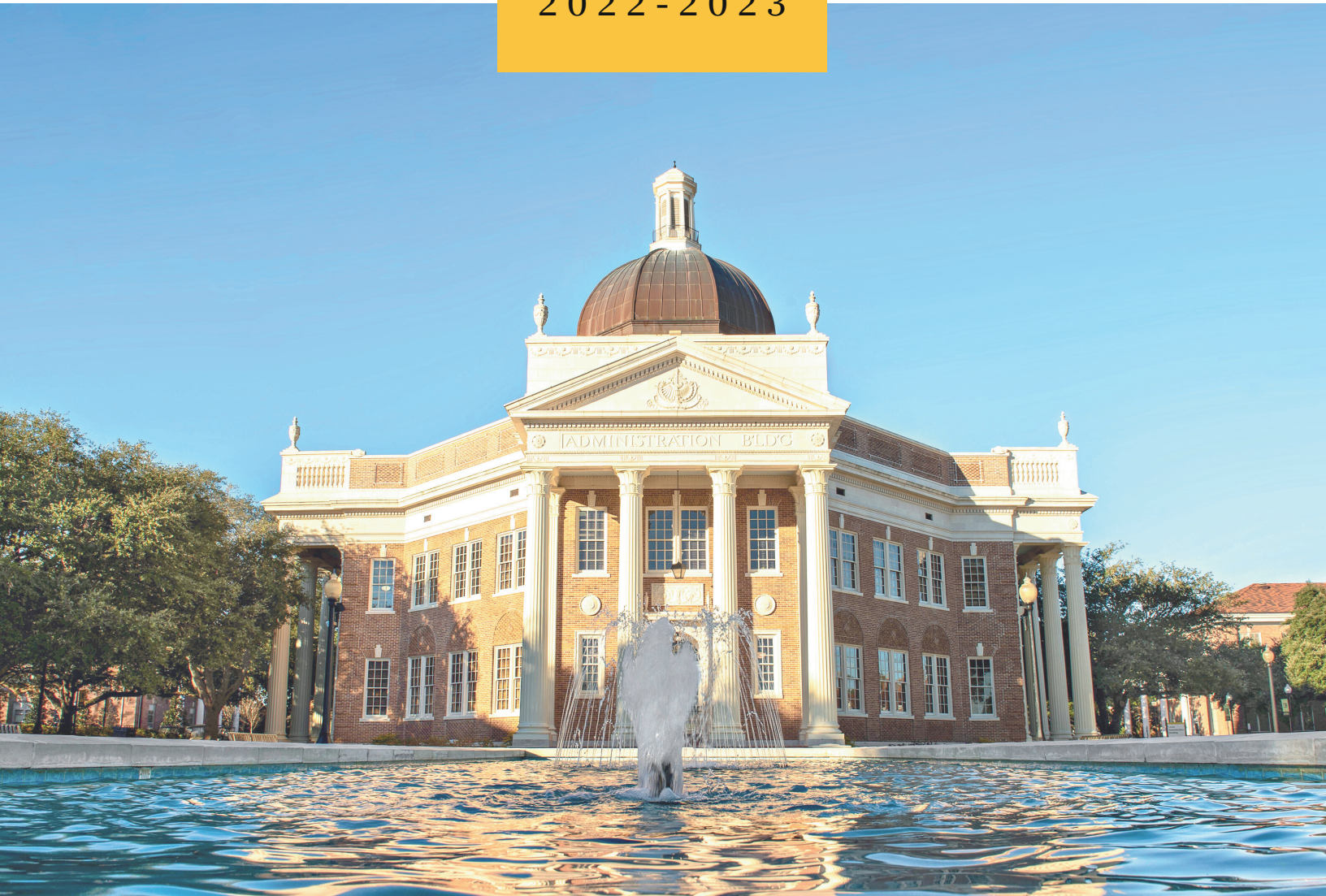


Annual Report

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

2022-2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI®

ACCREDITATION REAFFIRMATION

BSW & MSW Programs Fully
Accredited Through 2030

EXTERNALLY-FUNDED RESEARCH

100% of Faculty Engaged in
Research and Scholarly Activity

BUCKING THE TRENDS

Increases in Enrollment and
Graduation Rates

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Message from the Director

Greetings!

As Director of the School of Social Work I am pleased to share our 2022-2023 Annual Report with you. In it, you will come to understand more about who we are, what we do, and the many reasons why we celebrate.

Reaffirmation of Accreditation - Following a thorough review by the Commission on Accreditation (COA) for the Council on Social Work Education, the Master of Social Work (MSW) and Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) programs in TSchool of Social Work received accreditation reaffirmation through June 2030.

Our Shared Vision - Our faculty and staff are passionately dedicated to serving the community while educating the next generation of social work professionals who will assist the poor, oppressed and underserved in our state. A shared vision of social justice and advocacy for the health and well-being of all people inspires us, and we are so proud that the Council on Social Work Education recognizes our commitment to excellence in this pursuit.

Bucking the Trends – While enrollment has been down at USM and most Institutions of Higher Learning across the country, enrollment in the School of Social Work has increased over the past five years. Of note is the steady increase on the Gulf Park campus in Long Beach.

Fully Engaged Corps of Instruction - Currently all (100%) of our tenure track faculty and permanent instructors and lecturers are engaged in externally funded research and scholarly activity. They are serving as PI, Co-PI, Co-I or evaluators on 11 different private and public, state, and federal studies.

Staying True to the Coast - With the appointment of Dr. Joe Paul as the 11th President of The University of Southern Mississippi last fall, one of his first announcements was that both the BSW and MSW programs would remain on the coast! Our continued presence and opportunities for higher education among those who live and work on the Mississippi Gulf Coast is vital to fulfilling our mission to the poor, oppressed, and underserved.

New Faculty – In a deep and highly competitive pool of applicants, the School was able to hire Drs. Rhonda Smith and Erica Morgan as Assistant Teaching Professors, Dr. Deslie Broussard as an Assistant Professor, and Laura Achter as a Visiting Instructor.

Student Success Stories - All through the Spring 2023 semester, there were 213 students enrolled in the BSW program, with 176 studying in Hattiesburg and 37 studying at the Gulf Park campus. The MSW program had 134 students, with 63 in Hattiesburg and 71 at the Gulf Park campus. Many of these students are recognized throughout the report.

Jerome R. Kolbo, PhD, ACSW
Director and Professor



Territorial Acknowledgement

It is important that we acknowledge and honor the land and labor of those who came before us, which allows us to learn as a Southern Miss community. The School of Social Work respectfully acknowledge the Mississippi Band of the Choctaw Nation who once occupied the land, now considered Mississippi. We aspire to honor and respect the Indigenous peoples who European colonizers forcibly removed from this territory, yet the Choctaw Nation remain connected to this land and continue to thrive nearby. We also own our part in the Choctaw Nation's continued displacement by incorporating Indigenous knowledge in our work and working to establish meaningful connections with Indigenous peoples and communities (adapted public statement from Dr. Cori Bazemore-James, 2019).

Also, we want to respectfully acknowledge the enslaved peoples, primarily of African descent, who provided exploited labor to build and maintain many higher education institutions. We are indebted to their labor and to the labor of many who continue to work in the shadows for our collective benefit. We implore us as higher education scholars and practitioners to continue to remember and honor those whose land we occupy and whose labor we benefit from throughout the semester (shared with permission from Dr. Jason Wallace, Assistant Professor, USM).

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.

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 •

USM School of Social Work Receives Accreditation Reaffirmation

Written by Karelia Pitts



Following a thorough review by the Commission on Accreditation (COA) for the Council on Social Work Education, the Master of Social Work (MSW) and Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) programs in the USM School of Social Work received accreditation reaffirmation through June 2030.

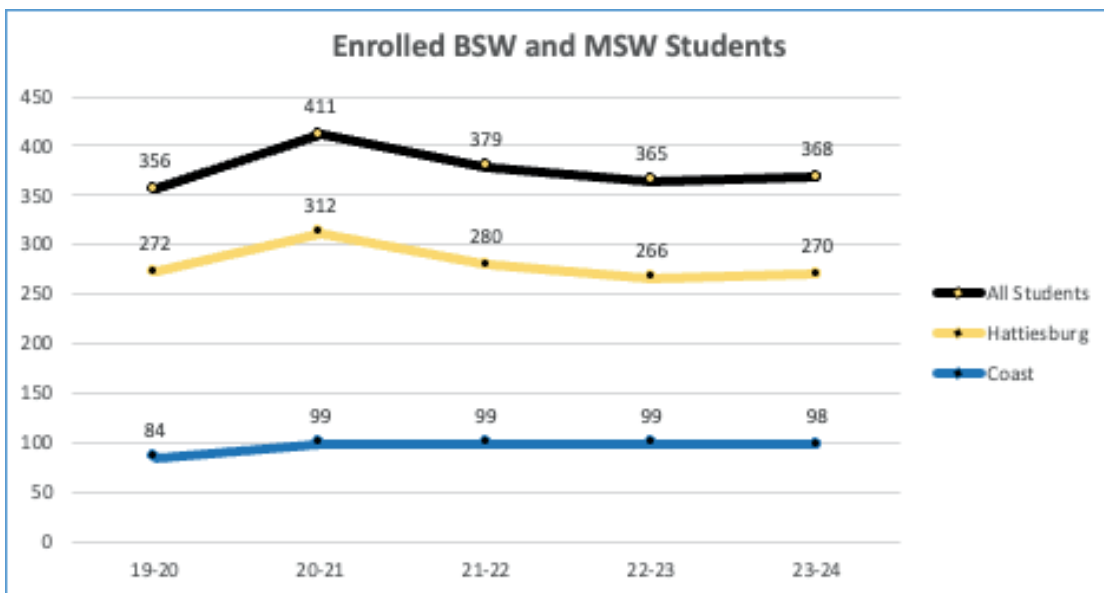
Founded in 1952, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is the national association representing social work education in the United States. Its members include over 750 accredited baccalaureate and master's degree social work programs, as well as individual social work educators, practitioners and agencies dedicated to advancing quality social work education. Through its many initiatives, activities and centers, CSWE supports quality social work education so that social workers play a central role in achieving the profession's goals of social and economic justice.

The MSW program started at Southern Miss in 1974 and has been continuously accredited since 1976. The BSW program began at USM's Gulf Park campus in 1996 and achieved initial accreditation the same year. Accreditation of the undergraduate program has continuously been maintained since that time, including the on-site program at Gulf Park since fall 2005. There are currently 213 BSW students and 134 MSW students, with 239 enrolled at the Hattiesburg campus and 108 enrolled at the Gulf Park campus.

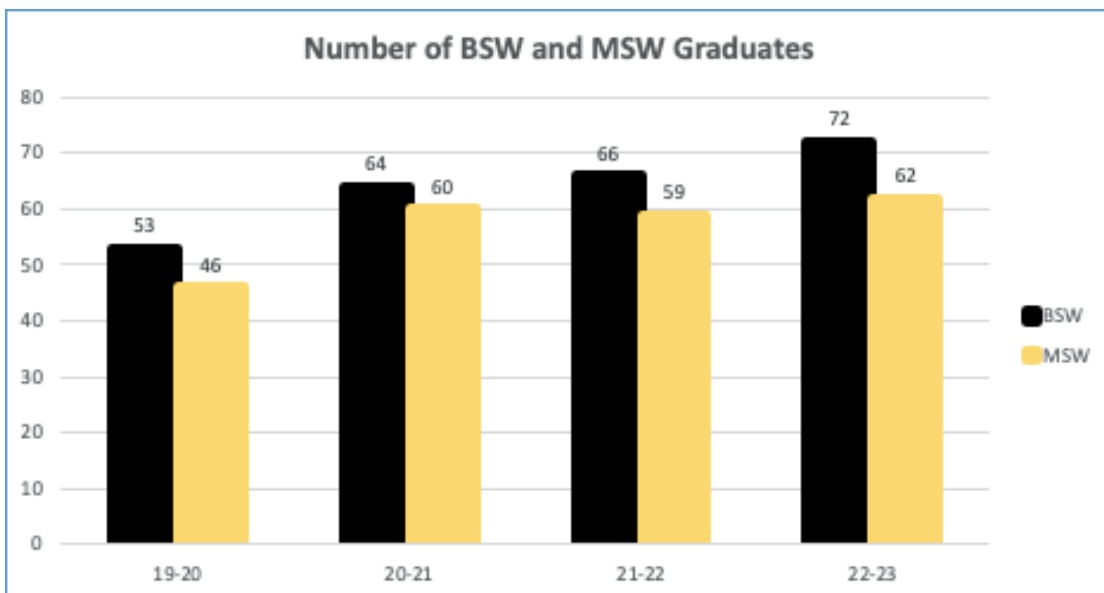
Enrollment Increases

Bucking the Trends with Steady Increases in Enrollment and Graduation Rates

While overall USM enrollment declined 8.9% and Gulf Park enrollment declined 34.3% since 2019-2020, overall enrollment in the School of Social Work **increased 3.4%** from 356 students to 368 student. The increase was largely due to an **increase of 16.7%** on the Gulf Park Campus. During this same time period enrollment in the MSW program **increased 27.2%** from 103 to 131.



