

Academic Affairs Accomplishments 2016 – 2017

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Art

- Chet Oguz was selected to participate in the AACU (American Association of Colleges and Universities) Japan Studies Institute Fellow, San Diego State University, CA - summer 2016.
- Kim Rushing's book, *Parchman*, was published by the University Press of Mississippi.
- Michael Stanley's sculpture "Blues Man" which is part of the 2015-17 Hazel and Jimmy Sanders Sculpture Garden Exhibition was purchased and will remain at the Grammy Museum.
- Ron Koehler was the recipient of the Kossman Teaching Excellence Award.

Biology

- Tyler Sullivan, BS Biology pre-med graduate, has been accepted into the Medical Cooperative Program (MEDCORP) at University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. This program provides students with an intense, comprehensive program of study for the MCAT and a clinical opportunity designed to provide a meaningful health care shadowing experience.
- Heather Brewer and Alexis Patterson, both Environmental Science Wildlife Management majors, were awarded first place at the Mississippi Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting in Hattiesburg, MS for their oral presentation entitled "Impact of urbanization on bird nest materials in the Mississippi Delta." Their faculty mentor was Dr. Ali Reza.
- Dr. Nina Baghai-Riding, Professor of Biology and Environmental Science, recently published a manuscript, Palynological analysis of a sample from the Coon Creek Member, Union County, Mississippi, in the University of Alabama Bulletin 33, Volume 2 with colleagues at University of Mississippi and the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg.

Chemistry and Physics

- Will Weeks, senior ACS major, was selected as the ACS Division of Organic Chemistry Outstanding Senior Organic Chemistry Student award for Delta State University for the 2016-2017 academic year. Will is completing an American Chemistry Society certified chemistry degree this semester and he will be attending graduate school in chemistry at Vanderbilt University this fall.
- Kierstin M. Page, senior Chemistry pre-med major, won first place in the Winning the Race poster competition. Kierstin's poster was entitled "Assessing Correlations Between VARK Learning Modalities and Science Majors at DSU." She is also a member of the Delta State swim team.
- Dr. Sharon K. Hamilton was selected to receive a Mississippi INBRE (MS INBRE) Research Development Grant in the amount of \$54,098. This will support her proposal entitled "Comparison of drug release rates from alginate- & chitosan-based fibers".
- The Department of Chemistry and Physics hosted the grand reopening of the Roy L. and Clara Belle Wiley Planetarium on October 9th. Honored guests included president

emeritus Dr. Kent Wyatt, president Bill Laforge, planetarium director emeritus B.G. Tatum, many members of Roy and Clara Belle Wiley's families including their daughters Jeanie Lynch and Julie Mosow as well as numerous retired faculty and their spouses.

Delta Music Institute

- The DMI Entertainment Industry Studies program broke the 100 majors mark during AY 16-17
- The DMI Healing With A Groove (HWG 2.0) program was funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation with a \$538,000 grant for four additional years. The program, housed in the DMI Mobile Lab, has a mission to promote racial healing through discussion, songwriting, and digital media technology.
- DMI hosted two successful fundraisers featuring award-winning songwriters in a Bluebird Café "in the round" setting. GRAMMY® award winners Ashley Cleveland and Pam Tillis, along with CMA winner Karen Staley and Dove Award winner Buddy Greene visited Cleveland for two local shows in support of DMI scholarships and programming.
- For the ninth year, the critically acclaimed Oxford-based radio show, Thacker Mountain Radio, was broadcast live from Studio A during the DMI spring fundraising event. Over 200 members of the live audience were entertained by author Susan Puckett, singer/songwriter Buddy Greene, and DMI soul band Ol' Skool Revue. The program was later broadcast statewide on Mississippi Public Broadcasting.
- Delta Music Institute hosted its eleventh Summer Camp. DMI Summer Camp is a weeklong residential camp for 15-18 year olds interested in audio engineering, performance, and songwriting. Twenty-one (21) students attended the camp with four students confirmed as incoming DSU freshmen. Twenty-three (23) students from previous camps have enrolled as full time DSU students.

