THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

RESEARCH DAY

Friday, November 6, 2026 – Marine Education Center

9:00 am	**Welcome**	Continental Breakfast	Conference Center
9:20 am	**Opening Remarks**	Kelly Lucas, *Vice President for Research*	Conference Center
9:30 am	**Plenary Panel** Jose Martinez *Assistant Professor, Computer Science & Computer Engineering* Kelly Darnell *Director, GCRL and Associate Professor, SOSE* Stacey Hall *Executive Director, NCS4 and Professor of Sport Management*	Leila Hamdan, Moderator *Associate Vice President for Research, Coastal Operations*	Conference Center
10:30 am	**Break**		
10:45 am	**Concurrent Sessions**		
	Translation Stephanie Smith *Associate Professor, Psychology* Heather Broadhead *Associate Teaching Professor, Polymer Science & Engineering* Loraine Stuart *Professor, University Libraries* Jeffrey Wiggins *Professor, Polymer Science & Engineering*	Natalie Guess *Assistant Director, Innovation and Impact* *Office of Innovation Management*	Turtle B182
	Collaboration Jessie Kastler *Director, Marine Education Center* Jennifer Lemacks *Associate Dean, Nursing & Health Professions* Brent Hale *Associate Professor, Communication Studies*	Melissa Thompson *Executive Associate Dean and Professor* *College of Education & Human Sciences*	Whale B181
	Perspective Nuno Oliveira *Associate Professor, Kinesiology & Nutrition* Chao Meng *Associate Professor, Marketing* Kristina Mojica *Associate Professor, Marine Science*	David Cochran *Associate Dean for Research* *College of Arts & Sciences*	Shark A172
12:00 pm	**Lunch**	MEC Conference Center	

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

RESEARCH DAY

1:00 PM Research Showcase			
Tours	**Thad Cochran Center for Marine Aquaculture (TCMAC)** **Aquatic Toxicology Laboratory** *Tours are offered at 1:15 and 1:45, and spots are limited, so be sure to sign up! Closed-toe shoes are required. Please meet at the MEC entrance at your tour time for golf cart transport.*	Angelos Apeitos *Hatcher Manager, TCMAC* Jeremy Johnson *Associate Director, GCRL Technical Operations*	TCMAC & GCRL
Demos	Underwater video technology to enhance scientific studies	Jill Hendon, Tiffany Weidner, Dyan Gibson *Center for Fisheries Research & Development*	
	Uncrewed Maritime Systems *MEC Patio*	Luis Altamirano Perez Agno Rubim de Assis *Ocean Science & Engineering*	
	GCRL Vessels *Boat Dock & Courtyard*	Tiffany McNeese *GCRL Director of Vessel Operations*	
	Building Skills for Ocean Careers *Boat Dock*	Jessie Kastler & MEC Staff *Marine Education Center*	
Poster #	**Exhibit Hall/Globe Room**		
101	Ocean-Atmosphere Modulation of Hurricane Intensification in the Gulf of Mexico	Diana Bernstein *Assistant Professor, Ocean Science & Engineering*	
102	Fitting Six Major Economies: Parametric and Nonparametric Models Compared from In-Sample Fit and Out-of-Sample Prediction	Mohammed Chowdhury *Assistant Professor, Finance*	
103	Sustaining Language Teacher Careers: Self-Care, Professional Quality of Life, and Intent to Leave	Chimene Gecewicz *Assistant Professor, Social Science and Global Studies*	
104	Seeding the Blue Economy: Research Partnerships Through the Marine Aquaculture Demonstration Initiative (MADI)	Megan Gima *Marine Aquaculture Demonstration Program Manager*	
105	Tissue- and season-specific microRNA profiles of Varroa destructor	Fernanda Gonzalez *Postdoctoral Fellow, Bio, Enviro & Earth Sciences*	
106	Exploring Burnout in Interdisciplinary Teams: The Influence of Job Demands, Resources, Team Dynamics, and Social Support in Mental Health Professionals	Sasha Gordon *Assistant Professor, Health Professions*	
107	Are Bigger Muscles More Fatigable During Resistance Exercise?	Ryo Kataoka *Assistant Professor, Kinesiology and Nutrition*	
108	Social Support and Maternal Healthcare Utilization Among Black Women in Mississippi	Hyunmin Kim *Assistant Professor, Health Professions*	
109	Can a Cup of Tea Help Us Move and Think Better? Exploring Yerba Mate's Effects on Cardiometabolic and Cognitive Health.	Joice Lacruz *Assistant Professor, Kinesiology and Nutrition*	
110	The PREFER CHW Research Education Program: Community Health Workers as Key Partners in Genomics Education and Communication	Susan Mayfield-Johnson *Professor & Associate Director, Health Professions*	
111	Influence of Chinstrap Tightness on American Football Helmet Performance	Scott Piland *Professor, Kinesiology and Nutrition*	
112	Amplifying Ability Through Science: Community-Engaged Research, Inclusive Programming, and Future Opportunities in the AMP Lab	Alana Turner & Kaitlyn Wojciechowski *Kinesiology and Nutrition*	
113	Who Benefits from AI? AI Policies and Learning Outcomes: Evidence from Undergraduate Computer Science Classes	Crystal Wang *Visiting Assistant Professor, Education*	
114	AI-Driven Marine Monitoring: Deep Learning for Fish Detection, Classification, and Habitat Analysis	Chaoyang Zhang *Professor, Computing Sciences & Computer Engineering*	

115	CUBEnet: AI-Enabled, Dual-Use Ocean Observing Network and Maritime Testbed	Vishwa Sunkara *Sr Data Scientist, Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise*
116	Exploring Machine Learning and Data Collection Methods for Underwater Magnetic Target Detection	Joseph Luttrell *Data Scientist III, Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise*
117	From Detection to Decision: Underwater vehicles combining sonar, magnetics, and seabed type for object localization and classification	Ralf Riedel *Data Scientist III, Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise*
118	Toward Hazard-Aware Planning: A county scale Flood Susceptibility and exposure map analysis for Coastal Mississippi	Sarah Binte Faruque *Summer Field Program Coordinator, Marine Education Center*
2:30 pm	**Closing Remarks**	Kelly Lucas, Vice President for Research