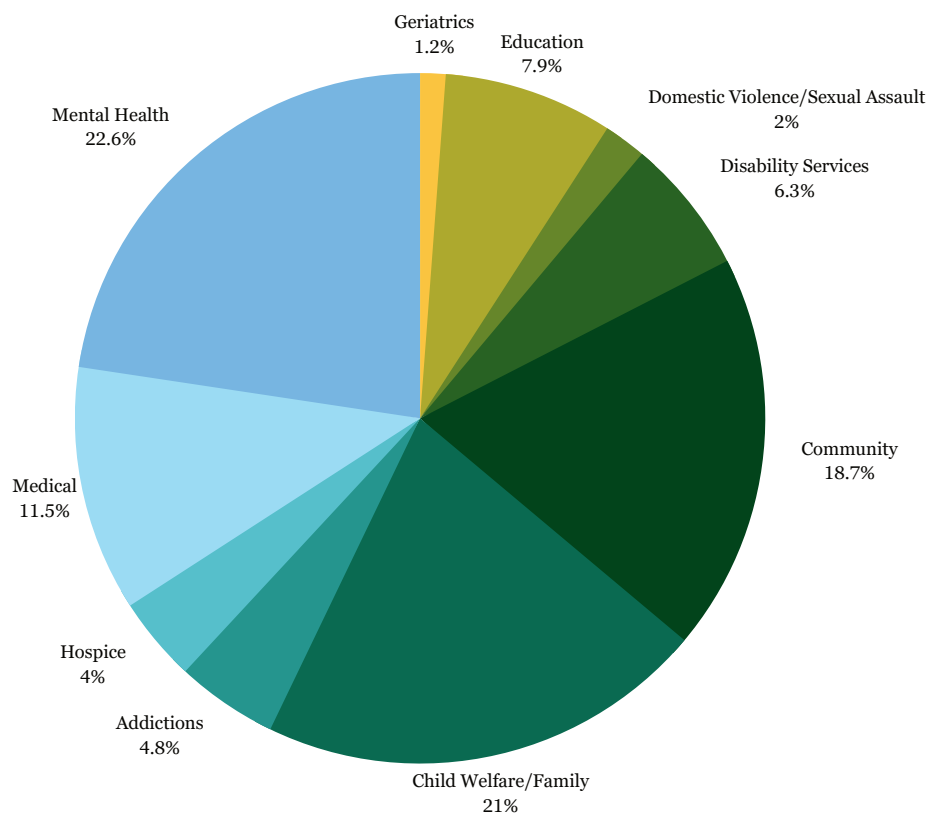
The School of Social Work also produced steady increases in graduates every year, from 99 in 2019-2020 to 134 in 2022-2023 (an **increase of 35%**).



Field Contributions to the Community

From Fall 2022-Spring 2023, the School of Social Work has placed 260 students in the field throughout Mississippi and surrounding states including Louisiana, Alabama, North Carolina, and Colorado. 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: Geriatrics, Education, Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault, Disability Services, Community, Child Welfare/Family, Addictions, Hospice, Medical, and Mental Health. View the chart below to see the the percentage of students at each type of placement.



From August 2022-May 2023 students spent **77,817** hours in field placements.

A total of **\$564,177.02** worth of hours at minimum wage contributed to agencies across Mississippi.

A photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, there are large, mature trees with thick trunks and dense green foliage. A yellow rectangular box is superimposed over the middle of the image, containing the text 'Faculty, Staff, & Graduate Assistants'. Below the box, a well-maintained green lawn is visible, with a paved walkway curving through it. In the background, a large, multi-story brick building with white columns and windows is partially obscured by the trees. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant day on campus.

Faculty, Staff, & Graduate Assistants

New Hires for 2023



Laura Achter, LMSW
Visiting Instructor



Dr. Erica Morgan, LCSW
Assistant Teaching Professor



Dr. Deslie Bonano-Broussard,
LCSW-BACS, BCD
Assistant Professor



Dr. Rhonda Smith, LCSW
Assistant Teaching Professor

Faculty and Staff



Laura Achter, LMSW
Visiting Instructor



Karen Aderer, LMSW
Lecturer



Dr. Virginia Adolph, LCSW
Adjunct Instructor



Kimberly Bennett, LCSW
Adjunct Professor



Dr. Bret Blackmon
Associate Director & Associate Professor



Dr. Deslie Bonano-Broussard, LCSW-BACS, BCD
Assistant Professor

Faculty and Staff



Dr. Michelle Brazeal, LCSW
Associate Director, MSW Coordinator & Assistant Professor



Denise Brown-Rouse, LCSW
Field Coordinator & Instructor



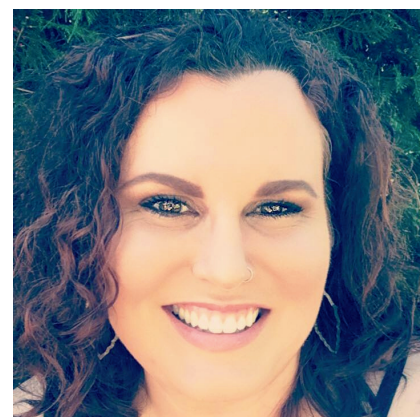
Katelee Cloys, LMSW
Adjunct Instructor



Melissa Coker
Finance & Administration Specialist

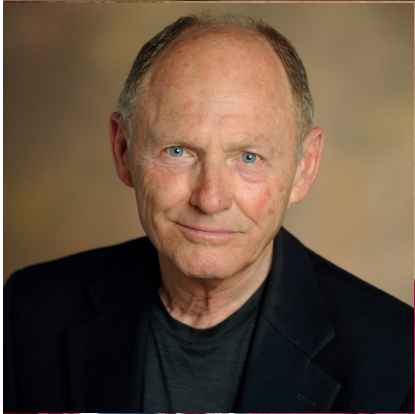


Melody Davisson, LMSW
Student Support Specialist & Instructor



Kimberly Dykes, LMSW
Adjunct Instructor

Faculty and Staff



Dr. Michael Forster, MSW
Professor Emeritus



Jessa Frierson, LMSW
Adjunct Instructor



Debbie Graham, LCSW
Professor Emeritus



Dr. Portia Granger, LCSW-S
Adjunct Instructor



Dr. Kimberly Hogan, LMSW, MA
Assistant Professor



Jenine Housewright, LMSW
Field Education Specialist

Faculty and Staff



Dr. Susan Hrostowski, Ph.D., MSW
Professor



Dr. Tamara Hurst, LCSW
Associate Professor



Amy Jackson, LCSW
Adjunct Instructor



Dr. Valeria Joiner, DSW, LCSW
Adjunct Instructor



Paige Karnic, LMSW
Assistant Professor



Dr. Jerome Kolbo, ACSW
Director & Professor

Faculty and Staff



Rachel Lahasky, LCSW-BACS
BSW Coordinator & Instructor



Dr. Joohee Lee, MSW
Professor



Toni Lewis, LCSW
Adjunct Instructor



Anna Mercante, LCSW
Visiting Instructor



Dr. Catherine Poehling, MS, LCSW, CCTP-II
Assistant Professor



Tegi Jenkins-Rimmer, LMSW
Adjunct Instructor

Faculty and Staff



Diana Smith, LCSW
Instructor



Dr. Rhonda Smith, LCSW
Assistant Teaching Professor



Lauren Strickland, LICSW, PIP
Adjunct Instructor



Danyella Terrell, LMSW
Adjunct Instructor



Shannon Toth, LMSW
Adjunct Instructor



Delories Williams, LSW, MSW
Instructor Emeritus

Graduate Assistants



Rebecca Bain

Rebecca has worked with Dr. Blackmon from the Gulf Park campus since 2021. Rebecca aids with ongoing research activities, which have included co-authoring a 2022 published academic

journal article over person-centered practices and being a co-presenter at the 2022 MS NASW conference over culturally informed crisis management. Rebecca also develops updated lecture materials for undergrad and grad level courses along with creating trainings covering supplemental topics such as grant writing.



Richelle Bien

Richelle supports Sirena L. Cantrell, Ph.D. Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students with operational duties at The Eagle's Nest Food Pantry on the Hattiesburg

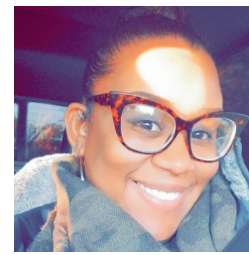
Campus. Her responsibilities include data collection, donor relations, marketing on many forms of social media platforms, manages USM student volunteers, and event planning. Year 2022-2023 events include Swipe-Out-Hunger, Thanksgiving Food Basket Sponsor Drive, Social Justice Fair, Food Donation Bin Event, Edible Book Festival, and School of Social Work Annual Cohort Challenge.



Sanja Daniels

Sanja supports Dennis Brown-Rouse, LCSW, Field Placement Coordinator, with field placement recruiting, event planning, research, and strategizing new and progressive paths in the field of

social work. Sanja has enjoyed supporting Dr. Bret Blackmon, Associate Director of The School of Social Work and appreciates the opportunities to support as a teaching assistant. Sanja is dedicated to the enhancement of the field of social work and loves to advocate for those who are underserved and underprivileged.



Karlnequa Dantzler

Karlnequa Dantzler serves as the Vice President for the Student Association for Social Workers (SASW). She has worked a long side Dr. Catherine Poehling regarding rates of maternal

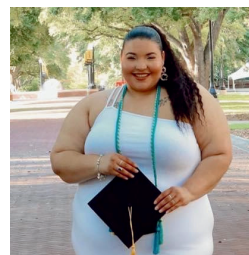
mortality and reproductive justice. She co-presented this year at the 2023 NASW MS Conference in Jackson, MS. She also assists with office duties at the Social of Social work office at the Hattiesburg Campus.



Monica Ferguson

Monica is a full-time Hattiesburg MSW student. She currently works with Dr. Hogan and Dr. Hurst in researching data for the Center for Human Trafficking Research and Training and the federal Soaring in

Mississippi grant. She also has assisted in collecting satisfaction survey data from Wraparound families. Monica has been active in SASW, a founding member of the Student Coalition Against Human Trafficking, and a member of S.T.R.I.D.E.



Xeryus Johnson

During her time as a graduate assistant, Xeryus helped with marketing and communications for the school. She helped create graphics, flyers, and other social media postings to advertise

events, job opportunities, and other achievements within the school. She also aided Dr. Susan Hrostowski and Beth Conerly with the Mississippi Wraparound Institute's data collections. She was also the editor for the 2022-2023 annual report for the School of Social Work.

Graduate Assistants



Patricia Kauhane

Patricia Kauhane is a graduate assistant on the Hattiesburg campus and a student in the part-time MSW program on the Gulf Park Campus. Her main duties are assisting the field education

department with seeking internships for BSW and MSW students. Patricia also attends the front desk assisting students and professors with various tasks as assigned.



