

# THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

at Mississippi State University®



## Halloween Video

Visit our website and click on the [social media](#) link to get in the halloween spirit.

## October Highlights

**3 Minute Thesis Competition** takes place November 12th-13th. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Graduate Assistantship Teaching Workshop** registration opened on October 15th for the Spring training. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Kudos

Distance MBA Ranked #1! It's not surprising that we think our graduate programs are the best but it's always nice when they are recognized by others. MSU's Distance MBA program has earned the top spot as 2020's number one choice by Best Value Schools. The article can be viewed [here!](#)

## Campus Tours

Need assistance with campus tours?  
Contact Lindsey Shelton  
([ishelton@grad.msstate.edu](mailto:ishelton@grad.msstate.edu)) or Natalie  
Parrott ([nparrott@grad.msstate.edu](mailto:nparrott@grad.msstate.edu)).

Graduate Faculty and Students,

We are now beginning to see the fall color and to feel the cooler evenings as we enter into the short rows, to quote the plant scientists, of the fall semester with just a few weeks remaining until final exams. This is indeed a busy time for everyone, with the completion of assignments and class projects to meeting deadlines for comprehensive/qualifying exams. Many are working on thesis/dissertation defense exams and final submissions to the library in order to graduate in December. Others are racing towards deadlines for grants and manuscript submissions to funding agencies and journals, respectively. I want to thank the 20 departments that submitted proposals for the annual Graduate Recruitment Assistance Grants program and the committee that worked so hard to review them. The Graduate School in collaboration with the Graduate Student Association successfully hosted the Fall Graduate Symposium on October 24 and is preparing for the Three Minute Thesis taking place November 12 and 13, 2020. These are always exciting events and your support is appreciated as they are the highlight of the fall semester in which graduate students have an opportunity to showcase their research. Stay safe, stay well, and stay warm.

Best Regards,  
Dr. Peter Ryan

# Student Spotlight:

## **NASA – Mississippi Space Grant Consortium Graduate Research Fellowship**

Anna Marie Dulaney Clay is pursuing a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering. Her research is focused on analyzing the effects of impact loading with respect to brain injury. Her dissertation focus is geared towards investigating the effects of a single, blunt mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) impact versus repeated sub-concussive head impacts.



(Anna Dulaney Clay)

Shandrea Stallworth is pursuing a Ph.D. in Plant and Soil Sciences with a concentration in Weed Science and Genetics. She is working on identification of stress-tolerant genes for the improvement of rice breeding systems. As a part of her outreach commitment, Shandrea works with the MSU Mississippi Youth Institute to bring awareness to food insecurity and encourage 9th-12th grade students to overcome these issues through the development of critical thinking skills.



(Shandrea Stallworth)

Preston Peranich is pursuing a Master's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering. His research is focused on remote sensing of soil moisture and the integration of soft robotic sensors into the wearable technology domain. Preston's outreach includes assisting local high school robotics teams in the areas of design, engineering, programming, and mentorship as they prepare to compete in robotics competitions.



(Preston Peranich)

Additional award recipients include Meredith Brock and Sofia de Sola.

## **UIR (International University Rabat) Student Spotlight**

Mounia Malki came to Mississippi State to pursue a graduate degree in Aerospace Engineering (ASE) through MSU's partnership with UIR (International University Rabat). After earning a Master's in ASE she continued her studies and graduated with a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering (ME). She went on to intern with and eventually earned a full time position with Los Alamos National Lab. She has since returned to Morocco and is now on faculty at UIR. Since 2015, 83 students have pursued MS degrees in ASE or ME. Of these, 65 have graduated with MS degrees, and 26 continued to pursue PhDs. There are currently 17 active students in the ME and ASE MS programs, and 1 student that will complete the Master of Engineering degree in a future semester.



(Mounia Malki)

Help us congratulate all of these outstanding students!

# Faculty Spotlight:

**Dr. Adam Knight, Associate Professor,  
Department of Kinesiology, recognized for  
Excellence in Teaching in response to COVID**



(Dr. Adam Knight)

Coronavirus has made me evaluate and initiate some changes in my graduate biomechanics class I am teaching this semester. Instead of meeting face to face one night a week for the typical 3 hours that a graduate class meets, I have cut that time down to approximately 2 hours each week. I think this has helped keep the students engaged and more active in the course. I have utilized Canvas to provide the students with more instructional materials prior to each week's class meetings, which includes some short lectures, tutorials on the math portion of the class, and research articles to read and summarize. This allows us to spend more of our in person time to discuss the material and its application to human movement. Two of my doctoral students that have already taken the class are also participating each week either in person or through WebEx. This is allowing them to review the material as they prepare to take their comprehensive exams, but it also allows them to share their experiences, especially on the application side, with the other students in the class.

## **Dr. Reddy Named 2020 ICAC Researcher of the Year**

Dr. Raja Reddy, a research professor in the department of Plant and Soil Sciences has been awarded the 2020 ICAC Researcher of the Year Award. This award is internationally recognized as the top-most award in cotton science. It is globally accepted as the most prestigious and the highest International recognition for cotton scientists.

The Award was initiated by the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) in 2009 and as of now, it is the only International Award for Cotton Scientists. Dr. Reddy has trained over 35 visiting and 15 postdoctoral scientists and 30 students (15 Ph.D., 11 MS, 5 Undergraduate, and others as committee members) from across the world in multiple areas such as crop stress physiology, climate change, crop modeling, remote sensing, and global food security. He has a very impressive publication record with a high citation index of 11,160. The Graduate School is grateful for Dr. Reddy's commitment to our students and wishes to congratulate him on a much deserved award.



(Dr. Raja Reddy)

Help us spotlight deserving students, faculty, and staff by contacting Natalie Parrott, [nparrott@grad.msstate.edu](mailto:nparrott@grad.msstate.edu)

## Deadlines

### Fall 2020 Degree Application Deadline Information

- October 30th: Last day for initial submission of thesis/dissertation
- November 2nd: Spring pre-registration opens
- November 12th: 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition
- November 16th: Last day to apply for December Graduate; \$50 plus \$100 fee



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