Geospatial Information and Technology Center

- Captured \$500,000 in extramural funding last AY
- Launched BAS-GAI program, first year enrollment was approximately 60 students
- Completed UN mission to Vietnam, assisted with development off crisis response mapping program
- Hosted UN meeting in US about disaster mapping. Senior leaders from China, Georgia, and Vietnam attended and visited campus

Department of Music

- Dr. Douglas Mark was selected as a Fellow of the AASCU 2017 Japan Studies Institute
- Dr. Jung-Won Shin, Associate Professor of Music, co-presented a lecture recital, "A Song of One's Own: Korean Art Song after the End of Colonization," at the ECHO Music in Action Conference in April 2017 at UCLA.
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- Dr. Laurissa Backlin, Assistant Professor of Music was awarded a \$6000 grant from Mississippi Humanities Council for Delta State University's Bicentennial Celebration in October 2017.

- DSU piano faculty and students visited Sungkyul University and Korea International Christian School in South Korea in May 2017. Piano faculty, Jung-Won Shin, Kumiko Shimizu, and Karen Fosheim, presented lectures and master classes and performed with the Sungkyul piano faculty members at the Sungkyul Piano Festival. The DSU piano students, Basia Thomas, Laura Syc, Young Hye Min, and Sung-Eun Ryu, performed solos, performed collaborative works with Sungkyul students, and participated in master classes by the Sungkyul piano faculty.
- Dr. Shelley Collins' arrangement for flute ensemble, *Noël Étranger* from *Nouveau Livre de Noël* (1757) by Louis-Claude Daquin was accepted for publication by ALRY Publications, 2016. ALRY Publishing offers the largest catalog of flute choir music in the USA.

Social Science and History

- Professor Brian Becker published "Riccoldo da Montecroce's Epistolae V commentariae de perditione Acconis, 1291, as Evidence of Multifaceted Textual Movement in the Eastern Mediterranean." In *Texts in Transit*, edited by Tzvi Langermann & Robert Morrison, 101-15. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2016.
- Professor Brian Becker named a 2016 Humanities Teacher of the Year by the Mississippi Humanities Council (\$300 honorarium made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to the Mississippi Humanities Council), September 15, 2016.
- Professor Andrew Wegmann co-authored, *U.S. History: A Top Hat Interactive Text*. Toronto, ON: Top Hat Monocle. 2016.
- Professor Andrew Wegmann published "Race and Religion in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans: The History and Context of Religion and Power," *Journal of African American History*, Vol. 102, No. 4 (Fall 2017)
- Chunhui Ren coauthored "Effects of a tax-time savings experiment on material and health care hardship among low-income filers." *Journal of Poverty* (Accepted).
- Chunhui Ren coauthored Effects of a tax-time savings intervention on use of alternative financial services among lower-income households. *Journal of Consumer Affairs*.
- Professor Leslie Green-Pimentel coauthored "Advancing Local Communities through Community-Based Research and Community Engagement Curriculum." *The Southern Sociologist* 48(4), 10-12.

Department of Social Work

- Successfully graduated 29 students; several have already gained employment at local Social Services agencies.
- Social Work Department was awarded grant from Casey Family Program in the amount of \$8425 for sponsorship of the 46th Annual AL/MS Social Work Education Conference to be hosted by Delta State University Social Work Department scheduled for October 5-6, 2017. This annual conference is a collaborative effort between Social Workers located in Alabama and Mississippi. The objectives of the conference are: to promote transfer of information among schools providing social welfare education courses in the states of Alabama and Mississippi; to provide a forum for issues and problems of regional importance for the two states; and to enable individual schools and faculty

members to be sensitive and responsive to the changing demands of social work education.

Department of Speech and Hearing Science

- Dr. Lekeitha R. Morris, Department Chair and Assistant Professor of Speech and Hearing Sciences, had work published in the Online Journal of Rural and Urban Research.
- Successfully placed eight graduates into graduate programs in Speech-Language Pathology

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND AVIATION

- The College of Business was renamed to the College of Business & Aviation.
- The College has commitments of \$177,500 towards the installation of a Financial Investing & Research Lab. Note: This figure will be updated as commitments are received.
- Kristina Hong, Computer Information Systems major, won the Student Research Award, at the SOBIE Conference in April.
- Diamond Flight Training Device used in our Commercial Aviation program was certified and approved by FAA
- Dr. Gwen Meador earned her Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi.
- In July 2016, the College of Business & Aviation hosted twelve (12) Chinese professors to discuss pedagogy in higher education in business.
- The College also hosted Jane Alexandrova from Perm, Russia to discuss international business

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Division of Teacher Education, Leadership, and Research

- 95% of graduates in teacher education secured teaching positions within their field; 3% are pursuing full-time graduate degrees
- Over \$1.5 million in secured, targeted annual grant funding provides for the preparation of quality professionals in Delta area schools (note: I can break each one of these out and make about 8 more bullet points, but didn't want to fragment)
- The Elementary Education program developed a "Day 1 Ready Clinical Model" in partnership with Bell Academy (Cleveland School District) to provide more intensive and school-based professional education for teachers
- Merideth Van Namen served on the Governor's Task Force for Literacy.