Regina Rhodes

Regina supports Dr. Tamara Hurst and Dr. Kimberly Hogan in the Center for Human Trafficking Research and Training. Her duties have included developing a database of resources available

to survivors of human trafficking within Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River, Perry, and Stone Counties. She has also written a literature review and obtained articles on human trafficking.



Suzanne Sanders

Suzanne Sanders works as a research assistant under Dr. Catherine Poehling. She has assisted with various publications related to equitable access to contraceptives and maternal social

determinants of health. She will also be co-leading a workshop at this year's NASW conference on "Mitigating Secondary Burnout in the Classroom through Social-Emotional Learning." Suzanne also assists with the BSW writing and presentation labs.



Danyle Sonnier

Danyle works on the Hattiesburg campus assisting Dr. Michelle Brazeal on research on integrated health. Her main field of research is related to health impacts related to social determinants of

health. She has also worked as a co-editor for the 2022-2023 annual report for the School of Social Work.



Lauren Stephens

Lauren Stephens assists Rachel Lahasky, LCSW with the Pathways to the Profession program that aims to enhance workforce development in the field of social work. Under this project, Lauren

has assisted with grant writing, recruitment efforts, and event coordination. She co-presented on the project with faculty at the MS-AL Social Work Education Conference and the state NASW conference. Lauren also assisted Melody Davisson, LMSW with instruction of the Introduction to Social Work Lab. In addition, Lauren is one of the editors for the annual report.



A photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, there are large, mature trees with thick trunks and dense green foliage. A yellow rectangular box is superimposed over the middle of the image, containing the text 'Faculty Activity & Achievements'. Below the box, a well-maintained green lawn is visible, with a paved walkway curving through it. In the background, a large, multi-story brick building with white columns and windows is partially obscured by the trees.

Faculty Activity & Achievements

All Faculty Engaged in Research and Scholarly Activity

All faculty members within the School of Social Work are engaged in externally funded research and scholarly activity. Below lists the projects each faculty member works with, the organization that funds it, and a brief description of the project.

Karen Aderer

- Dance for the Health of it | Mississippi State Department of Health

This project aims to engage a growing number of Mississippians, with particular emphasis on older individuals, in recognizing and enjoying the multiple health benefits - physical, cognitive, psychological, and social - of social dancing, and thereby to improve the health profile of the state.

Bret Blackmon

- MS Person Centered Practices Institute (MS-PCPI) | Mississippi Division of Medicaid

The primary objective of MS-PCPI is to train professionals from home and community-based Medicaid Waiver programs on person-centered thinking and person-centered plan facilitation to assist them in supporting persons with disabilities and older adults in Mississippi.

Michelle Brazeal

- SOARing in Mississippi | Division of the Department of Health and Human Services-The Administration for Children and Families

The project aims to build a Continuum of Care and increase knowledge, capacity, and human trafficking response protocols with healthcare and behavioral health providers in a geographic location known for its high-risk employment industries and vulnerable populations.

- USM CAST Simulations in Motion (SIM) Program | Child Advocacy Centers of Mississippi

This program provides experiential, hands-on learning opportunities for students across a variety of disciplines to advocate for the welfare of children. The SIM program uses a professional, state-of-the-art learning space with appropriate technology and designate personnel.

- Family Medical Residency Clinic and Social Work Integration | Forrest General Hospital

The goals of this project is to provide services to the Family Medicine Residency Program using a licensed social worker and interns to deliver resident education, behavioral health and social work case management services to patients served by the clinic.

Melody Davisson

- Pathways to the Profession-A Workforce Development Initiative between Community Colleges and USM The Bower Foundation

The overall goal of this project is to increase the number of local community college students obtaining the BSW degree, successfully passing the licensure exam, and returning to a local community to work in South Mississippi.

Michael Forster

- Dance for the Health of It | Mississippi State Department of Health

This project aims to engage a growing number of Mississippians, with particular emphasis on older individuals, in recognizing and enjoying the multiple health benefits - physical, cognitive, psychological, and community - of social dancing, and thereby to improve the health profile of the state.

Kimberly Hogan

- SOARing in Mississippi | Division of the Department of Health and Human Services-The Administration for Children and Families

The project aims to build a Continuum of Care and increase knowledge, capacity, and human trafficking response protocols with healthcare and behavioral health providers in a geographic location known for its high-risk employment industries and vulnerable populations.

All Faculty Engaged in Research and Scholarly Activity

All faculty members within the School of Social Work are engaged in externally funded research and scholarly activity. Below lists the projects each faculty member works with, the organization that funds it, and a brief description of the project.

Tamara Hurst

- SOARing in Mississippi | Division of the Department of Health and Human Services-The Administration for Children and Families

The project aims to build a Continuum of Care and increase knowledge, capacity, and human trafficking response protocols with healthcare and behavioral health providers in a geographic location known for its high-risk employment industries and vulnerable populations.

Susan Hrostowski

- Mississippi Wraparound Institute # 17 | Mississippi Department of Health

The goals of this program are to guide the state of Mississippi and the state's child-serving agencies and their identified partners in the successful development of integrated systems of mental and behavioral health that are family-driven; child-and-youth guided; culturally and linguistically competent; and community-based.

Jerome Kolbo

- Title IV-E Education and Training for MDCPS | Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services

This project will result in the establishment of a Mississippi Academic Pathways for Child Protection Services between accredited Departments and Schools of Social Work within Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services in order to create an efficient, effective, and sustainable system of care for all at-risk children and families in Mississippi.

Rachel Lahasky

- Pathways to the Profession-A Workforce Development Initiative between Community Colleges and USM The Bower Foundation

The overall goal of this project is to increase the number of local community college students obtaining the BSW degree, successfully passing the licensure exam, and returning to local communities to work in South Mississippi.

Joohee Lee

- Mississippi Wraparound Institute #17 | Mississippi Department of Mental Health

The goals of this program are to guide the state of Mississippi and the state's child-serving agencies and their identified partners in the successful development of integrated systems of mental and behavioral health that are family-driven; child-and-youth guided; culturally and linguistically competent; and community-based.

Catherine Poehling

- ACCESS: Advancing Community Connections to Enhance Services and Success | Health Resources and Services Administration

The goals of this program are to increase behavioral health trainees' experience and competence in working with underserved youth and families in south Mississippi, and to increase access to behavioral health services for underserved/rural families in south Mississippi. Converge's Telehealth for All and Reproductive Health Kits Evaluation | Converge: Partners in Access This project supports unique and novel partnerships across health care, technology, and non-profit organizations to address gaps in contraceptive and other reproductive and sexual health care needs.

Diana Smith

- USM CAST Simulations in Motion (SIM) Program | Child Advocacy Centers of Mississippi

This program provides experiential, hands-on learning opportunities for students across a variety of disciplines to advocate for the welfare of children. The SIM program uses a professional, state-of-the-art learning space with appropriate technology and designate personnel.

Pathways to the Profession

A Workforce Development Initiative



Pictured from left to right: LaToya Butler and Emily Dixon at the agency visit at Back Bay Mission



Pictured: Prospective students and community college representatives at the Hattiesburg campus visit

Pathways hosted its first Agency Visit at Forrest General Hospital where prospective students gathered to learn about the various opportunities as a social worker. Guest speakers including (Riley Herrin- Kids Hub Child Advocacy Center, Amy Jackson- Forrest General Hospital ER Social Worker, Shelby Burton- Hattiesburg Health and Rehab, Lauren Hill- Forrest General Family Medical Residency Program, and Cierra Bracey- Youth Villages) shared their roles within their agencies as well as their “why” for social work. Prospective students for the Gulf Park campus were able to attend an agency visit at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi where guest speakers included (Esther Faye Clay- Pine Belt Mental Health, LaToya Butler and Emily Dixon- Hospice of Light, Jordan Roland- Biloxi School System, and Kirsten Hebron- Back Bay Mission). The program also hosted campus visits on the Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses where prospective students were able to tour campus, receive lunch, and speak with current students and faculty. Students also had the opportunity to meet with Offices of Admissions and Financial Aid as well as receive a waived application fee. Rachel Lahasky, LCSW, Instructor and Principal Investigator (PI) for the grant, and Melody Davisson, LMSW, Co-I, have directed recruitment efforts and event coordination this year.



Rachel Lahasky, LCSW



Melody Davisson, LMSW

Pathways to the Profession

A Workforce Development Initiative



The Pathways to the Profession program is a workforce development initiative purposed to bring more community college students through the USM School of Social Work to ultimately meet the high demand for social workers in Mississippi. Each recipient receives \$12,500 over the course of five semesters, plus an additional \$382 toward obtaining their license.

Pathways to the Profession grant, funded by the Bower Foundation, awarded its first class of Bower Scholars for 2022-2023. Each of the recipients were chosen from their respective community colleges which they recently transferred from to USM. The recipients were active throughout the year in assisting with various recruitment efforts through the Pathways program. This year's recipients are from Pearl River Community College, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Southwest Mississippi Community College, and Jones Community College.

2022-2023 Bower Scholars



Elise Duke
PRCC



I'Eaisha Trevillion
Co-Lin



Brooklyn Reynolds
MGCCC



Lundyn Huhn
SMCC



Shayna Clark
Jones

Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) Simulation in Motion (SIM) Program



The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) Simulations in Motion (SIM) Program, provides experiential, hands-on learning opportunities for students through the use of professional, state-of-the-art mock training labs. The program utilizes learning spaces designed to authentically represent residential and agency environments that one would encounter while working in child advocacy. Program staff provide written scenarios that offer students in various disciplines (social work, criminal justice, etc.) the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and practice skills in a supportive and safe environment. The program primarily supports students seeking a minor in Child Advocacy Studies; however, it is open to any class or community group interested or working in child advocacy.

The 2022-2023 year held exciting new developments for the CAST SIM Program including:

- Installation of state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment for remote viewing and recording of simulation exercises.
- Community training with Kids Hub Child Advocacy Center.
- Creation of brief simulations suitable for use during class meetings.

Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) Simulation in Motion (SIM) Program



The team is made up of faculty with varied experiences working with children, including Michelle Brazeal, Tamara Hurst, Rachel Lahasky and Diana Smith. Christine Lirette serves as the Project Manager, handling all day-to-day operations and scheduling.



Christine Lirette, BSW



Diana Smith, LCSW



Rachel Lahasky, LCSW



Dr. Michelle Brazeal, LCSW

SOARing in Mississippi

Written by Karelia Pitts

The University of Southern Mississippi's newly established Center for Human Trafficking Research and Training (CHRT) in the School of Social Work was awarded \$497,000 for the first year of a five-year demonstration program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

"We are delighted that ACF has recognized and chosen to invest in our Center for Human Trafficking Research and Training. This grant, one of only two awarded nationally, will enable our program and gifted professors Hurst, Hogan and Brazeal to do transformative work to move our state, region and nation closer to eliminating the horrific occurrences of human trafficking," said University President Joe Paul. "The focus of this work in developing response protocols and systems of care within South Mississippi health care systems will be a game changer. I am continually proud of the vision and good work of our faculty in the USM School of Social Work."

This support from HHS comes through their SOAR (Stop, Observe, Ask, Respond) to Health and Wellness Training Demonstration Grant Program. Under the leadership of Drs. Tamara Hurst, Kimberly Hogan and Michelle Brazeal, funding for the SOARing in Mississippi project will kickstart CHRT's efforts. Drs. Hurst and Hogan are also co-directors of the Center for Human Trafficking Research and Training.

"We are excited about the opportunity provided by the SOAR to Health and Wellness Demonstration Program. The funding and assistance will create a unique opportunity to bring together community members and providers to develop a system of care that supports survivors and identifies those at risk of exploitation," said Dr. Brazeal.

