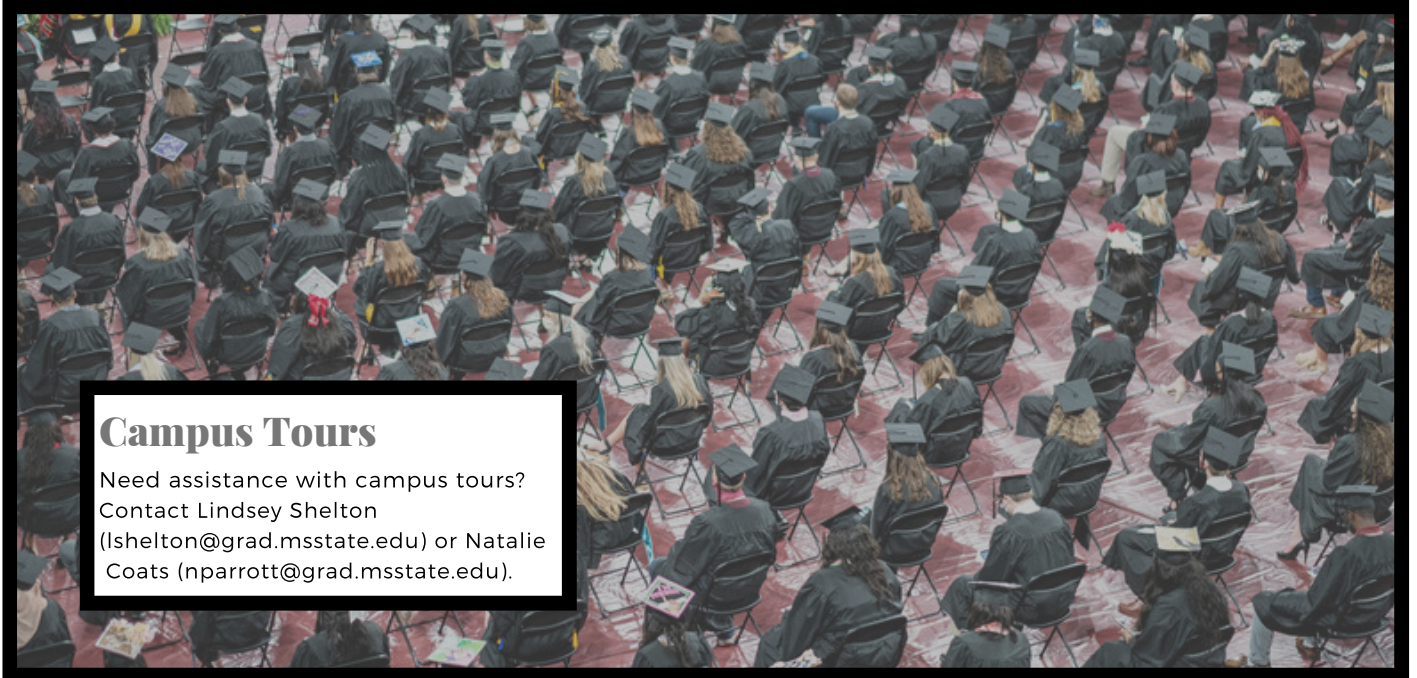


THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

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

Starkville Campus Commencement will take place
April 29th-30th

Meridian Campus Commencement will take place
May 3rd

Kudos

Karly Lyons is a first-generation college graduate who now has returned to school to earn her Ph.D.

A Note From Our Dean

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Graduate School,

It is hard to believe that we are concluding another academic year, but it is an exciting time with 486 students completing requirements for the Ph.D., Master of Science, Master of Arts or the Education Specialist degree and will graduate on April 30, 2021. We congratulate all graduates on this significant accomplishment and wish them every success in their future endeavors. Additionally, we express our deep appreciation to the graduate program coordinators who guide the students through their programs, the students' major professors who guide their research programs and a big thank you to all the faculty who deliver the coursework.

This has been a challenging year. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted many lives, including graduate students conducting their research. We mourn the loss of loved ones and extend best wishes for a speedy recovery to those that may still be suffering from the effects of the virus. In spite of these challenges, the Graduate School witnessed record enrollment for the spring semester accounting for 18.3% of the total student body. We also observed a marked increase in minority student enrollment, including 10 McNair and 5 SREB scholars. The university also introduced six new degree programs since fall 2020, with another three programs approved this spring for offering in fall of 2021. Enrollment in "Thrive-in-Five" accelerated baccalaureate to Master's degree programs reached an all-time high of 134 students this semester.

