

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

at Mississippi State University[®]



Campus Tours

Need assistance with campus tours?
Contact Lindsey Shelton
(lshelton@grad.msstate.edu) or Natalie
Coats (nparrott@grad.msstate.edu).

Upcoming Events

Image of Research - Don't miss out on our newest competition for graduate students. [Registration](#) closes March 5th.

Spring Graduate Student Research Symposium will be held virtually February 27th.

Graduate Student Appreciation Week will take place April 5th-9th.

Kudos

Dr. Scott Willard receives [Love of Learning award](#).

Opportunities

The MSU College of Business' Richard C. Adkerson School of Accountancy is set to begin offering online Master of Professional Accountancy and Master of Taxation programs in the fall, building on the college's nationally-recognized online offerings.

Both 30-hour programs prepare students for careers in business and accounting. Enrollment will begin in spring 2021 with classes commencing at the start of the fall semester in August.

Additional information about these accounting programs can be found [here!](#)

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Graduate School,

We have almost reached the mid-point of the semester and students are taking mid-term exams, or sitting for comprehensive, thesis or dissertation defense exams. I hope all are well and are managing to cope with this most unusual artic-like winter weather. During this challenging time, I encourage graduate faculty to be as accommodating as is possible with graduate students regarding research and coursework progress as they may have experienced significant disruption during the prolonged spell of severe winter weather.

While the groundhog may have seen his shadow on February 2, and predicted another six weeks of winter, I am optimistic and look forward to spring-like weather in March. Thus, I encourage you to participate in the many spring events that Ms. Lilli Harris along with Ms. Meredith Brock, GSA President, and the Graduate Student Association, have planned. Such events include the Spring Research Symposium, the Image of Research Exhibition and Graduate Student Appreciation week. We look forward to seeing the excellent research being undertaken by our graduate students during these upcoming events.

Stay well, stay warm and stay safe as we continue to navigate the unusual winter weather.

Respectfully,

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

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Michael Nadorff

"I serve as the director of the clinical psychology PhD program, which started in 2014. Although I was not quite the founding director (the program began in August 2014 and I relieved Dr. Kevin Armstrong in September of that year), I have been here the whole time and it has been a joy to be a part of the program's development, and as part of that seeing so many graduate students develop, become doctors, colleagues, and licensed psychologists. It is really an amazing opportunity getting to see students develop over the years, learn to become independent, and as time goes on becoming leaders in the field and mentoring others.

I have always had an interest in finance and investing dating back to grade school when my 7th grade team almost won a trip to Chicago by winning a stock market game competition, though sadly we slipped up the last week and placed second. Nevertheless, personal finance and investing became a lifelong interest and hobby of mine. In looking at our curriculum, I realized that for most psychology students, you never receive any training on business, personal finance, or investing, despite these issues being critical. Everyone who runs a private practice is also a small business owner, and all of us should think about retirement one day.

With this in mind, I have worked to incorporate this training into our broader training. I present lectures on "Making Cents of Psychology" to our doctoral students to help them learn about investing and personal finance, and I have twice sponsored stock market games for our students, putting up an Amazon gift card as a prize. In doing so, it is my hope that some of our students will find a love for investing the same way I did."



Dr. Michael Nadorff

Student Spotlight: Bryan Whittenton, Nolan Parker, & Graham Oakley

Graduate students at Mississippi State University are expected to rise above and beyond but three students working together on building and flying drones for the Plant & Soil Sciences crop research program are mounting the skies literally and figuratively. From left to right, Bryan Whittenton (GRA-PhD), Nolan Parker (Masters), and Graham Oakley (GA Masters) all work for their department flying missions in various crops.



(photo credit: Dominique Belcher)

The drones serve in multiple sensing missions. In peanuts, the data captured estimates early maturing varieties and underground ripeness. In corn and cotton, the imagery is used to make variable rate nitrogen maps when the crops are only knee-high. This helps reduce the amount of fertilizer used and increase nitrogen use efficiency. In weeds, the imagery captured from the drone missions is used to estimate herbicide drift damage in soybean.

Students who learn to build a drone have a leg up in the market place. Building drones teaches electrical and electronics theory. Flying the drones teaches physics principles. Most importantly, processing the imagery from missions teaches mapping and spatial skills.

Needed by 2023 are an additional 150,000-250,000 FAA Certified Part 107 Unmanned Pilots. Our program is doing its part to raise up a class of talented individuals.

Supply Drive Success

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.

BCP was visited more than 500 times last fall. A significant portion of those visits were made by graduate students. Realizing that our students were in need and supplies were low motivated The Graduate School and Graduate Student Association to spearheaded a two-week supply drive to stock the pantry. The Graduate School, College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Public Affairs and International Services Office pitched in and collected two car loads of food and supplies. The kindness of all who participated will greatly benefit the students who utilize BCP's free services.



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.

Deadlines

January 18-March 5: [Image of Research Registration](#)

February 27: [Graduate Student Research Symposium](#)

March 19: Last day for thesis/dissertation defense for May graduation.

March 22-April 1: Image of Research Exhibition

April 1: Last day for initial submission of thesis/dissertation to the Library for May graduation.

April 5-9: Graduate Student Appreciation Week

April 23: Last day to submit Library-approved thesis/dissertation to the Library for May graduation.

April 28: Deadline to pass thesis/dissertation defense after all other requirements are met except thesis/dissertation submission to Library.

April 28: Last day for non-thesis comprehensive exam for May graduation.

“We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better.”

-JK Rowling



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