The project's human trafficking response continuum of care will include law enforcement agencies, service providers addressing homelessness, child advocacy centers, behavioral health teams, human trafficking service providers and others. For additional support, partnerships have been established with the following entities:

- Coastal Family Health Center
- Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence
- HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage) Trafficking
- Mississippi Human Trafficking Council
- William Carey University (WCU) College of Osteopathic Medicine

The lead human trafficking service provider for the project, the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, will house a care coordinator who will be a critical link between patients/clients and the agencies in the continuum of care. By working collectively, the members and leaders of these groups will provide SOARing in Mississippi with the infrastructure needed to develop a comprehensive and sustainable continuum of care that can be replicated in other parts of the state.

"SOARing in Mississippi will meet critical needs in our state by addressing the gaps in human trafficking training within health care and behavioral health settings," said Dr. Hogan. "We hope these trainings and capacity building efforts will lead to increases in identification and capacity to serve individuals, patients and clients who have experienced sex and labor trafficking."

SOARing in Mississippi

Written by Karelia Pitts

In most cases, CHRT team members have experienced that employees of health care and behavioral health facilities in the state of Mississippi are not trained to recognize and respond to individuals who have experienced human trafficking. Although multiple state agencies offer human trafficking training, addressing the health care and behavioral health professions represents a notable gap in their efforts.

CHRT's SOARing in Mississippi project seeks to bridge the gap by building a continuum of care and increasing knowledge, capacity and human trafficking response protocols with health care and behavioral health providers in the Pine Belt and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, a geographic location known to possess high-risk employment industries and vulnerable populations. These efforts will improve providers' ability to intervene and appropriately respond to patients/clients who experience severe forms of human trafficking.

"We are thrilled with this unique opportunity to improve Mississippi's response to human trafficking. The funding and technical assistance provided by the SOAR to Health and Wellness Demonstration Program will support our team's efforts to implement positive change for the benefit of survivors and those at risk of exploitation," said Dr. Hurst.

The population to be served includes individuals at risk of or experiencing sex and labor trafficking, regardless of their gender identification, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity or age. The training and evaluation components of the program will focus on employees of the state's third largest federally qualified health center, Coastal Family Health Center, and the grant team will continue to seek additional partnerships with hospitals and health departments to expand their efforts. The team's partnership with the William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine will be critical to developing these relationships.

Provider trainings will be led by Drs. Hogan and Hurst, who are human trafficking subject matter experts with extensive experience working with state and local agencies in the geographic area. Physicians within WCU's College of Osteopathic Medicine will also be supporting and enhancing the trainings offered.

To compliment the expertise of these social work and medical professionals, lived experience experts will offer technical support and guidance alongside a consultant from HEAL Trafficking. These consultants will review all training materials, human trafficking response protocols and agency policies to ensure the efforts effectively address the population's needs. Lived experience expert and consultant Nathan Earl, a survivor of human trafficking and Master of Public Health candidate at Yale University, is enthusiastic about the SOARing in Mississippi project.

"The outcome of this grant and the Center's work to prevent human trafficking in the Deep South will undoubtedly prove to be truly transformational," said Earl. "We're excited to be partnering with USM and health centers across Mississippi to advocate for and empower all vulnerable populations."

Advancing Community Connections to Enhance Services and Success (ACCESS)



Dr. Cat Poehling, LCSW

Project ACCESS grant is a project that trains graduate level social work and psychology students to work primarily with children, adolescents and transitional-aged youth at risk for behavioral health disorders. This is accomplished by placing student interns at health centers and other community-based settings to gain experience working in underserved communities where services are most needed. The project's goals are to not only increase behavioral health trainees' experience and competence in working with youth and families but also increase access to behavioral health services for underserved/rural families in south Mississippi. Some of the steps and accomplishments that this program has done this year were having some of the MSW trainees create and facilitate multidisciplinary training to increase the effectiveness and availability of mental health services in Person-Centered Care.

Dr. Poehling came on board Project ACCESS at the end of 2022 and provides clinical supervision and mentorship opportunities for MSW trainees. Dr. Poehling embodies a multifaceted role encompassing supervision, support, education, and project administration. Her expertise and dedication empower trainees to thrive, improve access to behavioral health services, and positively impact South Mississippi's underserved children and families



Shonesty Smith, MSW student

Shonesty Smith is currently with the Forrest County Juvenile Detention Center (FCJDC) where she offers behavioral health services under the Project ACCESS Grant. At the FCJDC, she provides intake assessments, therapeutic sessions, group therapy (Psychoeducation & DBT-A group therapy). She often works alongside a Ph.D Psychology Clinician Student, Nicole Caulfield, who provides psychological evaluations, therapeutic services, and outside resources as well. Together they have served 11- to 17-year-old adolescents and administered over 100 intake assessments.

She was recently assigned the task to write up a recommendation letter to the Youth Court County Judge (Carol Russell) in the month of February. With the help of her instructor, Dr. Cat Poehling, she was able to formulate a recommendation letter and was later informed that the Judge was pleased with her letter of recommendations as the adolescent's therapist. After her client's psychological evaluation, she was informed that the recommendations would possibly be put in place upon his release from the FCJDC.

In the month of March, she presented a Person-Centered Care training with 2 of her classmates Kara Lowe and Shelby Davis. They also presented a training in April regarding Trauma-Informed Care.

Advancing Community Connections to Enhance Services and Success (ACCESS)



Shelby Davis, MSW Student

Shelby Davis is currently placed with the Project ACCESS Grant at Hattiesburg Children’s Clinic and The Pediatric Clinic. She works with a PhD Psychology Extern who is also able to do diagnostic screeners and they split the case referrals. As clinicians they provide individual and family therapy sessions utilizing multiple evidence-based interventions.

At this time, they have served individuals from 18 months to 18 years old. They receive referrals from multiple providers in both clinics. This year they received over 85 referrals for therapeutic services and for the first time had to create a wait list. In some cases, they have advocated for a few more sessions with an individual due to the nature of disclosures and limited community resources in the surrounding area. She was given an opportunity this year to present a training with Shonesty Smith and Kara Lowe on Person Centered Care. She also has had the opportunity to work on future Trauma Informed Care Training to be presented in April.



Kara Lowe, MSW Student

Kara Lowe is currently placed with the Project ACCESS Grant at Kids Hub Child Advocacy Center offering therapeutic services for children ranging from 3-16 years of age. Providing kids with play therapy, she was able to help kids work on things such as feelings identification and anxiety through a strengths-based perspective. She has served 12 different families with resources and psychoeducation tools. She has trained in therapies such as TF-CBT, PCIT, and more.



Mississippi Person Centered Practices Institute (MS-PCPI)



Pictured from left to right: Courtney Williams, Bret Blackmon, Yolanda Green

The Mississippi Person Centered Practices Institute (MS-PCPI) is a partnership between the MS Division of Medicaid and the School of Social Work. MS-PCPI exists to help individuals development a successful person centered system by providing training workshops, coaching, consultation, and technical assistance on person centered practices to Medicaid Waiver's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). Person centered practices empower people, families, and human service providers to engage in a collaborative planning process where the person is the expert on how to best live their life. MS-PCPI will uses an internationally recognized, evidence-based practice model created by The Learning Community® to advance a person centered system of care in Mississippi.

MS-PCPI offers training that seeks to restore positive control to people using services through two primary workshops:

- **Person Centered Thinking:** Focuses on getting to know a person's values and actively planning with them for the life they want now and in the future. This concept gives support staff skills to better assess and plan for services with the people they support.
- **Plan Facilitation:** An interactive training on how to work with the person and their support systems to gather and develop a detailed Plan of Services and Supports (PSS).

Since inception in 2017, MS-PCPI has trained over 6,100 professional support staff within 60+ Waiver providers across numerous cities statewide to further its mission in supporting people with disabilities and those aging who are using Waiver services.

The MS-PCPI team is led by Courtney Williams, Program Director and Trainer; Yolanda Green, Training Coordinator; and Dr. Bret Blackmon, Principal Investigator.

Mississippi Person Centered Practices Institute (MS-PCPI)

Yolanda Green

Yolanda Green is one of the foremost experts in the country on person-centered practices. She has extensive and invaluable experience working with individuals with disabilities and mental health conditions for over 29 years. Yolanda has served as an instrumental part of the Mississippi Person Centered Practices Institute (MS-PCPI) for the past six years and has been one of two person-centered trainers in the entire state of Mississippi for the past eight years.

Through the MS-PCPI, Yolanda has helped expand person-centeredness to organizations throughout all of Mississippi to transform the care of individuals that receive long-term care waivers from the Mississippi Division of Medicaid. She has facilitated the training of over 4,000 case managers and support coordinators from state agencies and private businesses to increase individualized care.

Yolanda values fostering meaningful connections and relationships and being involved within her local community. She enriches her community in a variety of ways with volunteer work with the Boys & Girls Clubs, local food pantries, and high school booster clubs. She furthers her community involvement by being an ambassador for Charting the LifeCourse.

Although Yolanda will be retiring from USM this year, she plans to continue with her great passion for promoting person-centeredness. She will become chair of the board for the Learning Community on Person Centered Practices, a national board that develops international curriculum and advises federal policy regarding person-centered practices. Yolanda also plans to explore new and innovative ways to apply person-centered practices. No matter where she is, Yolanda has been and will continue to be instrumental to advancing person-centered practices.



Mississippi Wraparound Institute (MWI)



Dr. Susan Hrostowski



Dr. Joohee Lee

The Mississippi Wraparound Institute (MWI) assists child-serving agencies across the state in providing resources to children with serious emotional and behavioral problems in their own homes and communities rather than in residential treatment facilities. A partnership between The University of Southern Mississippi's School of Social Work, Mississippi Department of Mental Health, and Division of Medicaid, MWI provides training, coaching, guidance, and evaluation of Wraparound methodology. The Wraparound approach provides a comprehensive, holistic, youth and family-driven way of responding to children and families. It is based on the four key elements of a strengths perspective, a focus on underlying needs, the use of an effective team process that draws from local support systems, and a path of treatment determined by the client families.

In 2023, MWI leadership changed hands as Dr. Tamara Hurst and Dr. Michelle Brazeal took on the responsibilities of our Center for Human Trafficking Research and Training. Dr. Susan Hrostowski is now the principal investigator, and Dr. Joohee Lee is now the co-principal investigator. Dr. Hrostowski's experience and knowledge of social service systems and social welfare policy lend themselves to facilitating collaboration between MWI partners and participating service agencies. Dr. Lee's expertise in research and evaluation are vital to data analysis and outcome measures which provide essential assessments of the program and its outcomes.

The staff of MWI includes its Program Director, Elizabeth McDowell, LMSW. She is a Nationally Certified Wraparound Coach/Trainer, and she provides oversight and support to all projects and functions of the Institute. Arnecca Byrd, MS, MPH is the MWI Program Manager and responsible for data management and reporting as well as budgetary and logistical functions. Beth Conerly, MS is the Mississippi Wraparound State Specialist. She provides training and coaching, oversees the certification processes for successful wraparound implementation, and conducts compliance reviews with participating agencies to ensure fidelity to the Wraparound protocol.

Looking forward to the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the MWI team is planning to offer a state-wide conference, expanding Wraparound providers, and publishing journal articles on the efficacy of Wraparound in Mississippi.

Forrest General Hospital Family Medicine Residency Clinic and Social Work Integration

The Forrest General Hospital (FGH) Family Medicine Residency Program (FMRC) and the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) School of Social Work established a collaboration to promote the integration of behavioral health services into primary care. The program utilizes a licensed social worker, Lauren Hill, and works to train graduate-level social work interns to work in an integrated system of care. The licensed social worker and interns deliver resident physicians' education, behavioral health, and social work case management services to patients' services by the clinic.

The interns work under the supervision of Dr. Michelle Brazeal and Lauren Hill, LMSW. The responsibilities of the interns include providing on-site behavioral health assessments, screenings and intervention planning for patients presenting with a wide range of psychological, social and medical/health issues.



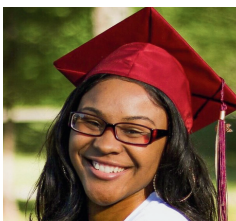
Dr. Michelle Brazeal, LCSW

Dr. Brazeal is the principal investigator for the Family Medicine Residency Program Social Work Faculty Contact and field instructor. She provides supervision to Lauren Hill, LMSW and supervision to the three interns.