Division of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation

- Dedication of the Dave Heflin Outdoor Recreation Lab
- HPER Division increased overall enrollment in the division by 25%
- HPER hosted multiple community events promoting fitness and health, impacting approximately 1800 individuals (again, I can provide names of specific events, but am generalizing)
- Dr. John Alvarez served as President of the Mississippi Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation

Division of Counselor Education and Psychology

- Psychology developed a new interdisciplinary sports psychology minor to be available this fall
- Four psychology majors presented research at the Southeastern Psychological Conference in Atlanta in March
- The 36th Annual F. E. Woodall Conference for the Helping Professions was attended by over 300 professionals
- George Beals received the Janie C. Rugg Career Contributor Award from the Mississippi Counseling Association.
- Counselor Education student Selina Medders won 1st place among graduate students at the DSU Academic Showcase for research implemented at Margaret Green Jr. High School
- Psychology Major Matteo Zengaro was one of seven recipients nationwide to receive a grant for documentary film-making from the Russo Brothers.

Division of Family and Consumer Sciences

- The Early Years Network awarded it highest rating, a five-star rating, to the Hamilton-White Child Development Center. This is a first in center history.

ROBERT E. SMITH SCHOOL OF NURSING

- Received #1 national ranking as *Most Affordable Online DNP degree program* from College Values Online (<http://www.collegevaluesonline.com>)
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program recognized as *Master's Best Nursing School* for 2017 by U.S. News & World Report
- Received #1 national ranking as *Best Online RN to BSN Program* by RN to BSN (www.rntobsn.org)
- Received the first Arnold P. Gold Foundation grant at DSU Robert E. Smith School of Nursing to host a Gold - American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) White Coat Ceremony for Nursing (event held in the Bologna Performing Arts Center, December 09, 2016 for our newly admitted BSN, RNBSN, MSN, & DNP students)
- Hosted the first *More than Scrubs* one day workshop for girl scouts of Girl Scouts Heart of the South in grades 4-12 to earn their Health Badge – the DSU Robert E. Smith School of Nursing was one of four locations chosen (only one in the MS Delta) by the Girl Scouts Heart of the South Council to host this new health badge program with the anticipation this workshop will become an annual event
- Hosted a 3rd successful Health Occupation Student Association (HOSA) Northern District Leadership Conference at Delta State University for approximately 700 sophomore, junior, and senior high school students, organization sponsors, and chaperones from 26 public school districts in Northern Mississippi to compete in tests and skills competitions
- Student Nurses Association (SNA) completed over 22 service projects - Four students serve on the Mississippi Student Nurses Association (MASN) Board
- Faculty Member, Ms. Debra Allen, received the Mississippi Student Nurses Association (MASN) Mentor of the Year Award

- Faculty Member, Dr. Julyn Overstreet, received the *Top 30 under 40* award from the Greenwood Commonwealth for her outstanding leadership and achievements in the healthcare field.
- Faculty Member, Dr. Julyn Overstreet, received 1st place in the Poster Presentation at the Mississippi Nurses Association (MNA) APRN Conference
- 97% overall NCLEX Pass Rate for December 2016 BSN graduating class
- 100% overall FNP Certification Pass Rate (exam takers reported) for May 2017 Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) graduating class

GRADUATE AND CONTINUING STUDIES

The Graduate Studies Office

- Increased the Community College cohort program to 60-plus participants in two years
- Saw increased graduate enrollment Fall 2015 – 2016 of 3%
- Is in the second successful year of the Hearin TFA Fellowship program (four year, \$1.1 million social entrepreneurship scholarship grant)

Continuing Education

- Engaged in more than 30,000 non-credit contact hours (includes successful afterschool gym and cheer programs, CEU's, adult/youth workshops).
- Hosted successful South region ACHE conference

Grants Office

- \$2.8 million in grants awarded this year; plus \$8.4 million in multi-year, continuing grants

The Quality Enhancement Plan (to enhance intercultural communication)

- Supported travel domestically and internationally for study or for presentations (for faculty, staff, students): Russia, Japan, South Korea, among other places
- Sponsored or co-sponsored more than 60 on-campus events, professional development seminars, inclusion luncheons
- Purchased materials for the Roberts-LaForge Library's Instructional Resource Center

The CCED continues to be a vital outreach arm of the university:

VISTA: MDSC/AmeriCorps*VISTA program completed its 13th year.