The Graduate Student Association successfully hosted a fall and spring research symposia, the 3 Minute Thesis and Research Image contests this year, albeit in a virtual environment. They also hosted a very successful in-person awards ceremony in early April. To the Graduate Student Association Officers and to all the graduate students who participated in these events we thank you for your engagement and congratulate the award winners.

In closing, on behalf of the Graduate School and all those who make graduate education possible at Mississippi State University, we wish you all a pleasant and relaxing summer season and look forward to seeing those that will be returning to campus this fall.

Respectfully,

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

2020-2021 Graduate School Award Winners

Mississippi State's Graduate School and Graduate Student Association are recognizing students and faculty mentors for their teaching, research and service contributions in an unprecedented academic year.

Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year – Amanda C. Black of New Albany, Computational Biology.



Graduate Student Association Advisor of the Year – Harish Chander, Associate Professor, College of Education's Department of Kinesiology.



Graduate Service Assistant of the Year- Madison L. Hardcastle of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, an Agriculture/Animal Science master's student.



Graduate School Mentor of the Year- Matthew Ross, professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences and Center for Environmental Health Sciences.



Graduate Research Assistant of the Year- Mariana Santos-Rivera of Starkville, a Life Sciences/Biochemistry Doctoral student.



NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Recipients

"The [NSF GRFP](#) recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited US institutions. The five-year fellowship includes three years of financial support including an annual stipend of \$34,000 and a cost of education allowance of \$12,000 to the institution."

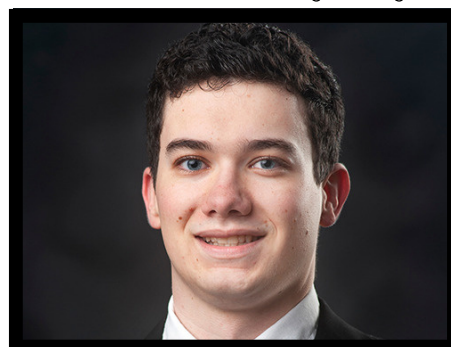
MSU's NSF recipients are Zoe M. Fowler, an electrical engineering major from Columbus; Cameron J. Gruich, a chemical engineering major from Ocean Springs; and Nathan C. Frey, a chemistry major from Slidell, Louisiana. [Click here](#) to learn more about these outstanding students, their research, and future plans.



Zoe Fowler, Electrical Engineering



Cameron Gruich, Chemical Engineering



Nathan Frey, Chemistry

2021-2022

GSA Executive Board

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) provides programs and services to enrich the graduate student experience and promote, support, and represent graduate student interests and values. The GSA also meets monthly to provide a forum for graduate students.

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) held their executive board elections in April. The election concluded on April 3rd with the following officers being announced:

President: Robyn Rush



Vice President: KarLee McNeel



Vice President of Meridian Affairs:
Margaretta Campbell



Treasurer: Ira Parsons



Service and Outreach Coordinator:
Jeremy Montgomery



Technology and Marketing Coordinator:
Ashik Amin



Secretary: Brittany Macha



Graduate School Staff Spotlight: Business Unit

Get to know your Graduate School Team! This month we'd like to spotlight our Business Unit.

The business unit in the Graduate School provides unparalleled support to all graduate students, specifically those that are granted a graduate assistantship. In addition, the business unit manages daily financial activities, budget preparation, accounting and purchasing, ensuring compliance with university policies and procedures, including federal and state regulations. The business unit is also responsible for coordinating and processing all personnel actions.

Amanda Baine, Business Manager II, has a bachelor's degree in Human Resources from Harding University and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from Mississippi State University. She joined the Graduate School in July of 2016.



Amanda Baine, Business Manager II

Shlynn Morris, Business Coordinator, has a bachelor's degree in Business Technology (BT) from University of West Alabama (formerly known as Livingston University). She joined the Graduate School in December of 2006.



Shlynn Morris, Business Coordinator

Spring 2021: Deadlines

May 1: Deadline for Fall 2021 international applicants applying to degree programs or Unclassified on Starkville or Meridian campus

May 10: Maymester classes begin.

May 15: Deadline for Summer 2021 domestic applicants applying for degree programs on Starkville or Meridian campus

May 15: Last day for Summer 2021 domestic and international applicants applying for Distance degree programs.

May 24-June 25: Apply online via myState for August graduation; \$50 fee.

June 10: Deadline for domestic applicants applying for Starkville and Meridian campuses.

“
I believe that education is all about being excited about something. Seeing passion and enthusiasm helps push an educational message.
”

-Steve Irwin



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