Lauren Hill, LMSW

Lauren provides behavioral health consultation and assessment, behavioral health therapy, grief counseling, substance abuse support, appropriate transfers for patients at risk of harm and referrals for patients for higher levels of care.



Brittney Magee

Brittney is a veteran of the United States Air Force Reserve. She is a two time graduate of USM, receiving both her Bachelor's and currently working on her Master's of social work. Brittney is USM's advanced standing Master's program and graduated in May of 2023.



Saterrica Walker

Saterrica is a student in the MSW part-time program at the Gulf Park Campus. She received her Bachelor's in Social Work in 2019. She worked for three years doing macro social work. She then moved to Hattiesburg to complete her MSW at USM and graduated in May of 2023.



Danyle Sonnier

Danyle received her Bachelor's degree in social work at Southeastern Louisiana University in 2022. She assists Dr. Michelle Brazeal in research regarding social factors that have potential impacts on patients both physical and mental health. She was a student in USM's advanced standing Master's program and graduated in May of 2023.

Converge

Dr. Catherine Poehling, MS, LCSW, CCTP-II

Telehealth can potentially increase access to healthcare for marginalized and oppressed populations, especially in rural areas like Mississippi. However, gaps in access to care persist, particularly in sexual and reproductive healthcare. Furthermore, 208,400 people capable of becoming pregnant, residing in Mississippi, live in contraceptive deserts, with 19.2% aged 13-44 and uninsured. This environment requires unique partnerships across healthcare providers and technological innovations to address gaps in reproductive and sexual healthcare needs.



Dr. Poehling is evaluating two innovative programs launched through a partnership with Converge, the Title X Family Planning grantee for Mississippi, and Twentyeight Health, to meet the needs of Mississippians. The Telehealth Initiative, GetPersonal ©, provides free, low-barrier access to telehealth services and twelve months' worth of contraceptives. Reproductive Health Kits are also available to order online, including emergency contraception, menstrual products, and safer sex supplies. Both services have been designed with the input of community members to destigmatize sexual and reproductive health services and ensure cultural responsiveness. Dr. Poehling and the research team will assess the uptake, satisfaction, and barriers people who use the services typically encounter when accessing healthcare through mixed-method measures. They have submitted two proposals to present their findings at the Society for Family Planning Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington.

For more information or to access care, visit: <https://personally.care>



Title IV-E

Mississippi Academic Pathways



Bachelor of Social Work Scholarship Recipients

Dr. Jerome Kolbo, Ph.D., ACSW and the School of Social Work were awarded a contract from the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services to establish and lead the Title IV-E funded Mississippi Academic Pathways (MAP) for Child Protective Services. The MAP is to serve as a collaborative, multi-institutional academic partnership between accredited state-supported Institutions of Higher Learning in Mississippi and the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services. The purpose is to develop and enhance education and training directed to those providing or preparing to provide direct services to the state's most vulnerable children and families.

Dr. Kolbo is working with representatives from Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University - Starkville, Mississippi State University – Meridian, Mississippi Valley State University, and University of Mississippi to expand the MAP across the state in the next year. One of the key components of the MAP are scholarships to BSW and MSW students.



Amiya Moore is from Long Beach, MS, and she attended the University of Southern Mississippi for four years. She completed her placement at the Harrison County CPS, and she shadowed the investigations and front line. Amiya has started her training for CPS and will work as a social services specialist 1 (child safety). She looks forward to seeing what CPS has to offer her training wise at her current level so that it can help when she becomes a LMSW. She would like to have CPS foundation because she is going to learn through her experience. Amiya wants to focus on child welfare for her future. When she heard about the possibility of a scholarship she was very thankful for being a recipient. Amiya states that the scholarship has helped her tremendously.



Faith Powell is from Ridgeland, MS. She attended USM all four years for her Bachelor of Social Work. She was placed at Lamar County CPS (Wellbeing and Permanency/Safety) for her field placement. She is now employed at Lamar County CPS in the Wellbeing and Permanency Unit as a Social Service Specialist I. In her first year of employment at MDCPS, she is looking forward to being able to take her classroom knowledge of social work and apply it to real life child welfare experiences. She is looking forward to positively impacting families and children through helping them discover resources that will lead them to healthy family practices. She feels incredibly blessed to be a recipient of this scholarship and is excited to see the impact it will make on Mississippi's child welfare system and workers.

Dance for the Health of It

Dr. Michael Forster

Dance for the Health of It is a community initiative of the School of Social Work, directly applying a building body of research on the many physical, cognitive, psychological and social health benefits associated with social (aka “ballroom”) dancing. The vision of Dance for the Health of It is an active and healthy Mississippi; its mission is to engage a steadily growing number of Mississippians in recognizing and enjoying dancing’s benefits, and thereby to help improve the general health and well-being of the state. All Dance... programming is provided free to participants.

Dance for the Health of It currently offers four services on a regular or periodic basis, and boasts a growing list of community partner endorsements. Services include:

- (1) Weekly 60-minute social dance instruction and practice in popular dance styles such as Rumba, Waltz, and Swing at three community sites – the McNair Community Center on 12th St., the Merit Health Wellness Center on Hwy. 98, and USM’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Annex at 3601 Pearl St.
- (2) Regular email and Facebook information on local free and low-cost social dance opportunities.
- (3) Special event social dance facilitation.
- (4) Training for experienced social dancers in working effectively with beginning dancers.

Community partners include the Mississippi Department of Health, Hattiesburg Parks & Recreation, Southeast Mississippi Family Y, the Mississippi Public Health Institute, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, as well as South Mississippi dance studios and the Hattiesburg chapter of USA Dance, a national nonprofit.



Second Chance Prom

PRISM & Dance for the Health of It

The PRISM LGBTQ+ Resource Center hosted the Second Chance prom on March 25, 2023; the theme was “Once Upon a Time.” It was a collaborative event where students, staff, faculty, and community members of all gender identities and expressions were celebrated.

Some lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals chose not to attend their high school prom out of their concerns about not feeling welcomed or accepted. Second Chance Prom allowed individuals to enjoy prom in a supportive environment.

Dance for the Health of It's Dr. Forester joined in the fun. At the beginning of the event, Dr. Forester taught an engaging dance lesson to the participants.

The night was filled with fabulous people, fun interactions, and delicious food! Everyone enjoyed the performance by “Whitney Houston,” and DJ Pretty Peech rocked the house! Many delighted in the Zen Room filled with beautiful artwork, amethyst & rose quartz crystals, and the photo booth with its cool lights. Attendees danced, laughed, and celebrated their authentic selves!



NASW Annual Conference Presentations

Faculty and Students | March 23-24, 2023

Graduating More Licensed Social Workers for Mississippi: An Innovative Workforce Development Initiative |

Rachel Lahasky, LCSW, Jerome Kolbo, PhD, ACSW, Melody Davisson, LMSW, and Lauren Stephens, LSW, MSW Student

Student Engagement: Brave Talk |

Reginald Virgil, BSW, MSW Student, NASW-MS Intern, Amanda Frison, BA, NASW-MS Graduate Board Member, and Trinity Woodson, BSW Student, NASW-MS Undergraduate Board Member

Challenges, Adaptation, Transformation, and Resilience Capacities of Social Workers during the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Qualitative Study of Social Workers in South Korea |

Joohee Lee, PhD

Mitigating Secondary Trauma and Burnout in the Classroom through Socio-Emotional Learning |

Cat Patteson Poehling, MSW, DSW, MS, LCSW and Suzanne Sanders, MSW Student

Challenging Presuppositions and the Future of Social Work Leadership |

Michael Forster, PhD, LCSW

Building a Human Trafficking-Specific System of Care |

Kimberly Hogan, PhD, LMSW, MA, Michelle Brazeal, PhD, LCSW, and Tamara Hurst, PhD, LCSW

Reproductive Violence in the U.S.: Opportunities to Promote Justice, Equity, and Inclusion in Social Work Practice |

Cat Patteson Poehling, MSW, DSW, MS, LCSW and Karlnequa Dantzler, MSW Student

Family Driven Practice at the Family, Community, and Policy Level |

Elizabeth Dickerson McDowell, LMSW and Joy Hogge, PhD

MBOE 2023 Rule and Regulation Update Beth McNamee, LCSW Board Member/Chair of Mississippi Board of Examiners Social Work Discipline for Social Workers and Marriage & Committee Family Therapists |

Valerie Joiner, DSW, LCSW and Board Member

AL/MS Social Work Education Conference

Faculty and Students | October 26-28th, 2022

Wraparound: Care Planning for Families with Complex Behavioral Needs |

Beth Cornerly

Preparing Social Work Professionals to Respond to the Climate Crisis |

Michael Forester, PhD

Pathways to the Profession: An Innovative Workforce Development Initiative Enrollment |

Jerome Kolbo, PhD, Rachel Lahasky, LCSW, and Lauren Stevens, MSW Student

Uncovering the "black box" of Clinical Social Work Practice by Examining an Integrated Health Program |

Michelle Brazeal, PhD, Bret Blackmon, PhD, and Rebecca Bain, MSW Student

CAST: Sim Space, Safe Space, and Students |

Rachel Lahasky, LCSW, Tamara Hurst, PhD, and Kara Lowe, MSW Student

Classroom to Practicum: Practical Tips for Practicum Ready Students |

Denise Brown-Rouse, LCSW, and Patricia Kauhane, MSW Student

Matters of the Heart |Danyella Terrell, LMSW

Effective Assessment Strategies for Identifying and Assisting Survivors of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation |

Tamera Hurst, PhD, and Michelle Brazeal, PhD

Ethical Challenges and Dilemmas in the Social Networking World |

Laura Achter, LMSW



Student Activity & Achievements

Bachelor of Social Work Club

Hattiesburg

The BSW Club is the School of Social Work's club for undergraduate students. When you join, you will begin building your network with other Social Work students and related fields. The BSW Club gives back to the community and the university through volunteering, philanthropic events, and so much more. We focus on self-care, building relationships, and giving back. This year, the BSW Club members have participated in the Wellness Festival, Out of the Darkness Walk, Social Work Appreciation Month, Voter Registration, Green Dot training, and Kid's Hub Teddy-Grams just to name a few



President
Gracee Wells



Vice President
Hailey Morgan



Secretary
Julee Albert



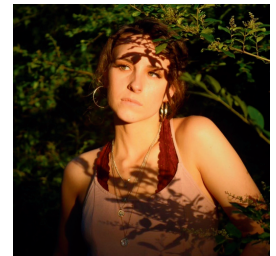
Social Media Chair
Tatum Brown



Assistant Social Media Chair
Gracie Roberson



STRIDE Chair
Dianna Dardar



Political Chair
Hailee Hodges

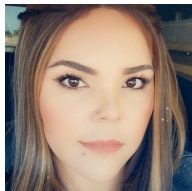
Bachelor of Social Work Club

Gulf Park

BSW Officers Spring 2023-Fall 2023



Jen Canaan
President



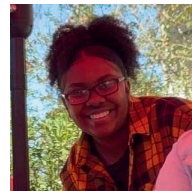
Michett Ramos
Vice-President &
STRIDE Chair



Secretary
Madi Dortch



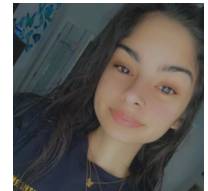
**Social Media
Chair**
Natalie Clayton



Treasurer
Carmon McNair

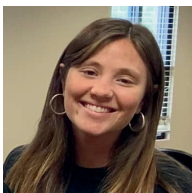


**Fundraising &
STRIDE Chair**
Sanjuana Valtierra



**Fundraising
Chair**
Saima Jamil

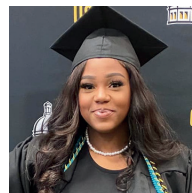
BSW Officers Spring 2022-Fall 2022



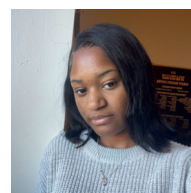
**Angelina
Mistretta**
President



Caroline Jacobs
Vice-President



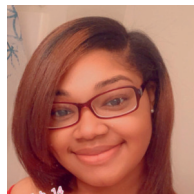
**Secretary &
STRIDE Chair**
Aleia McDougal



**Social Media
Chair**
Camari Fairley



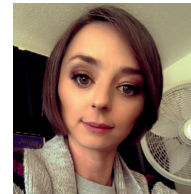
Events Chair
Amiya Moore



STRIDE Chair
Michett Ramos



Treasurer
Denisha McNair



**Fundraising
Chair**
Wendy Beale



Student Association of Social Workers (SASW)

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Student Association of Social Workers of the School of Social Work (SASW) is a student-led organization with faculty advisement. Membership requires students to be in Graduate school at USM, enrolled in the School of Social Work, and pay the appointed dues. Active members have the opportunity to vote, hold office, and participate in all organizational functions and activities.