- with an extra award of \$100,000, offered multi-state in-service training for MS, AK, LA, TN

Delta Educational Opportunity Center: (a funded federal TRIO program)

- first year of a five-year grant (more than \$1 million)

Delta Reads Plus (an AmeriCorps program)

- completed first year, re-awarded for next year at \$293,000

Breast Education and Early-Detection Program (B.E.E.P) funded by Susan G. Komen, in its 10th year)

- serves more than 100 participants per year with mammograms and exams

Additionally:

- the Robert E. Smith SON is relocating their health center to the CCED
- the local government leadership academy has received strategic planning funding

LIBRARY SERVICES

- Despite budgetary challenges the library has averaged an overall 85% satisfaction rating for both students and faculty for the past four years and a 93% satisfaction rating for services provided by library faculty and staff.
- The Capps Archives and Museum received grants from the Delta Regional Foundation and MS Delta National Heritage Area that supported a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, Amzie Moore House Museum & Interpretive Center, and MS Delta Chinese Heritage Museum.
- The Library sponsored the second annual Academic Research Showcase which resulted in three graduate student winners and four undergraduate winners which represented Delta State at a Posters in the Rotunda event held at the state capital.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

- Increased dual credit enrollment by 122%
- Began an e-center to aid in recruitment efforts – the center generated more than 5,000 phone calls and 36,000 emails
- Successfully hosted the first Statesman Scholarship Day which brought 28 of the highest achieving students to campus to interview for our top scholarships
- Enrolled the largest number of Mississippi Phi Theta Kappa members

DELTA CENTER FOR CULTURE AND LEARNING

During the 2016-17 academic year, The Delta Center for Culture and Learning continued to fulfill its mission of promoting greater understanding of Mississippi Delta culture and history and its significance to the world through a diverse portfolio of education, partnership, and community engagement programs. Below are accomplishments for each of the program areas that The Delta Center manages.

International Delta Blues Project

- In October 2016, hosted the Third International Conference on the Blues (over 400 registrants) featuring Memphis-based GRAMMY Award-winner Lawrence “Boo” Mitchell and Mississippi native Cedric Burnside, GRAMMY nominee and four-time Blues Music Award winner. Engaged Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalism professor Alysia Burton Steele from University of MS to create a series of promo videos featuring conference events and venues (Opening reception at Dockery Farms, Delta Music Institute, GRAMMY Museum MS, Levitt AMP Series).
- In October 2016, hosted a free, public screening of the critically acclaimed film "Take Me to the River" with GRAMMY Museum Mississippi and Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area. An estimated 150 residents from throughout the Delta region attended, making it the first fully reserved event since the museum's grand opening in March 2016.
- Graduated DSU's first two Blues Studies minors in December 2016.

- In April 2017, partnered with DSU Art Department and University of Mississippi's Meek School of Journalism to bring the 2017 Lens Collective to DSU, providing a unique opportunity for 28 photojournalism students from 8 universities in MS and across the U.S. to document unique cultural heritage stories in Mississippi Delta communities, including Clarksdale, Cleveland, Greenville, Renova, Rosedale, Mound Bayou, and Shaw.
- In April 2017, collaborated with the Office of Student Life and Quality Enhancement Plan to bring the River Kings 2 Tour to DSU
- During summer 2016, 7 students completed the online International Blues Scholars Program; during summer 2017, enrolled 9 students in the program
- Currently organizing the Fourth International Conference on the Blues in partnership with GRAMMY Museum Mississippi and Bologna Performing Arts Center, which will commemorate the 100th birthday of Delta Blues legend John Lee Hooker and feature GRAMMY Award-winner Aaron Neville and a mini-film festival with screenings of Dick Waterman's film Two Trains Runnin' and 2017 Lens Collective documentary shorts

Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area

- In commemoration of the National Park Service Centennial, created a MDNHA promo video that was screened during a film festival at NPS Southeast Region headquarters in Atlanta and has been viewed 21,000 times and has reached nearly 75,000 Facebook users since August 2016.
- In December 2016, completed the Delta Jewels Oral History Partnership, a series of oral history events interpreting and celebrating the lives of African American church mothers from the Mississippi Delta. The Partnership engaged over 1,000 Mississippi Delta residents and visitors, as well as guests at the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum in Washington, DC. The final report is being used as an interpretive and educational resource for various local and national presentations, including the Rhodes College Institute for Regional Studies (research panel at Delta State), the Association for African American Museums Annual Meeting (Washington, DC), and the Oral History Association conference (Minneapolis, MN).
- In February 2017, in collaboration with Great Basin NHA and Niagara Falls NHA, organized a special group tour of the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC, which features prominent Mississippi Delta exhibits like the Emmett Till Memorial. Approximately 60 individuals participated in the tour, including staffers from the Office of Senator Roger Wicker and representatives from the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, National Park Service, and National Parks Conservation Association.
- During spring 2017, continued management of the MDNHA cultural heritage development grant program that by fall 2016 generated approximately \$500,000 in cash and in kind investment in Mississippi Delta communities and, through 2017 grant workshops, engaged nearly 50 organizational representatives from 12 Mississippi Delta counties, Hinds County (Jackson) and Jefferson County (Alcorn State University) in collaboration with MS Arts Commission, MS Humanities Council, and MS Department of Archives & History. In 2016, MDNHA grants supported a free public performance of *Dar He: The Story of Emmett Till* at Delta State's Bologna Performing Arts Center and secured docents for the Mississippi Delta Chinese Heritage Museum and the Amzie

Moore House Museum and Interpretive Center managed by Delta State's Capps Archives.

- In May 2017, hosted a National Park Service Collaboration Clinic in partnership with Mississippi Hills and Mississippi Gulf Coast NHAs. Facilitated by the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, is the first Collaboration Clinic held in the Southeast Region and the first hosted by a group of National Heritage Areas. Delta Center staff presented on the MDNHA passport program and the Delta Jewels Oral History Partnership.

Experiential learning: National Endowment for the Humanities "Most Southern Place on Earth" workshops and visiting groups

- Summer 2016 marked the seventh year that "The Most Southern Place on Earth" workshops have been presented by The Delta Center at DSU. The 72 K-12 educators selected for the 2016 workshops represented 30 states. For the first time in "Most Southern" workshop history, Robertson Scholars from Duke University and UNC Chapel Hill worked with Will Jacks, new media and photography faculty member at Delta State, to develop a series of documentary shorts capturing daily reflections from workshop participants. The film shorts were shared with NEH, posted to The Delta Center website, and distributed via social media. They garnered attention from local print and television media.
- In October 2016, in collaboration with MS Humanities Council, The Delta Center hosted former NEH Chairman William "Bro" Adams during his first visit to the MS Delta region after successfully managing the summer 2016 "Most Southern" workshops.
- NEH "Most Southern" was funded again for summer 2017 (\$178,698). This is the eighth year that the workshops are being offered by The Delta Center at DSU. The 72 K-12 educators selected for the 2016 workshops represent approximately 25 states.
- In March 2017, National Public Radio visited The Delta Center for its Our Land series featuring stories of the Mississippi Delta including Mound Bayou, Red's Juke Joint in Mound Bayou, the Mississippi River, and the MS Delta Chinese. Melissa Block interviewed Dr. Herts in front of the IT Montgomery Home in Mound Bayou about the town's past and future prospects.
- In May 2016, arranged an agricultural tour for a team of researchers from University of Minnesota developing AgCultures, a series of online educational modules for high school students learning about the agricultural industry in the U.S. Featuring documentary shorts from communities along the Mississippi River, the team visited the Aylward Farm in Pace, Aguzzi Farms in Cleveland, Dockery Farms in Sunflower County, and paddled the river with Quapaw Canoe Company of Clarksdale.

Other partnerships/collaborations

- As the 2016 Georgene Clark Diversity Award recipient, The Delta Center continued to provide funding and programmatic support to DSU's Winning the Race conference: in addition to Dr. Herts serving on the planning committee and as a closing ceremony speaker, The Delta Center hosted a presentation from the ROOTS of Sunflower County, a group of 19 African American teenagers working with the ACLU and MS Center for Justice to stem the school-to-prison pipeline through oral history. The session attracted 150 attendees to the BPAC recital hall, including 50 students from JFK Memorial High School in Mound Bayou.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

