

# THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

at Mississippi State University<sup>®</sup>



## Campus Tours

Need assistance with [campus tours](#)?  
Contact: Natalie Parrott Coats  
(nparrott@grad.msstate.edu).

## Upcoming Events

**Graduate Student Welcome Week** will take place September 12th-18th.

**Graduate Coordinator Workshop** will take place September 14th-16th.

## Kudos

Bringing home **seven** of the **nine** awards given, students from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences leave their mark at the **2021 MAS Conference!**

## A Note From Our Dean

Dear Graduate Faculty and Graduate Students,

Welcome back to a new academic year. It has been an exciting summer with our baseball team bringing home the World Series Championship title from Omaha in early July. We hope that you also had a rewarding summer season and are looking forward to starting a new semester, getting engaged with research or taking classes. We hoped that the COVID-19 pandemic would be behind us by the start of the fall semester but unfortunately, it is not. Thus, we continue to ask you to follow the health and information guidelines that have been posted on the [COVID-19 webpage](#), and encourage those who are eligible but have not done so to consider the COVID-19 vaccination options that are available.

We would like to reassure you that the university continues to work to ensure that faculty, staff and students can return to campus and engage in their activities in the safest environment possible. As President Mark Keenum has encouraged in his messaging, we are all called upon to “do our part” in keeping the campus a safe and healthy environment in the midst of the persistent COVID-19 pandemic.

As we begin our new academic year, we remind all graduate students of the many services that the university offers in support of your needs, especially your health and wellbeing. Please know that [counseling services](#) are available to assist you with mental health wellness and the [Bully Pantry](#) is available for those who experience food insecurity. These are indeed challenging times so remember to be considerate and compassionate of others’ needs and we will all see this semester through successfully and hopefully, with minimal disruption. Please know that the Graduate School is here to meet your needs in the best way possible, and as appropriate, direct you to those services that can best help address concerns or challenges that you may encounter through the course of the semester. Again, welcome back, and on behalf of all in the Graduate School we wish you a productive, inspiring, and rewarding semester.

Best Regards,

Dr. Peter Ryan  
Executive Vice Provost and Dean – The Graduate School

## **Grad School Announcements: Preparing Future Faculty Program**

MSU Preparing Future Faculty Program is now accepting applications until September 1st. The Preparing Future Faculty Program is hosted and coordinated by the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), the Office of the Graduate School, and Mississippi State University Libraries.

The purpose of this program is to assist current graduate students in preparing for future faculty careers.

September 1st is the deadline for graduate students to apply for this program. The Preparing Future Faculty Program will begin September 17th.

To learn more about this program and begin an application click [here!](#)

## **College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; New Online Ag. Degree**

Mississippi State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences announced that they have launched new online master's degree programs. The following master's degrees are now available through online instruction:

- Agribusiness Management
- Agriculture with Animal and Dairy Sciences concentration
- Early Intervention

CALS also offers two online master's degrees in Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion with a Health Promotion concentration.

To learn more about CALS programs click [here](#).

## **The Department of Communication; Masters of Arts in Communication**

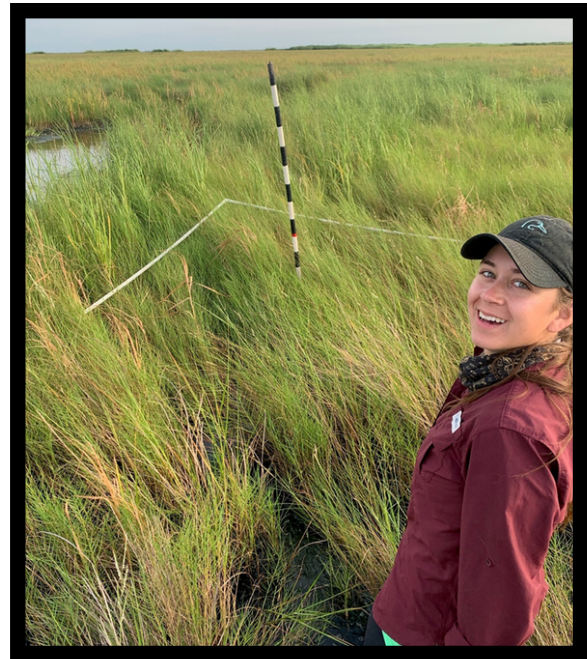
Mississippi State University's Department of Communication is launching a new master's of communication program in January of 2022.

The new degrees curriculum will focus on health, crisis, and leadership communication methods. The purpose of the program is to prepare students whose professional needs will focus on speech, media, communication, and more.

To learn more about the Masters of Arts in Communication degree click [here](#).

## **Student Spotlight: Madelyn McFarland, Wildlife Ecology**

Madelyn McFarland, a Graduate Research Assistant in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture just won the 2021 Society of Wetland Scientists' Best Student Oral Presentation Award (see below). Madelyn is working on her Master's Degree in Wildlife Ecology and her co-advisors are Dr. Brian Davis and Dr. Mark Woodrey. The title of her presentation was "Avian Use of Marsh Terraces in Gulf Coastal Wetland." Below is a picture of Madelyn conducting her research.