SASW hopes to see increased future student involvement in The Act (Action in Critical Times), STRIDE, and SASW leadership. MSW students have the opportunity to network with other individuals in the social work field. Members can help foster support to those who are interested in joining the graduate program by shared experiences while getting connected in areas of their interest.

Spring 2023 SASW Chapter Officers and Board

Members:

Vice-President - Karlnequa Dantzler

Secretary - Richelle Bien

Treasure - Brandy Ellis

Cohort Representative for

Advance Standing Full-Time - Tandra Griffith

Full time - Monica Ferguson

Part-Time - Bridney Lake

Saturday Part-Time - Marcus Pigford

The Eagle's Nest Food Pantry

SASW Involvement and Accomplishments

- Welcome Back Social
- SASW Tee-Shirt Fundraiser
- Lunch and Learn opportunities
- Handwritten Cards to Recognize Social Work Month
- USM School of Social Work Faculty Candidate Interviewing
- Mississippi State Condom Distribution to Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses
- The Eagle's Nest Food Pantry Thanksgiving Basket Sponsor
- Event and Food Bucket Donation Drive
- Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk
- End of Spring 2023 Semester Farwell SASW Dinner



STRIDE & SAPA Efforts

The STRIDE team is committed to fostering, sustaining, and strategizing toward racial inclusion, diversity, and equity (STRIDE). We 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.

Sexual Assault Prevention Ambassadors (SAPA) is a student led organization whose mission is to promote and facilitate discussion amongst peers regarding the issues of sexual misconduct and to help prevent sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence. SAPA focuses on educating students and advocacy within the University of Southern Mississippi.

In October of 2022, STRIDE held two student listening sessions to assess the culture, climate, teaching, and curriculum in our program. These listening sessions were led by student interns Tyra Briggs and Julia Folse and overseen by two of our alumni - Dequarios Overstreet and Shatia Jones. Without faculty present, the students were able to speak as freely as possible. The information gathered was then presented to our faculty and used to plan future trainings and events.

That December of 2022, BSW Intern and SAPA member Julia Folse, SAPA Vice Present and STRIDE member Dianna Dardar, and SAPA faculty advisor- Dr. Lisa Wright, presented about sexual assault on college campuses, how to give content warnings, and empathically handle discussions involving topics that students may unfortunately be struggling with themselves to the School of Social Work faculty. They also discussed Title IX procedures. In January of 2023, Tegi Jenkins-Rimmer conducted an Anti-Racism training with our faculty. The Anti-Racism was then embedded into the school's curriculum and housed in the undergrad Human Rights class. In response to student feedback encouraging student and faculty relationships, an Human Library event was co-hosted by Hattiesburg BSW Club, SASW club, and the PRISM LGBTQIA+ Resource center on Valentine's Day 2023. The event had a huge student and faculty presence, with about 80 people attending. The faculty members who shared their stories were Dr. Susan Hrostowski, Dr. Portia Granger, Amy Jackson, Dr. Rhonda Smith, Laura Achter and Rachel Lahasky.



Human Rights and Social Justice in Italy

Study Abroad

In the summer of 2023, The University of Southern Mississippi offered students an opportunity to spend 15 days in Italy. Karen Aderer, LMSW, and Dr. Bob Press, an Associate Professor of political science, taught 16 students in a class titled Human Rights and Social Justice in Italy. Students received an \$1,800 scholarship from the university.

This program focused on human rights and social justice issues relating to migrants, refugees, and asylees in Italy. Italy is a priority destination for migrants, as Italy's island of Lampedusa is one of the main ports for those trying to migrate to Europe. Migrants come from many places (West Africa, Afghanistan, Syria, amongst others) and flee for many reasons. The Mediterranean is one of the most dangerous routes that migrants can take, and many do not survive the trip.

Students stayed in two cities (Perugia & Pettinengo) that host migrants. Students had opportunities to meet migrants and hear their stories, as well as to learn from Italian humanitarian workers who help migrants to obtain legal services, housing, job training, advocacy, and other social services. The program also offered excursions to Rome.



Karen Aderer, LCSW



Awards & Honors

Deborah Graham

Lecturer Emeritus

Deborah Graham retired from her teaching position as a lecturer in the USM School of Social Work in 2021. She began teaching in the School of Social Work in 2006. During her time at USM, she taught and developed courses in the MSW program.

Prior to her appointment at USM, Ms. Graham worked as a clinical social worker and supervisor for seventeen years. She was able to integrate her experience with the academic material to enhance her teaching. While at USM, Ms. Graham was also a member of the School of Social Work Field Office. She worked to develop internships and placed student interns. In this position, she provided support and counseling for the students and field instructors.



Since 2014, Ms. Graham has been a consulting social worker for the Fellowship Health Clinic. This clinic provides free medical care to the uninsured and under-insured residents of Forrest and Lamar counties. She currently works with the clinic staff and provides leadership on a monthly basis to the work team which assesses the services and policies of the clinic.

For over twenty five years, Ms. Graham has provided supervision to social workers seeking a clinical license in the state of Mississippi. She continues this work today and enjoys mentoring future clinical social workers.

After a year and a half in retirement, Ms. Graham returned to teaching in the MSW program as an adjunct instructor. Her passion for teaching and the social work profession called her back to the classroom. As a teacher and mentor, she hopes to have an influence on the future social workers in this country.



Alabama - Mississippi Social Work Legacy Award

Dr. Earlie Washington



In October, 2022, Dr. Earlie Washington was recognized as the inaugural recipient of the Legacy Award at the 50th Annual Alabama-Mississippi Social Work Education Conference. Dr. Washington was nominated by the School of Social Work as she has long demonstrated outstanding professional leadership and has made extensive contributions to education that is worthy of being recorded in the archives of Alabama-Mississippi Social Work education.

Dr. Washington has been a leader in the fields of gerontology, substance abuse, and social work education, accruing an estimated 2 million dollars for areas of research. She developed and taught more than a dozen different undergraduate and graduate social work courses related to policy, practice, diversity, research, and geriatric social work. She also helped develop a teaching/learning laboratory at the Hattiesburg Senior Service Center, coordinated field placements for students, and designed a community-service-learning component through which students provided literacy tutorial services to adults in the community. Dr. Washington was also the recipient of the “Social Work Educator of the Year” by the Alabama- Mississippi Social Work Education Conference.



The Association of College and University Educators (ACUE)

USM Faculty Development Institute

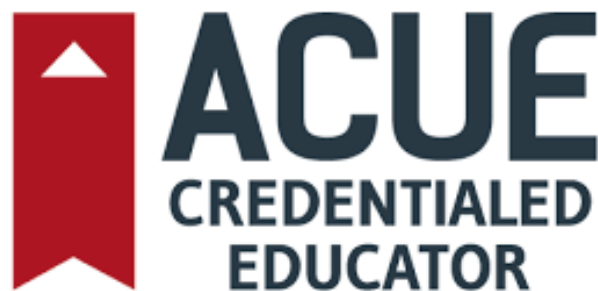


Dr. Michelle Brazeal, LCSW
ACUE Certified



Karen Aderer, LCSW
ACUE Certified

The School of Social Work's Karen Aderer and Dr. Michelle Brazeal received their Certificate in Effective College Instruction from the Office of the Provost as well as badges from the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE). The ACUE Faculty Development Institute at Southern Miss is an intensive professional development program offered to enhance teaching practices. The Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) was founded by leaders in higher education to advance instruction, support college educators, and promote student success. ACUE helps colleges and universities achieve their goals for students through innovative faculty development partnerships and a research-based Course in Effective Teaching Practices. The program consists of three courses over three semesters, beginning with Active Learning, Assessment of Teaching and Learning, and culminating with Effective Course Design.



Mississippi Conference on Social Welfare Awards

The MS Conference on Social Welfare (MCSW) is a nonprofit agency established in 1927 to support the social welfare of Mississippi. Currently, the organization serves as an educational conduit for social workers and social service providers to provide the best care and services to Mississippians. MCSW's efforts are focused on advancing the disciplinary knowledge of human service practitioners and encouraging the continued educational scholarship of students choosing social services as a chosen profession

Dr. Valerie Joiner **2022 Merit Award Recipient**

Dr. Valerie Joiner received the 2022 Merit Award for working countless hours of voluntary service that helped to reestablish the office of the Treasurer, solidify organizational revenue, and managing the organization's website operations. Merit Awards are given yearly at the annual conference to a community agency and MCSW member for outstanding service to the organization.

Dr. Joiner is a Licensed Certified Social Worker. She earned her MSW and DSW degrees in Social Work from Tulane University, New Orleans. Dr. Joiner has over 19 years of experience working with individuals in the areas of trauma, mental health, substance use, and medical social work. Dr. Joiner is a social worker at the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System and the owner of Magnolia Bloom Counseling, LLC in Biloxi, MS. She also serves as the Vice-Chair of the MS Board of Examiners for Social Work and Marriage and Family Therapists.



Britnie Gray **2022 MCSW Scholarship Recipient**

Britnie A. Gray was the recipient of the 2022 MCSW Scholarship for Graduate Students. The MCSW Graduate Scholarship is a competitive scholarship that the organization annually awards to a graduate student who embodies the spirit of MCSW and who is committed to the social work profession.

Britnie is a proud native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi and a first-generation college student. She is currently in the part-time MSW Program at USM's Gulf Park campus while working full-time as the Community Coordinator for the Infant-Toddler Court Program through Forrest County Youth Court. Britnie's career endeavor is to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) due to her experience serving families with children who have been exposed to neglect and abuse. As a LCSW, She wants to provide dyadic developmental psychotherapy services for infants, toddlers, and their families.

Delories Williams Social Work Scholarship Endowment

A new scholarship has been established through The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation. Initiated by her former student, Catherine Thompson, the scholarship is named in honor of esteemed School of Social Work Instructor Emeritus, Delories Williams. The endowed fund will award a scholarship to a student majoring in social work with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5. Preference will be given to a student who is a single parent.



Delories Williams, MSW



Catherine Thompson, LICSW

Ms. Delories Williams has dedicated her life to the service of people. For over two decades, she shared her experience and instruction to aspiring social work professionals, mentored new instructors as an instructor at the USM of Social Work, and worked as a coordinator for the BSW program. She retired from USM in 2018, and currently has the distinction of Instructor Emeritus. Ms. Williams is currently the owner of Delories Williams Consulting and Training, an organization that partners with schools, nonprofits, and businesses to offer professional development training and consultative services. Throughout her career, she has received many awards including the MS NASW (National Association of Social Workers) Pine Belt Program Unit Special Recognition Award, the 2017 Mississippi/Alabama Educator of the Year Award, the 2018 AKA Family Strengthening Award, and the National Association of Social Workers MS 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award. The impact of Ms. Williams' presence and involvement within the program is immeasurable. Countless students, faculty members, staff and clients agree that their lives have been made remarkably better because of the role she has had in it. Ms. Williams' influence continues to multiply, as students join the field of social work, changing the lives of the people and the communities in which they serve.