- Began 2016-2017 academic year with 74 undeclared actively enrolled, full-time, undergraduate degree-seeking students. By the end of the academic year, 60% of the student had declared a major.
- Doubled number of undergraduate students who register for classes during pre-registration week, from only 29% in spring 2015 to 68% in fall 2016, and 53% in spring 2017.
- Provided S.O.S. assistance to 503 students during the 2016-17 academic year, with typical reasons included missing class and low test grades.
- Provided supplemental instructors in 19 classrooms during 2016-17 academic year, of which 86% of supplemental instruction sections earned the highest or 2nd highest GPA compared to sections without supplemental instructors.
- Provided Pivot funds to 21 students during the 2016-17 academic year. Since spring 2016, of the 36 students participating in the Pivot Program, 92% have been retained or have graduated from DSU.
- Obtained external funding through the MS Department of Human Services to provide proactive academic support services and resources to enrich the academic life cycle of student athletes attending DSU.
- Increased fall-to-fall, first-time freshmen persistence rate by 8.3%, and first-time transfer persistence rate by 12.1%, from fall 2014 to fall 2016.
- Achieved diagnosticity: Grades earned in FYS correlate highly with overall term GPA, placing FYS in prime position to utilize early alert tactics.
- Trained more than 100 faculty and staff in CRM Advise, Ellucian's online retention software utilized for academic advising and early alert tracking.
- Recruited and trained 21 First Year Seminar peer mentors in fall 2016, enriching the majority of FYS sections while also assisting FYS instructors.
- Doubled international student enrollment since spring 2013, from 64 to 129 students, with international student persistence rate at 91.7%.
- Launched DSU China recruiting office for full-time students and summer camps.
- Increased international partnerships to six universities.

Academic Advising Services

- Academic Advising Champions. The Academic Advising Champions are a select group of 20 faculty advisors dedicated to the development of a streamlined campus-wide advising process. The Champions act as representatives of their respective departments to assist in campus-wide advising enhancement efforts, and they serve as advocates for other DSU academic advisors. Each Advising Champion is a DSU faculty member who is recognized as an effective academic advisor and practices Proactive Advising.
 - Assisted Coordinator of Academic Advising Services in an advising training workshop for new faculty in fall 2016 as well as two small group trainings.
 - Hosted a CAPP Degree Audit training session in fall 2016, led by the Registrar.
 - Offered 6 webinar viewing sessions throughout 2016-2017 academic year to share and discuss advising resources.
 - Created Academic Advising Champions' blog in summer 2016, and shared a

total of 21 posts related to advising resources and enhancement initiatives.

- Proactive Advising. Proactive Advising, also known as Intrusive Advising, is the advising model adopted by the Academic Advising Champions. While the major responsibility of an academic advisor is to assist students in the selection and completion of an academic program, effective advisors take the initiative to build relationships with their advisees, anticipate obstacles, and reach out before students fall off track. Proactive Advising is an advising model whereby advisors use “deliberate, structured student intervention at the first indication of academic difficulty in order to motivate the student to seek help” with the ultimate intention of helping students to persist to a timely graduation (Varney, J. Proactive (Intrusive) Advising! *Academic Advising Today*, 35:3, 2012).
 - Participated in two Student Success Task Force sessions and Orientation focus groups to discuss the role of academic advising at DSU and next steps for enhancement initiatives.
 - Extended training for CRM Advise, a vital tool for Proactive Advising, to all Advising Champions. A total of 17 Champions participated, including 9 outside of the College of Education pilot group.

- Undeclared Student Academic Advising. Academic Advising Services provides academic advising for undeclared students and assists them in choosing a major. Undeclared students are required to participate in early and active exploration of their major and take advantage of opportunities that will help them choose a major. This includes attending career fairs, speaking with department faculty, and meeting with the undeclared advisor. By the end of freshman year, students are expected to declare a major. To assist in this process, students will follow a guided pathway, the “Road Map to Declare,” which outlines specific steps to complete to make an informed decision about a major.
 - Began 2016-2017 academic year with 74 undeclared actively enrolled, full-time, undergraduate degree-seeking students. By the end of the academic year, a total of 44 students declared a major.
 - Expanded student advising services to include Change of Major Advising for declared students who are considering changing majors as well as Advisor Meeting Preparation to guide students through monitoring their own degree progress prior to meeting with an academic advisor for registration.

- Pre-Registration. Campus-wide Pre-Registration awareness efforts launched in spring 2015 and have continued through spring 2017 through the use of orange yard signs, banners, flyers, e-mail/social media reminders, departmental and organizational door decorating contests, and more. In addition, Academic Advising Services holds a sweepstakes each semester in which students who pre-register are able to submit their completed schedules for a chance to win prizes. Through these campaigns, awareness and participation in Pre-Registration has increased significantly.
 - In spring 2015, only 29.4% of undergraduate students pre-registered for classes during pre-registration week. Due to concentrated efforts, the percentage has doubled to 68% pre-registering that week in fall 2016, and 53% pre-registering that week in spring 2017.