Madelyn McFarland, Wildlife Ecology

If you would like to highlight a student in our video testimonial series, please contact Natalie Parrott Coats, at [nparrott@grad.msstate.edu](mailto:nparrott@grad.msstate.edu).

# BULLY'S

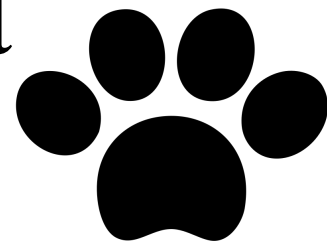
## CL&SET & PANTRY

Bully's Closet and Pantry (BCP) is a collaborative effort between the university's Division of Student Affairs and the Student Association. As part of the MSU Food Security Network, a broader initiative to meet the basic needs of students, BCP provides nutritious food, toiletries, professional clothing, school supplies, and other necessary items to current MSU students free of charge.

Students interested in shopping at BCP can [reserve a block of time](#) on Monday, Tuesday or Friday from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. Students who prefer curbside pickup can complete the [online form](#) and come by Wednesday or Thursday from 1:00 - 6:00 to receive their order. Students in need of additional resources can click [here](#) to learn more.



# Graduate Student Welcome Week



The Graduate Student Association (GSA) and the Graduate School host the Graduate Student Welcome Week each fall to welcome students back to campus for the new academic year. Throughout the week, students are encouraged to engage in a host of events.

All activities are focused on connecting graduate students to MSU in a way that helps them to identify and access the many resources provided to create a healthy and exciting atmosphere where they can successfully reach their academic goals.

To learn how to engage and become a member of the Graduate Student Association, visit our website [here](#).

For additional information about Graduate Student Welcome Week visit the [Graduate Student Association Cowbell Connect Page](#).



## Graduate Student Welcome Week September 12 to 18



**For more information and to RSVP, please visit the Graduate Student Association Cowbell Connect page.**

For all events, please be prepared to show your MSU student ID, practice social distancing and wear a mask when indoors or when social distancing is not possible.

Sunday 9/12	Monday 9/13	Tuesday 9/14	Wednesday 9/15	Thursday 9/16	Friday 9/17	Saturday 9/18
Flag Display on Drill Field 3 PM	Free Ice Cream <i>Student Union Patio 2nd Floor</i> 2 PM - 4 PM	Campus Tours <i>Meet in Allen Hall Lobby near elevators</i> 9 AM	Free Coffee at Strange Brew Coffeeshouse <i>Both Strange Brew locations</i> 6 AM - 9 AM	Sunrise Yoga <i>Drill Field</i> 7 AM	Service Friday Volunteer service opportunities for graduate students	Graduate Student Mixer <i>MSU Junction</i> 4 PM - 6 PM
	DMC Library Tour <i>Digital Media Center, Michell Memorial Library</i> 1 PM	Overview of the Library Services Workshop <i>Library Auditorium 1st Floor, Michell Memorial Library</i> 3 PM	Self-care Workshop with Health Services <i>Allen Hall Room 12 and Virtual</i> 4 PM	Crafting a Winning CV Workshop <i>Virtual</i> 11 AM	Professional Headshots <i>Register on Cowbell Connect for more information</i>	Food Trucks, games and fun!
		Campus Tours <i>Meet in Allen Hall Lobby near elevators</i> 3 PM	Professional Headshots <i>Register on Cowbell Connect for more information</i>	Riley Center Tour <i>Riley Center, Meridian</i> 5:30PM		
				GSA General Body Meeting <i>Riley Center, Meridian and virtual</i> 6 PM		



## Graduate School Staff Spotlight: Lilli Harris

Lilli is a Program Coordinator overseeing the graduate development programs. While she started working at MSU in 2016, she joined the Graduate School in March 2020. In this role, Lilli organizes events and opportunities for graduate students such as the Three Minute Thesis Competition, Image of Research Competition, Graduate Teaching Assistant Workshop, Travel Assistance Grants for Graduate Students (TAGGS) and more.

Additionally, she is the advisor of the Graduate Student Association and assists in planning the Graduate Research Symposium and graduate student event weeks, such as the upcoming Graduate Student Welcome Week. When asked what she likes most about her job, she said working and interacting with the graduate students. "I love seeing them grow and bringing their unique talents to our wonderful campus." Lilli completed her Bachelor of Science in Psychology at the University of New Orleans, her Master of Business Administration from MSU and is currently pursuing her PhD in Higher Education Leadership at MSU.



Lilli Harris, Program Coordinator

## August 2021: Events/Dates

**August 23-October 15:** Apply online via myState for December graduation; \$50 fee

**September 1:** Preparing Future Faculty Program Deadline

**September 6:** Symposium registration opens

**September 12-18:** Graduate Student Welcome Week

**September 14-16:** Graduate Coordinator Workshop

**October 1:** Deadline for Spring 2022 international applicants applying for degree programs or Unclassified admission on Starkville or Meridian campus.

“  
*Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.*

-Thomas A. Edison”



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