Carol P. Moraway Scholarship



An unwavering Christian faith, an unshakeable loyalty to family, and a deep, professional commitment to the core values of social work are the cornerstones of Carol P. Moraway's life of service and professional achievement.

The Carol Partridge Moraway Scholarship was established by Carol's friends and professional associates to recognize her many significant contributions in the field of social work and to support The University of Southern Mississippi's School of Social Work students as they pursue their MSW degree.

Carol graduated from The University of Southern Mississippi's School of Social Work in 1986 with her MSW degree and ultimately becoming an LCSW and ACSW. During Carol's impressive professional social work career, her core values centering around faith, family, and the foundational principles of social work practice enabled her to facilitate positive change and growth in the thousands of individuals she touched. Carol's professional journey included a career with the Veterans Administration Hospital System, retiring as a Supervisory Social Worker, a distinguished career with the US Coast Guard Reserve, retiring at the rank of Commander, and a career with Continuing Education Productions (CEP), Inc., She retired as one of CEP's founding partners and the Chief Operating Officer for the Gulf Coast Region.

Her service to her clients and colleagues earned her the honor of being selected as NASW's Social Worker of the Year for the Gulf Coast Region in 2013.

Carol P. Moraway Scholarship

Carol was introduced to the field of social work during her early years of employment with the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. She worked as a ward manager on medical and surgical service. After working closely with social workers daily and seeing “up close and personal” the world of social work, Carol decided to pursue social work as a career enrolling in USM’s social work program. Upon graduating from USM with her MSW, she returned to the VA and was employed as a social worker serving on psychiatry, medical, and surgical services. Carol also served in a variety of key hospital management and administrative positions ultimately retiring as a medical center clinical supervisory social worker. During Carol’s US Coast Guard career, she rose to the rank of Commander and was recognized for her loyalty and command integrity holding many key national command roles.

In 1993, Carol joined forces with Wallace Long, LCSW, and together they founded and incorporated “Continuing Education Productions, Inc.,” (CEP) a Mississippi corporation. CEP is a national full-service corporate employee training company with two divisions.

The founding division Continuing Education Production, specializes in multifaceted corporate training and CEO coaching, training over 2,000 corporate CEOs, supervisors, and managers. The second division Social Work Foundations specializes in CE training for social workers and a multitude of other human service professionals, training over 10,000 professionals nationally.

Moraway and Long credit their social work careers and their social work education, skills and core values as the key ingredients of their business and entrepreneurial success, adding “Social Workers possess valuable skills that are highly valued in today’s corporate world. Be creative. Be an entrepreneur. Your leadership and vision are tremendously needed in the world today. Don’t wait or be fearful. Take action. Never doubt your ability to influence the behavior of others. The success of our business endeavors are directly tied to our commitment to not quit.”

We hope to raise enough funding to create the Carol Partridge Moraway Social Work Scholarship Endowment so that her scholarship may continue in perpetuity. Once \$25,000 has been raised the contributions will be used to establish this endowment.

Gifts to the Carol Partridge Moraway Scholarship (Fund #2512) at any level are welcome and may be paid outright or pledged over five years. To support the Carol Partridge Moraway Scholarship, scan the QR code or visit usmfoundation.com/moraway



Scholarship Donors & Recipients

**Betty M. Johnson
Annual Scholarship**

Tashera Beamon

**Sara Caldwell Graduate
Social Work Endowment**

Lauren Spight

**Lester Glick Social Work Caribbean
Studies Scholarship Endowment**

Kaylee Lenoir

**Frances Gandy Social Work
Scholarship Endowment**

Ronald Myers

**Fern and John Pearson
Social Work Scholarship**

Cambria Tatum, LaQuita Brown, Debra Foster

**Nellie B. Hutchinson
Scholarship Endowment**

Dymond Frost and Na'Tosha Harris

**Betty Spencer Scholarship
at USM Gulf Coast**

Brandon Terry

**Beulah Elizabeth Roberts
Compton Scholarship**

DaNeitha Boyd and Britnie Gray

**Day/Mehearg Social Work
Scholarship Endowment**

Pamela Plott

**Milton Concannon
Scholarship**

Gabrielle Kennedy

**Nancy Baker Endowment
for Scholarships**

Jermonique Catchings

**Gerry Parish Graduate
Social Work Endowment**

Emerald Meadows

**Elizabeth Boggan and Ronald Charles
Howard Family Social Work Scholarship Endowment**

Cheryl Jones

**Lynn Purnell Hagan Social Work
Scholarship Endowment**

Sashia Fluker

**Parker Family Social Work
Scholarship Endowment**

Eric James

**Barbara Pease Memorial Social Work
Scholarship Endowment**

Courtney Jackson

**Katharine L. Guice Memorial
Scholarship Endowment**

Mitchett Ramos

**Samuel Tucker Master of Social Work
and Undergraduate Annual Scholarship**

Claudio Williams and Abbigale Nguyen

Faculty and Staff Awards



MSW Instructor of the Year

Dr. Kimberly Hogan

BSW Instructor of the Year

Dr. Rhonda Smith

MSW Adjunct Instructor of the Year

Dr. Valerie Joiner

BSW Adjunct Instructor of the Year

Amy Ealy Jackson

Outstanding School Spirit

Rachel Lahasky

Outstanding School Service

Melody Davisson

Outstanding Peer Collegiality

Dr. Joohee Lee

Outstanding Community Engagement

Dr. Kimberly Hogan

Outstanding Innovation and Impact

Dr. Tamara Hurst

Graduate Assistant of the Year

Patricia Kauhune & Lauren Stephens

Outstanding Researcher of the Year

Dr. Michelle Brazeal & Dr. Catherine Poelhing

Field Instructors of the Year



Kimberly Bennett, LCSW

Brightside Intensive Outpatient Program

Kimberly Bennett, LCSW is the Program Director for Brightside Intensive Outpatient Program which is a part of Covington County Hospital. Kim has been a field instructor for 3 years. Kim obtained both her BSW and MSW at The University of Southern Mississippi. “During my time at USM, I was given two amazing internship opportunities. I had the absolute best field instructors. The opportunity to learn from these two amazing social workers helped shape who I am as a social worker today. Because of my internship experience, I have always wanted to be a part of the internship program. I thoroughly enjoy helping students during their time as interns.”



Maggie Schuler, LCSW

Fivehearts Healthcare Mental Health Rehabilitation

Maggie Schuler is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker providing contractual supervision services to Fivehearts Healthcare Mental Health Rehabilitation staff. She also works full-time in her private practice, where she specializes in grief counseling and trauma. Maggie operates from a humanistic lens, taking a strengths-based approach to treatment, as well as in her supervisory role. Maggie has extensive training and experience utilizing Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy in various treatment settings with clients of a multitude of symptom presentations.

Maggie Schuler graduated Magna cum laude from Tulane University in 2011. She went on to receive her Master of Social Work degree from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 2015, also graduating with honors. She completed a certificate in gerontology at LSU, with special interests in cognitive decline and thanatology. Her social work career has encompassed various positions, including one as a program director at a continuum care community in which she developed and led a program for residents with mild to moderate cognitive decline (i.e. dementia and Alzheimer's disease). She is well rounded and highly skilled. Maggie finds it to be an honor to assist new social workers in honing their skills in order to serve various marginalized populations.

Field Instructors of the Month

Dr. DeMetra Bates | USM Institute for Disability Studies

September

Dr. Stephanie Smith | Pine Grove Women's Center

February

Beverly Brown | MSU/Shine Early Learning Head Start

October

Lee Stanbro | Youth Villages

March

Aubree Middleton | ComfortCare Home Care

November

DeQuian Johnson | Parker Children's Center

April

Amy Jackson | Forrest General Hospital

December

Kevin Allen | Long Beach School District

May

Kamila DeFlanders | VA Gulf Coast Health Care System

January



Field Students of the Year



Camari Fairley | BSW Gulf Park

Camari Fairley is a Senior at the University of Southern Mississippi on the Gulf Coast campus. She is currently completing her BSW field placement at the MSU Extension Head Start Program under the supervision of Beverly Brown. Camari is grateful to be involved and learning from such an amazing organization!



Irene Heyne | MSW Gulf Park

Irene Heyne is currently in the part-time MSW program on the Gulf Coast campus. She is completing a field placement at the Gulfport Public Library, which is a new program for patrons of the library. She has been on the front end of this pilot program that introduces social workers to the libraries to better serve members of the community.



Hailey Morgan | BSW Hattiesburg

Hailey Morgan is a senior at the University of Southern Mississippi, pursuing a BSW. She chose to pursue social work after learning about and witnessing the immense number of unmet physical, mental, and spiritual needs within Mississippi. Throughout the BSW Program, she discovered her passion for serving people and populations who are underserved and marginalized. She is eager to provide and increase access to community resources needed to improve quality of life for these populations. She has been connecting people to community resources by volunteering at multiple non-profit organizations, including First Bridge, The Children's Center for Communication and Development, and Camp Baldwin in Alaska, and by interning at the Family Health Center in Laurel, MS. . After graduating with her BSW, she plans to pursue her master's through USM's Advanced Standing Social Work Program!



Monica Ferguson | MSW Hattiesburg

Monica began her social work journey at USM after various careers in education. Originally from Phoenix, AZ, she holds a bachelor's degree in English and a Master's in Communication specializing in Health Communication. After relocating to Hattiesburg in 2019, Monica developed the goal to become a therapist in the Pine Belt based on her desire for people to be authentically seen and known. She also is a passionate barista who loves the coffee community and hopes to open a non-profit cafe to fund mental health care for those unable to access care. After completing her MSW, she plans on becoming an LCSW and integrating psychological and physical wellness through her local coffee shop and clinic to normalize mental health care in the Hattiesburg area.

Students of the Year

Overall BSW Winners



Abby Donaho, BSW, Hattiesburg, Semester 3

Hometown: Clinton, MS

Abby chose social work because of her interest in mental health. "I lost my father when I was ten due to mental health reasons...This has only pushed my drive to understand more about mental health and how I can help others with the best resources available," she stated. Abby's favorite class so far has been Human Rights and Social Justice because of the amount of information learned about the rights people deserve. She stated that she enjoyed hearing about her peers' perspectives on life and the social injustices they have endured. She believes this is a way for she was stay open-minded and push for better equality in our country. After graduation, Abby plans to enter the MSW program at USM. Abby also plans to work towards licensure in Equine Assisted Therapy.



Caroline Jacobs, BSW, Gulf Park, Semester 4

Hometown: Biloxi, MS

Caroline Jacobs chose social work because she wanted to make a difference in people's lives. "My favorite class is a tie between Social Work Practice I and Interview Record. Both classes helped me, especially during my internship, learn how to speak with our clients and peers," she stated. Caroline has been accepted into graduate school at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. Her goal is to graduate with her MSW and become a LCSW.



Students of the Year

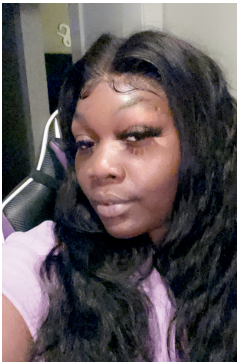
BSW Awards



Shayna Smith, BSW, Hattiesburg, Semester 1

Hometown: Petal, MS

Shayna chose social work because of her own recovery journey. She is recovery from trauma, drug and alcohol addiction, homelessness, and abuse. She stated, "...With my Higher Power, and the help of many amazing social workers, I have been able to break the cycle and build a life today that is beyond my wildest dreams." Shayna's favorite classes have been Social Policy and Introduction to Social Work. She stated that she enjoyed Social Policy because it has opened her eyes to the way that policy affects social work and has challenged her to "think outside the box" when advocating for clients at the macro level. Shayna's goal after graduation is to attain funding for the non-profit she founded, Renters for Recovery, which is a supportive sober living facility.