Academic Support Services and Student Athlete Support Services:

- Stay Okra Strong (S.O.S.). S.O.S. is an early alert system implemented in fall 2014, designed to facilitate the alignment between each student's needs and the institutional resources available to foster the growth and development of essential skills necessary for a successful college experience and timely degree completion. S.O.S. takes a proactive approach to connecting university resources with the individual needs of students faced with academic and institutional obstacles throughout the progression of their educational pathway. The goal of S.O.S. is to work collaboratively with campus faculty and staff to ensure student academic success.
 - Provided academic assistance to a total of 503 students during the 2016-17 academic year. Typical reasons included missing class and low test grades.
- Supplemental Instruction. Supplemental Instructors is a program that offers peer assistance through review and tutoring to students enrolled in specific sections of courses. Individuals who serve as Supplemental Instructors are recommended by professors and have previously earned an A in the course to which they are assigned, are in good academic standing, and are able to sit in on their assigned class to serve as a teaching assistant. Review sessions are held weekly and are free to DSU students who are in need of academic assistance.
 - Provided Supplemental Instructors in 19 classrooms during 2016-17 academic year.
 - Earned highest or 2nd highest GPA in 86% of supplemental instructor sections of high risk courses when compared to sections that did not have supplemental instructors.
- Pivot Program. The Pivot Program offers a one-time opportunity for undergraduate students who are encountering academic or financial barriers to receive funds to be used towards academic needs. Students who receive Pivot funding are required to fulfill six mandatory study hours in the Student Success Center on a weekly basis.
 - Provided Pivot funds to 21 students during the 2016-17 academic year. Since spring 2016, of the 36 students participating in the Pivot Program, 92% have been retained or have graduated from DSU.
- Student Athlete Support Services. The DSU Student Athlete Support Services program, funded by the MS State Department of Human Services, was launched in spring 2017, to support the development of leadership skills, to promote healthy lifestyle choices, and to enhance academic initiatives within student athletes. The DSU Student Athlete Services program prepares student athletes for careers to positively impact local communities, enrich lifestyle choices which prepare for productive citizenship, and increase academic resources to meet the needs of each individual learner. By creating a three tier system of support, the individual needs of each student athlete will improve, guaranteeing positive outcomes will be met. This program will increase DSU's capacity to serve and provide resources which will help retain student athletes in their programs of study.
 - Obtained external funding through the MS Department of Human Services to provide proactive academic support services and resources to enrich the academic life cycle of student athletes attending DSU.
 - Provided holistic services to monitor and supplement the academic needs of student athletes who have a learning disability or are deemed at-risk.
 - Monitored aspects that impact the emotional well-being of lifestyle choices

of student athletes at DSU.

First Year Seminar and Okra Scholars:

- **First Year Seminar.** First Year Seminar is a semester-long academic and social experience focusing on learning styles, critical thinking, and time management through weekly topics that range from professionalism to personal wellness. Taught by full-time employees assisted by student peer mentors, in small class sizes ranging from 12-16 students. Data shows increased retention of freshmen and transfer students who take First Year Seminar compared to those who do not.
 - Increased fall-to-fall, first-time freshmen persistence rate by 8.3%, and first-time transfer persistence rate by 12.1%, from fall 2014 to fall 2016.
 - Increased fall-to-spring freshmen persistence rate by 3.3% compared to students who had not taken FYS.
 - Increased fall-to-spring transfer persistence rate by 6.1% compared to students who had not taken FYS.
 - Increased rate of achieving Presidents or Dean's list: In fall 2013, 12.2% of GST 100 students achieved President's or Dean's list – in fall 2016, 18.0% of FYS 100 students achieved this distinction.
 - Achieved diagnosticity: Grades earned in FYS correlate highly with overall term GPA, placing FYS in prime position to utilize early alert tactics.
- **Okra Scholars.** Okra Scholars is a Department of Education *First in the World* grant-funded program focusing on increased student retention and matriculation through a holistic approach. Students are paired by interests with a faculty or staff mentor, receive enhanced academic and career readiness services, and engage in cultural learning experiences. Mid-cycle data supports these interventions with increases in retention and good standing rate compared to control population.
 - Increased fall-to-fall, first-time Okra Scholars' student persistence by 2.9% (Fall 2014-Fall 2016) and 12.2% (Fall 2015 – Fall 2016) compared to control condition.
 - Increased fall-to-fall, first-time Okra Scholars' good standing rate by 2.8% (Fall 2014-Fall 2016) and 6.7% (Fall 2015 – Fall 2016) compared to control condition.
- **CRM Advise.** CRM Advise, a software package built on top of the Microsoft CRM platform, allows faculty, advisors, and staff to maintain a centralized database of student interactions. The system also proactively notifies advisors and students of potential issues, and streamlines engagement efforts with students through centralized communication planning and rollout. The system is in its first year of full-campus adoption.
 - Trained more than 100 faculty and staff on use of the system, with several accessing and using the system daily to record interactions with students.
 - Captured more than 500 notes or posts regarding students, and more than 50 phone calls that may otherwise have not been available to all who work with those students.
 - Tracked more than 250 S.O.S. cases in the first year, with details available to the Student Success Center staff who may work with those students in subsequent semesters.

- Peer Mentors. Peer Mentors is a student leadership and mentoring program that recruits students who have previously taken the First Year Seminar course to participate in delivering that course to the next cohort. Peer Mentors are active planners of course material along with the instructor, and can work with students directly both inside and outside the classroom. This program is in its second year of formal planning, with several Peer Mentor professional development sessions planned for 2017-18 academic year.
 - Recruited and trained 21 FYS Peer Mentors in fall 2016, enriching the majority of FYS sections while also assisting instructors.
 - Recruited approximately 30 FYS Peer Mentors for fall 2017, allowing each section of FYS to have a peer mentor.

International Student Services

- Streamlined, One-Stop Shop. International Student Services is a “one stop shop” for international applicants, current international students, and recent international graduates. International Student Services coordinates all aspects of the admissions process for both graduate and undergraduate applicants and creation of the SEVIS (US government database) account and I-20 (travel document) upon acceptance to the university. International Student Services has not only streamlined the international admissions process, SEVIS, and student experience but has become a “home away from home” for DSU’s international students by providing weekly Walmart trips, emergency medical transportation (even if it mean being in the ER with a student at 3am), coordinating the International Student Association and global awareness events such as International Student Month.
 - Doubled international student enrollment since spring 2013, from 64 to 129 students.
 - Increased international student persistence rate to 91.7%.
 - Launched DSU China recruiting office for full-time students and summer camps.
 - Increased international partnerships to six universities.

2017-18 Future Efforts

- Financial Aid Probation Program. The Student Success Center and the Office of Financial Aid is partnering to launch a program for students on Financial Aid Probation who have been referred to the Student Success Center for ongoing support. Students will be required to participate in weekly academic counseling sessions in addition to utilizing other support resources such as tutoring, supplemental instruction, counseling, etc., as needed. At the beginning of the probation semester, participants will set goals for the semester and create an action plan for reaching goals. Academic counseling sessions will assist students in tracking/monitoring progress toward goals and addressing obstacles along the way.
- Automated S.O.S. Since being implemented in fall 2014, S.O.S. has been a manual process until the adoption of CRM Advise. With CRM Advise, S.O.S. is now transitioning into an automated process where students, faculty, and advisors will be able to receive an automated email or notice that students are in need of academic assistance in their classes. This automation will help increase efforts and streamline the alert process.

- Academic Advising Training. Updates to the process for training and professional development for DSU academic advisors are currently in progress. The Academic Advising Services web page and the *Academic Advising Resource Guide* will be updated, expanded, and restructured to be more user- friendly. In addition to collaborating with campus departments to provide training for new faculty advisors at the beginning of each academic year, online professional development modules will be offered monthly, as well as special topics workshops as requested by campus academic advisors.
- State-of-the-Art New Academic Support Lab. The DSU Student Athlete Support Services program is pleased to offer a newly renovated Academic Support Lab complete with 35+ touch screen computers equipped with essential software to support the general needs of college students. The lab will open to all DSU students and will be available when school begins in fall 2017. The lab will offer several collaborative work stations, free tutoring and Supplemental Instruction, and full-time monitoring of lab usage. Full-time staff will be available to aid students for needs which pertain to strategies for studying, time management, and organizational skills.
- Transfer Student First Year Efforts. Observing a need revealed through retention data, a transfer- specific version of the First Year Seminar curriculum is in the initial design stages that will be tailored to fit the needs of the transfer student population. DSU transfer students are often underprepared for the senior college experience, with current data suggesting that those who take First Year Seminar are retained at a higher level than those who do not.