Cheryl Jones, BSW, Gulf Park, Semester 2

Hometown: Houston, TX

Cheryl Jones chose to become a social worker because of her own experiences in the foster care system. She has dreamed to advocate for children who were in the same position as she was. She stated, "I want to be the one who has been through what a lot of children may be going through and help them through their tough times." Cheryl's favorite class in the program so far is Human Behavior in the Social Environment II because it has allowed her to learn more about herself and recognize the changes she must make in order to have a successful life. Cheryl plans to work for Child Protection Services and eventually attain a Master of Social Work. She aspires to become a LCSW and implement individual and group therapy for children in foster care.



Kaitlin Harvey, BSW, Hattiesburg, Semester 2

Hometown: Collins, MS

Kaitlin chose to pursue Social Work because she wants to empower people, battle social injustice and create a positive difference. She enjoys learning about others, and she wants to help them find ways to overcome challenges in their lives. Kaitlin's favorite course in the program so far has been Forensic Social Work. "I am considering working for child protective services or school social work so the information in this course is very beneficial to these careers. she stated. After graduation, Kaitlin plans to continue my education by enrolling in the master's program, completing the program, and sitting for my licensure exam to become an MSW.



Hailey Morgan, BSW, Hattiesburg, Semester 4

Hometown: Petal, MS

Hailey chose social work after learning about and witnessing the immense number of unmet physical, mental, and spiritual needs within Mississippi. Throughout the BSW program, Hailey has discovered her passion for serving people and populations who are underserved and marginalized. Hailey's favorite social work class has been Human Rights and Social Justice. "This was my favorite class because the content adapted to the constant changes in our society, and the assignments gave us an opportunity to reflect on these changes and how we, as social workers, can advocate alongside people who are marginalized," she stated. Hailey plans to pursue her MSW in the Advanced Standing Program at USM.

Students of the Year

Overall MSW Winners



Richelle Bien, MSW, Gulf Park, Part Time Fall 2020 Cohort

Hometown: Jacksonville, IL

Richelle chose social work so that she would have the opportunity to impact individuals' lives positively. Richelle is especially passionate about advocating for mental health awareness and education. Her favorite class in the program has been SWK 643, Psychopathology with Dr. Granger. "I am interning at an inpatient psychiatric hospital and must use the DSM very often. I am confident in comprehending many of the signs and symptoms of various mental illnesses and have learned many different approaches and treatments of psychopathology," she stated. Richelle plans to attain her licensure and continue working in the behavioral health field in an inpatient hospital setting.



Suzanne Sanders, MSW, Hattiesburg, Full Time Summer 2022 Cohort

Hometown: Flowood, MS

Suzanne chose social work because it allowed her to pursue her goals of working in the mental health field while simultaneously equipping her for community advocacy. Suzanne believes it is important that all Mississippi residents receive access to high quality, evidence based mental health services. Her favorite class was Psychopathology. "When someone has been struggling for a long time and finally understands the "why" behind their symptoms, it can be a very empowering moment," she stated. After graduation, Suzanne hopes to work with children and families in community mental health while pursuing her LCSW.



Students of the Year

MSW Awards



Christi Corfee, MSW, Hattiesburg, Full Time Fall 2021 Cohort

Hometown: Corona, CA

Christi chose social work because she has always been passionate about finding effective ways to positively impact the lives of others. She pursued a MSW degree in order to work within her community and make a difference in the lives of others. Her favorite class in the program has been Interventions with Children and Families. "It has become my passion to approach therapy from an eclectic viewpoint to best meet individual needs. There is no greater place to start than with children and families" she stated. After graduation, Christi plans to run her own practice. She aspires to help individuals and families heal and grow.



Amanda Nelson, MSW, Gulf Park, Part Time Fall 2021 Cohort

Hometown: Purvis, MS

Amanda chose social work because she enjoys helping others, working with families and children, and to network with others who help the families she will serve. Amanda's favorite class is any that Dr. Valerie Joiner teacher. "She keeps my focus and engages the whole class in whatever she is teaching," she stated. Amanda shared that she especially enjoys Problem Solving with Groups because it has given her a chance to work with many different members of her cohort. After graduation, she plans to attain her licensure and work for either a school or a hospice company.



Baxter Rose Williams, MSW, Hattiesburg, Full Time Fall 2022 Cohort

Hometown: Hattiesburg, MS

Baxter Rose chose social work because she is passionate about walking with families through some of the most difficult times of their lives. After working for three years as a family and victim advocate at a child advocacy center, she decided to pursue her MSW to grow in her skills and knowledge to be able to provide trauma-informed and evidence-based therapeutic services to those families. Baxter Rose's favorite class has been Forensic Social Work with Dr. Granger. "I believe the integration of social work into the criminal justice system is vital to ensure appropriate and trauma-informed care is available to all involved in the criminal justice system," she stated. Baxter Rose plans to work in child advocacy centers to provide therapeutic services to kids and their families.



Brandon Terry, MSW, Gulf Park, Part Time Fall 2022 Cohort

Hometown: Gulfport, MS

Brandon chose social work due to his aspiration of becoming a licensed clinical social worker to practice as a therapist. Brandon's favorite class far since enrolling in the MSW program is SWK 614: Critical Thinking and Ethical Decision Making. "Dr. Jerome increased our competence and confidence in dissecting ethical dilemmas to arrive at an appropriate course of action to produce the most desirable results and bolster the well-being and quality of life of the clients we serve," he stated. Brandon's goals after graduating is to seek employment within the field of servicing clients experiencing mental health, substance use, and relational issues. Brandon also has plans to begin a mentorship program within a church or school for adolescent boys and young men.



Krijn Paetow, MSW, Hattiesburg, Part Time Spring 2023 Cohort

Hometown: Vancleave, MS

Although initially unaware of the purpose and versatility that a career in social work offered, Krijn chose social work to assist individuals who have been exonerated and recently incarcerated in reclaiming their autonomy. "The complex wounds these individuals have endured is unique and requires delicately, tailored support services" she stated. Krijn's favorite class so far has been SWK 628: EBP II Program Evaluation taught by Dr. Jerome Kolbo. Krijn plans to pursue her dreams of working with The Innocence Project, whose headquarters are located in New York City, New York. She also plans to travel, as a licensed social worker, acquiring an awareness and appreciation for the lived experiences of individuals from varied parts of the country.

Phi Alpha Honor Society

Phi Alpha is an organization of social work students who meet a high standard of academic excellence within their careers. It bonds them together to promote humanitarian goals and ideas. In the Fall, members helped families from Catholic Charities and Salvation Army have smiles on Christmas morning.



New Inductees

Julee Albert	Shelby Marie Davis	Marti Jordan	Jana Majorca Rabun
Richelle Bien	Kennesha Durce	Beverly Lewis	Michett M. Ramos
Tatum Brown	Monica L. Ferguson	Madison McBroom	Mallory Reed
Rachel Burns	Debra A. Foster	Monica McClellan	Regina Lynn Rhodes
Jennifer Canaan	Dymond Alexander Frost	Allison Mitchell	Alexis Sapp
Jacqueline L. Coffman	Tandra Griffith	Kathryn Lynn Moolenaar	Shonesty L. Smith
Sheldy Cooley	Ashley Dedeaux Holland	Marissa Moore	Danyle Sonnier
Christiana Corfee	Veronica Howard	Hailey Morgan	Alyssa Stogner
Ellie Grace Currie	Dykesha Ivory	Kelly Napier	Saterrica Walker
Karlnequa Dantzler	Xeryus Elizabeth Johnson	Kamryn Orliviyah Rhubi Nelson	Gracee Wells
Dianna Darder	Kristen Jordan	Hayley L. Nowlin	Abby Zink
Jennifer Lynn Davis			

Officers



President
Brittany Hinton



Vice President
Keisha McLendon



Secretary
Dani Jo Ezell



Treasurer/Hattie Rep.
Alisha Graham



Gulf Coast Rep.
Christina McNair



2022 - 2023 Graduates

Bachelor of Social Work

Fall 2022

Hattiesburg

Asya Anderson

Caleigh Ball

DeMari Blakely

Jake Blanton

Holly M. Bray

Tyra Migai Briggs

Tia Buxton

Nakaiya Quaion Daniels

Katherine Davis

Emma Dyer

Demecia Edmond

Kailani Espola-Ayala

Dani Jo Ezell

Johnathan Robert

Fletcher

Julia Folse

Taylor Forrest

Hannah Gill

Alisha Venable Graham

Dayra Gutierrez

Ebonie Holliday

Barrett Jones

Kenessra Jones

Sydney Kendrick

Marie Shana Lee

Christine Frances Lirette

Jadea Lofton-Ervin

SaCara Martin

Raney McLeod

Emerald Meadows

Tosha Mills

Caliyah Moore

Brianna Morgan

Anya Moye

Mackenzie Mullen

Lexi Newcomb

Ashley Omerza

Lakia Phillips

Jasmine Plummer

Malorie Richardson

Tori Ricks

Aysha Danyelle

Robertson

Kayla Tate

Tiffany Marie Trippe

Bachelor of Social Work

Spring 2023

Hattiesburg

Tatum Brown	Kelly Napier
Dianna Eva Couch	Hayley Nowlin
Morgan Davenport	Marissa Perret
Lauren Kennedi Gates	Matikia Pittman
Angela Michelle Gordon	Faith Powell
Sarah Brandt Haiman	Gracie Roberson
Haley Holtorf	Vanessa Smith
Micaela Shardae Johnson	Anna Grave Trexier
Danyell Lockhart	Karrial Trotter
Keisha Consuela McLendon	Jasmine D. Walker
Hailey Grace Morgan	Jasmine L. Wallace

Gulf Park

Wendy Beale	Aleia McDougal
Vash'ti Cristin Coleman	Denisha McNair
Camari Fairley	Angelina Ratika Mistretta
Caroline Marie Jacobs	Amiya Moore
Kamerin Labat	

Master of Social Work

Spring 2023

Hattiesburg

Rebecca Bain

Dykesha Ivory

Shonesty Leandrea Smith

Abbe Bates

Xeryus Johnson

Danyle Sonnier

Madison Blankenship Blakeney

Shayla Lee

Jedidiah Spiller

Shalisha Brooks

Juliet Liuzza

Alisha Elizabeth Steele

Rachel Burns

Briana Lofton

Mary Elizabeth Stevens

Christian Chism

Kara Lynn Lowe

Alyssa Stogner

Christi Corfee

Brittney Magee

Mequandra L. Twilie

Ellie Grace Currie

Monica McClellan

Ciara Kimjuanna-Amiracle Watson

Shelby Davis

Katie Lynn Moolenaar

Sonia Williams

Shania Douglas

Marissa Moore

Abby Zink

Veronica Lauryn Foerg

Kalin Nester

Tandra Griffith

Anthony Michael Parkinson

Brittany Mekala Hinton

Jana Majorca Rabun

Ashley Dedeaux Holland

Mallory Reed

Renee Kristen Isaac

Jeri Suzanna Sanders

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Gulf Park

Floenciana Belleza Abney

Patricia M. Kauhane

Richelle Kaylene Bien

Maggie King

Alex H. Chung

Greer Perle Massey

Sanjia Moon Daniels

Simone McKinney

Karlnequa "Karl" Dantzler

Christiana L. A. McNair

Brandy A'Lea Ellis

Wenona Mellott-Riley

Sophia Victoria Esphagen

Lauren Stephens

Mary Adelyn Fraiser

Giffin Teets

Aria Pendleton Grant

Brandon Pate Thaggard

Lora Anne Grissom

Reginald L. Virgil

Morgan Patrice Henry

Saterrica Walker

Graduates



Hattiesburg BSW



Hattiesburg BSW



Hattiesburg MSW Full-Time Cohort



Gulf Park BSW



Hattiesburg MSW Advanced Standing Full-Time Cohort



Hattiesburg MSW Advanced Standing Full-Time Cohort



Gulf Park MSW Part-Time Cohort



Gulf Park MSW Part-Time Cohort

Meet the Editors

The Annual Report for The University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Work was created and edited by three graduate assistants: Xeryus Johnson, Danyle Sonnier, and Lauren Stephens. Each of these students graduated with their Master of Social Work in May 2023.



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